



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 21, 2025

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Vice President: Mark Shrader

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Chip Algren

Pam Best

Brian Elliott

Adam Sanberg

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter to you all. We had a beautiful celebration yesterday in worship, filled with Alleluias and classic Easter hymns and a wonderful solo from a student from the Monmouth Roseville High School Choir. Thank you to all who made our breakfast and family activities such a wonderful way to start the celebration. Our fellowship hall was very festive and a space where many had a great time being gathered by God to live out their faith, on this day in Easter Joy.

Post holiday time always seems like a quiet rest from a lot of ministry activities. And the rest of April feels just like that. A quiet time. I will be gone for three days next week attending a continuing education event at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. This symposium is titled “Queer Intersectionality and the Public Church: Queer Joy as Resistance.” What that means is I will be learning about how queer intersectional identities shape faith communities and the roles faith communities play in embracing queer joy and responding to rising anti-LGBTQIA+ policies.

In other words, how can we be a faith community that is truly welcoming and open and creating a space for all of God’s children to feel loved and seen for who they are. Monmouth is a community that has many who identify on the LGBTQIA + spectrum and we have a very welcoming presence here, but how can we become more known for our welcome and how can our ministries be more impactful to this community that is often marginalized. I am looking forward to sharing all that I learn in the weeks ahead. This also means that next week’s newsletter and worship video will be delayed until later in the week.

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**

Spring Bible Study

It is time to engage the Bible once more. And we are going to take a look this Spring at the book of Revelation. We will gather on the four Wednesdays of May at 10 AM in Pastor’s study for this quick study.

The book of Revelation is often mired in mystery and has been used and abused for a variety of ill-gotten means. So what is the history of this book so shrouded in mystery? What does it offer to us? What are the myths surrounding it?

Join us beginning Wednesday, May 7th at 10 AM for the start of this wonderful Bible study.

And ... pay attention to the readings throughout the season of Easter. We will be reading from Revelation and sharing some insights about what Easter joy is found in this text throughout all of the season of Easter.

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.

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.

Monmouth Roseville High School

Pops Concert

Tuesday, May 13th at 6 PM is the MRHS Pops Concert. This concert features the high school bands and choirs and wonderful desserts — a variety of baked goods and ice cream

At the Pops Concert, the music department will recognize it's state championship. This year, the department is giving First Lutheran the same medal the students receive, to demonstrate their gratitude for our congregation providing practice space throughout February. Pastor Jamie will be receiving the medal on behalf of the congregation. All are welcome to come for the concert.

Pathways Program

The congregation council has agreed to begin a new synod program called Pathways. This program will help our congregation develop a stronger identity and will lead us to discern our future direction.

The council will be identifying a small group of members to become the Pathways team. This team will meet monthly with a cohort of other congregation teams using Zoom for these meetings. A Pathways coach, Pastor Mark Juliot, will lead these cohort meetings. The team will explore our congregation history as well as name present realities and then use that to help the council discern appropriate direction for our future.

Pastor Mark Juliot, who also serves another congregation here in the Northern Illinois Synod, will also be with our congregation on Sunday, May 18th. He will preach that Sunday and will lead a Pathways introductory session with our council and the members of this new team.

It feels like we go through these steps every few years. And that is true, we do. But every few years our context changes, and who we are called to be and who we are called to serve changes, too. Instead of letting these changes happen haphazardly, this process is an intentional time for us to discern our congregation mission identity. This will help us as we also discern if it is the right time to partner with another congregation for stronger ministry goals, whether that is for sharing ministry costs of a pastor or for sharing in mission events that maybe alone we cannot do but with a partner, we are more able to achieve.

Throughout this process, the Pathways Team will have interactions with the whole congregation, sharing what is being learned, openly asking questions to help with the discernment, and pointing to what the Spirit is leading our congregation into next.

May Celebrations

Sunday, May 11th, we will recognize mothers and all women of the congregation as we celebrate Mother's Day.

If you know of a graduate who needs to be recognized in May, please let Pastor Jamie know so we can schedule a time for that recognition.



Easter Season April 20 to June 1

Throughout this year's Sundays of Easter, we will have readings that come from the book of Revelation. Revelation is a book that is often kept at arms length. It is either seen as too mysterious from all the weird imagery the author uses or it is falsely used as some roadmap to the future.

While our May Bible study will unpack more of these myths and help us to see more clearly what this book is about, here is a very short recap to get us started for this season:

Revelation was written during an intense time for Christians. The early days were filled with religious and political persecutions and just the struggle of letting people hear the Good News. The author wrote this book using a writing technique familiar to his readers, the technique called Apocalyptic Literature. This means the author used coded yet familiar at the time language to describe the current reality, while proclaiming a hope and vision for what will come if only they endure. Think of this as the Star Trek of the ancient days—sci fi television using futuristic aliens and technology to describe our current reality in ways we can understand. Join us in our study and in worship, to hear and learn more.

Sacred Prayer

Creator God, you have entrusted us to be your witnesses in the world and you give us the tools to do this work. Thank you for the skills to create beautiful quilts that will wrap our neighbors in your love. Thank you for hands that put together kits to care for families in need. Bless the recipients of our gifts and help us to continue to care for our neighbors all around the world, even those who are far away and sometimes hard to reach. Amen

The prayer is from Lutheran World Relief and is shared this week in honor of our Quilting Ministry.

Worship Guild Members

April 27 — Easter 2nd Sunday

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

May 4 — Easter 3rd Sunday

Usher:	Pam Van Kirk
Reader:	Ellen Shrader
Com Asst:	David Sandstrom
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

May 11 — Easter 4th Sunday

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

May 18 — Easter 5th Sunday

Guest Preacher:	Pastor Mark Juliot
Usher:	Adam Sanberg
Reader:	Maddie Blaesing
Com Asst:	Chip Algren
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

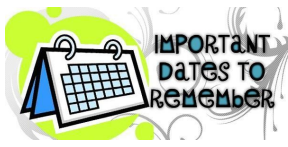


First Lutheran's Quilting Ministry

Celebrating its final quilts

For as long as anyone can remember, First Lutheran Quilters have gathered weekly or monthly to cut material, to sew material, to tie completed quilts, and to box and ship annually to Lutheran World Relief hours of dedicated manual labor. Over the years, these dedicated women have aged and the group has gotten smaller, and the decision has been made that our church will not continue with this ministry.

We give thanks to God for the endless hours of love that all those quilters have given, and we celebrate their faithfulness. We will announce soon which worship service we will dedicate our final quilts and celebrate this beautiful ministry and its amazing impact on the world.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

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

Sunday, April 27th—2nd Easter Sunday

Mon, Apr 28—Wed, Apr 30

Pastor attends Continuing Education Event

Next newsletter is May 5th

Sunday, May 4th — 3rd Easter Sunday

Mon, May 5th—9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds Committee

Wed, May 7th—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 11th—4th Easter Sunday,

Sun, May 11th—Mothers' Day

Mon, May 12th—6 PM Council *(date change)

Wed, May 14th—10 AM Bible Study

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

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



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

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



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

Jun 30 Warren & Marlys Dobry

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, Suzanne Lovdahl, Wes Lovdahl, Christopher Greene, Grace Banks

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

A Message from Kaylee McLaughlin:

“Dear Pastor Jamie and church family, thank you for having me come speak to you this past Sunday! It was so much fun and the cake was delicious (sic) too!!!!

Mom and I always have a wonderful time at your church and feel so welcome and INCLUDED!

Sending Thanks, Prayers, and Love, to you all,

Kaylee McLaughlin

Come to the track meet May 3rd if you’re not busy!”

Thank you for supporting the Warren County Falcons and Special Olympics with this month’s Vision and Purpose giving.

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,



Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. It’s five-year mission to explore strange new worlds; to seek out new life and new civilizations; to boldly go where no man has gone before!

Opening Monologue, Star Trek: The Original Series, as narrated by William Shatner as “Captain James Kirk”

Science Fiction has a long history of telling fantastical stories that explore our current reality. This is accomplished through metaphor and by setting stories into futuristic settings. Perhaps the earliest science fiction was written by Mary Shelley who wrote *Frankenstein*. This fantastical story explored a lot of issues of what it means to be a person, to control our environment, and to become God-like, all while set in a place where people could actually dig up corpses and bring them back to life, a reality that has never actually been experienced. Star Trek: The Original Series came out in 1966 and ran for three seasons. Many of the episodes dealt with modern issues such as race relationships, but instead of setting those stories in the current day where tensions were high, the show was set in the future and on other planets. Take for example the episode “Let This Be Your Last Battlefield”, which aired in the third season. The Enterprise visited a war-torn planet where there are two survivors, each is half black and half white, vertically down the middle. The only difference is which side is white and which side is black. The hatred between the two peoples has led to these two men remaining, and they are still determined to kill the other. The episode was aired in a time when racial tensions in America were very high, and we needed a way to explore what could happen if we let hatred for one another continue. Though set in the future this was rather thinly veiled for the point it was trying to make, as in the end only one man survived, but for what victory? He was now alone on a planet that is uninhabitable, and he would die lonely. Anyone who watched the show in 1969 understood the message loud and clear, even if it was told through fantastical settings and futuristic characters. Throughout the season of Easter we will hear lessons from the book of Revelation. This book is very much like science fiction for its day. This is also why we will do a study on this book in May. It is filled with images that, much like a Star Trek episode first airing in 1969, the 1st and 2nd century readers of Revelation would have seen through the thinly veiled message. But today, we are a bit distant from that era. The clear message has been twisted into a variety of misunderstandings. So let us gather, travel back in time to some late 1st Century AD Sci-Fi, peel back the curtain, and discover the hope in Christ the author of Revelation talked about through very fantastical settings and futuristic characters.

Peace, Pastor Jamie