



# Worship Notes

Friday, May 21 2021

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

This Sunday is our May Congregational Meeting. We will meet to elect new council and committee members and to discuss some congregation business. Official quorum for a meeting is 32 voting members. There will be no on-line component for this meeting, and there is no drive-in voting. All who wish to participate in the meeting are encouraged to attend. The meeting will begin shortly after worship concludes. We will remain in the sanctuary for this meeting.



*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.

*Please keep in prayer the following:*



Bradley Anderson, Kim Anderson, Beckie Bean, Josie Blake, Diane Bradley, Matthew Council, Nancy Dowell, Gary Gaskill, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Michael Hackspacher, Cassie Jern & Family, Graham Johnson, Joy Johnson, Craig Jones, Amber Kerr, Julie Kerr, Jaxson, Chris, Pat Root, Ila Roseberry, Charlotte Volz, Evelyn Volz, Norman Worthington

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

### New Mask Guidance

Yes, we have updated our mask policies. For those who are vaccinated, you now have the choice to wear masks at church.

You are on your honor system if you are not vaccinated to continue wearing a mask.

Indoor capacity is increasing across Illinois for places like houses of worship, and there is still plenty of room for social distancing as you choose.

We have been working so well to reduce the risks of spreading the virus, and we are committed to continuing reducing that risk as we follow all the guidance from the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health.

If you have any questions about your health or safety when attending worship or a meeting at church, please contact Pastor Jamie.

### This week in worship

This Sunday is the Day of Pentecost. This is a day we traditionally wear red as a sign of the Holy Spirit. Our lessons focus on the in-coming of the Spirit, the new life God provides through the Spirit. Listen especially to the Ezekiel passage that proclaims how God restores life to a valley of dry bones. 15 + months of pandemic sure makes us feel like that valley, and we may well be wondering where our new life will come from. It comes from God. Join us as we experience renewal in the Spirit.



### Three quick notes:

The Living the Creed series is taking the summer off, beginning this Sunday. It has been a delight to provide these weekly at-home faith growing opportunities. As we enter into the Summer, there may be other opportunities to grow in faith, and by next fall, we may resume a Sunday morning faith-experience.

We remember Kim Rains this weekend. Saturday, May 22 at 1PM we will hold a memorial service in the sanctuary. There will be lots of music that Jim is including in the service because of the deep connection Jim and Kim had through music.

Our hearts are united in prayer, lifting up Jim and all of Kim's family as they grieve this weekend.

Check out the VBS information on our website. A list of supplies our church will contribute will be included with Monday's newsletter

### This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Chip Algren  
Usher: Diane Carlson  
Organist: Jamie Reynolds



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 and June by calling the Church office.

### *Blessings*

In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams.

Acts 2:17, Peter is quoting the prophet Joel

Every now and then, a new idea pops up. It comes out of nowhere, but can only be ascribed to the Holy Spirit. This happened just today, a person with an idea walked into the space where I was sitting and said—what if we did this, and then spelled out the idea. When these moments happen, we have to give thanks to the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit is doing exactly what God has always said the Holy Spirit would do. Lead us to visions and dreams that bring the Kingdom of God into this place where we are.

It perhaps is a holy intersection of the Day of Pentecost with the near end of our pandemic era. The Day of Pentecost represents God sending the Holy Spirit so we can all have access to this ability to see visions, prophesy, and dream dreams. This was once perceived as being limited to just a few. But now in these last days, God has said it is available for all.

The blessing gives us freedom to dream, to not be afraid of listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit nudge us to try something new, to ask questions about why we have always done something, and to ponder what a new thing might do to help bring the Kingdom of God to more and more who are yearning to experience it.

What is the new idea dropped on me this morning, you may wonder? It was a suggestion about a clothing pantry, particularly featuring donated items for teenagers from casual wear to formal wear for proms and homecoming. Is it realistic? I don't know. Dreaming isn't about how realistic something is. Visioning isn't about the final nuts and bolts of making something happen. Dreaming and visioning is about seeing what possibilities lie out there for where the Kingdom of God needs to be experienced.

God blesses you with the ability to hear the Holy Spirit, to dream dreams and seek visions. We won't ever know if the dream and vision is realistic until we allow ourselves to first experience the dreams and visions. So this Day of Pentecost, let the Holy Spirit be freely experienced by all, and let the dreaming and visioning begin.

In peace, Pastor Jamie