



# Worship Notes

Friday, October 23, 2020

## 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    Musicians: Janice Algren  
Custodian: Chris Algren    Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope you will enjoy a wonderful weekend celebrating the Reformation. I am traveling with my family this weekend to visit our daughter at her college in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Worship will remain in-person. Mark and Ellen Shrader will be our worship leaders this week, and I have recorded my sermon for worship, so you the word of God will still be proclaimed.

Enjoy your weekend!

*Thank you for your generous support of our ministry*

This November, we will be talking stewardship and while our lives are impacted by the coronavirus, the ministry of the church continues to move forward. Take time to pray about the ways you support the ministry of First Lutheran, through regular and special offerings as well as volunteering opportunities.

God loves a cheerful giver. We are cheerful givers when we are fully passionate about something. May First Lutheran Church be something you are passionate about.



*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, Jim and Kim Johnson, Kay and Glenn Bailey, Vickie Feehan, Diane Bradley, 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.

### This week in worship



This Reformation Sunday, we may not sing our classic anthem, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." But Jamie Reynolds has selected a great video that we will get to listen and watch the great Luther written hymn sung.

We are beginning to experience a bit of pandemic fatigue. Restrictions in worship, when shopping, and even how we can visit relatives are all wearing us down. Luther's famous hymn echoes Psalm 46, reminding us we have a mighty fortress in which we find our strength to carry on even during difficult days. This Reformation, more than others, we need that might fortress.

WORSHIP  
VOLUNTEER  
opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Mark and Ellen  
Shrader

Usher: Ted Hanson

*Thank you to all who volunteer to assist in leading worship.*

We have openings for altar flowers



**Altar  
Flowers**

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

Living the Creed

This is your Sunday School—At Home Version

This week, we will stop and take a breather. We will be still and remember who is God. This is all based on Psalm 46:10.

Being still, especially in a hectic harvest season, may not always be easy. Kids and grandkids racing to on-line or in-person classes, keeping up with work, and keeping machines up to working, it all keeps us from being still. So, perhaps for just a brief moment, this PDF will give stillness a place in our lives.

Print out the PDF and grow in faith at home this week!

We are beginning preparations for Advent and Christmas season. We are looking for volunteers who are open to be recorded saying the Lord's Prayer, as well as willing to lead a brief Advent Wreath devotionals. These will be used in worship in December, and Pastor Jamie is hoping to record these in November.

Please contact Pastor Jamie if you are willing to share for either of these options.

*Blessings*

Jesus said, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:32

We live in an age of anti-intellectualism. Conspiracy theories about a flat earth are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to mistrusting experts on topics ranging from person health to public policy to science and even media. It has become easier to dismiss all experts, rather than discerning who is worthy of listening to and who is not. It has become easier to blame the media for all sorts of mis-information rather than discerning the accuracy and the bias in which the information is shared and received. In the midst of this strange new world we live in, we hear Jesus' words, "The truth shall set you free."

Back in early 1500's Martin Luther' lived in a world not much different from our own. Though, in the absence of mass media and social media, it was the church itself that was a source of misinformation. Years of withholding scripture from every person and decades of condemning people and using power to extort people all through supposed good religious intents had been exposed by Luther and his realization that scripture tells us a far more important truth: God does not condemn, but saves because of Jesus Christ.

Today, the Reformation continues whenever truth exposes misinformation. And we have the ability to discern truth. By our faith, truth begins with the Good News that Jesus Christ has forgiven us and has opened the door to everlasting life to us. But truth does not end there. Truth continues as it directs our life to accept science and medical experts. Truth is found in studying history and understanding why politics happen the way it does. Truth always leads to freedom.

What a stark contrast to a day and age when many in charge want to keep us unknowing and mistrusting experts. Those lies only lead to darkness and bondage. May we be agents of truth. May we be encouragers for others to find truth. May we never be afraid of the truth that will set us free.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie