



# 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 :: May 19, 2025

### Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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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: Mark Shrader

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Chip Algren

Pam Best

Brian Elliott

Adam Sanberg

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

The summer season is almost here. That means festivals, like our own Strawberry Festival are nearly upon us. This time of sharing food and fellowship nourishes our congregation for summer rest. I just spoke with a staff person of our churchwide offices, his name is Pastor Dan. Pastor Dan works with generous givers of our church. He is going to come and attend our Strawberry Festival and be in worship with us on Sunday, June 15th. Pastor Dan is extremely thankful for the work of our congregation in donating over \$2600 for ELCA World Hunger. He will offer a message of gratitude and encouragement as we continue to be generous as a congregation. Pastor Dan shared that before he joins us, he will have a 2-week trip to Indonesia. There he will meet with Lutherans and hear their stories of faith and ministry and mission. Pastor Dan shared that there are more people who identify as Lutherans in Indonesia that in the United States. That is a surprising statistic. Indonesia is primarily a Muslim nation. Yet, these folks are yeast and seed folks. The Word of God starts small, and grows and grows and grows. I have shared some of our congregation's story with Pastor Dan. His encouragement for us is to remember we, too, are yeast and seed folks. We may be small, but God is growing something big with in us. If God can accomplish big things through the Lutheran Church in Indonesia, God can also accomplish big things through the Lutheran Church in Monmouth. I look forward to introducing you to Pastor Dan at our Strawberry Festival and at our worship on Sunday, June 15th.

### Sunday Schedule

**9:30 AM Coffee**

**10:00 AM Worship**

**The Spring Bible Study will be  
Wednesday mornings in the  
month of May at 10 AM**

### Strawberry Festival

Our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on Thursday, June 12th.

Dinner served from 5 PM to 7 PM. The Monmouth Community Band will play a concert at 6 PM in the sanctuary.

Menu: BBQ sandwiches, chips, dessert includes ice cream and strawberry topping.

Free Will Donations.

Volunteers and donations will be needed.



### **Semi Annual Meeting**

Sunday, June 1st, following worship, is our semi-annual meeting. This meeting is set for electing council and committee members.

If you are interested in serving our church on council or on a committee, please speak with Pam Van Kirk.

### **Community Care Days**

Community Care Days will be held this year on June 13th and 14th

Applications for projects you would like done by a community care days volunteer are now available in the office.

Volunteers are needed to help accomplish the projects that are approved. Please speak with Steve Erlandson about your availability to help on either Friday, June 13th or Saturday, June 14th. Basic home skills needed, but all the supplies are provided, and you will be working with other volunteers to accomplish these tasks.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

We resume our Wednesday Bible study this week at 10 AM in Pastor's Office. We are talking about the Book of Revelation, discovering the gift of hope and encouragement the author provides through a mystical vision experience.

Join us as we rip up the myth of the Rapture, which is very much not in the Bible; as well as take on other misconceptions about Revelation's mysterious images and allegories.

### **Jeopardy Watch Party Invitation**

(some may know that our own Heather Ide was a contestant on the TV Quiz Show Jeopardy. The episode she is featured on airs May 30th. This is an invite to a watch party to celebrate with Heather her airing on this popular Answer/Question game show)

All are invited to a Jeopardy viewing/Grad school graduation party for Heather Ide on Friday, May 30th from 4 PM to 6 PM at Simulation Sports (the former Review Atlas Building, 400 South Main Street, Monmouth). Enter at the back (west side) entrance.

Heather earned her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Illinois in December, 2024.

She also earned a spot on the game show Jeopardy!. She filmed her episode in March and it will air on May 30th at 4:30 PM.

Refreshments will be served and there are several big screen televisions and comfortable seating. Please join us if you are able!

— Invitation from Pam and Tom Best and Heather Ide

### **Northern Illinois Synod Hunger Challenge**

In March, we heard the Northern Illinois Synod announce a ELCA World Hunger giving challenge, and our congregation stepped up huge. So far, as of the end of April, nearly \$15,500 has been received by the synod towards this challenge.

And we celebrate \$2600 of that is from our congregation alone.

We continue to support this challenge. You may go to [www.nisynod.org/hunger](http://www.nisynod.org/hunger) to donate online and continue helping our synod achieve the goal of raising \$100,000 by October 16th to receive a matching grant of that same amount.



stjuderuns.org



Dear Family and Friends,

I need your help! I am honored to be participating in the 44th Annual St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run from Tuesday, July 29 - Saturday, August 2, 2025. Over 2,500 runners will run relay-style from 35 different satellite cities to Peoria, Illinois, raising funds for the kids of St. Jude. Each run ends in downtown Peoria where the participants, exhausted and full of excitement, gather to cross the finish line during the 48th Annual St. Jude Telethon. Please consider showing your support by donating to my personal fundraising goal.

St. Jude Runs began in 1982, with the mission to provide funds in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Since inception, St. Jude Runs has raised an astounding \$88,148,379 for this great organization!

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Through contributions like yours, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food — so they can focus on helping their child live. Every child deserves a chance to live their best life and celebrate every moment. When you support St. Jude, you can help make cures possible for kids with cancer. Together, we can save more lives.

How can you help? Make a donation today - every penny counts! Please help us raise money for the life-saving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: Finding cures. Saving children.

How can you donate?

Visit my online fundraising site at <http://fundraising.stjude.org/goto/wendyanderson>, VenMo a donation to @Wendy-Anderson-611, mail a donation to 450 S Hall St, Roseville, IL 61473, or give me a call/send me a message and I'm happy to pick up a donation from you at your convenience. Thank you for supporting my 11th year running for St. Jude.

Thank you,

*Wendy Anderson*





## Easter Season April 20 to June 1

Join us on Sunday, May 25th for a special service of Lessons and Hymns. This service is called “Travels, Trips, and Journeys: A Service of Word and Song for the Summer.”

The readings will focus on stories that encourage us for our own travels. Summer is a time of journeys, vacations, travels, trips to the camp, hotel, spa treatments, favorite destinations, new locations to explore, friends, family along the way together.

You probably already have your summer scheduled figured out for when you are heading to where you can't wait to get. And then once there and the excitement runs its course, it is time to return home and be back in the routine.

These lessons offer encouragement for the rest and relaxation and the joys and frustrations that come with travel and returning home again.

So join us and be filled with the wonder of God as you prepare for your summer vacations.

### Sacred Prayer

A Prayer for those in the Armed Forces:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

From the ELW, section of Additional Prayers, page 77

### Worship Guild Members

#### May 25 — Easter 6th Sunday

Usher:	Pam Best
Reader:	Kurt Volz
Com Asst:	N/A
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

#### June 1 — Easter 7th Sunday

Usher:	Mark Shrader
Reader:	Doug Cruce
Com Asst:	Julie Blaesing
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

#### June 8 — Pentecost Sunday

Usher:	Steve Erlandson
Reader:	Julie Blaesing
Com Asst:	Gary Sanberg
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

#### June 15 — Trinity Sunday

Usher:	David Sandstrom
Reader:	Steve Erlandson
Com Asst:	Dee Dee Yez
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert



### Summer Newsletter Schedule

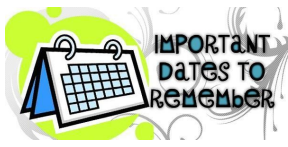
As we approach the summer, we will begin having newsletters twice a month. Worship videos will continue to be made available each week. We will have newsletters:

June 2, June 16

July 7, July 21

Aug 4, Aug 18

This summer schedule reflects Pastor's summer schedule and fewer ministry activities taking place over the summer.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



*For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.*

Sunday, May 18th—5th Easter Sunday

Sun, May 18th—11:15 AM Pathways Meeting  
with Pastor Mark Juliot

Wed, May 21st—10 AM Bible Study

Fri, May 23—Tues, May 27 Pastor on Vacation

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Sunday, May 25th—6th Easter Sunday

Mon, May 26—Memorial Day

Tues, May 27—5 PM Preschool Graduation

Wed, May 28—10 AM Bible Study

Fri, May 30 — 4pm to 6 PM Jeopardy Watch  
Party at Simulation Sports

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Sunday, June 1st—7th Easter Sunday

Sun, Jun 1 — 10 AM Baptism of Lewis Sanberg  
11:15 AM Semi-Annual Meeting

Mon, Jul 2—9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds Committee

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Sunday, June 8th—Pentecost Sunday

Tues, Jun 10 — 6 PM Council Picnic  
at Pam Van Kirk's house

Thur, Jun 12 — 5 PM to 7 PM

Strawberry Festival

Fri, Jun 13 and 14 — 2 events

Synod Assembly

Community Care Days

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



May 18 Todd Champion

May 19 Carl Hamburg

May 22 Linda Ellison

May 22 Lorene Nelson

May 26 David Sandstrom

May 27 Charlotte Sanberg

May 28 Lena Johnson

May 28 Nancy Reynolds

May 29 Kaylee Teel

May 31 Dean Sandstrom

May 31 Tammy Slater

Jun 2 Alexia Golden

Jun 2 Jarrod Hippen

Jun 2 Susie Jurgens

Jun 6 Rose Youngquist

Jun 11 Wendy Anderson

Jun 21 Aaron Jensen

Jun 30 Collin Nuckles

Jul 3 Trudy Bergren

Jul 3 Hal Tate

Jul 4 Jennifer Sprecher

Jul 8 Marlene Moulden

Jul 9 Cohen Anderson

Jul 9 Kris Champion

Jul 13 Reese Anderson

Jul 15 Pastor Jamie

Jul 17 Cecil Lovdahl



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 11 David & DeeDee Yez

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

Jun 19 Stan & Diane Carlson

Jun 23 Mike & Susie Jurgens

Jun 23 John & Pam Van Kirk

Jun 26 Dave & Kathy

Erlandson

Jun 26 Gary & Jan Martin

Jun 30 Chip & Janice Algren

Jun 30 Warren & Marlys Dobry

Jul 2 Jeremy & Wendy

Anderson

Jul 8 Tom & Pam Best

Jul 12 Steve & Karen

Erlandson

Jul 13 Kevin & Jennifer

Sprecher

## Prayer Requests

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Cecil Lovdahl, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Hannah Taylor, Suzanne Lovdahl, Wes Lovdahl, Grace Banks

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



## Vision and Purpose Giving

The Teen Recharge Center in Monmouth serves youth from ages 13 to 19. It is a safe place for local teens to go after school to hang out with their peers, work on homework and participate in fun programs and events.

The Recharge Teen Center offers a variety of activities such as gardening, art, cooking, mental health practices, and more.

Teens enroll at the center with parent/guardian permission. And a calendar of events is posted at their website: [www.eagleviewhealth.org/teen-center](http://www.eagleviewhealth.org/teen-center)

Thank you for supporting our local teen center.

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

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,



Then [Elijah] lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." — 1 Kings 19:5

Elijah was having a really good day right up until he wasn't. It started as a good day when Elijah defeated all the prophets of the false god Ba'al. The queen in Israel, Jezebel, had replaced worship of Yahweh with worship of Ba'al. Elijah and the prophets of Ba'al had a contest to see which god was real. Naturally, Yahweh won the contest (read 1 Kings 18:20-40). And once the battle was won, Elijah executed all the prophets of Ba'al. Jezebel was not happy and wanted to arrest Elijah and have him killed. So, Elijah went on the run. He headed to the mountain of God, and along the way weariness overcame him. He had to stop, he had to rest. And as he stopped, he began to pray, "O Lord, it is enough, take my life away from me."

You may have had a moment like this, well, hopefully without the killing of false prophets—but a moment when the ways of the world are just so overwhelming and you are faced with so many difficulties and you are not sure how you are going to get through this, even though you have gotten through it before, this time, it is just too much. And you cry out to God, along with Elijah—"it is enough, I can't take any more, God either take my life and just let me be done with it or take some of this stuff away from me." And funnily enough, God responds to us just as God responded to Elijah—"Take a nap, here, have some food, you will be able to carry on."

The approaching summer gives us a chance to take a metaphorical nap, to be nourished in different ways, and be encouraged as we carry on. As a congregation we can be overwhelmed by the shrinking attendance, the dwindling financial reserves, as the passion for volunteering for regular church functions wanes, even ones as popular as the Strawberry festival. We may be overwhelmed with how we will grow the church again, get people reinvigorated for the ministries we do and want to keep doing.

And God does hear our prayer, our crying out for we are overwhelmed. And God offers us respite, a time of rest, a time of being nourished at God's table with the body and blood of Jesus, the Great Shepherd, and God reminds us we are indeed enough, we can carry on, we can carry this load, and we can minister to our community through it. May this summer season we are approaching offer you the rest and food so you can hear God say to you, You are enough. Carry on. Peace, Pastor Jamie