



# JUNE

Our Church—This Week  
for June 10, 2024

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106  
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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH  
@FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

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

### Our Staff

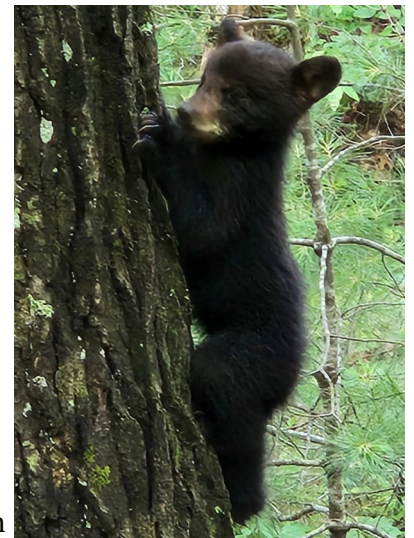
Pastor Jamie Gallagher  
prjamie@flcmonmouth.org  
Cell (630)200-3550

Custodian  
Chris Algren

Musicians  
Janice Algren  
Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director  
Bobbi Nees  
(309) 734-5350

Dear Friends and Family,  
I hope you all have had a great couple of weeks. While traveling, I was seeing all the Chicago Cubs minor league affiliates, and I got to see actual bear cubs. This cutie was one of two on a tree, with a mama bear nearby (I got her picture, too). While at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, my friend and I saw a dozen bears—moms and their cubs. It was very exciting to be so close to these guys in nature, and to enjoy all the wonders of God’s beautiful creation. So it was a trip to see up and coming Cubs minor league players and actual up and coming cub bears. I look forward to seeing you all and catching up with all the happenings this week at church.



### Congregation Council

President: To be elected in June  
Vice President: “ “  
Secretary: “ “  
Chip Algren  
Pam Best  
Diane Carlson  
Brian Elliott  
Adam Sanberg  
Mark Shrader  
Pam Van Kirk  
Dee Dee Yez  
\*\* one seat remains vacant in honor of Evelyn Volz

### **Strawberry Festival**

Our annual Strawberry Festival is  
Thursday, June 13, 2024!

Join us from 5 PM to 7 PM for meal, dessert, and

The Monmouth Municipal Band will play at 6 PM in the sanctuary.

Free Will Donations for the meal will support the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) circle projects and other church programs.

This year we are once again serving BBQ sandwiches, chips, and our famous strawberry topping on ice-cream with your selection of dessert.

Denise Mann is leading our effort this year, she is coordinating volunteers and donations.



## **June Vision and Purpose**

### **St. Jude's — information from Wendy Anderson**

Dear Family and Friends,

I need your help! I am honored to be participating in the 43rd Annual St. Jude Memphis to Peoria Run from Tuesday, July 16 - Saturday, July 20, 2024 (my 10th year running for St. Jude Runs). Over 2,500 runners will run relay-style from 35 different satellite cities to Peoria, Illinois, raising funds for the kids of St. Jude. Each run ends in downtown Peoria where the participants, exhausted and full of excitement, gather to cross the finish line during the 47th Annual St. Jude Telethon.

The St. Jude Runs began in 1982, with the mission to provide funds in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN. Since inception, the St. Jude Runs has raised an astounding \$82,172,076 for this great organization!

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Through contributions like yours, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food — so they can focus on helping their child live. Every child deserves a chance to live his/her best life and celebrate every moment. When you support St. Jude, you can help make cures possible for kids with cancer. Together, we can save more lives.

How can you help? Make a donation today - every penny counts! Your donations make it possible for me to run for these kids and their families.

Please help us raise money for the life-saving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: Finding cures. Saving children.

Thank you,

Wendy Anderson

Donation options:

VenMo @wendy-anderson-611

Check to St. Jude Runs - mail to me at 450 S Hall St., Roseville, IL 61473

Online donations: <http://fundraising.stjude.org/goto/wendyanderson>

Donations made through the church will be matched up to \$150 through our Endowment Fund.

## **Synod Assembly**

This year, the annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly is held Friday, June 14 to Saturday, June 15. We are excited to be sending three delegates—Gary and Judy Sanberg and Trace Gallagher, who attends as our youth representative.

Throughout the event we will hear updates on a variety of synod ministries, we will have elections for synod council and committees, and we will vote on resolutions that impact our life together.

For instance, Pastor Jamie has already been elected by our conference to attend the tri-annual Church-wide assembly that will be held in July 2025 in Phoenix. Trace Gallagher has been nominated to serve our synod council as a youth representative.

Reports to the synod include a video presentation prepared by Pastor Jamie highlighting a hunger related ministry here in our synod. And Pastor Jamie also authored a world hunger related resolution the assembly will vote on.

All the exciting news from assembly will be shared after it happens, with our representatives sharing their experiences during worship on Sunday, June 16.

## **Strong Families Event**

Tuesday, June 18th from 4 PM to 6 PM, our congregation will have a table display at the Warren County Housing Authority's Strong Families Event.

This will be at Lincoln Homes, 800 S. 9th Street.

It will be an opportunity to share information about our congregation with a number of families in our area. Pam Van Kirk will be coordinating the table. Please contact her to assist as a volunteer during this time or with donations of cookies that we will distribute.



## Ordinary Time

### May 26 to November 24

The Book of Ephesians is a letter in the New Testament. Traditionally believed to be written by the Apostle Paul, the letter is an emphasis on matters essential to the faith. Written to the town of Ephesus, an ancient city that is now in ruins, but lies in the modern country of Turkey, Paul emphasized grace as the central unifying element of faith. Once we recognize God's gift of grace, we are led into a faithful life according to that grace.

Throughout June and into July, we will be taking a deep dive into Ephesians with a brief sermon series on this important letter. For those who want more on the background of Paul, the city of Ephesus, the purpose of the letter, and the implications of the opening poem Paul begins the letter with, check out our worship video from June 2nd, it is the sermon video that I prepared for the Sunday I was gone on vacation. Join us the rest of these Sundays to learn more about what Paul was writing about to Ephesus, and why this letter was included in our library of sacred texts — the Bible.

## Worship Guild Members

### June 16 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Pam Van Kirk  
 Reader: Mark Shrader  
 Com Asst: Gary Sanberg  
 Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
 Musician: Carolyn Kellert

### June 23 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Kurt Volz  
 Reader: Chip Algren  
 Com Asst: Dee Dee Yez  
 Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
 Musician: Janice Algren

### June 30 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Adam Sanberg  
 Reader: Maddie Blaesing  
 Com Asst: Kurt Volz  
 Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
 Musician: Janice Algren

### July 7 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Mark Shrader  
 Reader: Trace Gallagher  
 Com Asst: Steve Erlandson  
 Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
 Musician: Janice Algren



## 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:

June 24th	July 8th
July 22nd	August 5th
August 19th	September 2nd

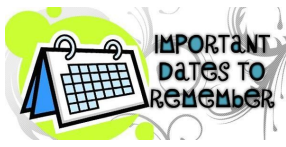
As we enter September, we will resume having weekly newsletters again promoting the many mid-week ministry events we have going on throughout the fall.

## Altar Flowers

Having fresh cut altar flowers is one way to bring a piece of creation into our worship space. Often we sponsor these flowers in memory of a loved one who has passed, or in honor of a celebration we have going on in our lives.

Our congregation has been getting altar arrangements from the "Flowers Are Us" shop on South 1st Street here in Monmouth. It costs \$40 for the pair of vases which you get to take home after worship.

To sponsor altar flowers for a Sunday, please contact Pastor Jamie in the church office by phone or email, and these arrangements can be made.



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



*For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.*

Sunday, June 9th Ordinary Time  
 Mon, Jun 10 6:30 PM Front Port Sitting  
 At Pastor Jamie's house  
 Tues, Jun 11 6 PM Council Meeting  
 At Pam Van Kirk's House  
 Thurs, Jun 13 Strawberry Festival  
 Fri/Sat Jun 14/15 Synod Assembly

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Sunday, June 16th Ordinary Time  
 Sun, Jun 16 to Sat, Jun 22, Pastor Jamie will be attending Scout Camp with the troop.

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Sunday, June 23rd Ordinary Time  
 Mon, Jun 24 6:30 PM Front Porch Sitting  
 At Pastor Jamie's House

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Sunday, June 30th Ordinary Time  
 Thur, July 4 Independence Day

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Sunday, July 7th Ordinary Time  
 Tues, Jul 9 6 PM Council Meeting

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Sunday, July 14th Ordinary Time  
 Mon July 15 to Sun July 21  
 National Youth Gathering Trip for Pastor Jamie and Trace

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



Jun 11 Wendy Anderson  
 Jun 16 Melanie Mueller  
 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 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



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  
 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

## Prayer Requests

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

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson)

July

August, LWR School Kits

September

October

November

December

## Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout June, we will be supporting Wendy Anderson's annual fundraiser for St. Jude Hospital.

See her article included earlier in this newsletter to learn more about the impact this run has on children and their families seeking medical care at St. Jude's in Memphis.

Wendy provides multiple ways to support her run in her article. All donations given to Wendy through the church are eligible to be matched up to \$150 from our Endowment fund.

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

### Weekly Devotional



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8

Perhaps the most Lutheran verse of them all—Ephesians 2:8, memorized by Confirmation students since the beginning of confirmation. This verse sums up the whole of how we, as Lutheran Christians, understand our relationship with God. It is not because we “chose” Jesus, or “chose” faith, or “chose” anything. God acted in our lives, God called to us, God named us as Beloved Children, God said the ways of sin and death would have no sway over us.

One of the biggest myths of Christianity in our popular culture is that we have to “choose” Jesus to be saved. Paul stops that thinking right here. It is not the result of our works ... and choosing is a work of ours. We don't get to say, “I am saved because I believe the right way” nor do we get to say “You are not saved because you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.” Both of those lines of thinking are not accurate according to Paul, right here in his letter to the Ephesians.

God has saved us. God has saved our neighbor. God has saved the refugee. God saved the immigrant. God saved the person who believes differently than you. God saved the person who has even rejected worshipping with the church, even after hearing the Good News. This is the fullness of God's grace — it is God's to give, and God gives so freely that the entire population of the entire world gets to experience this grace.

So, when we are walking through the stores, or along busy streets, or watching the news and seeing people who are doing things we don't otherwise approve of—our first thought is to know that those people I walk alongside of, those people I see doing things on TV—they are all saved by God, just as I am. Not because of anything they have done, but because of what God has done. Imagine, if you will, how you will see the world and its entire population differently when you realize that every person you meet has been saved by God—that every person you meet has an angel of God going before them crying out, “This is a beloved child of God.” Imagine if you started by treating yourself that way, and extending that to all others. Yeah, that would mean we would see the conflict with immigrants differently, that would mean we would see the struggles of those trapped by poverty differently, that would mean we would see the struggles of the oppressed differently. Yeah. Imagine a world which begins with you seeing all others as God sees you and all others, as saved Beloved Children of God.

Peace, Pastor Jamie