



Worship Notes

Friday, May 28 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

Happy Memorial Day weekend. This weekend, we honor those who gave their all defending our nation. War is an evil. Some call it a necessary evil. It is a sign of the brokenness between human peoples. Yet those called to serve in military do so not because they revel in evil. No, those called to serve are honoring our nation, they are striving to defend peace, and bring peace to people who have been denied peace. It is tragic that war must happen between peoples. It is tragic that anyone should give his or her life in battle. We must not forget that their greatest desire was not to die in battle but to succeed in achieving peace. May we honor our fallen warriors as we strive for the same peace.

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.

This represents the last of the specific Worship Notes flyers that I have been doing throughout the pandemic era. Beginning next week with June, I will combine the Worship Notes with the weekly Our Church-This Week newsletter. All information for worship will be included on a new dedicated page of the newsletter.

Beginning with Tuesday, June 1 (and normally happening on Mondays of each week) our weekly email will just include the Our Church-This Week newsletter (featuring a new page dedicated to information for upcoming worship services, including 4 weeks of worship assistants and ushers), and the worship bulletin flyer, and the link to the previous Sunday worship video.

Throughout the pandemic, news developed quickly, and often changed multiple times a week, impacting what we needed to know for our gatherings, so having two weekly communications made sense and helped share updated information quickly. Now, as the pandemic is nearing its end, that information will change less frequently. So having a simplified communication system will be our new normal. We will continue to update prayer requests as needed, and if something does require an extra communication, we can still do that. But as a regular feature, Worship Notes has run its course and we will begin the summer with our simplified method of communicating.



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

This week, as we enter the Season after Pentecost, we will celebrate the Holy Trinity. God has many names: Yahweh, the LORD, Adonai, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. These are just a few of the names by which scripture identifies the divine being we worship. What does it all mean? Can one sermon explain it all? Are we going to fall asleep to a deep, doctoral level lecture that not even doctoral students would understand?

Find out the answers this Sunday as we worship the one we call: God.



Worship Bulletin Flyers

Over the last 15 months, we have made many adjustments, including to our worship bulletin. To avoid surfaces to come in contact with, we reformatted our bulletin so we could email it and members could print it at home if they chose. We have begun printing out bulletins as the science of the Covid virus has learned that contact on surfaces is not how this virus spreads.

As we are preparing to reduce our weekly emails from two to just one, we will keep the new bulletin flyer format for the time being. We will continue to have it available as a print-out, emailed weekly with the newsletter, and posted on the website as an easy PDF to print out. We will also continue to provide copies in our worship.

Over the summer, we will review our print resources, such as the bulletin flyer format, and make a determination if returning to our former format (a folded bulletin with inserts) is appropriate.

Thank you for all your flexibility as we adapted during the pandemic and now adapt once more coming out of the pandemic.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant:	Jim Johnson
Usher:	Linda McGuire
Organist:	Jamie Reynolds
Flowers:	Carl Hamberg



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 June and July by calling the Church office.

Blessings

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Psalm 4:8

Peace between peoples is both extremely difficult and extremely easy at the same time. It is easy in the sense that for the far majority of us, we have learned how to live peacefully with those around us. We do not have such extreme ideological differences that we can't be neighbors with someone who thinks or lives very differently from us. But while this kind of peace is so sensible and easy, having this peace on a global scale seems extremely difficult. Wars are raging all over the globe. Some are tribal in nature, internal to one nation. Others are between whole ethnic groups and cross internationally recognized borders. Some wars are about power and wealth of a few. Others are about dignity and human rights and ending abuses by an oppressive regime.

Throughout the history of our nation, we have had militias, state and national guard, volunteer armed forces, and drafted service men and women. Those called to serve our nation have been called to action in regional affairs and international conflicts. Our military has often supported a good cause, and has just as often been accused of pursuing unworthy means. War is messy, we are told. War is inevitable, we have been convinced. Yet war is nothing more than one more sign of the brokenness of our human society, it is the damage and consequence of sin that mars our human condition. For each armed conflict we can point to that seems to have justification, we can point to just as many that were completely avoidable. And no war escapes the judgment of God. War is not how God intended creation to coexist. That said, here we are in a global society torn by ideological and political differences that too often are solved by who has the most might.

As we honor the fallen this weekend, may we remember their service with valor. May we remember the cause for which they fought is sometimes fraught with complexities that were far above the pay grade of the individual soldiers who simply followed orders and served our nation valiantly. May we remember that they now rest in a peace that God grants to all in the life that comes after this one. The ancient Psalmist wrote a whole prayer asking for deliverance from an enemy, Psalm 4 ends with a verse of assurance that it is the LORD who provides the ultimate peace when we lie down from this life. Our fallen soldiers are truly in that peace now, in an eternal kingdom where the human condition and all the conflicts we can't avoid now are no longer relevant and all truly know peace.

In peace, Pastor Jamie