



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 27, 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 Spring tornado season is not slowing down. A massive tornado ripped through the town of Enid, Oklahoma on Thursday devastating that community, though thankfully there were no reported fatalities. This is on the heels of numerous tornadoes across Illinois, and another predicted outbreak for this week Monday. The ELCA has a response ministry called Lutheran Disaster Response. This ministry works domestically in disaster zones and provides assistance through partner agencies. Right now, giving to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is one way we can assist those communities impacted by tornadoes. The website is www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response. You can always do a simple web search for Lutheran Disaster Response as well. Donations can also be made through the church, simply mark your memo line with LDR and we will see that it is sent on. Thank you for all the ways you stand with our neighbors recovering from disaster.

This week I have a proud father moment. I am visiting Nathaniel Monday night for the Cornell College spring band concert. Nathaniel has composed a piece of music that the band is debuting. I am very excited to get to hear this. I am hoping there will be a recording available that I will get to share. But I am waiting to hear how the college will make that available. Meanwhile, this is something that I am going to truly cherish. Nathaniel began college as a computer science major but now is studying music composition. He wrote this piece using a software program and worked hard to transcribe it for the band to perform.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

Sunday School

April 26, May 10 & 24

9:45 AM

**Wednesday Bible Study returns
in May**

Northern Illinois Synod— Southwest Conference

Spring Assembly

Now the Green Blade Rises

You are invited to a fun night of meal and worship and a presentation for the Southwest Conference. Tuesday, April 28th beginning at 6 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, Galesburg, IL (304 E. Ferris Street). This is an opportunity to get to know Lutherans from other area churches, like the ones we pray for every week. And it is an opportunity to learn about the amazing ministries that are taking place all over our smaller piece of the Northern Illinois Synod. No RSVP necessary. To share a ride, call Pastor Jamie.

Adult Leaders needed for our Scouting Program

The Scout Troop and Pack that our church charters is looking for a new “charter organization representative.” This person helps connect the troop and pack to the church, represents the church when leaders are being approved, and can attend troop activities as he or she chooses. A charter organization representative must register as an adult leader with the unit and participate in youth protection training as required by Scouting America. If you are interested in assisting the troop, please contact Pastor Jamie

Additional adult leaders are needed for serving the committee as treasurer and committee chairman. We have a couple parents who have held these roles for years and are planning to step back in the coming months. Any adult leader must register with the unit and participate in youth protection training as required by Scouting America.

For more information on how you can help our troop and pack, contact Pastor Jamie.

Updated Security System for Day Care/ Office Entrance coming soon

If you come to the church during the week, you know we have a camera/buzzer system for letting visitors in. This comes with a key card as well. Over the last few months our current system has not been working properly and we have been evaluating new options. In the coming weeks a new system will be installed. If you have a current key card, we will be able to transfer that key card to work with the new system. More information will come about installation dates soon.

New Involved Vision and Purpose

For years, we have named a ministry in the community or across the church that we dedicate a special offering to support. We gather these offerings on each Sunday of the month and when the month is over send the funds to that designated ministry.

The congregation council is looking to build upon our vision and purpose giving program each month. We are seeking members who feel particularly passionate about one of our vision and purpose designations to sign up to help boost that month’s engagement with the designated ministry.

We are looking to increase advertising within our church newsletters, social media/website, and church giving spaces.

We are looking to increase engagement with representatives of our designated ministry by inviting someone to give a temple talk at least once a month.

We are hoping to increase community involvement by possibly adding an event during the month that is a special fundraiser event for that designated ministry.

Here are some ways to consider if you are called—you feel very passionate for one or more of our designated ministries; you have a specific connection that could lead to inviting someone from that organization to our church; you like planning and advertising and telling people why it is so important to give for this particular cause.

Here are some things to consider as you step into this ministry—the council designations for each month are not entirely set in stone. We can change these based on members interests of which ministries to support. No one is called to lead this alone, someone stepping into this role would work with the pastor, the council and other members of the church to help plan and advertise.

Are you called to lead? More information will be shared in the coming weeks. And you can always talk with either Pastor Jamie or Pam Van Kirk (congregation council president) for more information.

Worship

Easter

April 5 to May 24

The 7 Sundays of Easter once upon a time each carried a special name or title that has roots in ancient liturgical patterns. Today, the Sunday of Divine Mercy is still celebrated in Roman Catholic churches on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, and the 4th Sunday of Easter for most mainline Christians still retains the name “Good Shepherd Sunday”.

It is on the 4th Sunday of Easter that we hear Jesus say “I am the Good Shepherd”, and we read the 23rd Psalm, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” We praise Jesus for guiding us and leading us and rescuing us, much as a shepherd guides a flock of sheep. And in the light of Jesus’ resurrection, these words now carry over from Jesus shepherding us in this life to Jesus shepherding us into and through everlasting life.

Worship Guild Members

May 3 — Easter Sunday 5

Usher: David Sandstrom
Reader: Chip Algren
Com Asst: Trace Gallagher
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

May 10 — Easter Sunday 6

Usher: Chip Algren
Reader: Kurt Volz
Com Asst: David Sandstrom
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

May 17 — Easter Sunday 7

Usher: Doug Cruce
Reader: Julie Blaesing
Com Asst: Chip Algren
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

May 24 — Pentecost Sunday

Usher: Ray Golden
Reader: Doug Cruce
Com Asst: Mark Shrader
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

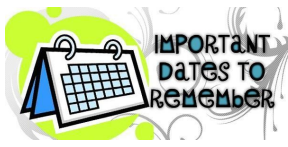


Wednesday Bible Study in May

You are invited to join a Wednesday morning Bible study in the month of May. Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Pastor’s study. We will begin on Wednesday, May 6 and continue for all 4 May Wednesdays.

Our topic will be Creation stories in the Bible. Let’s look at the many ways God is attributed the title “Creator” and the many ways we see creation praising God and how God is restoring creation in and through the resurrection of Jesus.





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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, April 26th—Easter 4th Sunday

Sun, Apr 26—9:45 AM Sunday School

Tue, Apr 28th—6 PM Southwest Conference
 Spring Assembly at Trinity Lutheran,
 Galesburg

Sunday, May 3rd—Easter 5th Sunday

Wed, May 6—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 10th—Easter 6th Sunday

Sun, May 10 Happy Mother's Day
 9:45 AM Sunday School

Wed, May 13—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 17th—Easter 7th Sunday

Tue, May 19th—6 PM rescheduled Council
 meeting

Wed, May 20th—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 24th—Pentecost Sunday

Mon, May 25—Memorial Day, Office Closed

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



- Apr 28 Sharon Edwin
- May 6 Andrew Youngquist
- May 7 Jacob Ide
- May 8 Sophie Shrader
- May 16 Shelly Golden
- May 18 Todd Champion
- May 19 Carl Hamberg
- 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 Tammy Slater
- Jun 2 Alexia Golden
- Jun 2 Jarrod Hippens
- Jun 2 Susie Jurgens
- Jun 6 Rose Youngquist
- Jun 11 Wendy Anderson
- Jun 21 Aaron Jensen
- Jun 22 Denise Mann
- Jun 30 Collin Nuckles
- Jul 3 Trudy Bergren
- Jul 3 Hal Tate
- Jul 4 Jennifer Sprecher
- Jul 9 Cohen Anderson
- Jul 9 Kris Champion
- Jul 13 Reese Anderson



- 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
- 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
- Jun 30 Chip & Janice Algren
- Jun 30 Warren & Marlyn Dobry

Prayer Requests

Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Jennie Best, Dee Dee Yez, Charlotte Volz, Richard Schlicher, Eloise Swisher, Cecil Lovdahl, the family and friends of Tim Greene

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

In April, we will be supporting the local Special Olympics. We will have a guest speaker on April 12th share why the Special Olympics are so important.

Kaylee McLaughlin is an athlete as well as an ambassador for Special Olympics. She has joined us in years past to share the value of Special Olympics, and I hope you all are able to join us again this year to hear her share her story and encourage our support for Special Olympics.

Thank you for all the ways you support all our Vision and Purpose monthly giving causes.

January, Mosaic == \$140

February, Lutheran Disaster Response ==\$252

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$900.00

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, Strom Center

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School

December, Jamieson Center



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. — Psalm 23:1

The 23rd Psalm is easily the most recognizable passages in all of scripture. Even if we cannot recite it perfectly from memory, we know we are walking through that valley of the shadow of death, and we know God’s rod and staff comfort me, we know we have an overflowing cup, and we will live in the house of the Lord forever. This is the psalm we read at hospital bedsides, then later at funerals and gravesides. And this psalm comes up when our hearts are broken, when we need comfort, when we need assurance. It is truly a beautiful piece of scripture, a lovely poem.

One of the powerful sentiments expressed in this psalm is who is our shepherd — the LORD. In the Old Testament, the ancients used this title for their God, Yahweh. In the Gospels, we hear the disciples give this title to their teacher, Jesus, who is God’s Son. This is our way of expressing who is our God, who we ultimately trust to guide and shepherd us. Now today, there are many reasons to be uncertain about the church, its place and role in society. We are angry because ideas that conflict with our political ideologies are expressed in church, we are frustrated that sports on Sundays or shopping on Sundays takes some away from a place we consider central to our social identity. We are overwhelmed and tired by massive commitments to work, family, keeping up a house, and trying to find time for hobbies or just a moment of rest. We fear decline, conflict, discomfort. It’s like we are actually walking through that very valley of the shadow of death the ancient psalmist mentioned.

But the core of this psalm, the reason we hold on to it so tightly, is the very first sentence. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Even as the reason we go to church changes from a social hub to a place where our faith is engaged in sometimes discomfoting ways, the Lord is shepherding us through this change. Even as we seek rest in a weary world, the Lord is shepherding us and renewing us. Even as we fear all the problems of today and pine for a day we didn’t have so many worries or cares, the Lord is shepherding us to trust God’s mercy and goodness all the days of our lives.

There is a lot that lays heavy on our hearts and souls today. So return once again to our beloved psalm. Let these words echo in that valley you are walking through, and remember who is shepherding you. Peace, Pastor Jamie