



Our Church—This Week
for April 22, 2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH
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Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher
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Cell (630)200-3550
Custodian
Chris Algren
Musicians
Janice Algren
Carolyn Kellert
Preschool and Day Care Director
Bobbi Nees
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Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk
Vice President: Ray Golden
Secretary: Diane Carlson
Chip Algren
Pam Best
Brian Elliott
Adam Sanberg
Mark Shrader
** one seat remains vacant in honor
of Evelyn Volz

Dear Friends and Family,

Scout Sunday was a wonderful day to celebrate our connection with BSA Scouts, with both a Cub Pack and a BSA Scouts Troop chartered here at our church. After worship, the troop celebrated a “Court of Honor” where all 5 scouts were recognized for their recent achievements. All 5 scouts earned at least one rank advancement, with one scout receiving two rank advancements. All 5 scouts earned multiple merit badges, including Citizenship in the World, Sustainability, Music, Chess, and more. These scouts are well on their way to earning the rank of Eagle, the highest rank a scout can earn. In fact, we celebrated as a troop one scout who recently earned his Eagle, another scout is almost there and should earn Eagle by the end of the month, and a scout who earned Eagle last year has been recognized by our Scout Council for having the most outstanding Eagle project for our district in the council. There is a lot to be proud of with BSA Scouts Troop 4705. And because our congregation is a charter organization, we are part of why these scouts are able to grow and learn and succeed as scouts.

Midweek Bible Study

Join us for a midweek Bible story looking at the resurrection appearances in the four Gospels. The study takes place on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM in Pastor’s study.

Did you know — Jesus doesn’t make a resurrection appearance at all in Mark’s Gospel? Did you know there are verses that were added by later writers to Mark’s Gospel when someone thought Jesus should have a resurrection appearance?

Did you know in Luke the risen Jesus eats fish with his disciples but in John, the risen Jesus actually cooks the fish for his disciples?

Do you know which of the four Gospels ends with the risen Jesus ascending to heaven? Whereas the other three Gospels leave us on this cliffhanger of—so what happened next?

So many fascinating questions when it comes to Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20 and 21. Join us to learn more about how the Gospel writers conclude the story of Jesus.

Anti-Racism Training

When the expression “anti-racism” comes up, many of us snarl inside or outwardly hurumph. We hear the term and we are tired of political agendas or social causes or problems that don’t really bother us at all.

And usually we are able to react that way to the term “anti-racism” because we ourselves are not subject to racism, nor do we consider ourselves to be racist. And it can be true, that we do not display outward racist attitudes, it can be true that we know better than to express racially motivated humor or to use racially charged terminology. It can be true that we want equality for our neighbors who are persons of color. And yet, what is often true is that while we individually may feel we are not racist, there are societal attitudes, societal laws, and societal constructs that are far beyond us as individuals, that are filled with racist overtones and racist themes that our neighbors who are people of color cannot escape, even as we can avoid them, for no other reason than our skin color allows us to escape them.

Part of anti-racism training is learning the terminology around racism, how these words are not mere political talking points, media-focused agenda, or only for “woke” people. These are terms that have concrete definitions. These are terms that describe actual experiences our neighbors who are people of color deal with whenever they walk into a bank, drive down a street, shop at a local store, and experience in thousands of other ways we who are not subjected to them may never fully understand.

Pastor Jamie just recently completed a two-day anti-racism seminar provided by the synod. Many resources were provided during this, including curriculum that can be used in congregation settings. Being that our congregation is located in a diverse community, and being that our congregation does not reflect the diverse community, this is the kind of training that our congregation would benefit from.

Here are some of the benefits of this training—anti-racism training will help us better understand the terminology of racism; it will help us better understand the daily experience of a person of color and why societal factors well out of our control have shaped our society into accepting these experiences as normal even though they should not be; it will help us better understand how as a welcoming congregation, we may still have barriers we are unaware of, to welcoming people of different ethnicities or racial backgrounds into our midst.

When and how this training will be provided for our congregation is still being determined. But when it is provided, the invitation will be for all to participate. The more we participate, the more we will know and be able to grow as a community and as a people of God, striving to welcome all into God’s kingdom and into the shared ministry here at First Lutheran Church.

Jenny Lind Chapel Founders Day Service

You are invited to join Jenny Lind Chapel for their Founders Day service on April 28, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Bishop Stacie Fidler of the Northern Illinois Synod will be preaching.

The service will be held at the Chapel. It celebrates the 164th anniversary of both the Augustana Lutheran Church in America and Augustana College and Theological Seminary, and the 174th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran congregation in Andover.

Terri Nelson will be the organist. The service will be recorded with the video being available here afterward.

The Jenny Lind Chapel is located at 740 6th Street, Andover, IL and is a historic site in Illinois.

Semi-Annual Meeting

The May Semi-Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th at the end of worship. We will be electing a new member to council, we will be filling other committee positions.

It is a calling from the Holy Spirit to lead the congregation in these ways, a calling affirmed by the vote of the congregation. So, plan on joining us on May 19th.

We will also be honoring Graduates on May 19th. So far, the office is aware of Elise and Madeline Blaesing, and Heide Gallagher, as high school or college grads. Please let the office know if you have a graduate this year that we can celebrate.



Easter

Sunday, March 31 to Sunday, May 19

The Good Shepherd knows his own, and his own knows them. This was our theme this last week in worship. Did you hear the message that Jesus is the Good Shepherd?

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois uses Good Shepherd Sunday as an awareness day for the services that it provides to our communities. From counseling services, foster care services, and more, LSSI is deeply committed to shepherding God's people into healthy lives and healthy relationships.

LSSI has its roots in an orphanage in Andover and Nachusa, IL. Though those ministries have long ended, the ministry of LSSI would not be here without their foundations in Lutheran communities like these neighboring towns and congregations like ours who have long supported it.

Today, LSSI receives support from all three Illinois ELCA Synods as well as funding for various social agency programs from the state of Illinois. Our donations continue to strengthen the work of LSSI. So, to learn more and to contribute directly to LSSI go to LSSI.org.

Worship Guild Members

April 28 — Easter 5th Sunday

Usher: Diane Carlson
Reader: Chip Algren
Com Asst: Gary Sanberg
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

May 5 — Easter 6th Sunday

Usher: Adam Sanberg
Reader: Maddie Blaesing
Com Asst: N/A
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

May 12 — Easter 7th Sunday

Usher: Steve Erlandson
Reader: Paula Buban
Com Asst: David Sandstrom
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

May 19 — Pentecost Sunday

Usher: Pam Van Kirk
Reader: Madelyn Blaesing
Com Asst: Julie Blaesing
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren



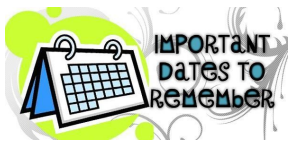
A message of Thanks from Trace

Thank you, everyone, for all your cards and the gifts and the supporting me through confirmation. I really appreciate it all. Thank you so much,

Trace Gallagher

Heide Gallagher Graduation Invitation

Pastor Jamie and family invites the congregation to celebrate Heide's college graduation on Saturday, May 11 from noon to 3 PM here in the church basement. Heide graduates from Northern Michigan University with a degree in secondary music education, and will be teaching this fall at Indian Creek School District in Waterman and Shabbona, IL



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, April 21st Easter Sunday 4

Sun, Apr 21 Scout Sunday, Court of Honor following worship

Mon, Apr 22 3 PM Endowment Committee mtg

Wed, Apr 24 10 AM Midweek Bible Study

Sunday, April 28th Easter Sunday 5

Wed, May 1 10 AM Midweek Bible Study

Fri, May 3 to Sun, May 5, Pastor Jamie on Vacation

Sunday, May 5th Easter Sunday 6

Mon, May 6 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building and Grounds committee meeting

Sunday, May 12th Easter Sunday 7

Sun, May 12 Happy Mother's Day

Tues, May 14 6 PM Council meeting

Sunday, May 19th Pentecost Sunday

Sun, May 19 Graduate Recognition

Semi-Annual Meeting

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



Apr 23 Rob Ravel

Apr 25 Dave Erlandson

May 6 Andrew Youngquist

May 7 Jacob Ide

May 8 Sophie Shrader

May 16 Shelly Golden

May 19 Carl Hamberg

May 22 Linda Ellison

May 22 Lorene Nelson

May 25 Heide Gallagher

May 26 David Sandstrom

May 27 Charlotte Sanberg

May 28 Nancy Reynolds

May 31 Dean Sandstrom

May 31 Tammy Slater

Jun 2 Susie Jurgens

Jun 6 Rose Younquist

Jun 11 Wendy Anderson

Jun 22 Denise Mann

Jun 30 Colin Nuckles

Jul 8 Marlene Moulden

Jul 9 Cohen Anderson

Jul 13 Reese Anderson

Jul 15 Pastor Jamie

Jul 17 Cecil Lovdahl

Jul 19 Mark Shrader

Aug 2 Karen Erlandson

Aug 4 Doug Cruce



May 5 Brenda & Craig Jones

May 6 Connie & Chuck Larimer

May 21 Ted & Sue Hanson

June 1 Rodger & Linda Ellison

June 4 Gary & Judy Sanberg

Jun 7 Dennis & Becky Terpening

June 8 Ben & Jenny Sanberg

June 11 DeeDee & David Yez

Jun 12 Neal & Jackie Heerwagen

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 VanKirk

Jun 26 David & Kathy Erlandson

Jun 26 Gary & Jan Martin

Jun 30 Chip & Janice Algren

Jun 30 Warren & Marlys Dobry

July 2 Jeremy & Wendy Anderson

Jul 8 Tom & Pam Best

Jul 12 Steve & Karen Erlandson

Prayer Requests

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Gary Eyer, Cecil Lovdahl, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Hannah Taylor, Carol Hanson

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

Our Vision & Purpose



For 2024

January, WIAR, \$515

February, Kiwanis Club, \$433

March, ELCA World Hunger, \$499

April, Special Olympics

May, Recharge Center

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson)

July

August, LWR School Kits

September

October

November

December

Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout April, we will be supporting the local Special Olympics. On Sunday, April 14, we had a special presentation during the announcements from a member of our local Special Olympics. This was rescheduled from April 7.

Remember, our Endowment Fund provides \$100 to each month's Vision and Purpose Giving AND ALSO provides an additional matching amount up to \$150 in giving by members to that month's Vision and Purpose Giving.

Our donations outside of our congregation demonstrate our gratitude to God for all that we have first been given.



ELCA World Hunger

Weekly Devotional



“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.” Jesus speaking in John 10:16

As a scoutmaster I have the joy of working with a group of young people. When working with young people, sometimes you need a certain way to get their attention. The troop has a “patrol-yell” which is one of those ways to get the troop’s attention. For instance, I would cry out “Semper Gumby” and when all the scouts hear it, they reply, “Semper Gumby” and then they become quiet and wait for what instructions I may have to give them. In the troop, this patrol yell is used for getting attention, for setting a group, for finding someone who may have gotten separated on a campout or hike, or just for fun rallying the scouts and getting them excited for an activity. The expression is part Latin, part pop-culture. Semper is the Latin word for “Always”, you might know the Marine motto, “Semper Paratus” which means always faithful. The Gumby part of our patrol yell refers to a pop-culture iconic character named “Gumby”, a highly flexible, very green, stop-motion animation character that many will recognize from TV from years ago. So the expression we use “Semper Gumby” means “Always Flexible.” As a troop, we have learned that sometimes we make plans, and sometimes those plans have to change on a moment’s notice. Like the year we were supposed to go to one camp, but a tornado on Friday closed that camp, and by Saturday night, we had made plans to go to another camp. Or the time we were going to go rafting, but rain moved into the area, and we instead found an indoor museum to learn about the Mississippi River. Or the time we had a certain menu item planned, but we didn’t have the right ingredients, so the scouts had to learn how to make something else with the ingredients we did have. “Semper Gumby” is more than our silly patrol-yell. It describes our troops readiness to change and adapt and still have a great time.

As a people of God, we learn to hear Jesus’ voice as it calls us into the fold, bringing us along with all those who have already been secured in the fold. Jesus’ voice is sometimes easy to summarize—love God, love others. Jesus’ voice is sometimes not so easy to summarize, hence the lawyer’s question, “But who is my neighbor.” But learning to hear Jesus’ voice is not the same thing as learning a simple scout call and response. It is something that takes a lifetime of study, a lifetime of worship, a lifetime of discerning. This is why we worship weekly, this is why we open the pages of our Bible regularly (Daily, even), this is why we attend Bible study when it is offered. So we can learn to recognize the voice of Jesus when it is getting our attention for what comes next, drawing back to the fold we have been separated from, or filling us with Spirit as we engage in ministry. And knowing the voice of the Good Shepherd, we are ready for what comes next.

Peace, Pastor Jamie