



Worship Notes

Friday, May 7, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy Mother's Day to all who are celebrating this occasion. I hope your weekend plans are all wonderful as you celebrate your mother, and the mother-figures in your life who have had such positive influences on you.

I give thanks for my own mother, Sue, who has been such a powerful influence in my own life. She travels so often to where me and my siblings live for all of our life events. She is always there to talk about family and our shared sports and other hobby interests. And without her, I would not be the person I am today.



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, 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, Michael Hackspacher



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

Vision and Purpose Giving

This month we will use our Vision and Purpose Giving to support Wendy Anderson and her Memphis to Peoria Run for St. Jude's Hospital. In our recent weekly newsletter, we included a letter from Wendy describing the Run and the hospital it supports.

Vision and Purpose Giving is typically received on the last Sunday of the month, but you can give any time during the month. Simply indicate on your envelope or on your check memo line how much is designated for Vision and Purpose.

Thank you for the way you support all of our Vision and Purpose giving causes, and especially this month the St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis which provides such great medical care to children, healing as Jesus heals.

This week in worship

Pastor Jamie will be on vacation this weekend. In his place, Heide Gallagher, who is recently home from college, will assist with Doug Cruce in leading worship.



The sermon will be presented as a video. This week Pastor Jamie talks about how when we express our love for Jesus, the opportunity is opened before us to show that love as we tend God's sheep. The example in our Gospel has Peter saying, "Yes, Lord, I love you," with Jesus responding "Feed my sheep". Who are the sheep we need to feed/tend to in our world today? The question is raised and may be left unanswered in the sermon, but the opportunity is again opened before us to discover the answer as we go on our way loving Jesus.

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.

This week Peter travels to two cities not far from Jerusalem. Think about traveling from Monmouth to Rossville or from Monmouth to Burlington. These are roughly similar distances from Jerusalem to Lydda (about 25 miles) and from Lydda to Joppa (about 12 miles).

Peter heals a paralytic in Lydda and raises a woman from the dead in Joppa. Take a few moments to learn some interesting details about these stories and learn something about your own name as well.

Download the PDF from our website or the email link with this weekly Worship Notes.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Doug Cruce, Heide Gallagher
Usher: Rose Sandstrom
Organist: Janice Algren
Flowers: Pastor Jamie

In honor of Katie Gallagher's birthday



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.

Blessings

"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Jesus, in John 21:15, 16, and 17

Expressing love is one of those touchy-feely things that is not very easy. Maybe it is our northern-European heritage. Maybe it is circumstances from our individual families. Maybe it is a piety thing. Maybe it is just me. I know I have a hard time saying the words, "I love you." beyond my own wife and children. I don't go around telling my siblings "I love you" very often, or close friends, or special mentors, for that matter.

So I struggle with this resurrection scene in John's Gospel. Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" And sure, I have to remind myself the word "love" has many different meanings. Here 'love' is a deep adoration, respect, care, and friendship that is unbreakable. But even with that understanding of the word, "love", I find it hard to use that word even with someone very important to me. Peter very openly responds to his teacher, friend, the Lord who was just raised from the dead, "Yes, I love you." Three times Peter has to repeat his affection and admiration for Jesus. These three times being a match for the three times Simon Peter denied Jesus. This teaches me that I should be as comfortable saying, "I love you, Jesus" as Peter is. I should be able to express my affection and admiration for the Lord and Savior, who guides my life, heals my soul, grants me peace and strength, and a spirit of wisdom and fear of the Lord.

But when I am not comfortable doing this, when I cannot because of my own piety issues, heritage issues, or family issues or whatever it is, say these words, how else can I express my love for Jesus? There are many ways to express affection and admiration. In fact, Jesus responds to Peter this way, "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep." Jesus is thankful Peter is able to express his love verbally, but Jesus is just as equally interested that Peter can express his love through his actions. The blessing we have as we struggle to express our love for Jesus is that there are many ways to express our affection and admiration for the Lord and Savior. We get to express our love as we sing hymns, as we donate to St. Jude's hospital, as we serve at the local food pantry or volunteer at the hospital or pet shelter, or drop a few coins in the mug of a homeless person on the side of the road.

The blessing is, when we say the words "I love you, Jesus", Jesus says to us, "I know, I love you too, now put that love in action." And when we cannot verbalize, "I love you, Jesus," Jesus still says to us, "I know you love me, I love you too, now put that love in action." And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

In peace, Pastor Jamie