



# 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 :: August 4, 2025

### Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbi Nees

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### Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk

Vice President: Chip Algren

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Pam Best

Brian Elliott

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

I am back from Churchwide Assembly. What an amazing experience. I will share some of the important things that happened on the next page, but I will share some of the lighthearted moments here. A truly fascinating moment for me happened on Monday when a friend of Heide's came up and recognized me as Heide's dad. I have not met this friend of my daughter's before. This friend lives in Michigan, and she didn't even know Heide's dad was going to be there — but she said I wear the same face as Heide. So let me tell you how weird it was being recognized at a big church thing not for myself, but for being Heide's dad. Yeah.

Those kinds of moments where connections were made happened all week long. I caught up with my own friends, too. I made new friends, such as a woman from Ohio who shared a conversation with me about something she was told that was rather demeaning, and we had a time for listening and sharing in how sometimes even at a church event, people can still say mean things. And sitting at a table with folks from across Northern Illinois through all the procedural matters of the assembly allowed for conversations deep and humorous all week long.

I even got to visit with a seminary professor that Katie and I had, and his wife who was financial aid director at seminary. And truly I share this fun fact, the financial aid director was just as important to our surviving seminary as our professor was. The next churchwide assembly takes place in 2028 and will be held in Des Moines, Iowa. If you get the chance to be a voting delegate or a visitor to the assembly in three years, I definitely recommend the experience.

### **Sunday Schedule**

**9:30 AM Coffee**

**10:00 AM Worship**

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

### **Prime Beef Drive Thru**

Our Annual Prime Beef Drive-Thru will be held on Thursday, August 28th.

We will serve Lunch time from 11 AM to 1 PM and we will serve Dinner Time from 4 PM to 6 PM.

The Menu remains choice of sandwich, Ribeye or Sloppy Joe, chips, and a choice of pie. The price for this year's meal is yet to be determined.

Volunteers will be needed all day for many tasks. Connie Larimer will be coordinating these needs.

We look forward to serving our community together on August 28th.

## Southwest Conference Worship

We are a part of the Southwest Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod. This means we are part of a network of 16 congregations stretching from Kewanee to Stronghurst, from Aledo to Knoxville. Over the years our partnership and connections have waned a bit, and we are trying to rebuild these core connections.

Sunday, August 17th, the Southwest Conference will have an outdoor worship and picnic at 4 PM at Lake Storey, Galesburg (shelter 4, by the soccer fields).

This worship will have a creation theme as we hear the lament of wildlife and build our hope on the renewal that is found in Jesus. Worship will also include a pet blessing. Feel free to bring your crowd-friendly pet or a photo of your pet.

A picnic will happen after worship, with dinner provided by one of the churches in our conference. We are asking those who attend to bring cookies or brownies to share as dessert as well as your beverage of choice.

Also, please plan on bringing a folding chair, and to help with reducing single-use products, please bring your own table ware.

Please join us on Sunday, August 17 at 4 PM for this great opportunity to get to know other Lutherans near us, and to celebrate God in creation with them.

## School resumes Wednesday, August 20

Join Pastor Jamie on the mornings of Aug 20 to 22 (Wed to Fri). Students begin parking between 7:45 AM and 8:00 AM. On these opening days of school, we will remind students where they can park during the school day, and we will be passing out water bottles. We will have donuts on Thursday, Aug 21 as well.

This is also a reminder that beginning soon, we are back to sharing our parking lot with the high school students. It isn't always easy to remember that while it is our lot, it is also considered a public lot. A little kindness in welcoming students and preparing them for school each day does go a long way.



**July 28 – August 2**  
**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

## ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Now to share some of the big highlights of the assembly — what did our church do this whole week?

We held elections for presiding bishop and secretary of the ELCA. These officers have 6 year terms. Candidates for presiding bishop must be rostered clergy in the ELCA, whereas candidates for secretary could be rostered or lay. Both elections took 5 ballots, the most that can happen. The church elected Rev. Yehiel Curry as presiding bishop, he has been serving as the bishop of Metro Chicago Synod. And, the church elected Rev. Lucile “CeCee” Mills as secretary, she has been serving as an assistant to the bishop in the North Carolina Synod.

We passed a new social statement dealing with Civic Life and Faith and passed editorial revisions to a social statement on human sexuality. Social Statements are teaching documents that guide the church in conversations and study. These documents can be found on the churchwide page, and sometime soon, I will be posting links to these statements on our own website. Social Statements are good for personal reflection and group Bible study.

The assembly also addressed constitution and by-law revisions for the ELCA. We heard memorials from synods on the topics of the conflict in Gaza and Indian schools here in the US. Action on these memorials was taken, so the ELCA now has an official stance on both topics. Steps for advocacy in both areas will not take place across our church as education materials also become available.

On Tuesday, we wore the color red to stand with Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women. On Thursday, we wore the color black to stand against gender based violence and rape.

So much more happened than can be named in this brief column. It was a truly full week of business. I highly recommend you going to the ELCA Website or YouTube channel to watch the plenary sessions and the worship services — oh yeah, how can I not share about the worship and the inspiring preaching we heard. I am so thankful that I got to have this experience.



## Ordinary Time

**June 15 to November 23**

Okay, I will admit, being in a room of about 1000 people and singing a hymn or praying or receiving communion or hearing a sermon — well, that is a powerful experience. Sometimes the hymns were familiar, like Beautiful Savior. Sometimes the hymns were new to me, like Touch that Soothes and Heals. But in a room with 1000ish people it all sounds so amazing.

But, I have to admit as well, that being in our worship space, even with the 40 or so that we have been averaging is just as powerful. Presiding Bishop Eaton, in her final report to the churchwide assembly, reminded us that while the church is a place for justice and action to happen, the church is also centered in word and sacrament. We are Church when the Word of God is rightly proclaimed and the sacraments are rightly administered. And it doesn't matter if we are 3, 43, or 1003. What matters is the Word is rightly preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. So, guess what, you are stuck longing for more, and you are stuck listening to only each other sing the familiar and the new hymns; which means you are stuck being church together, and that is just the way it should be.

## Women's Fun Brunch

At First Lutheran Church, on Saturday, August 9th, 11 am, local horticulturist Martha Smith will share her knowledge about gardening as you age.

A brunch and the program will be in the fellowship hall. The food and program cost \$12.00 per person. Share the fun, fellowship, and food with FLC women and guests. Set aside a moment of peace in our noisy world. For more information, contact Pam Van Kirk.

## Worship Guild Members

### August 10 — Ordinary Time

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

### August 17 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Adam Sanberg
Reader:	Kurt Volz
Com Asst:	Doug Cruce
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

### August 24 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Pam Best
Reader:	Trace Gallagher
Com Asst:	Chip Algren
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

### August 31 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Mark Shrader
Reader:	Julie Blaesing
Com Asst:	David Sandstrom
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

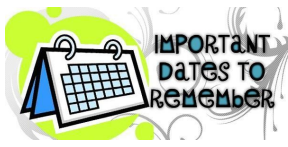


## Summer Newsletter Schedule

As we finish up our summer, we have one more mid-month newsletter. Once September begins, we will resume weekly newsletters, keeping everyone up to date on all the news of our congregation.

The next newsletter is:

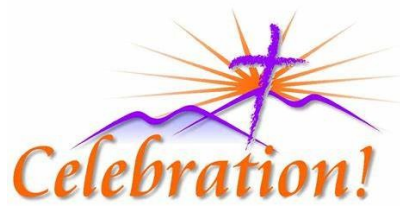
Aug 18



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, August 3rd — Ordinary Time

Mon, Aug 4 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building and Grounds

Thur, Aug 7 6 PM Council Workshop Meeting

Sat, Aug 9 11:00 AM Women's Fun Brunch

Sunday, August 10th—Ordinary Time

Tue, Aug 12 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, August 17th—Ordinary Time

Sun, Aug 17 4 PM Southwest Conference

Worship at Lake Storey, Galesburg

Wed, Aug 20 Thur, Aug 21, Fri. Aug 22

7:45 AM First Day of Schools Donuts

Day in Parking Lot

Sunday, August 24th—Ordinary Time

Thur, Aug 28 Prime Beef Drive Thru

11 am to 1 pm; and,

4 pm to 6 pm

Sunday, August 31st—Ordinary Time

Mon, Sep 1 Labor Day

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



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

Sep 15 Harber Sprecher

Sep 23 Dennis Mann

Sep 25 Lacey Elliott

Sep 28 Maddie Blaesing

Oct 1 Kaylie Champion

Oct 4 Jamie Reynolds

Oct 7 Margaret

Hackspacher



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

May 6 Chuck & Connie

Larimer

May 21 Ted & Sue Hanson

Jun 1 Rodger & Linda Ellison

Jun 4 Gary & Judy Sanberg

## Prayer Requests

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

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





## Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout August, we will be supporting the Kiwanis Club of Monmouth. This club helps in our community in tremendous ways. We will hopefully get a speaker from Kiwanis one Sunday morning to share about their work and encourage our support for the club.

## Synod World Hunger Campaign

The Northern Illinois is in the middle of a campaign to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger. Funds raised by October 16 up to \$100,000 will be matched by an equal grant. As of July 31st, the Synod has over \$43,000 received. We are well on our way to achieving this tremendous goal. To continue your support of this campaign, go to [NISynod.org/hunger](http://NISynod.org/hunger)

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) == \$772.00

July, LWR School Kits == \$270.00

August, Kiwanis Club

September, Out of Darkness Walk,

October, Mosaic,

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School,

December, Jamieson Center,



“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Jesus speaking to his disciples, John 16:13

1700 years ago the Nicene Creed was formulized to help bring unity in the church. At that time, there still was no official canon, that means the Nicene Creed is older than the list of the books of the Bible. 1700 years ago churches were still reading a whole variety of letters, gospels, and Hebrew scriptures, and not agreeing on which ones were the correct list. The Nicene Creed was written to help give order to theology, to help determine what was heresy, and to help the church eventually develop what we now know as the Bible, though the Bible has even had many changes through the years.

The Nicene Creed did its job very well. Then (and this is history very briefly summarized), around the year 1000 the bishop of Rome (a person we now use the title “Pope” for) decided to add one little phrase to the Nicene Creed. In the third article, the line is this “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds *from the Father*, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified ...” Now, notice the italics I put there. Perhaps you noticed something missing in that italics. See we are used to saying “*from the Father and the Son* ...” But the creed up until circa 1000 did not have “*and the Son*”. This addition in Latin is called the “Filioque”, which is basically the Latin word we translate as “and the Son.”

Now, when the bishop of Rome added this word, he did not consult the whole church. He decided on his own that he had the power to add this word to the creed. And the officials in the church over in Greece and Turkey were a little miffed about this change, as they were not consulted. This change led to the first big split in the church—the eastern churches became known as Orthodox (meaning right teaching, as they remained the church that didn’t use the Filioque in their creed) and the western church became known as Catholic (meaning universal church, because the ego of the church).

History greatly summarized and my own side comments added for flair aside, this brings us to the Churchwide Assembly last week. We heard the report of an ecumenical dialogue between Lutheran and Orthodox churches who have come to agreement that the use of the Filioque is no longer divisive. Yes, with a beautiful vote, a 1000 year rift in the church has at least one strain of healing, as Lutherans and Orthodox churches now can state the creed using “and the Son” or skipping “and the Son” and we are all still proclaiming the Gospel rightly. Phew. And trust me, there is no truly fair way to summarize this in a brief couple paragraphs but I tried my best. For more on the Filioque and the agreement between the Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, check out the “Common Statement on the Filioque” found on the ELCA website.

Peace, Pastor Jamie