



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONMOUTH, IL

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

Our Church— his Week :: September 28, 2026

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: Chip Algren

Secretary: Pam Best

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

The first part of this week, I will be attending the Professional Leaders' Conference. This annual event allows rostered ministers and professional lay leaders to gather and learn and rest together. This year the event is at Lutherdale Outdoor Ministry Camp in Elkhorn, WI. While I am gone if you need me, please text or email me and I will be able to respond during conference breaks.

This upcoming Saturday, Trace leads her Eagle Project for the renewal of the day care playground. Volunteers are especially needed who have pick-up trucks and can help haul items to the transfer station. It will be very exciting to see the playground go through its transformation into a new space for our students.

I have an information plug for a new volunteering opportunity at Jamieson Community Center on our next page. I am looking for someone who is willing to coordinate our volunteers for work days at JCC. Perhaps we can get a group of folks that are willing to volunteer once a month, just one Wednesday afternoon each month, to help with this meal packaging event. That would be a great way to show Monmouth just how active and engaged First Lutheran is with our community, a goal we definitely strive for.

And in case you haven't noticed, Halloween is right around the corner. Many decorations are already up and making town look very festive. Yep, it is that time of year for our yards to be filled with skeletons, werewolves, jack o'lanterns, and more.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

Sept 27

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

9:45 AM

The Bible Says So

Come dive into topics and explore what we think the Bible says versus what the Bible actually says. We will use the book "The Bible Says So: What We Get Right (and Wrong) About Scripture's Most Controversial Issues" by Dan McClellan as our guide for this study.

Tuesday mornings at 11 AM on Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov 3 and 10
at Faith United Presbyterian Church

Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM on Oct 8, 15, 22 and Nov 5, 12, 19
at First Lutheran Church

Jamieson Community Center

Volunteering need

Jamieson Community Center needs volunteers to assist with packing "weekend meals" for students in the MR School district, grades pre-K to 6th grade.

Volunteering is needed on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 PM. The center packs about 80 meals. 4 to 6 volunteers get this done in about an hour.

Please let Pastor Jamie know if you are interested in volunteering for this. We are hoping to establish a small group of volunteers that could work regularly for Jamieson Community Center.

It would be great if First Lutheran Church could have a monthly Wednesday we always provide volunteers for.

Halloween Fun Night

We are already planning our next Halloween Fun Night. This year, we will hold the event on Thursday, October 29th from 6 PM to 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Donations of candy will be accepted beginning October 1st. Bring your donations to the church office or to worship on Sunday. Volunteers needed for helping check guests in as they arrive and hand out the goodie bag. More information on volunteers needed will be coming.

Our Halloween Fun Night is a great way to invite the community to our church to experience Halloween safely and comfortably. This happens in partnership with the preschool/day care staff and with volunteers from the Scout troop and MRHS Music Department.



RANK

Eagle Scout

Eagle Project Saturday, October 3 9:00 AM

Trace Gallagher invites you to assist with her Eagle Scout Project. The project is designed to help the Day Care and Preschool upgrade its playground.

The project on October 3 will focus on removing old playground equipment, dismantling the old barn shed, weeding, cleaning the fence line, and sweeping along the fence line all the pea gravel that has escaped.

The day care will install new pieces of equipment and then a second day for this project will include spreading gravel, placing additional new playground items, and painting an interactive mural on the asphalt.

Trace especially needs volunteers with pick-up trucks to help haul the waste to the transfer station, and arrangements are being made so we can take that on that Saturday.

Trace also would appreciate volunteers donating cookies or other snacks to have available for the volunteers that day. Trace will be recruiting other scouts, family members, and classmates from school to assist with this project. Trace has been working with our Day Care Director Ms Bobbi Nees in arranging for this project.

If you are able to assist on October 3rd, provide a pick-up truck, or donate items like snacks or work gloves, goggles or tools for removing the old equipment, or weeding, please contact Trace by texting her at 309-536-3423.

MRHS Marching Band Dinner

Join us as we serve the MRHS Marching Band on Homecoming Friday, October 16. We will prepare meals and package to serve the band at the football field after the homecoming parade



The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

If you follow along the lectionary lessons, you will notice our gospel readings are now more and more from the end of Matthew's Gospel, more specifically, they are from the time when Jesus is in Jerusalem during what we call "Holy Week". These are the lessons that come between Jesus' entering Jerusalem riding the donkey on Palm Sunday, and the betrayal, arrest, trial, and execution of Jesus.

The lectionary lifts these lessons up as we prepare to end another lectionary year at the end of November before beginning a new lectionary year with Advent. These lessons point us to the cross, the central story of Jesus and the reason we are disciples.

We worship God in the shadow of the cross, and these lessons from now through the beginning of Advent remind us how Jesus' cross looms over us.

Join us for worship.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 1st, 2026

we will celebrate members who are 85 years old or older during our All Saints Worship service at 10 AM that morning. We also have children who will be preparing to receive their first communion on All Saints Sunday. So this will be a very important Sunday for our congregation.

We will also have a congregation luncheon following worship that morning.

Details about the lunch will be coming soon.

Worship Guild Members

October 4 -- Sunday After Pentecost

Usher: Steve Erlandson
Reader: Chip Algren
Communion: Robin Johnson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

October 11 - Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: David Sandstrom
Reader: Maddie Blaesing
Communion: Steve Erlandson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

October 18 - Season After Pentecost

Usher: Chip Algren
Reader: Doug Cruce
Communion: Adam Sanberg
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

Usher: Doug Cruce
Reader: Trace Gallagher
Communion: Chip Algren
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

*Changes from original publishing due to schedule changes

What is an Eagle Project?

You saw the invite to help Trace with her Eagle project but what does that mean? Scouts wishing to earn the highest rank of scouting must plan and lead a project that benefits a community organization, such as our day care. Eagle Scout candidates plan, prepare for, lead volunteers, and fill out paperwork demonstrating their plan, their event, and what they learned about themselves. This trains the scout how to lead a big project, something which carries great implications for all of life.

Not every scout achieves the rank of Eagle. So when a scout is leading a project, this is pretty amazing. And once Trace completes all her Eagle requirements, which this is the biggest part of what is left for her, you will be invited to the celebration when she is awarded her Eagle Rank.



Every Sunday 9:30 AM
Fellowship Gathering 10:00
AM Worship

Sunday, September 27th - Season After Pentecost
Sun, Sept 27 -- 9:45 AM Sunday School
Mon, Sept 28 to Wed, Sept 30 -- Pastor Attends
Northern Illinois Synod Professional
Leaders Conference
Sat, Oct 3 - 9 AM -- Eagle Project for Day Care
Playground

Sunday, October 4th - Season After Pentecost Sun,
Oct 4 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Mon, Oct 5 - 7 PM Building and Grounds meeting
Tues, Oct 6 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Thur, Oct 8 - 6:30 PM Bible study - fellowship
hall

Sunday, October 11th - Season After Pentecost
Sun, Oct 11 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Tues, Oct 13 - 11 AM Bible study at Faith UP
6 PM Church Council meeting
Thurs, Oct 15 - 6:30 PM Bible study in
Fellowship Hall
Friday, Oct 16 - Seve Homecoming Dinner for
MRHS Marching Band

Sunday, October 18th - Season after Pentecost
Sun, Oct 18 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Tues, Oct 20 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Thurs, Oct 22 - 6:30 PM Bible Study in
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 25th - Reformation Sunday Sun,
Oct 25 - 9:45 AM Sunday School
Tues, Oct 27 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Wed, Oct 28 - 5 PM Set Up Night for Halloween
Thurs, Oct 29 - 6 PM Halloween Fun Night

Sunday, November 1st - All Saints Sunday
Sun, Nov 1 - Congregation Celebration Meal after
worship
Tues, Nov 3 - 11 AM Bible study at Faith UP
Thurs, Nov 5 - 6:30 PM Bible Study in fellowship
hall

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



Sep 28 Maddie Blaesing
Oct 7 Margaret Hackspacher
Oct 10 John Van Kirk
Oct 11 Julie Blaesing
Oct 16 Ayla Johnston
Oct 18 Loretta Reynolds
Oct 21 Betty Bruyn
Oct 26 Paula Buban
Oct 28 Jackie Heerwagen
Nov 9 Ted Hanson
Nov 19 Jan Martin
Nov 23 Jenny Sanberg
Nov 26 Brady Sanberg
Nov 28 Ray Golden
Nov 29 Brenda Jones
Nov 30 Glenna Martin
Nov 30 Judy Sanberg
Dec 2 Linda McGuire
Dec 13 Kathy Erlandson
Dec 13 Ben Sanberg
Dec 16 Michael Pearson
Dec 17 Caleb Sanberg
Dec 17 Jackie Slater
Dec 18 Adam Sanberg
Dec 23 Derek Johnston
Dec 26 Janice Algren
Dec 28 Emma Nuckles
Dec 30 Gary Sanberg
Jan 3 Ellen Shrader
Jan 4 Kay Bailey
Jan 5 Neal Heerwagen
Jan 5 Dennis Terpening
Jan 5 Mike Jurgens

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



Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds
Mar 14 Jim & Tammy Slater
Apr 2 Don & Kathy Fillman
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 Angela & Kathleen
Bradley-Volz
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
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 24 Michael & Julie Blaesing
Aug 4 Ray & Shelly Golden
Aug 28 Hal & Kathy Tate
Sept 2 Dennis & Denise Mann
Oct 11 Jamie & Katie Gallagher
Oct 15 Ken & Theresa Miller
Oct 25 Mark & Ellen Shrader

Prayer Requests

Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Dee Dee Yez, Richard Schlicher,
Donna Winbigler, John Van Kirk

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

The Council made a switch for our September Vision and Purpose. We will be supporting the Strom Center in September. Strom Center helps seniors and individuals with disabilities in Warren County with a variety of short-term and long-term programs. Strom Center relies on donations to help ensure its programs remain sustainable for all who need.

Thank you for all the ways you support our Vision and Purpose Giving throughout the year.

Jan, Mosaic == \$140

Feb, Lutheran Disaster Response == \$252

Mar, ELCA World Hunger == \$900

Apr, Special Olympics == \$550

May, Recharge Center == \$380

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson) == \$625

July, LWR school and health kits == \$372

Aug, Kiwanis Club == \$280

Sept, Strom Center

Oct,

Nov, Lutheran Day Care & Preschool

Dec, Jamieson Center



When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority." Matthew 21:23

Jesus has entered Jerusalem. A city governed by Roman authorities and temple authorities. Merchants sell their goods under the watchful eyes of legal and religious institutions. Each merchant has to pay a price to sell. Rabbis and other teachers of religion are under the authority of the chief priests. No one preaches or teaches or says anything about God without having a direct line of approved teachers right up to the top of the priestly class. So when Jesus comes along and flips over merchant tables at the temple, and sends everyone out of the way, claiming what the temple's true purpose is "a house of prayer", the question about his authority isn't so much a challenge because they know who he is -- it is precisely because they don't know who he is. And the only way to know who Jesus is, is to find out who his teacher is, and who that teacher's teacher is, and so forth. Knowing who taught him means they will know what faction within Judaism he is with, and they can judge what he is doing based on that faction.

But Jesus doesn't give a simple answer about where his authority comes from. He points to John the Baptist, and asks where did his authority come from - heaven or a human? And so the trap is set back to them. They cannot answer. If John's authority came from heaven, Jesus' own claim that his authority comes from heaven is legit. If they say John's authority came from a human, then they need to show who and which line and produce someone who taught John and then they have to be more in line with what John taught instead of opposed to it. So they cannot answer. So Jesus does not answer them.

So, here is a question for you. Jesus has disrupted your life. Jesus has flipped upside down the concepts of power and wealth and status and belonging. Jesus rail against the politics you have chosen. Jesus calls you to repentance and new life. And Jesus does this because he has the authority to disrupt your life. Do you accept that authority? Do you need proof of Jesus' authority? Are you okay if Jesus doesn't tell you how he got the authority to disrupt your life? Jesus is headed soon to the cross, as the story continues in Matthew's gospel. All because some could not accept the authority he has to disrupt lives with Good News. But we are here, as church, presumably because we do accept Jesus' authority to disrupt our life.

Peace, Pastor Jamie