



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONMOUTH, IL

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**Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith With:
Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.**

Our Church—This Week :: July 6, 2025

Our Staff

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Chip Algren

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Brian Elliott

Adam Sanberg

Pam Van Kirk

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Officers will be elected July 8

Dear Friends and Family,

I went to the Fourth of July fireworks at Citizen's Lake Friday night. I just love watching fireworks. The bright colors and loud booms just hit all my senses. Yet this year the fireworks felt less celebratory for me. It is hard being an American right now. We do not agree in very strong terms over national policy. We struggle finding the common ground about how to care for our neighbors and who is our neighbor. And some of us have family members who feel very threatened by policies being proposed or passed in state and federal legislatures. And yet there I was watching the fireworks just like many others gathered at the lake or in communities near and far. There I was remembering that our nation was founded as an experiment in democracy. We will not always like the way this experiment is going. But the joy of this experiment called democracy is that if we don't like it, we can change it.

I'm going to be struggling for quite a while over how our nation is currently working through the experiment called democracy. And I share this honestly for those who are also lamenting, for those who are wondering how do we celebrate a nation who does not appear to be living up to ideals like "liberty and justice for all". While our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ, and that is why we are church for our hope comes from the Savior, this hope is lived out in civic life, too. And our hope watching bright colorful displays and loud echoing booms is that one day the ideals our nation was founded on will be lived again, and the joy of being the melting pot of the world, where people of all cultures and identities can thrive together will be realized and celebrated again. To that end, may our following Jesus who loves the Whole World guide our participation in this great experiment called American Democracy.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

**Our next Bible Study will be
announced for the Fall**

Matinee Family Movie

Join us on Sunday, July 20th at 2 PM for a family friendly matinee movie.



We are partnering with our Preschool and Daycare to provide this midsummer movie opportunity.

The movie is free, the popcorn is free. Invite your neighbors and friends. We will show the movie in our Fellowship Hall

Thank You Note

Dear Friends at the Lutheran Church, I want to thank you all from the very bottom of my heart for the huge donation to the special Olympics athletes in Region F! You all are wonderful!! I cannot wait to come and see you again and worship with you!!

Love your friend,
Kaylee McLaughlin

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Later this month, Pastor Jamie will be headed to Phoenix to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This is kind of like our Synod Assembly, but it is for the entire ELCA. The Churchwide Assembly gathers every 3 years to discuss business for the whole church.

At this year's Churchwide Assembly, one major event that will happen is the election of a new presiding bishop. The current presiding bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton will not run for a third six-year term. This will be an interesting election to watch, as with our bishops elections there is no campaigning. There is a nomination ballot to begin the process, and we will only know who is in the election after that first ballot results are released.

Other business that is coming includes a new social statement on church life and politics, editorial revisions to a previous social statement on human sexuality, and recommendations for renewing how our church functions as churchwide, synod, and congregation.

And you can follow along with all of this as it happens. Pastor Jamie will post on our church FB every day news and happenings from the event. But also, you can go to www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly

And you can follow with the news from each day, watch live video feed, and see all the action as it happens.

Vacation Bible School

This summer, VBS is hosted by First United Methodist Church. The dates are July 27 to 31. For more information, call First United Methodist Church at 309-734-9437

Reflections on Synod Assembly by Kurt Volz

The 2025 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly was a wonderful experience. One of the items I appreciated most during the assembly came during the opening worship on Friday: sharing the communion table with so many people who have such a wide range of backgrounds.

It was inspiring when we had the recognitions of ordained individuals who have been in ministry for 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years! So very impressive.

We were challenged by one of the first speakers to “remember your ‘Why’”, as in why our faith, why our belonging, why our being the Christian Church. We were reminded that our ‘Why’ should guide both the way we think and the way we make our decisions and choices we make. This would effect our behaviors when intersecting with others we come into contact with. Also, we were reminded that physical change follows spiritual change.

We were challenged if we have discussed our “why” as individuals and as congregations. We learned how some churches in the Northern Illinois Synod are answering their “Why” through ministries in their communities, such as food and clothing banks, coffee houses, and other ways of serving people.

We learned about the past harms done to Indigenous People in church run residential schools in the past and up to not that many years ago. We learned of how there is a memorial for Indigenous residential schools and a day of remembrance scheduled for Indigenous Boarding Schools.

There was voting on many resolutions regarding programs and for the next year's budget.

In one presentation, we heard a very good quote that “An enemy is someone whose story you haven't yet heard.” I believe that is a quote that would be good for all of us to instill into assessing how we are going to interact with others who we have considered an “enemy”.

I thank Pastor Jamie, the Council, and the congregation, for allowing me the blessing of representing our congregation at this assembly.

Kurt Volz

DAY BY DAY

A Beautiful Hymn

One of my favorite hymns is “Day by Day”. Perhaps it’s one of your favorites also. Hymns appeal to me by their tune but even more so by the lyrics. Here’s a little history of the hymn “Day by Day”.

“Day by Day” is a Swedish hymn written by Caroline (Lina) Sandell in 1865. The Swedish name of the hymn is “Blott en dag”, meaning “just one day”, or “just another day”.

Sandell was a prolific Swedish hymn writer, having written over 650 hymns during her lifetime. She became known as Sweden’s most celebrated author of gospel hymns and was often called the Fanny Crosby of Sweden.

Sandell’s father was a Lutheran minister in Froyderyd, Sweden. As a child, Lina was stricken with a paralysis with little hope of recovery. She spent many childhood hours playing quietly in her father’s study as he prepared his Sunday sermons, developing a very close relationship with him. By the age of 12, she had improved and was able to walk. In her teenage years, she began writing down verses to express her gratitude to God, and at age 16 wrote her first book of poems.

As Lina became older, she became her father’s secretary. One day, as she accompanied her father aboard a ship from Jonkoping to Gothenburg across the large Lake Vatter in Sweden, the boat suddenly lurched; her father lost his balance, fell overboard and drowned before her eyes. Shortly thereafter, her mother also died. She returned home heartbroken. However, Lina’s faith and the lessons her father had taught her about God’s grace, comfort and love, inspired her to write more poems speaking of Christ and his loving care. Her grief gave her music a depth and sensitivity that had been missing in her earlier writings.

In addition to “Day by Day”, one of Sandell’s most famous hymn texts is “Children of the Heavenly Father”. Many of her hymns were brought to America by Swedish immigrants. Her best hymns resulted from her personal tragedies and reflect her trust in her Savior and a quiet assurance and deep sense of His Presence in her life.

The English translation of “Day by Day” was made in 1921 by Andrew L. Skoog, a Swedish immigrant to the United States. The tune was composed in 1872 by Oscar Ahnfelt.

We thank Carolina Sandell for the gift she has given us in this beautiful hymn and the many others she has written. Her hymns provide comfort, strength and assurance that God is with us and loves us unconditionally and always – “till we reach the promised land”.

Day by Day

Verse 1. Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul. Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heavenly goal. Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest; Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where, at last, I’ll find eternal rest.

Verse 2. Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey; I will seek your loving will to guide me o’er the paths I struggle day by day. I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace. Savior, help me bear life’s pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face.

Verse 3. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand. Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.

Written by Janice Algren



Ordinary Time

June 15 to November 23

Worship is a moment to praise God ... and sometimes we are more open to praising God than other times. Sometimes we feel like God is not worthy of praise because we have life circumstances that suggest God may not be favoring us as we think God ought to. Other times we don't see worship as an act of praise of God, but more of a social standard that we must simply adhere to, so that we can be in good standing with family or friends. And yet other times, worship doesn't really feel like praise of God, nor do we care who sees us, it is just a ritual or habit we have gotten into and we show up because we feel some inward "have-to" and don't really know why we go through the motions.

This is shared to say, worship is vital to the life of the church, and we all have different reasons for why we gather in worship, and we all have different roadblocks that keep us from worshipping God.

May this summer be an opportunity for you to discover or rediscover the joy of praising God in all circumstances, and to discover that the connection of community once a week with others journeying the same confusing life, is affirming and life-giving.

Southwest Conference Creation Worship

Join us on Sunday, August 17th for a Southwest Conference worship service praising God for creation.

This year worship is at 4 PM and we will gather at Lake Story.

More information will be sent out as we get closer to this day. But be prepared for the gathering to also include a meal, pot luck details to follow as well.

Worship Guild Members

July 6 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Doug Cruce
Reader:	Trace Gallagher
Com Asst:	Diane Carlson
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

July 13 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Ray Golden
Reader:	Judy Sanberg
Com Asst:	Steve Erlandson
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

July 20 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Diane Carlson
Reader:	Ellen Shrader
Com Asst:	Robin Johnson
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

July 27 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Pam Van Kirk
Reader:	Chip Algren
Com Asst:	Adam Sanberg
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren



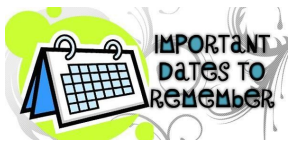
Summer Newsletter Schedule

Summer is well underway, here is a reminder of our upcoming newsletter schedule to keep you in the loop of all that is happening around First Lutheran this season:

July 21

Aug 4, Aug 18

Worship videos will be posted also according to Pastor's schedule.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, July 6th — Ordinary Time

Mon, Jul 7 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds meeting

Tue, Jul 8 6 PM Council Meeting at Pam Van Kirk's House

Sunday, July 13th—Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 20th — Ordinary Time

Sun, Jul 20 2 PM Matinee Family Movie

Sunday, July 27th — Ordinary Time

Sun, July 27th through Sun, August 3rd — Pastor Jamie is attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ. Pastoral Care is provided by Pastor Katie Gallagher, 630-200-3288

Sunday, August 3rd — Ordinary Time

Mon, Aug 4 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building and Grounds

Notice something missing from the calendar? Please contact the church office, and we will add it to next week's newsletter.



Jul 8 Marlene Moulden

Jul 9 Cohen Anderson

Jul 9 Kris Champion

Jul 13 Reese Anderson

Jul 15 Pastor Jamie

Jul 17 Cecil Lovdahl

Jul 19 Mark Shrader

Jul 20 Ron Manuel

Jul 21 Patt Holland

Jul 25 Barb Peterson

Jul 26 Konner Elliott

Aug 2 Karen Erlandson

Aug 4 Doug Cruce

Aug 6 Angi Martin-Prudent

Aug 13 Brandon Reynolds

Aug 16 Rodger Ellison

Aug 17 Cara Jensen

Aug 23 Kenny Reynolds

Aug 24 Pam Best

Aug 25 Robin Johnson

Aug 25 Tammy Ravel

Aug 27 Kathy Fillman

Sep 1 Ila Roseberry

Sep 2 Kristi Millar

Sep 4 Chris Algren

Sep 8 Brian Elliott

Sep 12 Don Fillman



Jul 8 Tom & Pam Best

Jul 12 Steve & Karen Erlandson

Jul 13 Kevin & Jennifer Sprecher

Jul 24 Michael & Julie Blaesing

Aug 4 Ray & Shelly Golden

Aug 13 Jack Coombs & Lindsay Martin

Aug 28 Hal & Kathy Tate

Sept 2 Dennis & Denise Mann

Sept 5 Bryan & Keri Osborn

Oct 11 Jamie & Katie Gallagher

Oct 15 Ken & Teresa Miller

Oct 25 Mark & Ellen Shrader

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds

Mar 1 Phil & Trudy Bergren

Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovdahl

Mar 14 Jim & Tammy Slater

Apr 2 Don & Kathy Fillman

Apr 25 Todd & Kris Champion

Apr 28 Ron & Deb Manuel

May 5 Craig & Brenda Jones

Prayer Requests

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Hannah Taylor, Wes Lovdahl, Kay Baily, Barb Rees, Pam Best, Doug Moulden, Marlene Moulden

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout July, we will be collecting cash and in-kind donations for Lutheran World Relief school kits.

All cash collected will be used by members of our WELCA circles to purchase school kit items as they will be on sale soon. These school kits will go to LWR and distributed around the world. LWR serves in places of natural disaster and war, these kits ensure that youth can still get an education even when everything else is taken away from them.

Check our website for the full supply list for in-kind donations. Money may be placed in the glass jar under the Narthex window or mailed to the church office.. In Kind donations (the pens, pencils, etc) can be brought to worship or to the office during the week. If you are bringing it to the office, please call Pastor Jamie first to coordinate a time to meet.

January, Strom Center == \$250.00

February, Lutheran Disaster Response == \$515.00

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$2,609.00

April, Special Olympics == \$410.00

May, Recharge Center == \$407.00

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson)

July, LWR School Kits,

August, Kiwanis Club

September, Out of Darkness Walk,

October, Mosaic,

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School,

December, Jamieson Center,



After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. — Luke 10:1

You know James and John, Thomas and Thaddeus, and Nathaniel, and the other James and the other Judas, Andrew and Peter, Matthew, Philip, and yes, even that Judas. But do you recall the other 60 apostles sent out to do Jesus' work? (and if you are suddenly singing a popular Christmas song in July, you are welcome.) This passage in Luke reminds us that the work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus was not limited to just 12 guys. It was a much larger effort. And these 60 who were also sent along with the 12 in this story don't get the credit they deserve. Sometimes, this serves as a reminder that when we are doing the work of Jesus and we are not getting the credit, we are in a long line of folks who did not get the credit. But it also reminds us that the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus is not limited to the big names. This is not the work of Bishops and Pastors and Tele-evangelists. This is the work of funeral luncheon planners, Sunday school teachers, altar guild doers. This is the work of ordinary people sitting in office spaces and farmers in tractors and teachers in classrooms. This is the work of police officers and soldiers and first responders. This is the work of ESL tutors and youth mentors and coaches. This is the work you are called to do.

You are here in the story. You are the sent. You are going ahead of Jesus where Jesus intends to go. You gather at the lake with friends, picnics with family, the bar with co-workers. You sit in the same pew your parents sat in, you grumble when you wake up on Sunday, you seek quiet spaces far off on your own. You go where Jesus intends to go. You go to announce that Jesus is coming here. You go and represent Jesus before the Lord can make an appearance. At that lake, in those offices, classrooms, restaurants, farming fields, quiet alone spaces. You proclaim that a God of love made known in Jesus is coming with peace, forgiveness, renewal, healing, resurrection, love, mercy, compassion, joy. You enter into those spaces where grief is palpable and you say here comes the God of new life. You enter those spaces of celebration and you say here is the God to be praised. You walk unknown paths, and declare the Light of the World is guiding every step.

This is the calling of being a disciple. It is not exclusively the calling of certain disciples. It is not exclusively the calling of famous people. It is not exclusively the calling of those who have been to seminary. It is your calling, you are a disciple. The only qualification is that you have been baptized. Welcome to a life of being the precursor to the coming of Jesus.

Peace, Pastor Jamie