



Our Church—This Week
for April 8, 2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106

www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org



FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

@FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

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

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@flcmonmouth.org

Cell (630)200-3550

Custodian

Chris Algren

Musicians

Janice Algren

Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbi Nees

(309) 734-5350

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, until our next election meeting in May, 2024

Dear Friends and Family,

The Congregation Council has agreed to open the Parish House Apartment to a family from Monmouth who recently lost their home to a fire. The Briley family will be staying short-term here in the Parish House, so if you see people coming and going there, that is why. We are thankful we have this apartment available for times such as this.

As we get to know the needs of this family more, we may have additional opportunities to support them with donations. However, at this time we do not have a list ready. The church was able to provide a few days of groceries as well to help the family, who has been staying in a hotel for the past few weeks, to get started. They are naturally looking for a more permanent housing solution here in Monmouth. If you have connections to a rental property or know a home available for rent, please let Pastor Jamie know so that information can be shared with the Briley family.

Southwest Conference Spring Assembly

On Thursday, April 11, at 6 PM the Southwest Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church in Galesburg for an annual gathering. We will have dinner, address nominations for the annual Synod Assembly, and have a program to discuss "shared ministry".

What is "Shared Ministry"? Shared Ministry is something that happens a lot, for example we partner with area churches for the Lenten breakfast and devotions at Strom Center, and we partnered with Faith Lutheran, Wataga, for confirmation. Shared ministry can also look like congregations working together for shared pastoral ministry. There are many reasons to consider this form of shared ministry.

This Spring Assembly will have a presentation by a pastor from our synod who is currently serving in a shared ministry. He has done research on the hows and whys of forming shared ministry relationships between congregations. Throughout this conversation, we will explore what unites us as a body of Christ and what leads to discerning the time is right for a shared ministry. This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about this topic. Talk with Pastor Jamie if you are interested in attending the Southwest Conference Spring Assembly

earth day
earth church

At LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER in OREGON IL

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
12:00PM-3:00PM

Special Event Includes:
Lunch
Earth Church Celebration
Forest Meditation
Prayer Labyrinth
Hiking

Guest Leader:
Bishop Stacie Fidler
Northern Illinois Synod

\$7 Per Person
REGISTER AT www.LOMC.org
and for more information

50 1974-2024
LOMC
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Creation Care Subcommittee
Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Lunch with Synod Staff

On Wednesday, April 17, you are invited to a “bring a sack-lunch” event to meet Bishop Stacie Fidler and the rest of the Northern Illinois Staff. This will be at First Lutheran Church in Galesburg (corner of E. Water Street and N. Seminary St). Gathering time is at noon. There is a time for fellowship, sharing the meals we bring, and hearing Bishop lead a short devotion. This is a great opportunity to get to know our synod staff and build connections.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, April 21 during worship Scouts BSA Troop 705 and Cub Pack 705 will join us for worship. This is an annual opportunity to connect with the scouts our congregation supports by being a charter organization. The scouts will demonstrate a brief flag ceremony at the beginning of worship and the older scouts will assist as ushers, lectors, and communion assistant in worship.

Following the worship service, the congregation is invited to attend a Court of Honor for the Troop. This is a time of recognizing scouts for their achievements and a time of fellowship and meal. You need not reserve in advance, though if you plan on attending and can tell Pastor Jamie ahead of time that is helpful.

Southwest Conference Women of the ELCA
Spring Assembly
April 20, 2024

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:35-40

Speakers

Diane Crock - Hope House - Galesburg, IL
A community service organization

Cassy Greig - Safe Harbor - Galesburg, IL
A Family Crisis Center

Half of the offerings received will be given to NISWELCA
Half of the offerings received will be given to Safe Harbor

Gifts in kind to the Hope House are:
white washcloths, white tee-shirts, white socks (especially boys ages 6-18),
toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar, and body soap.

8:30am - Registration & Breakfast
9:00am - Program
Cost is \$5.00

Reservations are due April 15th
and may be made by telephone to:
Bethany Lutheran Church 309-334-2144
or
Barb McNeil 309-334-2383

Bethany Lutheran Church
380 W 3rd Ave
Woodhull, IL 61490



Midweek Bible Study

Due to many scheduling conflicts, a Sunday after worship Bible study won't resume for a while.

BUT The midweek Bible study will resume on Wednesday, April 10th at 10 AM in Pastor's Study.

This will be a 4-week series on the Resurrection Appearances in the four Gospels. Each week, we will review the stories found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we will identify unique features in each Gospel's account and name theological themes that each Gospel presents.

This series will conclude on Wednesday, May 1st.

Join us throughout the season of Easter and learn a little more about what scripture proclaims about Jesus' resurrection.

Worship

Easter

Sunday, March 31 to Sunday, May 19

There are relatively few resurrection appearances recorded in the four Gospels. Considering the main point of our faith is that Jesus is risen, this seems surprising. Yet the Gospel writers, and subsequent authors of the letters in the New Testament, seemed less worried about telling us what Jesus did once he was risen, and more concerned about what the Church is doing now that Jesus is risen.

So, throughout the season of Easter, we read from the Book of Acts learning about the early days of the Church. We hear also from stories in the Gospels that are better understood only in the light that Jesus is risen.

If you want to know what it looks like that Jesus is risen, just look at what he did before his crucifixion, and live that with the body of Christ, the Church, and you will know. Join us in worship throughout the season of Easter to see the Risen Jesus in action through the Church.

Worship Guild Members

April 14 — Easter 3rd Sunday

Usher: Ray Golden
Reader: Kurt Volz
Com Asst: Diane Carlson
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

April 21 — Easter 4th Sunday

Usher: BSA Scouts Troop 705
Reader: BSA Scouts Troop 705
Com Asst: Trace Gallagher
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

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



Graduate Recognition

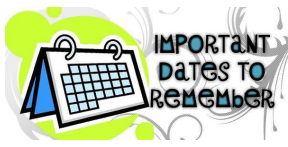
It is that time of the year to prepare to recognize graduates. We will recognize Graduates in the month of May on Sunday, May 19th. If you have a graduate from high school or college, please let the office know so we can recognize your graduate in worship. If your graduate is finishing college, please let the office know which college and what degree as well. Thanks.

Confirmation of Trace Gallagher

Our congregation will recognize Trace on Sunday, April 14th. After worship on the 14th, the council will host a reception in the Narthex for Trace so all may celebrate his taking next step in his faith journey.

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 7th Easter Sunday 2
 Sun, Apr 7 (9 AM, worship at Faith, Wataga for those attending the Confirmation service for Trace Gallagher)

10 AM Worship here at First

Tues, Apr 9 6 PM Council meeting

Wed, Apr 10 10 AM Midweek Bible Study

Thur, Apr 11 6 PM Southwest Conference meeting at Trinity, Galesburg

Sunday, April 14th Easter Sunday 3

Sun, Apr 14 Celebration of Confirmation

Wed, Apr 17 10 AM Midweek Bible Study
 noon, Lunch With Synod Staff
 (see article)

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

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



- Apr 10 Trace Gallagher
- Apr 13 Elise Blaesing
- Apr 16 Nate Gallagher
- Apr 18 Chip Algren
- Apr 20 Diane Carlson
- Apr 20 Warren Dobry
- Apr 20 Rachael Nuckles
- 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



- 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 Eyler, 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 7, we will have a special presentation during the announcements from a member of our local Special Olympics.

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



When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you." - John 20:19

So, now what? The big news of Easter morning sent shivers through the spines of the disciples. The women who went to the tomb found it empty, Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, also went to the tomb and confirmed it was indeed empty. Mary Magdalene claimed even to have encountered Jesus. Reports of not seeing Jesus again until they are back in Galilee conflict with their fears that Jesus' body was actually stolen by anyone who wanted their movement to truly die. Now what? If word spreads that Jesus is risen, the Pharisees will seek out any of Jesus' followers, they knew who was with him in Gethsemane, they knew who followed him from the start. Traveling would not be safe. They are afraid. They just simply don't know what to do. Sure, Jesus said something about rising on the third day after he was killed. But that was just talk meant to hype up the confidence. He never said what to do when this did happen. Now what?

I am sure we can all understand the feelings of these disciples. There are times we are faced with a great unknown. I am getting ready to see my daughter move out to her own new place and start her adult life. I told her she had to rent a moving van to get her stuff from here to there, and she said, "But I have never driven a U-haul before." I replied, "neither had I until I first did when I moved to my first place." She is prepared, like we all are, to move out, but being prepared and knowing everything you have to know about what comes next are two different things. And this is the boat the disciples are in as they huddle in their house on that night as they continue to repeat to one another the same question, "Now what."

We as church face a similar question. "Now what?" The Easter celebration was beautiful, the hymns raised our spirits, the joy of sharing muffins and fruit and coffee warmed our hearts. But now what? What do we do with this news that Jesus is risen? Do we just go back on living as if nothing changed? Do we charge forward into new adventures untold? Now what?

This is a difficult question. For we have been prepared by Jesus to move forward, to get out of our comfort zones, and serve people in ways that we cannot yet imagine. We have been prepared by Jesus with the knowledge of how to heal lives, mend broken relationships, radically welcome the stranger, and feed the world. Yet, we are uncertain how to do this, the moving van isn't quite the same as the one we drove before, the world is experiencing a new generation of folks who don't know the language of the church, who don't know the iconography of faith, who haven't yet sung the blessed hymns that fill a heart with joy. Now what? Well, now we take the peace of God that passes all understanding, we step up into the driver's seat, and we trust, that Jesus who prepared us, leads us still. Peace, Pastor Jamie