



# 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 :: April 7, 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,

We have a great reason to celebrate. So I am placing this right here at the beginning. In March, our Vision and Purpose giving was designated for ELCA World Hunger. As I have announced, our synod has a giving challenge to receive \$100,000 by October 16th to receive a \$100,000 matching donation to ELCA World Hunger. And also, as I announced, we have a member who announced a willingness to match what was donated to ELCA World Hunger through our March Vision and Purpose Giving. And, as has been tradition, our Endowment Fund begins each month with \$100 and matches the first given \$150.

Are you ready to celebrate what our congregation accomplished?

In March, donations from members for ELCA World Hunger totaled \$1,159!

Our anonymous donor within the congregation chose to not just match but round up to an even \$1,200!

So, with the \$250 from Endowment, this means First Lutheran Church is sending \$2,609 to ELCA World Hunger through the Northern Illinois Synod Giving Challenge!

Wow. And Thank You to all your generosity in March. This is a wonderful gift. I have shared our congregation story with contacts I have in the national ELCA offices who work on raising funds for ELCA World Hunger, and our congregation's story will be used to inspire other congregations, not just in our synod but beyond. This generosity is a sign that God is indeed gathering us to live out our faith with Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy — and though it is not in our mission statement, we have definitely lived our faith with Generosity! Thank you again!

### Sunday Schedule

**9:30 AM Coffee**

**10:00 AM Worship**

**A spring Bible study will be  
announced soon**

### Holy Week Worship Schedule

Join us for worship this Holy Week, and celebrate the central stories to our faith.



## Holy Week

Palm Sunday is April 13th,  
regular Sunday worship schedule

Maundy Thursday is April 17th,  
6 PM worship in the chapel

Good Friday is April 18th,  
6 PM worship in the chapel

Easter Sunday is April 20th  
gather at 9AM in our Narthex for a  
light Easter Breakfast and activities  
for families.

10 AM Easter Worship

### **Celebration for Chris Algren**

Thank you to all who gathered with us after worship on Sunday, April 6th to celebrate Chris Algren's ministry as custodian.

It has been a number of years that we didn't go a day without seeing Chris working around the church, keeping the building clean and running smooth.

Chris will continue to mow the lawn and help with raking leaves in the fall. Chris will also still help with opening the church on Sundays and be available for event set-up.

If you are looking for assistance with opening the church during the week for your unit or ministry event, please call the office and speak with Pastor Jamie and arrangements will be made to see the facility is ready for your use.

And again, thank you, Chris, for all your dedication to First Lutheran Church through all the years.

### **Synod Assembly Delegates**

Every year our congregation participates in the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. We are able to send 2 delegates. The Assembly is an opportunity to learn more about our shared ministry with congregations across northern Illinois, to discuss resolutions that impact our ministry together, and to pass a synod budget. The assembly is a 2 day event held at Augustana College in Rock Island. This year the assembly takes place on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14.

We are in need of two volunteers to attend this year's assembly. Delegates need to be confirmed members of the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about assembly or are willing to attend for the congregation, please speak with either Pastor Jamie or Council President Pam Van Kirk.

### **Prayer Service for Immigrants and Refugees**

First Lutheran Church will host a prayer service on Wednesday, April 9th at 7 PM.

The First United Methodist Church Pastor Shelly Forrest will share in leadership of the event.

This service is in response to Haitian families in our community receiving their deportation notification as the refugee program they legally came to the United States under has been revoked by an executive order.

The service will be a time of lament and prayer and call for God to help our nation return to its welcoming ways. This prayer service is open for the entire community and is an opportunity to stand with God's beloved children who are feeling the anxiety and uncertainty of ever-changing immigration and refugee programs here in the United States.

### **WELCA Spring Assembly**

#### **For the Southwest Conference**

This year the assembly is hosted by Messiah Lutheran, 317 SW 3rd St, Galva. The event is Saturday, April 12.

The program begins with registration and breakfast at 8:30 AM. Jeff Olson of the Kewanee Life Skills Re-Entry Center will give a program beginning at 9 AM.

Reservations are due by April 9th by calling 309-932-3346.

Cost is \$5.00 and non-perishable products for the Galva Food Pantry.

### **Strom Center Lenten Gatherings**

Come to the Strom Center for a Lenten breakfast and devotional lead by lay leaders from these congregations:

Breakfast begins at 6:45 AM at the Strom Center:

April 11th      Sugar Tree Grove

April 18th (Good Friday)      Heritage Bible Church



## Lent

### March 5th through April 18th

Palm Sunday is a day steeped in tradition. We enter worship with the reading of the Processional Gospel, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding a donkey with people along the way lining the road with cloaks and palm leaves. This is the entrance of a king, and it is a direct counter entrance to Herod who entered on a war horse, with full military escort, grandeur, and opulence. But we do not stay on this day of celebration, we transition to the story of the Passion — that is the death and resurrection of Jesus. The entrance to Jerusalem only is a prelude to the main event, the central moment of our faith, when we say Jesus, an itinerant preacher and Son of God, was executed by the Romans in collusion with the religious authorities. But this execution is not the end of the story. It is only the human tragedy that is necessary for the rest of the story, the story of Easter and Jesus' resurrection.

Join us on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, for the full story, for opportunities to reflect on all the ways God so loved the world.

### Sacred Prayer

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. Amen

A prayer for Global Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, page 75

## Worship Guild Members

### April 13— Palm Sunday

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

### April 17— Maundy Thursday      April 18 — Good Friday

Usher:	Doug Cruce	N/A
Reader:	Steve Erlandson	Pam Van Kirk
Com Asst:	Robin Johnson	N/A
Musician:	Janice Algren	Carolyn Kellert

### April 20 — Easter Sunday

Usher:	Ray Golden
Reader:	Pam Best
Com Asst:	Adam Sanberg
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

### April 27 — Easter 2nd Sunday

Usher:	Diane Carlson
Reader:	Judy Sanberg
Com Asst:	Doug Cruce
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

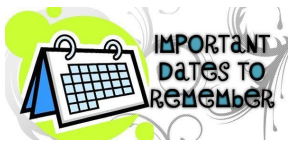


### Upcoming Holy Days

Maundy Thursday, named for the Latin Word Maundatum, meaning Commandment, is the night we remember Jesus' last supper with the disciples and his giving the commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

Good Friday, taking its name from the idea that God's Salvation is good for all humanity and all creation, is the day we remember Jesus' horrific crucifixion and express our deep sadness that God's own Son was killed because the political and religious systems of the day were opposed to his message of radical love and peace and justice.

This year, perhaps more than any other, we gather to remember the commandment to love as today's political system stands equally opposed to Jesus' ways.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



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

Sunday, April 6th — 5th Sunday in Lent

Sun, Apr 6 — 11:15 AM Celebration for Chris Algren

Mon, Apr 7 — 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

— 7 PM Building and Grounds Committee

Tue, Apr 8 — 6 PM Council

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Sunday, April 13th — Palm Sunday

Thu, Apr 17 - 6 PM Maundy Thursday worship

Fri, Apr 18 - 6 PM Good Friday worship

Both in the Chapel

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Sunday, April 20th — Easter Sunday

Sun, Apr 20—9 AM Easter Breakfast/  
Family Activities

10 AM Easter Worship

Mon, Apr 21 - Office is Closed

Newsletter will be out April 22nd

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Sunday, April 27th—2nd Easter Sunday

Mon, Apr 28—Wed, Apr 30

Pastor attends Continuing Education Event

Next newsletter is May 5th

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



Apr 6 April Icenogle

Apr 7 Fred Burgland

Apr 10 Trace Gallagher

Apr 11 Angela Bradley-Volz

Apr 13 Elise Blaesing

Apr 16 Nate Gallagher

Apr 18 Chip Algren

Apr 20 Diane Carlson

Apr 20 Warren Dobry

Apr 23 Lindsay Martin

Apr 23 Rob Ravel

Apr 25 Dave Erlandson

May 6 Andrew Youngquist

May 7 Jacob Ide

May 8 Sophie Shrader

May 9 Pastor Katie  
Gallagher

May 16 Shelly Golden

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



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 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

Jul 2 Jeremy & Wendy  
Anderson

## Prayer Requests

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

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





## Vision and Purpose Giving

The final amount raised for ELCA World Hunger will be announced next week.

For April, we will be supporting the Special Olympics. We will have a guest speaker on Sunday, April 6th, to talk about what the Special Olympics means for her and to encourage our giving for April.

Join us throughout April in supporting the Warren County Falcon Special Olympic team.,

January, Strom Center == \$250.00

February, Lutheran Disaster Response == \$515.00

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$2,609

April, Special Olympics

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,



<sup>34</sup> The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:34

We are spending a lot of time thinking about and talking about our nation's immigration policies, and the current administration's move to deport as many immigrants and refugees as it can in as short of time as it can. And this is definitely a political issue. And this is definitely something we understand through the lens of our political identities and the political parties we associate with. But what I try to focus on here, with spending the time I do in these reflections, is remind us that we are people of faith. We are called to shed political identities and to pick up scripture to be our guiding principles. And scripture reminds us again and again how we are to treat immigrants and refugees: with love and respect and as if they were every bit the native born as you and I are.

So, it may be true, we are unable to stop the current administration's policies. It may be true that we have feelings about why immigrants or refugees have come to our nation to begin with. It may be true that we wish this wasn't a big deal. But these neighbors of ours are having their rights violated without due process and the programs they legally came to the US are ending without just cause. These neighbors of ours are having their rights violated when they are being sent back to nations of origin where war, poverty, and injustice are a daily threat. And these policies go against not only long standing national practice, but against our very scriptures.

This week, our congregation will host a prayer service. And this may feel political, but again, this is scriptural. It does not matter how we voted in an election or how we agree or disagree with national political actions; scripture calls us to care for our neighbors, to have mercy for them, and so we gather to pray. We gather to lament that this is our world now, that these neighbors are being so unfairly treated. We pray for their safety for travels and for their uncertain futures. We pray that our nation once again returns to its ways of welcoming the immigrant and refugee, a beacon of light on a hill, shining for all to see, offering a place of hope and newness.

Even if there is no legal recourse today for us to keep our immigrant and refugee neighbors from being deported, we have been called by God to pray for and to place these neighbors in God's safe-keeping. Peace, Pastor Jamie