



Our Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
This Week						



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org



FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

@FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@flcmonmouth.org

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,

The council would like to express its gratitude to the estate of Bill Root. After Bill's passing, we received a bequest from his estate. This bequest has been designated for a building project that had not been started yet. The building and grounds committee evaluated several projects and recommended to the council this bequest be used to replace the flooring in the fellowship hall in the basement.

The council has approved this project. The building and grounds committee has selected a local flooring company to complete this project soon. If you see workers in the basement, you will know an upgraded to our flooring is happening.

Again, thank you to Pat Root and Becky (Root) Kometer for agreeing to this opportunity and for continuing Bill's legacy through a beautification project at church.

Congregation Meetings to be rescheduled

We did not have quorum to hold a congregation meeting on Sunday, Oct 18. So the council will reschedule to a later time.

The council is proposing changing how we disperse the interest income from our endowment funds. Our current practice is to disperse twenty-five percent (25%) to each of these four categories: benevolence, building maintenance, general fund and reinvestment. In the past, each of these four allocations is approximately \$4,000.

The proposed change will maintain the same allocation to benevolence and building maintenance, and increase the general fund portion to fifty percent (50%) by eliminating the reinvestment allocation.

This means the general fund will receive approximately \$8,000 instead of the previous approximation of \$4,000. The Finance Committee and the Endowment committee have supported this change as it will reduce the deficit in our budget planning.

If you have any questions regarding this change as we prepare for a rescheduled meeting, feel free to call our congregation president: Rose Sandstrom.



Thank you for continuing to remember the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

We accept offerings by mail, in worship, and through electronic giving.

To receive a form to begin electronic giving, please email the office and request one. Angela will mail you a copy and once you return that form, giving will be automatically withdrawn from your account.

Your giving supports our congregation and beyond.



Vision and Purpose Giving

Vision and Purpose Giving can happen anytime throughout the month. You can bring an extra offering for the vision and purpose offering bins; you can indicate on your envelope how much from your offering you want designated for vision and purpose giving; you can even set up a separate automatic giving just for vision and purpose.

This October, we support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Thank you to Kurt Volz for helping us sponsor such an important cause.



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Out of the DARKNESS
COMMUNITY WALKS
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



Reminder: we will not have a Zoom Bible study this Wednesday. We will resume again on Wednesday, October 28.

Youth Happens At First

Our Next Youth Happens Zoom Meeting will be
Wednesday, October 28th at 7 PM
Watch for the Zoom link to come out that week.

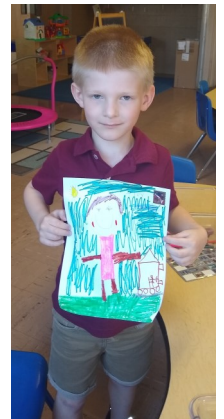


Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church

From Director Bobbi Nees

This week the kids really noticed all the fall colors around the playground area. This inspired them to decorate the classroom with fall colors. They each painted a fall themed picture. The kids made stained glass apples to put up in the windows using all the colors of apples. This week we also spent a lot of time building. Some of the kids built elaborate houses and towns, while others built their names out of blocks. Next week we are going to be working on leaf rubbings. Feel free to stop in and take a peek at all the creations!!





October 18: Loretta Reynolds

October 21: Betty Bruyn



October 25: Mark and Ellen Shrader



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cas-sie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham John-son, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Don-na Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Jim and Kim Johnson, Kay and Glenn Bailey, Vickie Feehan, Diane Bradley, 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, October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday

This week we celebrate the Reformation. Started in 1517 by a German priest named Martin Luther, this era of reform continues whenever we proclaim the Good News that we are saved by faith and not by our works.

Pastor Jamie will provide a worship video ahead of the weekend, as he will not be in worship this Sunday due to a family vacation. Pastor Jamie will also provide a video sermon for those who attend our weekly 9AM worship service.

This Sunday's Living the Creed PDF will be provide an opportunity to practice Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."



The Congregation Council has developed a plan in case a member who has attend-ed worship has been positively diagnosed with Covid-19. We will cancel worship for the following two weeks. Notices will go out through phone messages and email so all who attended worship can seek medical advice from their own doctors about medical care after a possible contact exposure.



All Saints Sunday is November 1st

This year, we would like to include pictures of those who we are remembering on All Saints Sunday.

If there is someone you know who passed away since last November 1, please let Pastor Jamie know. Send a picture to prjamie@flcmonmouth.org so the picture may be included during the litany on that day.

ADVENT



The Worship and Music Committee is seeking volunteers to help make our Advent season meaningful in a year when hope and faith need to be inspired.

We are seeking four volunteers to read an advent wreath devotion on camera. Pastor Jamie will record and prepare these videos to be shared during our in-person and video worship ser-vices. There will be a "traveling" wreath for each volunteer to light, and in the sanctuary the Advent wreath will be lit to match the lighting of the wreath in the video.

We are also seeking volunteers who are willing to be recorded reciting the Lord's Prayer. These will also be included in our in-person and video worship ser-vices.

Please contact Pastor Jamie to volunteer and sched-ule a time to be recorded.

The Upcoming Holiday season

Holiday Poinsettias are a tradition for our congregation. Members purchasing these typically pay \$8 for a plant. This year, our distributor needed orders before the end of October. This is too early for us.

The Worship and Music Committee is implementing a new poinsettia tradition for this year. Instead of buying a plant, donate your \$8 to our December Vision and Purpose Giving—the Warren County Ministerial Association Emergency Fund.

When you donate, a poinsettia coloring sheet will be added to our Narthex glass wall. This coloring sheet will have your name and the name of your loved one whom you are honoring or remembering with this donation.

Join us in filling our glass wall with poinsettia coloring pages, all filled in by our youth, and filling our hearts with joy and hope as we celebrate the season of our Lord's birth.

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



For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:21

In October, we celebrate the Reformation. As Martin Luther studied scripture, he was seeking a relationship with God. As he grew up, the Church had taught that God was an angry God, and that God sought vengeance on all who sinned, and that one could not be in a relationship with God unless one had confessed all sins and made atonement for each of those sins. This is partly where the archaic (and unbiblical) notion of purgatory came from, a place where, before one could enter heaven, all remaining earthly sins had to be purged away.

Luther poured over scripture seeking why God would be this way. And as Luther studied, Luther dutifully went to his confessor, sometimes for hours each day, and Luther would participate in all the rituals associated with atoning for sins: praying the rosary, the Lord's Prayer, participating in sacraments, and even self-flagellation. But Luther was not finding any evidence in scripture that God was vengeful or angry. Luther only found a God who was loving and had open arms to receive those whom God called beloved children.

Luther in particular studied St. Paul's letter to the Romans where St. Paul spells out the justification for how God can be so loving. For everyone has sinned, Paul said. Therefore the only way a righteous and just God can deal with everyone who has sinned is to love them all the same. All sin is forgiven. All are loved by God. This key passage in scripture helped Luther discover his long-sought-for relationship with God: a relationship based on love and forgiveness.

Now if God sees all as sinners, and therefore God sees all as forgiven, Luther reasoned this changes everything. This changes how we see one another, this changes how we welcome others into God's presence with us, this changes our focus on confession—from needing to earn our way to God—to giving thanks for what God has done. This changes our fear of God from outright dread to an awe that relieves our weary souls. The legacy of the Reformation is still with us, still changing our perspective of God, still opening us to the relationship God wants with us—a relationship based on love and forgiveness.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie