



# Worship Notes

Friday, April 30, 2021

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren  
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Dear Friends and Family,

My family is one more person complete this week as our college attending daughter finished her semester and returns home this weekend. Welcome home to all our college students finishing a school year and returning home. Blessings as you sigh a sigh of relief after an intense semester and tough final exams. Times of transition between school year and summer activities are moments of joy, and throughout this new month of May we will begin experiencing many more of these transitions as the high school and elementary schools wrap up their educational years as well. And we all praise God for another year of learning and growing in faith.

*Please keep in prayer the following:*

Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Gary Gaskill, Charlotte Volz, Amber Kerr, Julie Kerr, Jaxson, Chris



*Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.*

### A Litany of Praise for Creation

Since Easter Sunday, we have been using a special Litany of Praise for Creation in place of the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise. This litany comes from a resource called "Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks" written by Gail Ramshaw.

As you follow along this litany, you should recognize the pattern it follows. It is written based on the first creation story found in Genesis chapter one. Each petition is in order of the items that are created on each day of the week, from light to everything that creeps on the earth, to humankind made in God's image.

In Genesis, God declares each day of creation to be good. In our litany, we have a host of responses praising and extoling God for the goodness of creation.



*Thank you for your generous support of our ministry*

Your giving matters. Thank you for all your generosity.

You keep our ministry going strong here in Monmouth, Donations from our ministry extend what we are capable of doing as we partner with the larger church across our state, nation and world.

Donations may be brought into worship and placed in an offering plate, mailed in, or you can use electronic giving. Contact the church office for more information.

### This week in worship

"Pardon the interruption" the announcer starts as our regularly scheduled television or radio programming is interrupted for a breaking news story.



"Pardon the interruption," the resurrected Jesus said on the beach to the disciples who were just fishing.

"Pardon the interruption," the Holy Spirit said as it grabbed Philip from the middle of one mission to thrust him into a new mission.

"Pardon the interruption," says God to us in the normalcy of our life to bring us an entirely new set of life conditions to live by.

Join us this week, as we hear these words proclaimed as the Good News—yes, it is Good News when God speaks these words to us.

## Living the Creed

Check out this week's Living the Creed PDF, the opportunity for your family to have a little Sunday school right in your own living room.

Philip is a disciple on a mission. Only God has an entirely new mission for him, and it is in a completely different direction than Philip is currently headed.

Learn about Philip's new mission and the way that God drops him into a spot to meet up with an Ethiopian official, only to whisk Philip away immediately after the baptism scene.

How does Philip's encounter teach us as church today? Download the PDF and learn more.

## This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Judy Sanberg

Usher: Ted Hanson

Organist: Janice Algren

Flowers: *open*



### Altar Flowers

An Altar Flower ordering form is on our website. Download the PDF to learn more about your options today.

Sign up for Altar Flowers for May

by calling the Church office. Only May 9th (Mother's Day) is spoken for so far.

## Blessings

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus, in Acts 1:8

This simple directive from the Risen Jesus impelled a group of 12 to become a group of 120 to become a group of 3000 all in the span of one chapter of the book of Acts. From that early group, the way of following Jesus spread across Roman Empire, becoming recognized in the 4th century as the official empirical religion. This directive served as the impetus as the Church, headquartered in Rome, spread across the rest of Europe, making its ways into the British Isles by the 5th century. As European powers grew, they took with them the church, still following the words of Jesus, bringing the faith to the corners of Asia and Africa and then in the late 16th and early 17th century, finally entering the Americas.

And it sounds great. It has been romanticized about, and it has been lifted up as the ultimate fulfillment of Jesus' directive. We are bringing the Good News to all people. And we are a blessing to them. Except when we are not. We received an update from our missionaries in Tanzania, Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich. We are working on a way to begin sharing these updates through social media, our website and future emails. This month's article from Reverend Mark Rich highlights the ugly side of colonialism—from Europe to the US into places like Tanzania, where he and his wife teach. Colonialism has done a lot of damage, and the repercussions are still felt today. One such example is how the concept of "Original Sin" is taught. This teaching is based on St. Augustine in the 4th Century who interpreted the story in Genesis 2 and 3 as being the first sin and the sin that is passed to all humanity. We have all heard this, we have all be taught this. But this teaching is very damaging, and has been used in harmful ways. The damage that comes from this is seen in how European powers brought the church to Africa, for example, and taught that the indigenous peoples were just sinners and not worthy and couldn't save themselves and they had to be ruled over and dominated by the more 'enlightened' Europeans. In his article, Pastor Mark points out two places this harmful teaching still has far-reaching implications in Tanzania today. I commend this article to you, and perhaps someday we can sit with it and study the issue together.

Until then, what are we to do? How do we bring Good News to people in a way that lifts them up instead of keeping them down? That is our challenge. Following Jesus' directive to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth is not easy, and when we lift people up, we are witnessing exactly what Jesus would do. In peace, Pastor Jamie