



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MONMOUTH, IL

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106

www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org

Follow us on Facebook @FLCMonmouth.org



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

Our Church—This Week :: September 8, 2025

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@flcmonmouth.org

Cell (630)200-3550

Musicians: Janice Algren

Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbi Nees

(309) 734-5350

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,

It has been a very long time since I have marched in a parade. In fact, the last opportunity I had to be in a parade came exactly 7 years ago – my first year as your pastor. Our church had a float for the parade that year, and then a big thunderstorm came in and cancelled the parade. This year, the rain came just ahead of the parade and stayed just rain. And the parade began on time at 5 PM. And though our scout unit was soggy wet from standing in the rain waiting to begin the parade, we set off on our best foot. I share a picture of our scout troop marching in the parade on the next page, and I share compliments for these scouts there as well. But do know, I am very proud, and I hope you are as well, of these scouts for representing well at this year's Prime Beef Parade. I think we have just started a new tradition and hopefully, our troop will be there next year leading the parade once again, only on a much drier day.

Looking ahead, please take note of two great learning opportunities coming up. We resume watching the TV series The Chosen on Wed, Sept 24—then in October, we will begin a Tuesday morning series called BYOB&B (Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage): Learning how we think theologically. This second opportunity will be hosted here, but I will co-lead this series with Pastor Shelly (First Methodist), Pastor Brandon (Faith Presbyterian), and Pastor John (Chaplain, Monmouth College). We are hoping to bring our three churches and some students from the college together for this opportunity. If it goes well, we may find other ways to grow our faith community in Monmouth through other adventures like this.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

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

MRHS Marching Band Homecoming Dinner

On Friday, September 19th, our congregation will once again provide a dinner to the MRHS Marching Band between the homecoming parade and the homecoming game.

The parade is at 4 PM, the call time for heading to the game is 6 PM. There is a brief window the band members have to eat, and we are here to make that happen.

Menu details are still be worked on, but volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal, serve the meal, and clean up after the meal. We are preparing for 80 to 90 students, plus 2 or 3 teachers/staff.

To help with this, please talk with Pam Van Kirk.

The Chosen TV Series Watch Party

Continue watching The Chosen TV Series with your friends at church.

Season 5 is now available and we will watch the episodes on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM with conversation about each episode following the watching.

Our first Wednesday back for this is September 24.

To catch up on the seasons, check your favorite streaming services for options. Each season is 8 episodes long. The Chosen began in season one with Jesus gathering his disciples, and now the timeline of Season 5 brings us to the events of Holy Week.

The Chosen is historical/Biblical fiction, yet it follows many stories that we read in the Gospels. Our conversation is often filled with understanding the difference between the fictional TV narrative and the Gospel stories.

BYOB & B Bible Study

(Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage)

Beginning Tuesday, October 7th, at 10 AM, First Lutheran Church is hosting a community Bible study that will for sure include folks from First Lutheran, First Methodist, Faith Presbyterian, and Monmouth College.

Join us as Pastor Jamie, Pastor Shelly, Pastor Brandon, and Pastor John lead a 6-week Bible study on the hows and whys we think theologically.

This study will introduce us to thinking theologically—why do we think about the Bible the way we do, why do certain scriptures carry more weight than others, how our theological systems are informed by culture, how we use our theological systems to inform how we interact with culture—these are just some of the questions we will deal with over the course of the 6 weeks.

This is hosted in our fellowship hall in the church basement. And any one in the community can join us for this series. So, invite a friend. Sharing this with other churches will help us to see what we share in common with our siblings in Christ in other faith traditions.

Looking Ahead...

Mark Your Calendars Now:

Tuesday, October 28, Halloween Fun Night

Sunday, November 2, Congregational All Saints Soup Luncheon, following Worship

4 PM at Faith Lutheran, Rochelle, the Northern Illinois Synod Gathering to celebrate accomplishing the ELCA World Hunger Giving Challenge

Sunday, November 23, following worship decorate for Advent/Christmas

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Worship

Scout Troop 705 at Prime Beef Parade

Our very own Scout Troop 705 and Cub Pack 705 led the Prime Beef Parade with the Color Guard. They represented scouting, our nation, and our church as its charter organization, exceptionally well. This was the first parade for our troop, and they learned very quickly how to properly carry flags and march along the parade route.

Congrats to our troop and pack for leading the parade with such great honor and dignity.





Ordinary Time

June 15 to November 23

As we switch to the fall months, you will notice a switch in our worship pattern. We will be using a communion setting from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal, setting 4, which we know also from the old green Lutheran Book of Worship as setting 2.

We have a lot of different settings for worship, and that is a wonderful gift of our church. It allows us to praise God in so many different ways, and it reminds us what unites us as Christians is not the absolute correct pattern of worship—but the one whom we do worship, Jesus Christ.

If you do attend another Lutheran Church you should be able to recognize much of what takes place in their worship service, but also, you should be able to see how their local community has shaped worship to fit their identity, much like here, we have shaped much of the service to what fits our identity, and yet our worship remains very influenced by our Lutheran heritage.

Worship Guild Members

September 14 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	David Sandstrom
Reader:	Pam Best
Com Asst:	Mark Shrader
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

September 21 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Dee Dee Yez
Reader:	Judy Sanberg
Com Asst:	N/A
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

September 28 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Chip Algren
Reader:	Ellen Shrader
Com Asst:	Gary Sanberg
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

October 5 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Doug Cruce
Reader:	Chip Algren
Com Asst:	Dee Dee Yez
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren



Halloween Fun Night

Yes, it is that time for us to once again say “It can’t be fall already!” We started this Halloween Fun Night back before Covid, and brought it back after Covid cancelled it for a year. And this is one of our biggest community outreach events of the whole year.

Over 200 kids, parents, and grandparents, come to our church for the Halloween Fun Night each year. This year it will be Tuesday, October 28th at 6 PM.

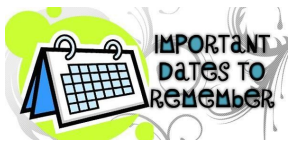
We need volunteers to help with set-up, tear down, and everything in between. I always look forward to this event and this opportunity to just have a fun, safe space for our community to celebrate Halloween. I hope you mark your calendars now to be a part of this night as well.

Constitution Revision Process

Our Congregation Council is currently undergoing a revision of our constitution. There is need to make adjustments to fit the needs of our congregation today. We are in the editing phase and conversation with the synod constitution committee phase.

The plan is to finalize a revised draft constitution to have available in December for the congregation. We will have a congregation meeting in January to approve the new constitution and a special meeting a month later to ratify the new constitution.

Stay tuned for more information on this process.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, September 7th—Ordinary Time

Tues, Sep 9 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, September 14th—Ordinary Time

Mon, Sep 15 to Mon, Sept 22, Pastor Jamie is attending a pair of conference.

Friday, September 19th MRHS Marching Titans Homecoming Parade/Game dinner

3 PM prep/4:30 PM serving

Sunday, September 21st—Ordinary Time

Mon, Sep 22 6:30 PM Pathways Team Zoom meeting

Wed, Sep 24 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

Sunday, September 28th — Ordinary Time

Wed, Oct 1 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

Sunday, October 5th — Ordinary Time

Mon, Oct 6 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds meeting

Tues, Oct 7 10 AM BYOB&B study

Wed, Oct 8 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

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



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

Oct 10 John Van Kirk

Oct 11 Julie Blaesing

Oct 16 Ayla Johnston

Oct 18 Loretta Reynolds

Oct 21 Betty Bruyn

Oct 26 Paula Buban

Oct 28 Jackie Heerwagen

Oct 30 Bryan Osborn

Nov 9 Ted Hanson

Nov 14 Theodore Coombes

Nov 15 Troy Hippen

Nov 19 Jan Martin

Nov 22 Delmar Champion

Nov 23 Jenny Sanberg

Nov 26 Brady Sanberg

Nov 28 Ray Golden

Nov 29 Brenda Jones

Nov 30 Glenna Martin



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

Jun 7 Dennis & Becky Terpening

Jun 8 Ben & Jenny Sanberg

Jun 12 Neal & Jackie Heerwagen

Jun 13 Michael & Barb Pearson

Jun 14 Doug & Kathi Cruce

Jun 14 Rich & Nancy Hanson

Jun 15 Rob & Tammy Ravel

June 19 Stan & Diane Carlson

Prayer Requests

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

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout September, we are supporting the Out of Darkness, Suicide Prevention Walk.

This year's walk is Saturday, September 13th at Lake Storey, Galesburg. The walk begins at 10 AM

Preventing Suicide is about providing better resources in a community for those dealing with depression, working to end the stigma that surrounds those dealing with mental illness, and creating a better safety net for those who feel like all is lost.

Supporting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is one way our congregation can save a life.

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 == \$460.00

September, Out of Darkness Walk,

October, Mosaic,

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School,

December, Jamieson Center,



“But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!”

The older son arguing with his father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:30

In honor of the Prime Beef Festival, I couldn't help but find a story in the Bible that has some prime beef involved. There are a couple, one in the Old Testament happens when Saul consults a medium to bring back his favorite prophet, who tells Saul God is taking the throne from him. Saul becomes grief stricken, but the medium urges him to eat, and slaughters the fatted calf for Saul and his men to eat so they may have strength to carry on. Here in Luke's Gospel, the story that has some tasty prime beef is found in a parable. And it is one of the more well known parables. A son requests his inheritance and goes off and squanders it all until he has no choice but to crawl back home ashamed. The father is so overjoyed he runs to meet the son and then throws a huge welcome home party for him. The older son, who stayed home all these years, was quite upset at this. The story here in Luke's Gospel comes after two other parables of lost items being found and parties being thrown in celebration. This parable, the last of the three, is the only one to show someone upset at the party being held.

Makes us wonder, who do we think is worthy of the prime beef? Is it only those who have never disobeyed God? And by disobeyed God, I mean what ever definition you think that means—after all, we all have our own ideas of what it means to disobey God, and most of what we mean has nothing to do with what the Bible says—and everything to do with what our political and cultural and ethnic identities define it as. So who is worthy of the prime beef? Who should not get the celebration with the fatted calf?

Jesus never tells us whether the older brother and the younger brother reconcile. The parable ends specifically at a point where we have to decide how it ends. We have to decide how we reconcile with those we don't want to include in the party of God's Kingdom. We have to decide if we will stand on the porch and pout and grumble as our Heavenly Parent smiles and grins and quivers with nervous excitement as they say “Look who is back! And look, I have a party for them!” It should be pretty easy for us to say, Hey—serve the Prime Beef to everyone, God says so. But then again, we do like to stand on that front porch grumbling.

Peace, Pastor Jamie