



Worship Notes

Friday, August 28, 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,

Our county is setting up a Covid-19 testing site in the high school parking lot on Sunday, Sept. 6th from 9 AM to 5 PM. As you arrive for worship, you may notice some extra traffic in our area. Also, if you typically park in the high school lot, please plan on parking on the street or in our lot behind the building.

Keep all county healthworkers in your prayers as they provide this essential opportunity to Warren County residents.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Ways to Give:



Mail your envelop to the church office

Begin or continue automatic giving (ask for a form from the church office)

Bring your offering to worship and place in the offering baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary

Don't forget: You may designate your giving, for instance, for our monthly Vision and Purpose Giving. This month we support the Open Table ministry as they serve a family they have partnered with.

Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Jim Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Jodie and Brad Haist

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

Our Old Testament story brings us to the preparations for the Passover plague in Egypt. The final of 10 plagues God has used to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, this plague is a very specific meal preparing the people for God's saving action. The meal includes a lamb that is sacrificed, and whose blood is painted on the door posts and lintels of the house for the angel of death to see as a sign to pass over this house.

As Christians, we use the meal of Communion to link us to God's saving action in the world. Instead of blood of a lamb, it is the blood of Jesus that marks us as children of God, heirs of the promise of God for all times.

WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Doug Cruce

Usher: Dave Sandstrom

Thank you to the members who came forward for Worship Assistant Training last Sunday. We have a group of 8 members who will rotate over 2 months as worship assistants.

Are you missing saying together the Apostles' Creed?

With the changes in how we lead worship, there are some elements that we are accustomed to having, but are not able to continue with for the time being. Reciting the Apostles' Creed is one of those worship elements temporarily on hold, along with singing hymns and saying the Lord's Prayer together.

If you would like to borrow a hymnal from church, please contact Pastor Jamie. He will be happy to get one for you, and you can use the hymnal for personal devotions at home, including daily reciting the creed.

We have openings for altar flowers



**Altar
Flowers**

September 6

September 13

September 20 Diane Carlson

September 27

Living the Creed

This week, our Living the Creed is a take-home exercise. You will find in the e-mail a PDF to download.

This week's Living the Creed take-home exercise is about the Passover meal and Communion. There will be opportunities to share memories with your family, summaries of the Old Testament story about the plagues, and a recipe for baking bread as a family.

Think of our Living the Creed exercises as your at-home Sunday school and share time with your family for growing in faith together.

Download your copy from the email or our website. Past Living the Creed PDFs are available on our website.

Blessings

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future.

- Proverbs 19:20

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

- Proverbs 23:18

Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, you will find a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

- Proverbs 24:20

I remember that March Monday when I opened the box to the camcorder I bought for the church to begin recording messages. I remember holding it out, and pondering aloud in my first video that we were entering uncharted times and we did not know what was coming, but we knew God was going with us. Now here we are entering September, and I can honestly say back on that March Monday morning opening the camera for the first time, I never imagined we would still be in uncharted territory into Fall.

Yet here we are. The end of the pandemic seems no closer than when we began. In fact, we are very worried it will get worse again. And as we look toward the near future, the fate of the upcoming holiday season hangs in the balance. What will Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas be like if we still have to follow all these precautions and guidelines that are now in place? Will we be able to sing Silent Night while holding candles? Can the family gather for turkey and football? Will there even be a ball drop in New York City to mark the end of this forgettable year and entry into hopefully a much better year? The questions pile up and our anxieties ratchet up as well.

God really is with us during this time. We may not feel it every day. We may wonder why God can't just snap divine fingers and make this whole nightmare end. But God is with us. That is God's promise. "Lo, and remember, I am with you until the very end," Jesus says concluding Matthew's Gospel. Even when things are very different. Even when things are uncharted. Even when we don't have the answers we want. God is with us. Today, and always.

In peace,

Pastor Jamie