



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

September

2020

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

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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,

We have two major natural disasters happening in our nation that desperately need prayers. The wildfires out west continue to rage, causing countless damage to property and natural areas, and even leading to the loss of life. Another hurricane sits off the gulf coast and will make landfall sometime tonight or early tomorrow between Louisiana and Mississippi, two states still recovering from earlier hurricanes this year. Our ELCA national church has a ministry called Lutheran Disaster Relief that provides aid during these times. Please consider making a donation to support relief efforts through our church. The website is: www.elca.org/ldr

Prayers for all rescue workers, first responders, firefighters, and all who rush into danger to protect lives and property are needed as well.

Home Communion Starting Soon

This week, Pastor Jamie will begin calling homebound members and those who have requested communion at home to schedule a time to deliver our new home communion kits. If you would like to receive one, please call or email or text message Pastor Jamie.

Mini Prime Beef Festival (PBF)

The annual county festival was cancelled, as the pandemic forces us to continue to adjust our lives to a new normal. Yet, we will still be able host our own mini version of our tent. For one day only, on Tuesday, September 29th, our church will serve a limited menu at both the noon hour and evening meal. This limited menu will consist of your choice of Ribeye sandwiches or barbecue sandwiches, with chips and pie. Prices and exact times will be advertised in the coming days. Watch for more information on our FB page as well as website. And of course, next week's "Our Church-This Week" newsletter.

If you are interested in helping with this one day event, please contact the event coordinator, Connie Larimer.



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.



The LORD has successfully decimated Egypt with 10 plagues. The LORD has miraculously opened the waters so Israel could pass safely through, but the pursuing Egyptian army was swallowed up. Now, the Israelites find there is no food in the desert. And they complain that God has brought them out to the desert to die. How will the LORD respond?

Join us Sunday either during our 9 AM in-person worship, or through the worship video link that is emailed on Monday with the Our Church-This Week newsletter.

Vision and Purpose Giving

In September, our designated monthly special project giving is going to assist the Open Table organization in Monmouth.

Open Table is a group of people who assist a family by creating a support network for the family. This support may include providing resources to assist the family, be a reference table for conversation for an array of "how-to" questions; and provide other supports the family may not have if they are separated from other family or friends.

In other words, Open Table becomes a family and friend network, helping someone get established and secure footing. This month, our donations will assist Open Table help this family achieve some financial stability after a recent move.

All Vision and Purpose Giving can be included with your regular offerings when you attend worship or mail offerings to the office.



Living the Creed

Take Home Exercise

Sunday, September 20th

The LORD provides a miracle of quail meat and a mysterious bread like food called Manna, to quell the complaints from the chosen people. The LORD uses this miracle to say there is more than enough food for everyone, at all times. There is still enough food for all people for all times, we just sometimes have to be the miracle that makes it happen. Watch for this week's Living the Creed PDF to help us explore how the ELCA provides the miracle through its World Hunger Appeal ministries.



Located on the south side of town, the Jamieson Center provides a number of resources to families in

need throughout Warren County.

A food pantry and thrift store are just the tip of the iceberg. Jamieson has resources to help with utilities and rent, as well as programs to assist feeding students in low-income families beyond the school year.

Visit: jamiesoncommunitycenter.org to learn more.

The worship video from Sunday, September 13th is now posted on our church website:

www.flcmonmouth.org

A link is also included with our weekly email.





Sept 15 Harper Sprecher

Sep 17 Kirk Moulden

Sept 18 Pastor Vince Marolla



Sept 17 Wendell and Lorene Nelson—70 years!

Sept 20 Wylie and Melissa Johnston

Sept 20 David and Theresia Pettett



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Brad and Jodie Haist 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.



Join us Wednesday, Sept 16 at 3 PM for our Zoom Bible Study.

This week, we will read the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 2 and use a Bible study book called "Ephphatha" written by Pastor Jamie to learn more about what the Gospel of Mark wants us to know about Jesus. The Zoom link will be included in the email with this newsletter.

Check out our updated Website

Flcmonmouth.org

The Day Care tab has been completed updated with information about our Day Care Director and teachers as well as some pictures.

Check out our resources page as it includes links to the ELCA, Northern Illinois Synod, and a variety of church related ministries. We also have links to local charities and organizations.

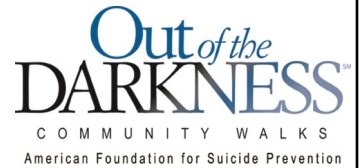
The page also includes some resources for those dealing with grief.

Our worship videos and resources are also posted every week.

Check back often for updates on our website.

Dear First Lutheran,

This year I am participating, again, with Out of Darkness event.



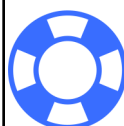
I am raising funds for increasing awareness of suicide and suicide prevention. Out of Darkness is continuing the fight against issues that underlie the problem of people thinking that suicide is their only way to address the darkness in their lives.

Unfortunately, this year we have several additional stressors our society is dealing with that has exponentially increased stress, anxiety, and depression -- more so than what has typically been present. COVID – 19, and the increased financial stressors and increased social distancing on one hand, and the racial tensions that have increased in our country on the other hand, will have long-term effects on everyone. However, our most vulnerable populations need our help right now.

For any who wish to donate again this year to the Out of Darkness event, you can make your checks out to The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (or just AFSP) and send them to our First Lutheran Church office. Any amount is very much appreciated.

Very sincerely,

Kurt Volz



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Pastor's Note:

This will be our October Vision and Purpose Giving.

Upcoming Committee meetings

Monday, Sept 14 6:30 PM Worship/Music
Tuesday, Sept 15 5:30 PM Preschool/Day Care

To join a committee contact the chair or Pastor Jamie

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
In-Active Committee
Christian Education and Youth

High School Youth

Zoom Gathering



Calling all youth, we will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 16th at 7 PM to talk about how our youth ministry will happen this year. Zoom link will be included in the email accompanying this newsletter.

Weekly Devotional



“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

Matthew 18:22

“Forgiveness Can you imagine?” This line is sung by the chorus in the musical *Hamilton* as the protagonist Alexander and his wife Eliza reconcile after the scandal of his affair being made public and after the events of their oldest son dying in a duel were largely blamed, even if unfairly so, on Alexander. It was a long arduous road for the couple to discover this moment of reconciliation, and to begin their lives together in a new way.

The disciple Peter was trying desperately to understand Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness, he wanted to know just how much effort we have to put into forgiving someone. If forgiveness could be quantified, Peter’s logic dictates, then we have a clear and concise rule. Jesus’ response, “seventy times seven” may have a mathematical answer, but really, who counts up to 490 offenses? Don’t we usually lose track somewhere before we even get to 10 times? Jesus’ response tells us forgiveness is not quantifiable.

Does Elizabeth get to say to Alexander, okay, I forgave you these two things, that’s it, next time no more forgiveness for you? Jesus would say, “No, that is not how forgiveness works.” For Jesus, forgiveness has no limit, the well of forgiveness is infinite. And sure, forgiveness does not necessary absolve consequence for our actiona, but it does remove the barriers we place in our hearts, separating ourselves from one who has offended us. Once that barrier is removed because of forgiveness, we can find the new way to live together.

How does it look in your life to live out an immeasurable amount of forgiveness? What does it mean to lose count of how many times we have forgiven someone, and so we start over at the beginning and forgive again? This is our faith journey. It doesn’t have easy answers. It only has Jesus leading the way, the very Jesus who forgives us so many times, we have lost count.

In peace,

Pastor Jamie