



Our Church

(309) 734-2106 office@flcmonmouth.org

Volume CXII Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

Another Perspective – From Over the Years – From Several Angles

I want to share from the perspective of a therapist's experience over 36 years serving communities in Illinois from Oregon, to Monmouth, to Galesburg, to Macomb, and back to Monmouth.

I want people to experience my therapy as something like what the Bible refers to as a "healing balm" or an ointment - something that helps a person's wounds heal. All of you can do the same. What are ingredients of God's healing balm used through us by God's love when talking with someone touched by or is considering suicide? We can encourage them to talk about their feelings and thoughts, we can demonstrate that somebody cares about them and is willing to discuss a difficult issue with them, we can discuss with them seeking help from counseling or emergency services – possibly taking them and staying with them, we can spend more time with them and doing things with them (possibly involving one or two other closest friends), etc.

One middle school aged child who was brought to me by their mother was thinking of suicide related to a number of stresses in their life. Several months later the child gave one of the tools I had given them to another other child in their class who was having a really particularly bad day explaining to the boy how it had been helpful to them and how the child felt that he needed it more that day than they did! A young student who may not have even understood the term of a "healing balm" nonetheless understood on his level how to be that to another human being!

One middle aged adult whom I had been seeing who had lost a close family member to suicide reached out to someone else in the community who had also lost someone very close to them. That person was a "healing balm" for them.

At another time I was going to be seeing a young adult referred to me and I knew they had been in treatment several times. This time, again, they had been thinking about

suicide. Considering the person had already been in numerous treatment placements they would have already heard some of the perspectives I typically share with patients. I sought God's help in prayer for something new to be able to say to them. At one point in our session I shared with the person an idea that had just occurred to me – which was that just as alcohol and other drugs tell a lie to people about how they will “help make things better” – suicide also makes that lie. It lies because it will not really ‘fix’ the overall problem/s. Secondly, it will actually prevent the person from all the things that may happen in the future of the person's life – the type of job they might have, type of person that they will end up in a relationship with, the children they may enjoy, the wonderful friends they may make and have, places they may go and wonderful things they may see etc. The person told me he had never been told that perspective before. He had never heard the idea of depression and suicide being characterized as a sort of ‘person’ who lies to and deceives them. Several sessions later this person told me that he had shared that new perspective with several others. He was not sure if they would enter therapy but he thought that perspective was helpful to them as well. Another person whose words and actions had been a “healing balm” to others – his friends.

You may be thinking, “Well, these three spoke to the others out of having a shared level of difficulty or pain, what if I have not experienced the same thing?”. The point is not whether you have shared the exact same loss or been depressed to the same depth – we have all had some sort of loss and we have all had issues that have contributed to us feeling terrible – about ourselves, about others, about life. And, the ultimate bottom line that touches the other person is us caring about them.

I believe we are all daily allowed – yes, even called – by God to be instruments of His love through the many countless opportunities we interact with those around us. May we daily ask our Lord to improve our emotional eyesight to be more aware of who around us are in need of attention, of caring, of us spending time with them and being a “healing balm” of Christ’s love to and for them.

- Kurt Volz

SEPTEMBER VISION & PURPOSE

Our September Vision & Purpose Giving is designated to support Kurt Volz's fundraising efforts for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)'s Out of the Darkness Community Walk. The walk takes place this year on Saturday, September 14th at Lake Storey in Galesburg. The event opens at 10am with the walk beginning at 11am. Our local walk has a goal to raise \$27,000 from participants.

Our community has been touched by suicide in recent months. AFSP's mission is to Save Lives and Bring Hope to Those Affected by Suicide. To fully achieve this mission, AFSP engages in the following Five Core Strategies:

- Fund scientific research
- Offer educational programs for professionals
- Educate the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention
- Promote policies and legislation that impact suicide and prevention
- Provide programs and resources for survivors of suicide loss and people at risk, and involve them in the work of the Foundation

Thank you for your support of Kurt Volz's participation in this walk, and for your donations with support this important organization.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

On August 11th, the Congregation approved a Capital Campaign goal of \$50,000. The goal is designated for three projects – replacing the north front steps, repairing the church front doors, and additional tuck pointing. The church front doors need to be more energy efficient and secure. New north front steps will be safer and similar to the recently completed south entrance. As buildings age tuck pointing is a necessity to maintain the outside brick walls. Some pledge cards have been sent with additional ones available in the church office. They can be turned in to the office or placed in the offering plate. Let's work together to make sure our church remains a safe and beautiful place to worship.

PRIME BEEF FESTIVAL

It's almost here! For anyone wanting to double-check when they agreed to help, a full schedule of volunteers, shifts, and duties is included in this newsletter.

First Lutheran's Food Tent will operate:
Wednesday, September 4th from 5pm – 10pm
Thursday, September 5th from 11am – 9pm
Friday, September 6th from 11am – 9pm
Saturday, September 7th from 11am – 7pm

Extra hands are always appreciated for tear-down, Saturday night after closing.

Pop Donations

We're looking for 12oz (regular) cans of five Pepsi products - Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Diet Mountain Dew, and Sierra Mist. Please leave all donations in the back of the chapel before or on Tuesday, September 3rd.

Pies

Becky Terpening will be making festival pies again this year. For \$12 per pie, she will make them, deliver them to the church, and mark your name off the list. Call her with your order at (309) 768-2590 or (309) 337-3487. Mail checks to:

Becky Terpening
1570 50th St
Kirkwood, IL 61447

REMINDER: SECOND SERVICE STAYS AT 10 AM

From now until...?

Back in May, the Church Council approved not returning to 10:30am in the fall as in previous years. The second worship time will remain 10am going forward.

8:15am worship will remain at 8:15am.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Halloween Fun Night Planning Meeting – September 8th

Pastor Jamie and Jim Johnson are planning a community event for Halloween. We will have a planning meeting on Sunday, September 8th at 2pm in the Parish House. Heide Gallagher and Maddie Blaesing are coordinating with a variety of groups from MRHS to help with this event. The planning meeting will outline a simple vision – provide a Halloween fun event for the community, one that gives especially younger children a taste of a Halloween Fun-Spooky House (no horror, just good-ole-fashion Halloween fun). We are so excited to partner with a variety of clubs and music groups from the high school in providing this community event. Members of the church who are interested in helping out are welcome to attend this meeting as well.

Confirmation Resumes – September 11th

Confirmation classes resume on Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm. We will have 6 sessions to review a variety of subjects as the current class prepares for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October 27th. Please pray for Collin Nuckles, Elise Blaesing, and Jackie Slater as they finish their studies and anticipate taking this next step of faith.

Visit from Pastor Mark Rich and Pastor Cynthia Holder Rich – September 14th-15th

First Lutheran sponsors two missionaries serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) as Lecturers in Theology at Tumaini University Makumira, Arusha, Tanzania. They teach classes and supervise students at the Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels who plan to be pastors and church leaders in the ELCT.

On the weekend of September 14th and 15th, the Pastors Rich will be in Monmouth to visit with First Lutheran. Saturday, September 14th, the Council will host a dinner with them. On Sunday, September 15th, they will share a message about their ministry during both worship services with a coffee hour between worship.

After the second worship service, our youth will have lunch with them.

This will be an exciting weekend. Please invite your friends to join us in worship to hear about the great work the missionaries are doing and the great ways we support them.

MINISTRIES

Birthday Cake Ministry Resuming

First Lutheran Church will be furnishing birthday cakes again this year for the alternative school. If you are willing to bake a cake for the students please contact Diane Carlson.

Does your house need work?

Community Care Days is a cooperative effort of local churches to minister in the area of home repair and maintenance. Applications are now available for the September 20th & 21st work weekend. If you would like assistance with home improvement, applications can be found on the shelf outside the church office, and on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Completed applications are due back (you can leave them in the office door) by **Sunday, September 1st**, so don't delay!

Come be a part of caring for your neighbors in Warren County!

No experience or training necessary – though Community Care Days focuses on home repair and maintenance, there is plenty of yardwork and painting to do. All volunteers are invited to a planning meeting on **Tuesday, September 3rd at 7pm** in Security Savings Banks' Community Room. Work group leaders are always needed.

If you can't commit to two days, no fear! Come for only one workday, or even just an afternoon. Each day the volunteers will meet at 8am, then be sent off to various projects. Where is the meeting place? Keep an eye on the bulletins, or call Steve Erlandson at (309) 236-7550 as the days get nearer.

And if you're only available afternoons, call Steve when you're free. You never know where extra hands might be needed unless you ask!

Parking Lot Flyer Ministry

With the new school year, Pastor Jamie has resumed the parking lot flyer ministry.

During the daytime, Pastor places flyers on high school related cars that include invitations to our worship services and special events, a brief devotion that lifts up God's love for them, and simple parking lot etiquette rules. If you would like to help distribute these flyers, please talk with Pastor Jamie, he would appreciate your help.

A second piece of this ministry is when the high school has evening events, Pastor Jamie will prepare flyers that include invitations to our worship and to our special events. If you are aware of evening events – such as sports games, or music concerts, or any high school special event, and would be willing to help distribute flyers during those events, again, please see Pastor Jamie.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Wendell & Lorene Nelson	9/17/1950	69 years
Dennis & Denise Mann	9/2/1978	41 years
Bryan & Keri Osborn	9/5/1992	27 years
Jeremy & Amy Damewood	9/26/2015	4 years

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ila Roseberry	9/1	Chris Algren	9/4	Dennis Mann	9/23
Kristi Hippen	9/2	Brian Elliott	9/8	Lacey Elliott	9/25
Nell Marie Killip	9/2	Don Fillman	9/12	Maddie Blaesing	9/28
Marjorie Swanson	9/3	Kirk Moulden	9/17	Brian Larson	9/30

LOVE TEA

September 13, 2019

1:30 p.m.

AT: First United Methodist Church
Monmouth IL

We invite all to bring a box
of diapers to donate to the
Loving Bottoms Diaper
Bank.

Program by

Lee Ann Porter

(Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank)

Music will be provided.

Refreshments will be served

Babysitting is available

Church is handicap accessible

Open to all women

(Sponsored by Church Women United of Monmouth and Vicinity)



MAIL RECEIVED



Dear Friends,

Thank you for investing in our community through Jamieson Community Center. Your donation of binders will be used for our STARS program, which is preparing to distribute school supplies to an expected 100 children. Our community is generous in serving one another. Because of your thoughtfulness, we will be able to help meet the basic needs of your neighbors.

Sincerely,
Nancy Mowen
Executive Director

I would like to thank everyone for the many prayers offered for my brother, Richard Rieck, during his hospitalization and at the time of his death at Iowa City. Also thank you for the condolences, cards, and gifts received in his memory. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

- Anna Lovdahl & family

WORSHIP HELPERS – SEPTEMBER 2019

Altar Care: Connie Larimer

Altar Flowers: 1 OPEN, 8 OPEN, 15 Doug & Kathi Cruce, 18 OPEN, 25 OPEN

Acolytes

Sanctuary: 1 & 8 Nate Gallagher, 15, 22, & 29 Konner Elliott & Kaylie Teel

Communion Assistants

Chapel: 8 & 15 Gary Martin, 22 & 29 Cecil Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 1 & 8 Gary Sanberg, 15, 22, & 29 Brian Elliott

Lectors

Chapel: 1 & 15 Elaine Sander, 8 & 29 Heide Gallagher, 22 Kay Lovdahl

Sanctuary: 1 & 8 Ben Sanberg, 15, 22, & 29 Kathy Erlandson

Ushers

Sanctuary: 1 Steve & Karen Erlandson, 8 Dave & Kathy Erlandson,
15, 22, & 29 Brian Elliott & Lacey Elliott

Visual Aid Assistants

Sanctuary: 1 & 8 Heide Gallagher, 15, 22, & 29 Collin Nuckles

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 9, 2019

(approved August 13, 2019)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Rose Sandstrom, followed with prayer by Rose.

Present: Pastor Jamie, Rose Sandstrom, Ray Bruyn, Ellen Shrader, Steve Erlandson, Jim Johnson, Diane Carlson, Linda McGuire, Evelyn Volz, Warren Dobry

Congregational Blessings/Messages of Thanks

- Steve Erlandson and Jim Johnson for installing new FLC street signs
- DeeDee Yez and committee for 5th Sunday Luncheon
- Pastor Jamie for organizing Pulpit Supply Pastor

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Minutes from June 18th meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Approved special congregational meeting to vote on capital campaign before worship on August 11th
- Approved submitted committee report
- Approved cutting down ash tree on south side

New Business

- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at church on August 1st from 5-7pm (hosted by MRHS Music Boosters)
- Vision & Purpose offering (August - LWR school kits; September - Suicide Prevention)
- Joint service with Chin Church - October 13th at 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm

Next meeting is August 13th at 7pm

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

First Lutheran Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2019

(approved by Church Council August 13, 2019)

The meeting was called to order at 9:47am by Rose Sandstrom, President of Council, followed with a prayer by Pastor Jamie.

Motioned, Seconded, and Approved

- Capital Fund Campaign to raise \$50,000 (replace north sanctuary steps, fix both sets of sanctuary doors, continue tuckpointing)

The motion passed unanimously by written ballot 49-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56am

Ellen Shrader, Secretary

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH'S LEADERS

PASTOR

Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@flcmonmouth.org

(630) 200-3550

OFFICERS

President: Rose Sandstrom

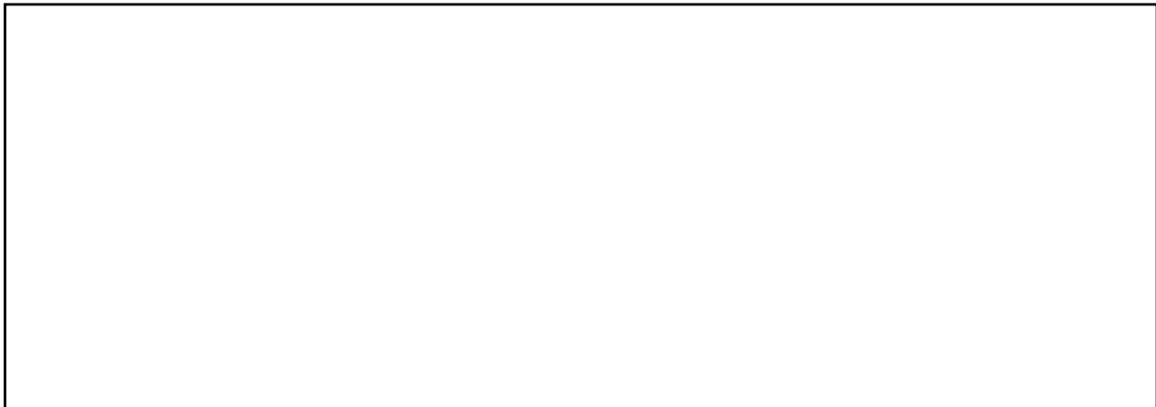
Vice President: Ray Bruyn

Treasurer: Gary Sanberg

Secretary: Ellen Shrader

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS (2019-2020)

Diane Carlson, Warren Dobry, Steve Erlandson,
Jim Johnson, Linda McGuire, Evelyn Volz



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
116 S B ST
MONMOUTH, IL 61462



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 4 - Prime Beef Festival Food Tent Opens

Sep 7 - Prime Beef Festival Food Tent Closes

Sep 15 - Missionary Presentations during
worship & Coffee Hour between services

Sep 20 & 21 - Community Care Days Work Days

Our Church

The deadline for the next newsletter
is **1 PM** on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**.
Please submit your articles by the deadline.

Articles for submission to Our Church
may be edited to fit the format.

Whenever possible, please submit articles
via e-mail (message text or attachment).

Thank you!