



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 :: July 6, 2026

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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Cell (630)200-3550

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: Pam Best

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

Let me take a moment to brag on some of the scouts in the unit we charter. During the week of June 21 to 27, the troop had 5 scouts attend Loud Thunder Scout Reservation. These scouts earned a combined 25 merit badges of all sorts of interests: Kayaking (2), Wood Carving (3), Leatherwork, Swimming, Painting, Geocaching, Rowing, Astronomy, Fishing (3), Chess, Dog Care, Camping, Metalwork, Environmental Science (2), Photography, Rifle Shooting, Forestry, Golf/Disc Golf, Reptile & Amphibian Study. One scout even earned his Mile Swim Award.

What is more, is these scouts earned the coveted Spirit Stick, a daily scout spirit stick awarded by camp staff to the troop who shows the most scout spirit at morning flags. The scouts began Tuesday by including their bald scoutmaster in an impromptu skit calling me bald, then Wednesday, they had their props and pretended to roast marshmallows over their bald scoutmaster's head, then on Thursday, following the instruction to do a group dance, they used once again their bald scoutmaster this time as a "maypole" and they danced around in circles holding my head and weaving with one another -- and that was the day, that was the moment our troop received the coveted Spirit Stick. It took all week, but these scouts were so tickled to receive it and to carry it around all day.

These scouts also wrote their own skit for camp's closing campfire, and they performed it and received a lot of laughter and applause.

When I take scouts to camp, especially the first time, they are very timid and unsure. But but the end of the week, camp is their home, and they grow and mature. And I am so proud of these scouts.

Now this week, I am off with a group of 4 scouts on an adventure to hike 50 miles over 5 days. We will be in northern Wisconsin, hiking a portion of the Ice Age Trail. We will have a base camp for two nights of our hiking, and we will hike on the trail for 3 nights. This is a first big adventure for our troop, and I can't wait to share our success on the trail when I return.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

July 12 & 26

9:45 AM

Outdoor worship

Sunday, August 9, 10 AM

Pattee Park (corner of Broadway and 11th)

Bring a chair, bring a baked good to share after worship

Summer Bible Reading Challenge

Keep up with the Summer Reading Challenge as we read through the Gospel of Matthew, 2 chapters each week.

Resources are available on our website as study aids and devotionals. We also have videos so you can listen and follow along as Pastor Jamie reads the chapters.

Each week when read the next two chapters, you can add a sticker to our poster in the narthex. Place a sticker for reading the chapters, for using at least one resource, or for reading all the resources on our website.

Also, as we read, through Matthew, you may hear some of what we read as the Gospel reading in worship. This is the "Year of Matthew" and most of our Gospel readings, with very few exceptions when John appears, will be from Matthew.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is almost here.

The dates are Aug 2 to Aug 6 from 5 PM to 8 PM in the evenings. VBS is for children ages three to having completed 5th grade. It is a joint effort with Faith Presbyterian and First Methodist and it will be taking place at the Methodist Church on East Broadway. You may enroll online through the Methodist church website:(www.comejourneywithus.com) or in person on the first night of VBS. We also have paper forms on the information stand in our sanctuary entry way.

I highly encourage all eligible kids to sign up. Tom and I have volunteered many times and it is always a blast. Each evening starts with a light supper, followed by an opening time of song in the sanctuary. The kids are divided by age and each group goes to four stations: music, Bible story, arts/crafts, and games. There is also a snack time, too, and a closing time of song at the end. Monetary donations to help are appreciated, and checks may be written to First United Methodist Church, with VBS in the memo line. You can hand that to me on any Sunday before VBS. Volunteers are always welcome, let me know if you would be interested in helping out, so we can represent the Lutheran Church well at VBS.

Thank you for all the ways you support our community Vacation Bible School.

Pam Best

MONMOUTHFARMERSMARKET.COM

MONMOUTH FARMERS MARKET

LOOKING FOR VENDORS

We are looking for locals in and around Monmouth Illinois to come sell as vendors at the recently brought back farmers market. This market runs 5-7pm every Friday starting July 3rd until September 11th. Every Vendor is expected to pay a \$5 dollar entrance fee, as well as bring their own table and clean up after themselves

Find us at the corner of
E Broadway and N Main

Get in touch as
soon as possible!

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

Fresh Produce
Specialty Beverages (non-alcoholic)
Food Trucks
Cheese and Dairy Products
Butchered Meats
Handcrafted Soaps & Bath Products.
Homemade Jams, Jellies & Preserves
Handmade Jewelry
Woodworking & Handcrafted Home Décor
Pottery & Handmade Ceramics
Live Entertainment (fee doesn't apply, may receive tips)

Contacts for further information:

Craig Vivian: cvivian@monmouthcollege.edu
Craig Watson: cwatson@monmouthcollege.edu
Allie Glassburn: allieglassburn@gmail.com 765-271-0977

MONMOUTHFARMERSMARKET.COM

Fridays at the Market

LOCATED ON THE NEWLY
REFURBISHED TOWN SQUARE!
CORNER OF N BROADWAY & E MAIN!

FRIDAYS

5-7PM

ARTISINAL PRODUCTS

HANDMADE CRAFTS

LOCAL PRODUCE

FOOD STALLS

LIVE MUSIC

Cally Tace



The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

Summer worship welcomes us between side trips, long vacations, home projects, gardening, weeding, swatting mosquitoes, campfires, open windows car rides, comfy days in the AC, dodging storms and tornadoes, cleaning up from storms and tornadoes, and just everything else that makes summer life just a different pace than the rest of the year.

Summer worship is classic hymns, new hymns, familiar verses, verses that pique our curiosity, verses that challenge, verses that comfort, prayers that soothe, prayers that name hard realities, prayers that name loved ones, prayers that God hears even when we are too scared to say them aloud, and just about everything else that fills our mind-clearing, soul-renewing, God's-presence-feeling, time together.

This is worship every Sunday, sure. But it is summer. And God who is worshiped at the cradle and on the cross is God worshiped as the fields grow, the flowers bloom, the heat sears, and the winds threaten. Join us this summer, and experience all that worship is.

Are You Interested in Serving in Worship?

At this time, our list of worship helpers includes:

11 lectors; 12 communion assistants, 12 ushers

Which means a person volunteering helps out about 1 time every 12 weeks or so. Though, some of the folks on this list are on two or even three of these lists. So, often a person is helping in worship more like 2 or 3 times every 12 weeks.

Perhaps you have an interest and would like to help as an usher, or assisting in communion, or reading the scripture passages and prayers of intercession?

Let Pastor Jamie know you are interested in helping out in worship and get your name added into the rotating list of those who help bring our worship services to life.

Worship Guild Members

July 5 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Mark Shrader
Reader: Pam Best
Communion: Steve Erlandson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

July 12 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Steve Erlandson
Reader: Julie Blaesing
Communion: Robin Johnson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

July 19 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: David Sandstrom
Reader: Madeline Blaesing
Communion: Adam Sanberg
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

July 26 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Chip Algren
Reader: Kurt Volz
Communion: N/A
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Jannice Algren

August 2 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Dee Dee Yez
Reader: Chip Algren
Communion: Doug Cruce
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

Summer Newsletter schedule

We will not have weekly newsletters through the summer. Please take note of this schedule and watch for our newsletter publications accordingly:

July 20

August 3, August 17, August 31

If additional information or updates need to be shared between newsletters, an email and FB social media post will share that.



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.



Sunday, June 14th – Season after Pentecost
Sunday, July 5th -- Season after Pentecost
Mon, Jul 6 to Sun, Jul 12, Pastor Jamie on Vacation

Sunday, July 12th - Season after Pentecost
Tue, July 14 - 6 PM Church Council meets at Pam Van Kirk's House

Sunday, July 19th - Season after Pentecost
Mon, July 20th to Fri, Jul 31st, Pastor Jamie on Vacation

Sunday, July 26th - Season after Pentecost

Sunday, August 2nd - Season after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9th - Season after Pentecost
Sun, Aug 9th - Outdoor Worship at Pattee Park (East Broadway and 11th Street)
Tue, Aug 11th -- 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, August 16th -- Season after Pentecost
Wed, Aug 19/Thurs Aug 20/Fri Aug 21
7:45 AM - MRHS Welcome Water passing out

Sunday, August 23rd - Season after Pentecost
Mon, Aug 24 - 3 PM Monmouth College Walk-Out

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

Jul 9 Cohen Anderson
Jul 13 Reese Anderson
Jul 15 Pastor Jamie
Jul 17 Cecil Lovdahl
Jul 19 Mark Shrader
Jul 20 Ron Manuel
Jul 25 Barb Pearson
Jul 26 Konner Elliott
Aug 2 Karen Erlandson
Aug 13 Brandon Reynolds
Aug 16 Eloise Swisher
Aug 23 Kenny Reynolds
Aug 24 Pam Best
Aug 25 Robin Johnson
Aug 25 Tammy Ravel
Aug 27 Kathy Fillman
Sep 1 Ila Roseberry
Sept 4 Chris Algren
Sep 12 Tiny Fillman
Sep 23 Dennis Mann
Sep 24 Manohie Alcin
Sep 25 Lacey Elliott
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

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds
Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovedahl
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

Ila Roseberry, Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Dee Dee Yez, Charlotte Volz, Richard Schlicher, Cecil Lovdahl

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

In July, we support the Lutheran World Relief School and Health Kits. Monetary donations will assist our women's group in purchasing necessary supplies and preparing these kits to be sent to LWR later this fall.

LWR works with partner agencies in impoverished communities and communities recovering from disaster in many ways. These kits help ensure the health and education goals of those communities.

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)

July, LWR school and health kits

Aug, Kiwanis Club

Sept, Out of the Darkness Walk

Oct, Strom Center

Nov, Lutheran Day Care & Preschool

Dec, Jamieson Center



Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

Psalm 33:12

Our nation celebrated 250 years since the Declaration of Independence with its typical fanfare - fireworks, lots of heat, hot dogs, and family get-togethers. We also celebrate our nation in the shadow of a long, and very complex history with God. There are many who want to claim our nation is somehow inherently ordained by God, and the freedoms expressed by our founding documents are somehow equated with scripture. And a verse, like this in Psalm, 33 is often used to justify naming our nation as somehow far and above others. But perhaps we are getting this verse wrong.

Here are a couple things to remember as we recite our "God Bless America" hymns and poems from this weekend over and over again. First, Psalm 33 was written over 2000 years ago, probably closer to 2500 or 2600 years ago. This verse speaks of Israel. It was a Psalm used to set Israel apart from neighboring nations who had other gods as their patron-deities. YHWH was assigned to Israel, according to ancient lore of the divinities. And Israel celebrated their closeness with YHWH as they lived according to YHWH's law, and they praised YHWH when he provided military victory. So, this verse does not necessarily translate to all nations equally, just because that nation claims a heritage connecting to YHWH. It very much only speaks of Israel, and not even today's Israel - but Israel of 2500 years ago.

But, second, as we do ask God's blessing on our nation, and we are reminded by this verse that it is appropriate to do so, as long as we know what we are asking God to bless. We are asking God to bless a nation that wishes to be the same beacon Israel was called to be - a beacon of hope for the oppressed, of freedom for those suffering injustice, of healing for the sick, of financial stability for the poor, and the falling of the proud and the rich, and the powerful learn to wash feet and humble themselves in the sight of the Lord.

So, as we still hear the echoes of firework shows, and our hearts are warmed by great love for our nation - we do ask God's blessing on our nation, the same blessing God provided Israel, and continues to provide all nations - that we may reflect God's Kingdom through our own

Peace, Pastor Jamie