



DECEMBER

Our Church—This Week
for the week of
November 30, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH
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Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Secretary

Angela Bradley-Volz

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M, T, Th, F (8 am to noon)

Custodian

Chris Algren

Musicians

Janice Algren

Jamie Reynolds

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbie Nees

(309) 734-5350

Congregation Council

President: Rose Sandstrom

Vice President: Doug Cruce

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Warren Dobry

Steve Erlandson

Ted Hanson

Jim Johnson

Linda McGuire

Evelyn Volz

Dear Friends and Family,

The season of Advent is officially underway. Normally this time of year is filled with church events, socials, parties, pageants, and more. We usually have a calendar filled with music and pot-lucks and cookie baking. This year, however, our calendar at church is filled with filming schedules and music recording. It is quite possibly the strangest of Advent seasons.

While we miss the Sunday school crafts, the fresh baked cookies coming from the church kitchen, the pageantry of Sankta Lucia, and more, there is one thing that we definitely won't miss this year—the Good News that Jesus was born. The great thing about that Good News is that it is true and has happened and does not depend on what kind of year we are having. Jesus was born. That can never be undone. We will share that in new ways this year, yes. It will be weird, yes. But it is always the Good News.

Advent/Christmas Worship Filming Schedule

Pastor Jamie and our musicians, Janice and Jamie, are working out a fairly intense filming schedule during Advent so that we can provide high-quality worship online.

Wednesday, Dec 2 at 7 PM, worship for Sunday Dec 6 will be recorded
Wednesday, Dec 9 at 7PM, worship for Sunday, Dec 13 will be recorded
Wednesday, Dec 16 at 7PM, worship for Sunday, Dec 20 will be recorded

Sunday, Dec 6, Pastor Jamie and Pastor Katie will be bringing small groups from each church together to film a Christmas play, which Pastor Jamie wrote, and which will be used by both churches this season.

During the week of December 13th to December 17th, Pastor Jamie will record special music from various soloists and duets to be included in our Christmas Eve worship video.

Monday, December 21, Christmas Eve liturgy and Sunday, Dec 27 worship will be recorded.

Monday, December 28, Pastor Jamie will record worship for Sunday, Jan 3rd.

This is a busy season of recording and preparing worship videos. A big thank you goes to all who are helping with readings and music and making our Advent and Christmas worship very meaningful.

Our Stewardship Ministry

The ministry of the church continues, even in a pandemic. Thank you so very much for all the ways you continue to support our ministry. Your generosity makes a difference in Monmouth and beyond.

You should have received a pledge card by mail. Please return this by mail to the church office by December 6th.

If you have any questions about your giving, please feel free to contact Gary Martin, the chair person of our finance/stewardship committee.



Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

Christmas gives us an opportunity to support our day care and preschool ministry. These pictures represent some of the ideas Miss Bobbi is looking for our congregation to provide.

The pictures include Lego sets, games, crafts, cars, dolls, and other building sets, like Erector.

Remember, our day care serves elementary age students, the preschool serves 3- and 4-year-olds.

Our students really look forward to opening a few gifts that are for their day care center, and they really enjoy getting the opportunity to play with the new toys and crafts as well. Your help in sponsoring our day care and preschool is very appreciated.

“Given for you.” Home Communion Kits Still available



As we enter a new period of being away from the sanctuary, if you would like a home communion kit, please contact Pastor Jamie.

Kits are available to keep in your home. They come with all you need to set up an appropriate space for the sacrament, a printout of a brief communion at-home liturgy, and, once a month Pastor will bring new bread and grape juice.

Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church

Bobbi Nees, director

Christmas is a time to celebrate our Day Care and Preschool. Here are some suggested items that our Day Care and Preschool would appreciate receiving. Gifts may be wrapped and brought into the church office by December 15.



Celebrations for the week of Dec. 1 to Dec. 15



December 2 Linda McGuire
December 5 Carol Hanson
December 5 Roger Sander
December 10 Don Reynolds
December 10 Kevin Sprecher
December 11 Glenn Bailey
December 13 Kathy Erlandson
December 13 Ben Sanberg
December 14 Todd Moburg
December 14 Michele Ravel

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed for our celebrations list.

ADVENT



Light Two candles to watch for Messiah as we continue our Advent worship this weekend.

Thanks go to Connie Larimer and Dee Dee Yez who put up Christmas decorations in our sanctuary. We will see these decorations beginning this Sunday in our worship video.

Later this season, we will have a Christmas play video provided for our worship experience. The play was written by Pastor Jamie and will be filmed as a joint project with Faith Lutheran Church, Wataga. Filming will take place soon, Pastor Jamie will contact those who may have interest in being a part of this event with those details.



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Jim Johnson, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Sara Johnson, Ray Bruyn, and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Advent Vision and Purpose



We do not have our usual order of poinsettias filling up the sanctuary this year.

Please consider donating what you might have spent on a poinsettia to our Advent Vision and Purpose Giving. We are supporting the Warren County Ministerium Association Emergency Aid Fund. This fund provides relief to those needing help with rent, utilities, fuel, or other emergency needs. The fund is administered by the Jamieson Center and allows churches to direct those in need to one place where many needs can be met.

Your support of this Fund is greatly appreciated.

Nativity Scene

We sure do have a beautiful nativity scene that fills up the front of our sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season.



This past weekend Pastor Jamie introduced our Manger scene and placed Mary and Joseph with the Ox and the Donkey. This upcoming weekend, Pastor Jamie will bring in the shepherds and sheep. Watch and share in the building of a nativity scene by adding to yours at home as we do each week in worship.



The Midweek Bible study returns this week Wednesday, December 2nd at 3 PM. We will have midweek Bible study on December 9th and December 16th.

We will continue with the Book of Mark, using the resource Ephphatha as our guide.

The Bible study will take a break for 3 weeks beginning December 23rd and resume on January 13th.

Curious about our Ministries?

We have several committees that are continuing to work even during this time of pandemic. For information on how to join a committee, please call the office.

Active Committees

Finance/Stewardship .. Chair Gary Martin

Building and Grounds .. Chair Steve Erlandson

Worship and Music ... Council Rep Jim Johnson

Specific Elected Committees

Endowment

Memorial

Personnel

Preschool and Day Care Board

Committee being revitalized

Christian Education and Youth — Youth Happens at First

Weekly Devotional



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

The season of Advent is a season of hope, joy, peace, and love. The first Sunday focuses on Hope. In a world filled with much covered negativity, let's give ourselves an opportunity to just focus on hope. Hope is believing something that cannot be seen. St. Paul writes in Romans 8:24 "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Advent offers us a chance to live the fullness of St. Paul's definition of hope.

Hope is the ability to lament the pandemic, yet knowing the pandemic will not win the day. One day, we will return to our normal social gatherings and social structures. One day, our sanctuary will be radiating with the song of hosanna. One day, our masks will be put away as we embrace fully one another without fear of sharing a deadly virus.

Hope is the ability to pick up that phone and cry with a friend as health concerns add worries to an already worrisome time. The shared tears show the bond of Christ unifying friends in shared suffering, and shared strength to get through the unexpected ordeal.

Hope is the ability to mourn the loss of a loved one, to know that there is a hole within your heart that cannot be filled, yet trusting that that hole is set into the hands of the very Messiah who also now holds for eternity the very loved one we have peacefully released to his care.

Hope is turning on lights hung on roof eaves, on Christmas trees, and front yard decorations, telling the darkness which comes so early that there is a light in this world, and no darkness can overcome the light of Christ, the light we reflect in the symbols of Christmas lights but also in the reality of giving to the broken, the lost, the needy, through our offerings at church and through other charities.

What is hope for you? This week talk about hope. Tell your loved ones why you have hope. In Peace, Pastor Jamie