



Worship Notes

Friday, February 12, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106

www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org

Pastor Jamie Gallagher
prjamie@flcmonmouth.org
Cell: 630-200-3550

Office: Angela Bradley-Volz, secretary
Custodian: Chris Algren

Musicians:
Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

On Sunday, February 21st, our congregation will resume in-person worship at 9 AM in our sanctuary. Please read through the attached flyer about our return to in-person worship. Some things will be very familiar from our experience last summer being in-person. We are also adding a couple elements back into worship, in an effort to provide a feeling of worship more closely related to our historical patterns of worship while also trying to balance in the best interest of safety. Thank you so much for your patience as we strive for the right balance and begin leading out of this pandemic era towards a new normal.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Your continued giving makes an impact in our community as our church continues to be a beacon of hope.

Mailing your donations to the church office and maintaining your automatic giving helps support ministries across the nation and around the world.



Please keep in prayer the following:



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, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Rob Kerschke, Brendan Kerschke

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

T-shirt and Canvas Tote Orders

Did you get your order form for a T-shirt and Canvas Tote bag? Becky Terpening has made these available for order. She designed the logo and is prepared to give \$5 of every order to the church as a fundraiser.

Take a moment to order your T-shirt now.

We will choose a day to wear our new Lutheran church t-shirts when the weather is a bit warmer and we can comfortably attend worship wearing our First Lutheran swag.

This week in worship



We will recognize Black History month on this Transfiguration Sunday. You will be introduced to a woman named Nance Legins-Costley. Legins-Costley became the first person Abraham Lincoln formally freed from slavery. The events took place in 1841, 20 years before Lincoln would be president.

Legins-Costley lived out her life in Pekin and is buried in Peoria, in a defunct cemetery that is now paved over as a parking lot. Let us honor her life, and remember it for the example she is. I will attach a PDF to the e-mail that is an article from USA Today about her life.

Black History Month

Black History month is a time of learning and a time of self-reflection. As we learn how oppression from slavery, to Jim Crow laws and segregation, and the still unrealized promise of “justice for all” impacts our neighbors who are people of color, we should reflect on how our community either continues to build upon oppression or how our community opens the way for the fullness of the American dream to be realized.

For people of color, the fullness of this American dream is all too often hampered by systemic issues that we as individuals are disconnected from, feel powerless to change, or simply think don’t exist. Only by engaging in conversation with our neighbors will we come to understand how the system works against them in so many ways, and we can find the way forward together, reshaping the system that far too long has only benefited one portion of our national society.

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Members will be receiving in the mail a letter with a piece of black cloth to wear on Ash Wednesday. The letter explains our history with ashes, and why this black piece of cloth will be a suitable replacement for them this year.

Pastor will send an email on Wednesday with the link to the Ash Wednesday online worship service. As we prepare to resume in-person worship on Sunday, February 21, it was decided to not hold any midweek in-person gatherings for the time being. All our Lenten midweek experiences will be online. More information on that will be included in Monday’s Our Church—This Week.

Blessings

And the Word of God became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. — John 1:14

The season of Epiphany comes to a close this weekend as we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord on Sunday. The glory of God is experienced on a mountaintop as Jesus engages Moses and Elijah in conversation. Peter, James, and John, the three disciples allowed up the mountain with Jesus, don’t know how to react to this moment and offer to build tents for the three heroes of faith. Their plan was foiled, though, as the voice of God proclaimed “This is my Son, the beloved, listen to him.” The cloud lifted, leaving only the Rabbi and his three students.

Finding the glory of God in the world today is not as easy as climbing up a mountain. For starts, Jesus isn’t walking physically up that mountain with us. For another thing, we live in western Illinois, a very flat region, it is difficult to go up a mountain when there aren’t any around.

Yet the Gospel of John tells us we have seen his glory. So, where do we see that glory? We see that glory where the Kingdom of God is fully experienced. The Kingdom of God is fully experienced where new life is birthed, where justice is received, where forgiveness is proclaimed, where debts are released, where hurts are healed, where illness turns to wholeness, where sadness lives with hope, where an outstretched hand is a sign of peace where once there was none. Have you experienced any of these?

In the Gospel reading for Sunday, Jesus orders Peter, James, and John not to talk about what they experienced until after the Son of Man is raised. They don’t understand him, and won’t until Easter morning. We live now in the age of resurrection. That verse spoken to the three disciples does not apply to us. We are free to proclaim how we have experienced the glory of God. We are free to shout it from the rooftops. We are free to say to a neighbor, to a friend, to a family member: This is how we have seen the glory of God.

Experiencing the glory of God, seeing the Word of God made flesh living among us, does not require a mountaintop, it doesn’t even need a small hill. It simply needs to be pointed out—here it is. You and I are the ones who are called to point it out. We are the ones called to say, “This is why the wisemen came to the manger.” “This is why the shepherds showed up.” “This is where the Word of God is found in our world today.” “This is why we still come, on bended knee, with gifts ready to share.” We all have different ways of saying those things. We have all experienced the glory of God in different ways. And that is why it takes all of us working together to proclaim to the world, “Here is the Word of God.”

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie