

Our Church—This Week
for July 22, 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

Dear Friends and Family,

What a fantastic adventure our youth and chaperones experienced in New Orleans at the Created to Be National Youth Gathering. If you are on Facebook and have liked our page, you would have seen many pictures from that trip. I will recap the whole adventure and include just a few pictures on the next page.

One highlight of our trip included meeting Hezekiah Watkins, first arrested at the age of 13 during the Freedom Riders tour in Jackson, MS. He went on to be arrested a total of 190 times — all for advocating equal rights.

In New Orleans, we had nightly gatherings in a NBA arena with 16,000 plus people. We ate great food, helped with a middle school library renovation project, went on a swamp tour to see alligators and wild pigs and more, and generally experienced the fullness of New Orleans.

And yes, the Beignets are worth the hype — even as a diabetic, I found them to be amazing. More about our trip coming up on the next page.

Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk
Vice President: Mark Shrader
Secretary: Diane Carlson
Chip Algren
Pam Best
Brian Elliott
Adam Sanberg
Dee Dee Yez

Women's Fun Brunch

An event which is quickly becoming an annual favorite is the Women's Fun Brunch. This year, it will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. This is for all women of the congregation and their guests.

The event will feature lunch and a presentation on gardening.

The event begins at 11 AM and the cost is "free will donation."

Parish House Update

We transition from helping one family to another. Our congregation is preparing the space apartment in the Parish House as we await the arrival of a third Ukrainian refugee family.

Our prayers go with the Briley family as they transition to new housing. It has been an honor to serve them as we could these past three months.

Our prayers are with the next family as they continue to wait for final clearances and their journey to Monmouth.

Reflections on the Youth Gathering

How do I describe an event that is made up of 16,000 participants from all over the country, filling a convention center and an NBA sized arena?

It was exciting. It was a lot of walking. It was new foods. It was new friends. It was a couple times counting noses and realizing we were one short, but then that one was found again. It was music. It was praise. It was service. It was tiring. It was invigorating. Here are some pictures of us leaving to us returning. We met amazing people. We filled a stadium. We learned. We served. We grew in faith.

For the youth who attended—Trace, Raylee, Ian, and Tori, this will be an experience they will never forget, and the city of New Orleans will always be etched in their hearts as a place where they encountered the living God.



We met Hezekiah Watkins, a civil rights activist, at the Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, MS



The Smoothie King Center, where the NBA New Orleans Pelicans play basketball, was our home every night from Tuesday to Friday and Closing Worship on Saturday





Ordinary Time

May 26 to November 24

August 11th Outdoor Worship

9 AM potluck breakfast. Bring a dish to share and beverages of your choice for your family. The church will provide table settings.

10 AM worship — We will be in the middle of a theme “The Bread of Life—Feeding a Hungry World” and we will have a worship skit this day to help us connect with our Bible story.

This all takes place at the north pavilion at Monmouth Park. Please note this is a new location. Monmouth Park is located on North 11th north of US-34. This is across the street from the airport.

Use the north entrance access road and you will find our pavilion. Easy parking and easy access for mobility issues.

Newsletters for the Summer

Throughout the summer, we have fewer weekly events taking place at church, and Pastor has various travels taking place. Here is the schedule for newsletter publications this summer:

August 5th

August 19th

September 2nd

As we enter September, we will resume having weekly newsletters again promoting the many mid-week ministry events we have going on throughout the fall.

Worship Guild Members

July 28 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Nate Gallagher
Reader: Julie Blaesing
Com Asst: Adam Sanberg
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

August 4 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Chip Algren
Reader: Trace Gallagher
Com Asst: Ted Hanson
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

Aug 11 — Ordinary Time — OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Usher: Doug Cruce
Reader: Steve Erlandson
Com Asst: David Sandstrom
Narthex Host: N/A
Musician: Janice Algren

August 18 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Ray Golden
Reader: Pam Van Kirk
Com Asst: Chip Algren
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

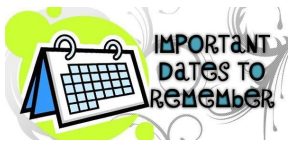


Please join us for
Eloise Swisher's
90th Birthday Open House

Saturday, August 10, 2024
2-4PM

Mary Twomey Hall
(Immaculate Conception Church)
200 W Broadway
Monmouth, IL





Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, July 21st Ordinary Time

Sun., July 21 Hymn Sing Worship Day

Sunday, July 28th Ordinary Time

Sun, Jul 28 to Thurs, Aug 1

Vacation Bible School at the Methodist Church

Mon, Jul 29 3 PM Endowment Committee

Sat, Aug 3 11 AM Women's Brunch

Sunday, August 4th Ordinary Time

Mon, Aug 5 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds Committee

Sunday, August 11th Ordinary Time

Sun, Aug 11 OUTDOOR WORSHIP at MONMOUTH PARK

9 AM potluck, 10 AM worship

Tues, Aug 13 6 PM Council Meeting

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



- Aug 2 Karen Erlandson
- Aug 3 Jeremiah Gerdes
- Aug 4 Doug Cruce
- 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
- Sep 4 Chris Algren
- Sep 8 Brian Elliott
- Sep 12 Tiny Fillman
- Sep 23 Dennis Mann
- Sep 28 Maddie Blaesing
- Oct 2 Brandon Schumacher
- Oct 4 Jamie Reynolds
- Oct 7 Margaret Hackspacher
- Oct 11 Julie Blaesing
- Oct 18 Loretta Reynolds
- Oct 21 Betty Bruyn
- Oct 26 Paula Buban
- Oct 28 Jackie Heerwagen
- Nov 7 Kylee Mueller
- Nov 9 Ted Hanson



- Jul 24 Michael & Julie Blaesing
- Aug 4 Ray & Shelly Golden
- Sept 2 Dennis & Denise Mann
- Oct 11 Jamie & Katie Gallagher
- Oct 15 Ken & Theresa Miller
- Oct 25 Mark & Ellen Shrader
- Feb 2 Doug & Jamie Mueller
- Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds
- Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovdahl
- Mar 14 Jim & Tammy Slater
- Apr 2 Tiny & Kathy Fillman
- May 5 Craig & Brenda Jones
- May 6 Chuck & Connie Larimer
- May 21 Ted & Sue Hanson
- Jun 1 Rodger & Linda Ellison
- Jun 4 Gary & Judy Sanberg
- Jun 7 Dennis & Becky Terpening
- Jun 8 Ben & Jenny Sanberg
- Jun 11 David & DeeDee Yez
- Jun 12 Neal & Jackie Heerwagen
- Jun 14 Doug & Kathi Cruce
- Jun 14 Rich & Nancy Hanson

Prayer Requests

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Gary Eyler, Cecil Lovdahl, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Hannah Taylor, Carol Hanson, Suzanne Lovdahl, Marlys Dobry, the Bud family

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, \$514

May, Recharge Center, \$346

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson), \$620

July, Lutheran Disaster Response

August, LWR School Kits

September

October

November

December

Vision and Purpose Giving

Whenever natural disasters strike, we instantly get all the requests for where to send relief money. Some agencies are more trustworthy than others.

Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the agencies we can simply trust, always. They take donations year round, and are always prepared to be on the ground when disaster strikes. Recently with the tornadoes in Iowa and Illinois, and with the hurricane in Texas, Lutheran Disaster Response has the resources to be there.

All donations go directly to relief aid.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) also does amazing work globally. In July, though, we will designate our LDR Vision and Purpose for domestic disasters such as tornado and hurricane relief.

Thank you for all your donations to our Vision and Purpose Giving.

Weekly Devotional



I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well..

Psalm 139:14

So by now you know the National Youth Gathering was all about walking, eating, serving, and doing all things New Orleans. But where was the message about God in all of this? Well, the theme verse from Psalm 139:14 centered the whole gathering. These youth learned what it means that they were created by God. They were created to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples.

Created to be brave means sometimes we confront what needs to be confronted, stand up to what needs to be stood up against. It means being brave enough to trust God that we are God's child in all circumstances.

Created to be authentic means we do not need to hide behind masks, that the real us is who God made us to be. We have been given a story to live from God our creator, not from anyone else.

Created to be free lets us know that God's love unbinds us from all that society and culture would shackle us with, and with this freedom we are set on a path to serve our neighbor as God intends.

Created to be disruptive means we have systems of injustice in our world that need to be confronted and we have a voice to say God is love and we will be led by God's love, through all things.

Created to be disciples means we would leave New Orleans, the 16,000 newest best friends, and head home, sometimes to places where we might feel alone—but we are not. We are called to live our faith outwardly and joyfully and when someone doesn't understand, we still live as disciples anyways.

These messages were reinforced by multiple speakers, amazing music, and a closing sermon by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. For more about how this week had an impact on our youth, you will get an opportunity to talk with Trace and hear his experience. He has stories to share of walking the streets, of cleaning up a middle school in dire need of help, of eating great foods (he told me I have been making beans wrong his entire life, after just two bites of a Cajun red rice and beans dish), and so much more. He will be more than happy to tell you all about it.

Peace, Pastor Jamie