



Our Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>This Week</i>						



2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

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Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Cell (630)200-3550

Secretary

Angela Bradley-Volz

office@flcmonmouth.org

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,

Well, we have certainly enjoyed a week of wonderful weather. My son and I were on the roof, in shorts, over the weekend, hanging Christmas lights while the weather was just perfect for that. I have raked and vacuumed more leaves than I can count, but with the wonderful sunshine, I can rake all day long and not tire of it.

This weather has been a gift. The more normal November fall weather returns this week, bouncing between the 30's over night and the 50's during the day. Clouds and cool dampness will surely follow. And we might just be tempted to grumble at the loss of the gift. God will be with us even as the weather turns, God is always up to something new—no matter what the thermometer says. Seek the gift God provides each day, even if we grumble at an unfavorable weather report. For each day is God's gift for all God loves.

What to expect when attending worship

As the pandemic continues, there is a lot of concern about gathering in large groups. This is an appropriate concern. The virus is spread through breathing and touching. When we gather in groups, there is no avoiding breathing the same air or touching the same surfaces.

At First Lutheran, we are doing all we can to reduce the risk as much as possible. We require masks when you attend worship, we practice social distancing between family units as we sit in the pews. We ensure weekly cleaning of door handles and stair railings and other commonly touched surfaces.

Communion is distributed at stations each 6-feet apart, and the servers are wearing gloves and masks. We have refrained from speaking responsively and music is instrumental or provided through videos. Yet, worship still is participatory with hand gestures to match the spoken responses, our hearts are still joined in unified prayer, and the meditation of music lifts all our souls in serenity as God lifts us up on eagle's wings and holds us in divine hands.

If you have been uncertain about rejoining us for worship, I want to urge you to consider your health always first and foremost. Only return when you feel comfortable being in a group again. We have been averaging 20 to 30 people in our worship services since we resumed in July. Do not feel rushed. But know that while worship may look a bit different, it is the very same God who we worship; and, God doesn't care what form worship takes, God does care about God's people and the broken hearts the Risen Jesus is mending.

Our Stewardship Ministry

This month we have heard wonderful messages about stewardship from Gary Martin and Gary Sanberg.



Join us this Sunday as we hear another message about stewardship, and prepare ourselves to commit another year's pledge to the ongoing ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Members should soon expect to receive by mail 2021 pledge cards. Please return these within a week so our Finance team can properly prepare the church budget for 2021.

Vision and Purpose Giving

Our November Vision and Purpose Giving will support our ministry to the students at the Monmouth Roseville School District alternative school.

We are collecting the following items to provide for students. Cash donations in our Vision and Purpose giving buckets are also appreciated.

Toothbrush/toothpaste/toothbrush cover, face cleanser, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, hand sanitizer, nail clippers/emery boards, lip balm, comb/brush, shampoo, stocking caps, socks, gloves, cereal bars, fruit snacks, or other similar non-perishable food items.

Your generosity will be a blessing for these students. Thank you.



We continue our midweek Zoom Bible Study this week Wednesday at 3 PM. Link included in our weekly email.

Introducing a Second Bible study time—Wednesday at 7 PM. For those unable to meet during the day, click on the zoom link included with our weekly email. If there is interest in an evening Bible study, we will coordinate a time that can be consistent for everyone.

Lutheran Day Care and Preschool



A ministry of First Lutheran Church
Bobbi Nees, director

Youth Happens at First

Our next Youth Happens at First activity is a Take a Break from Zoom night.

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 PM in the Church basement.

We will play socially distanced games, we will color poinsettias for our Advent season, and we will begin work on a Christmas play that will be very unique for this year.

A second Take a Break from Zoom night will be Wednesday, December 9th, again at 6:30 PM. On that night, we will begin to prepare for our Christmas Skit video.

Youth Happens at First is for all youth from kindergarten to college. For more information, please contact Pastor Jamie.

Home Communion Kits

Still available



Communion is at the heart of our worship experience with God, the taste of Jesus' body and blood through bread and wine draw us closer to the reign of God. Yet the pandemic continues to keep many safely away from worship. If you would like a home communion kit, please call Pastor Jamie. You will receive all you need to participate in communion at home, including a prayer written by Pastor Jamie, for how to connect with the sacrament properly.



November 9 Ted Hanson

November 14 Theodore Coombes

November 15 Troy Hippen



November 14 Dave and Fran Bost



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, Kay and Glenn Bailey, , Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council 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.



Sunday, November 15, 2020

Season of Creation

This week we will continue with our Season of Creation as we explore God as creator in the wilderness. Wild places are filled with mystery, they are unexplored, untamed, uncivilized, uncontrollable. Yet God is very present even in wild places. Join us Sunday to discover how wild places intersect with our faith life.

Our Living the Creed PDF, which represents our at-home Sunday school, will open us up to wilderness places. Discover the breath of God in those places we may more often than not choose to avoid.



Continuing Prayers are asked for Pat Root. Pat recently fell at home and broke her wrist. She is at home recovering. She has asked for no visitors at this time, though phone calls and greeting cards are appreciated.



Christmas Poinsettia donations are now being accepted.



Send in your donation for what out might otherwise spend on a poinsettia. Tell us who it is in honor of or in memory of. We will have a colored poinsettia page posted on our Narthex glass wall for you.

Donations are going to the Warren County Ministerial Association Emergency Aid fund, administered through Jamieson Center. We will be accepting poinsettia donations until the end of December.

Are you ready to “Light a Candle”? This Advent season we will Light a Candle for hope, peace, love and joy—expressions of faith we desperately need to have strengthened during this difficult pandemic time.

Perhaps you would be willing to share a reflection on one of these themes. Please let Pastor know, and you may just yourself included in a special way through our Advent wreath lighting in the season. Volunteers are needed for sharing a brief reflection as we light our way to Christmas.

Are you open to saying the Lord’s Prayer on camera? Let Pastor know, these videos will be another special part of our Advent and Christmas worship experiences.



New Flooring in Basement Fellowship Hall

Our basement is getting a fresh look. Preparations are being made now for the new floor which will be installed the first week of December.

We once again thank the family of Bill Root for the generous estate gift that makes this possible.



Church Council meeting

Tuesday, November 10

7 PM via Zoom

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



Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

John 19:33

Our nation has experienced a lot of tension last week. The colors Red and Blue were thrown around, classifying whole states as if we are all one or the other of these colors. In the aftermath of this particular presidential election are ideologies that seem worlds apart, and yet are experienced as close as parent and child, brother and sister, neighbor to neighbor, life-long friend to life-long friend. Some experience this kind of week in American politics and want to respond by saying faith has nothing to do with this, they want faith to be a place to escape from the harsh realities that is our political landscape. Others deeply engage faith with politics, crying out how faith compels them to vote the way they do.

The truth is faith and politics do intersect. We cannot escape this reality. Jesus was crucified because faith in God intersected with the politics of his era. The religious leaders conspired with the Roman Empire out of fear of one whose faith threatened their political systems of power. Yes, our faith very much so intersects politics.. So what do we do today? How do we come to this intersection of faith and politics in our own day and age? We come to this intersection and ask ourselves "what is dying with Christ the Crucified?" and "what is rising with Christ the Risen Lord?" At the intersection of faith and politics, the earthly systems of power die, the worldly systems of privilege die, the cultural systems of discrimination die. At the intersection of faith and politics, the Kingdom of God rises up new lives, proclaims freedom and equality for all, and provides justice and mercy where before there was none.

This intersection is not about endorsing one political candidate over another. This intersection is not about choosing one color to define us for all times. This intersection is about the hard work of letting the Crucified Jesus take to death all that needs dying and bring to life all that needs resurrection. In the coming days and weeks, our American politics will continue to be messy. When we come to the intersection of faith and politics, we are choosing to engage that messy terrain with the confidence that Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One, is answering our prayer: Your kingdom come, on earth as in heaven.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie