



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



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

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,

We are entering the winter months and while we don't want to think about it, we are beginning preparations in case of a weather cancellation. The church council has researched and chosen a plan for calling the entire congregation, often nicknamed "Robo-calling" for the purpose of sharing information quickly.

These calls will come up as from the church phone number on your caller ID. The messages will be short, and typically from Pastor Jamie. The message will relay information regarding the cancellation of worship.

In the event of a cancelled worship service, Pastor Jamie will video record a worship experience and email the link to the congregation as soon as it is available.

Hopefully, we have a calm winter and do not need to use this yet. But if we do, we are now prepared.

Our Sewing Circle Ministry



Our Sewing Circle members, even with meeting restrictions, made 22 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief or distribution around the world. Most of these go to refugee camps in the Far East, but some go to natural disaster sites where many people have lost their homes.

Special mention needs to be made of Glenna Martin's work on the blankets. She cut more than 1700 of the 11" by 11" squares that make up the blanket tops. It takes 48 squares per blanket so we have a good supply left to begin next year's Lutheran World Relief contribution.



Also included in this shipment were 10 health kits put together by the Sarah Unit and 15 school kits assembled by the Naomi unit.



Many, many thanks to all the ladies that make this ministry possible.

Submitted by,
Rose Youngquist

Our Stewardship Ministry

Throughout November, we will be inspired by members sharing reflections on stewardship as we prepare to offer our pledges for the coming year.

Thank you for all your generosity that keeps our ministry happening. May the stories you hear this month inspire you to prayerfully consider growing in your giving so the ministry of First Lutheran Church will remain strong for the years to come.



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.

In recent years, we have been able to provide birthday cakes for these students. The pandemic has made continuing that difficult. But after consulting with the school we have found a need students often have is personal hygiene products. A list of items needed will be provided in the coming weeks, as well as all donations going to assist in acquiring items to make kits for these students.

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



We resume our midweek Zoom Bible Study this week Wednesday at 3 PM

Join us through the Zoom link included with the email, as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark.



Lutheran Day Care and Preschool

A ministry of First Lutheran Church



The Daycare Board would like to introduce our new Director, Bobbi Nees!

Bobbi has worked as an assistant teacher at the Daycare for four years prior to becoming director on September 1. She has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood and Administration from Blackhawk College. Prior to working at LDC she was the lead teacher for 12 1/2 years at Bridgeway's Creative

Childhood Center.

Bobbi was born and raised in Monmouth and lives north of town with her family in the "putt-putt golf house" that many of us remember! The favorite part of our job, of course, is working with the kids and also that every day brings something different!

The Board is proud of the amazing job Bobbi has done keeping the Daycare open and safe during these past few challenging months!

Open Table Information Meeting

Open Table is a nationally trained model equipping faith and other organizations to transform communities through sustainable, long-term relationships with people experiencing economic and/or relational poverty. The Open Table model gives community members a way to invest their own social and relational capital in the lives of others to help them achieve the better lives they envision for themselves.

An informational meeting about becoming a table member is Thursday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m., First Christian Church, 514 N. Sunny Lane, Monmouth. All participants are asked to wear a mask and pre-register so we can ensure appropriate physical distancing. To register or questions, contact Jan Gebauer, (309) 337-9121.



October 26 Paula Buban
 October 28 Jackie Heerwagen
 October 30 Bryan Osborn



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 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, November 1, 2020
 All Saints Sunday

This week, we will remember those members of our congregation who passed away since the previous All Saints Day.

We will also begin a new four week series on creation, beginning this Sunday with discovering God through Forests. Trees mark our holiest days, with the Christmas Tree and the Tree of the cross at Easter time, trees also mark our seasons, with buds in the Spring, full green colors in the summer, bright reds and yellows in the fall, and bare in the winter.

Through all these ways we celebrate trees and forests, God the creator is present. Join us this Sunday at 9 AM as we celebrate our Creator whose handiwork is found through forests and trees.

Our Living the Creed PDF, which represents our at-home Sunday school, will give you a chance to reflect on the trees that are nearest to you, and how you experience God as creator through trees. Spend some times as a family this weekend growing in faith and celebrating the presence of the Creator as near to you as your favorite backyard tree.



Christmas Poinsettia donations are now being accepted.

Send in your donation for what you 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.

Youth Happens at First

This week Wednesday, our Youth will meet by Zoom at 7 PM. We will use this time to discuss a hunger skit for an upcoming worship service, also the coloring poinsettias for our Advent worship space, and have fun catching up.

We will also make plans for another “Break from Zoom” activity.

Parents of our youth ages Kindergarten to College age open the Youth Happens newsletter that comes with this Our Church—This Week for more information. The Zoom link will be included with the email.

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



So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19-20

All Saints' Day is day we remember all our loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant. The day is aligned with a number of cultural expressions of remembering the dead, for example the Mexican “Dia De Los Muertos” or “Day of the Dead”. In 2017, Pixar released a movie called “Coco” based on the Dia De Los Muertos holiday.

In the movie, a young boy who yearns to be a musician is growing up in a family where a great-great-great grandmother banished music from the family. The movie follows the adventures as the boy is magically transported into the realm of the dead, where he eventually finds his great-great-great grandfather and reunites him with his great-great-great grandmother. This brings the family unity as well; and ultimately the boy receives the blessing to become a musician. The movie demonstrates how the Mexican culture reveres its deceased family members, and how memory of those loved ones is very important. This is a powerful movie I recommend all watch. Not only does it provide powerful insight to a cultural expression of remembrance and family as experienced by our Hispanic neighbors, it also offers an opportunity for our own reflection on how we remember our loved ones.

As we approach this All Saints Day, our worship will include an experience allowing us to remember our loved ones. For those who died in this past year, we will share pictures and light candles and lift up our hearts to find the blessing of peace as we entrust our loved ones to God's eternal care. But in our hearts will not only be those who died recently, but all the loved ones who have been saints in our lives—parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, for some even maybe a child, and many dear friends. Remembering the dead has the potential of bringing up sad feelings, but All Saints Day is about that blessing of peace, resting in the knowledge that Christ has drawn our loved ones into an eternal kingdom, they are no longer separated from God, and one day, we, too, will join them in the heavenly realm.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie