



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 :: November 17, 2025

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Musicians: Janice Algren

Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

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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 want to thank the Scout Troop 705 for their volunteering on Saturday to rake up our parking lot and around the church to pick up the leaves. They spent a couple more hours here and earned service time in doing so, but it was a great way for them to give back to the church.

This also gives me a chance to brag about our Scout Troop in another way and to offer an invitation. The invitation is to join the Scouts on Sunday, December 21st at 6 PM for a Court of Honor. Each of the 7 scouts will earn their next ranks. Trace Gallagher is earning Life Rank, the 2nd to last rank. Skylar Strange and Jackson Ewalt will both earn Star Rank. Gabriel Vasquez will earn First Class. Jordan Durbin will earn his Tenderfoot Rank. And our two newest scouts, Jordan Sparks and Alex Eaton, will each earn the Scout Rank officially beginning their journey to Eagle Rank.

The Scouting program has a goal to teach its participants how to live a life based on the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, and each meeting and outing we have works on skills that build character, citizenship, and leadership based on that Oath and Law. It is a great deal that our church is a charter organization for a Scout Troop and also a Cub Scout Pack. And it would be great to see some members join the Court of Honor on the 21st of December to celebrate with these youth their accomplishments and to encourage them as they further grow into the values of scouting.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesdays, beginning Oct 7

at 10 AM: BYOB&B

Advent Season Is Coming

Join us for Advent Wednesdays—Dec 3, 10, and 17 — 6 PM Soup Suppers and Advent Wreath Devotions—a congregation activity and a take home family activity.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring a crock-pot of soup. Our Wreath Devotion Theme for this season will be: Watch, Wait, Wonder.

Gathering on Wednesdays in a busy season may seem counter-intuitive ... but maybe you are too busy on weekends to gather for worship; or, maybe you just need an extra moment to catch your breath and to focus on something other than the commercialization of the season.

Plus, Christmas Eve worship is Wednesday, December 24th—so this series will lead us well into that night's celebration. Join us, invite your friends and neighbors and people you know who may be missing a connection to our congregation.

Advent Sunday School

Join us on Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21 for Sunday School in Advent.

We will begin with a time of song at 9:45 AM in the Lounge. The families will join worship for the lighting of the Advent wreath, then be dismissed for an advent lesson and take-home family faith project.

Families will rejoin the worship service after the sermon and remain in worship for communion and the dismissal.

This is for families with children of all ages.

Jamieson Center Food Pantry

We are bringing back our grocery cart for Jamieson Center Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items, personal care hygiene products, or infant care items (diapers, etc) and place in the cart.

A folder will be placed with the cart for direct cash donations for Jamieson Center Food Pantry.

In December, our monthly vision and purpose collection will be for Jamieson Center, but the need is there all year long. All donations for Jamieson Center will be taken weekly to the food pantry.

Revised Congregation Constitution

The revised Constitution is now available on our website for review. Or by contacting the church office for a copy to be mailed to you.

Keep in mind these dates: Sunday, December 7th, for a information meeting after worship to discuss the major revisions in this new document

Sunday, January 4th, after worship, we are having a special congregation meeting to vote to approve this new constitution

Sunday, January 25th, we will hold our annual meeting and during the annual meeting vote to ratify our new constitution.

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana invites you to its annual Julbord Dinner

Come and eat traditional Swedish-American Christmas smörgåsbord fare, including salad, relishes, fruit, herring, bread, cheese, potatoes, salmon, potato sausage, meatballs, rice pudding, and Christmas goodies.

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 serving from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm in the Gävle Room in the Gerber Center. Come and go when you are able.

IMPORTANT, please note that this year our dinner will be held the day after Augustana's Festival of Sankta Lucia.

Brief dinner program at 6:00 pm: Dr. Ulf Jonas Björk talks about Swedish Lucia traditions and leads us in singing a selection of Lucia and Christmas songs in a mix of Swedish and English

Swenson Center adult nonmembers 13 & up = \$32; members = \$27; Children age 4-12 = \$13.50; Ages 0-3 = Free; Swenson Center Patron- & Benefactor-level members = Free

Reservations required. Seating is limited. Payment must be received by noon Mon., Nov. 24 (unless we fill-up first). Pay online at swensoncenter.org/julbord, mail checks payable to "Swenson Center" to Swenson Center, Augustana College, 639 38th St, Rock Island IL 61201, or call 309 794 7204 weekdays with a credit card.

The Gävle rooms are in the Gerber Center for Student Life, (3435 9-1/2 Ave).

Park in the faculty/staff lot at 34th St & 9-1/2 Ave, not in student parking.

SANKTA LUCIA

AT AUGUSTANA COLLEGE



MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025 • 7:00 PM

Ascension Chapel • Augustana College
820 38th Street • Rock Island, Illinois

*Join us for a sing-along program of Scandinavian Christmas
carols, special music, and a candlelight Sankta Lucia procession,
led by the Augustana Swedish language students*

Sponsored by Scandinavian Studies, the Swenson Center,
the American Scandinavian Association, and Campus Ministries



Ordinary Time

June 15 to November 23

Lost in the shuffle of many things happening is Thanksgiving. This holiday, which is not original to the church liturgical seasons, is rooted in American myths surrounding the pilgrim colonists and indigenous peoples in what is now Massachusetts. As a religious concept, giving thanks to God goes back to the earliest scriptures and rituals—but there has never been a set day for giving thanks, just random festivals based on harvests and other events commemorating the acts of God.

Since the Civil War era, our nation has celebrated a day of Thanksgiving in November, with the fourth Thursday of November being codified during the FDR presidency. Churches used to have celebration worship on the day of Thanksgiving, that eventually moved to Wednesday before, or for some Tuesday, or for some even to Sunday, to the point that now because we are too busy, we do nothing in church to commemorate this day. We jump straight from the long season after Pentecost to a sanctuary already decorated for Christmas.

So do not lose this moment in your shuffle. In your gathering with friends and baking, take time to really pause and give thanks to God for all that God has done.

Funeral Services for Linda Ellison

We join in grieving with the Ellison family at the passing of Linda. Services for Linda will be Saturday, November 20th at the McGuire and Davies Funeral Home (1007 North G Street, Monmouth).

Visitation is from 9 AM to 11 AM; the service is at 11 AM; Interment will be at the Monmouth Cemetery.

A catered luncheon will follow at First Lutheran Church with desserts provided by members of the church.

Thank you for keeping the Ellison family in your prayers during this time.

Worship Guild Members

November 23 — Christ the King Sunday

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

November 30— Advent 1

Usher:	Steve Erlandson
Reader:	Pam Best
Com Asst:	Dave Sandstrom
Narthex Host:	Carolyn Kellert
Musician:	Janice Algren

December 7— Advent 2

Usher:	David Sandstrom
Reader:	Judy Sanberg
Com Asst:	Trace Gallagher
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

December 14— Advent 3

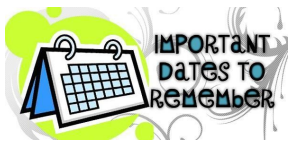
Usher:	Chip Algren
Reader:	Ellen Shrader
Com Asst:	Mark Shrader
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren



Advent begins on November 30th

Join us to begin the season of Advent on November 30th. The Monmouth Roseville High School Madrigals help us begin the season by joining us in worship with their seasonal performance.

We will take a collection to support the Madrigal program on that Sunday morning.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, November 16th — Ordinary Time

Mon, Nov 17th 6:30 PM Pathways meeting

Sunday, November 23rd — Ordinary Time

Sun, Nov 23 11 AM Advent Decorating

Thurs, Nov 27 Happy Thanksgiving

Office Closed Thurs Nov 27 and Fri Nov 28

Sunday, November 30th — Advent 1

Sun, Nov 30 MRHS Madrigals join us for worship

Mon, Dec 1 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds

Wed, Dec 3 6 PM Advent Soup/Devotion

Sunday, December 7th — Advent 2

Sun, Dec 7—9:45 AM Family Sunday School

Tues, Dec 9 6 PM Council Meeting

Wed, Dec 10 6 PM Advent Soup/Devotion

Sunday, December 14th—Advent 3

Sun, Dec 14—9:45 AM Family Sunday School

Wed, Dec 17 6 PM Advent Soup/Devotion

Sunday, December 21st — Advent 4

Sun, Dec 21—9:45 AM Family Sunday School

Wed, Dec 24 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship

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



Nov 19 Jan Martin

Nov 20 Lewis Sanberg

Nov 22 Delmar Champion

Nov 23 Jenny Sanberg

Nov 26 Brady Sanberg

Nov 28 Ray Golden

Nov 29 Brenda Jones

Nov 30 Glenna Martin

Dec 1 Evelyn Sprecher

Dec 1 Lewis Sprecher

Dec 2 Linda McGuire

Dec 5 Carol Hanson

Dec 10 Kevin Sprecher

Dec 13 Kathy Erlandson

Dec 13 Ben Sanberg

Dec 16 Michael Pearson

Dec 17 Caleb Sanberg

Dec 17 Jackie Slater

Dec 18 Tyler Osborn

Dec 18 Adam Sanberg

Dec 23 Derek Johnson

Dec 26 Janice Algren

Dec 28 Emma Nuckles

Dec 30 Gary Sanberg

Jan 3 Elizabeth Hippen

Jan 3 Ellen Shrader

Jan 4 Kay Bailey

Jan 5 Neal Heerwagen



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 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

Jun 23 Mike & Susie Jurgens

Jun 23 John & Pam VanKirk

Jun 26 Dave & Kathy

Erlandson

Jun 26 Gary & Jan Martin

Prayer Requests

Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Wes Lovdahl, Doug Moulden, Marlene Moulden, Teresa Eyler

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

Once again this November, we will be supporting our Lutheran Preschool and Day Care. Each Christmas season, the Preschool and Day Care staff select items to purchase as “Christmas gifts” to the center. These are wrapped and joyfully opened by the students of the center.

Our Vision and Purpose Giving will help the staff in getting items for the center.

Thank you for all the ways you support the Preschool and Day Care center here at our church.

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 == \$412.00

October, Mosaic == \$261.00

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School,

December, Jamieson Center,



“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” — Jesus speaking to his disciples in Luke 21:6

One day, so an old children’s poem begins, Henny Penny was plucking worms in her henyard when an acorn dropped from a tree right onto her head. She had no idea what hit her, however, and so she started shouting, “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!”

This old poem has made it into the popular culture through tv shows, and movies, like the 2005 Disney Animated Feature film “Chicken Little.” Even Aerosmith, the rock band, adopted the poem into lyrics in their song, “Living on the Edge” ... “If Chicken Little tells you that the sky is falling, even if it wasn’t would you still come crawling back again? I bet you would my friend”

This poem is rooted in the natural fears we experience when we feel the world is falling apart around us and we just can’t see how we are going to get through it. In Luke, Jesus is demonstrating all the various ways the people will experience “the sky is falling” moments. The temple will be torn down, Jesus warns. Which by the time Luke’s original audience is reading this Gospel, the Temple being torn down is an event that has taken place. Jesus warns of future wars, natural disasters, famines, persecutions. He says this to remind us that the world is going to continue being the world, even as the Kingdom of God is here and now fully present in the world. But the world falling apart will sometimes be more visible than the ways the Kingdom of God is present, Jesus is essentially saying. And every time we think the world is falling apart, it really isn’t.

Henny Penny goes about with her hysterics and works everyone up around her that the sky is falling, and she learns that she doesn’t have all the facts, and all that hysterics was unnecessary. Throughout the centuries, the church has experienced all that Jesus warned about and then some. And somehow, through it all, the church is still here. Jesus wants us to have all the information ... the Kingdom of God, even if we can’t see it always, is still here, still has won the day, and all the momentary things that cause us hysterics are just that, momentary things that will subside. In other words, hope abides, hope wins, hope sustains. Do not let the hysterics of the world bog you down. Remain in the hope of Jesus, the one who conquered death and leads us all into new life.

Peace, Pastor Jamie