



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MONMOUTH, IL

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

### Welcome to Worship :: January 4, 2026

#### Today's Worship Ministers

*Usher:* Diane Carlson  
*Reader:* Doug Cruce  
*Communion Assistant:* Dee Dee Yez  
*Narthex Host:* Linda McGuire

#### Staff

*Pastor:* Jamie Gallagher  
Cell: 630-200-3550; e-mail: prjamie@flcmonmouth.org  
*Musicians:* Janice Algren and Carolyn Kellert

#### Check Out Our Welcome Center

**Coffee Station:** We have a variety of Coffee and Tea options in our Narthex. Feel free to enjoy your beverage throughout the worship service

**Giving Station:** Our offering Plate and Vision and Purpose Giving Jar are located under the Narthex window

**Vision and Purpose:** In December we are supporting the Jamieson Community Center. Donations will support their many programs to help the needy in our community. The shopping cart for non-perishable items for the food pantry remains available, too.

**Weekly Newsletters:** Print Copies of our weekly newsletter are available under the Narthex Window. The email version will be sent out on Monday. If you wish to receive a copy by email or a hard copy by mail, please let Pastor Jamie know.

#### In Our Prayers

Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Janet Lowe, Wes Lovdahl, Doug Moulden, Marlene Moulden, Teresa Eyler, Pat Clark

#### Congregation Meetings

Sunday, January 4th — special meeting to adopt our revised constitution

Sunday, January 25th — regular annual meeting, with vote to ratify our revised constitution

#### Order of Service

##### Gathering

Announcements,  
Mission Statement/Prelude  
Confession/Forgiveness  
The Peace

Opening Hymn: ELW300, The First Noel

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##### The Word/Prayer

Pastoral Greeting  
Hymn: Glory Be to God on High

##### Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace, empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18

Sermon

Hymn: ELW 289, The Bells of Christmas  
Apostles' Creed  
Offering  
Prayers of Intercession

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##### Communion

Offering Prayer

Offering Hymn: ELW 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

Dialogue

Preface

Hymn: ELW 473, Holy, Holy, Holy

Communion Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Communion Hymn: ELW 251, My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness  
Post Communion Prayer

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##### Sending

Benediction

Benediction Refrain: ELW 290, Go Tell it on the Mountain, v1  
Dismissal

## Jeremiah 31:7-14

7 For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." 8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. 9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." 11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

## Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.