



Worship Notes

Friday, August 21, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

School is beginning. But everything is different. Some schools are in-person, some are completely on-line, and some yet are finding a way to combine the two. For our teachers and school administrators, this is an extremely difficult time. Please keep them in prayer.

For parents struggling to maintain their jobs, and now have children at home learning, this is extremely difficult. Please keep them in prayer.

For the sake of returning to normal as soon as possible, thank you for following all health recommendations about wearing masks and continuing social distancing.

Please keep in prayer the following:



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

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.

In-Person Worship Habits

Thank you. We are doing a great job reducing the risks of the pandemic as we continue following these habits:

- * If you are sick, please stay home.
- * Face masks are required for attending in-person worship. The church has extra masks if you forget yours at home.
- * Social distancing in the pews means we sit at least 6-feet apart from other family units.
- * Offering plates are at each entrance for you to place your giving as you enter or depart.
- * Communion practices include social distancing as well, follow the signs on the floor for where to receive and where to consume.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Ways to Give:



Mail your envelope to the church office

Begin or continue automatic giving (ask for a form from the church office)

Bring your offering to worship and place in the offering baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary

Don't forget: You may designate your giving, for instance, for our monthly Vision and Purpose Giving. This month we support the Western Illinois Animal Rescue Shelter here in Monmouth.



This week in worship

We will hear what happens long after Joseph and his family have died out. The Egyptians become fearful of the Hebrews and begin a systematic program of enslavement and a horrible program of killing baby boys. Moses' mother protects her son, and through a chance meeting with the Pharaoh's daughter, Moses is adopted into the royal family.

This story is one which speaks to slavery, attitudes about slavery, and God's desire for liberation. We will learn about a fugitive slave in American history who became known as Moses, as well as talk about who Moses is in our world today.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Mark or Ellen
Shrader

Acolyte and ushers still needed

Sign up to help as a Worship Assistant, Acolyte, or Usher: August
30, September 6, September 13

We have openings for altar flowers

August 30

September 6

September 13



Altar Flowers

Worship Assistant Training on August 30

Sunday, August 30, after the worship service, Pastor Jamie will lead a training session for members wanting to learn more about the role of Worship Assistant. Attending this does not mean you have to sign up for a spot, it just means you are interested in learning. Even if you have helped in the past as a lector or communion assistant, this opportunity will be a fun time to learn a little more about helping in worship.

Living the Creed

This week, our Living the Creed is a take-home exercise. You will find in the e-mail a PDF to download.

This Living the Creed will give us an opportunity to learn about some abolitionists in American History. Using the website for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center ... www.freedomcenter.org ... you will find out what it was like to fight against the evils of slavery in our nation's history, and develop a deeper appreciation for the continuing work toward racial justice in our own day and age.

Blessings

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Back in March, we were forced to stop in-person worship. Resuming on July 5th, our in-person worship has looked very different. From March to the present, we have begun an on-line worshipping community that connects with people in ways we would never have imagined before the pandemic took over the world. Through it all, we have adapted. Through it all, we have grumbled. Sometimes we have adapted more easily, sometimes we have grumbled louder. And sometimes we have just thrown up our hands in resignation that we don't know what is going on, but we press forward because it is all we can do.

St. Paul reminds us that worship is not a set pattern of liturgy, a book of favorite hymns, a chancel that is set up in a certain way. Worship is our presenting ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. We are a living sacrifice when we recognize God is the creator of each of the 7 Billion humans that share earth with us, along with the uncountable number of creatures that also call this planet home. We are a living sacrifice when we offer praise to God for joys even in the midst of suffering. We are a living sacrifice when we reach out to serve those whose suffering outweigh their joys. We are a living sacrifice when we breathe in the Holy Spirit who calms our anxieties, and breathe out the love God has for our neighbors.

Yes, the one hour on Sundays when we traditionally gather and worship God together is very different, and we will continue to adapt and we will continue to grumble about those differences because it is normal to experience that wide range of emotions. But St. Paul assures us, we are still worshipping God, and it is a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week experience not just one hour on one day. It is a blessing to join with you in worship on Sunday, and Monday, and Tuesday

Peace,

Pastor Jamie