



JUNE

Our Church—This Week
for June 24, 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

Congregation Council

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

Dear Friends and Family,

What a blessed week to spend with our Boy Scout Troop at Loud Thunder Scout Reservation. Sure, it was hot. Sure, it was loud (the cicadas were really out in full force at camp). Yet, a great week was had by all. Between 4 scouts, the troop came home with 16 merit badges. One scout was recognized during the closing campfire event for outstanding work at the waterfront area. Our troop won the coveted “Golden Spatula” given to the best recipe served at the Scoutmaster’s Dutch Oven Cook-Off. Our recipe, called “Johnny Caramel Seed”, entered in the dessert category was a delightful combination of apple and caramel served with spice cake. It was truly worthy of winning this competition. The troop is home now, washing clothes and hanging sleeping bags to dry out, resetting up tents to make sure they are dry and clean and ready for another campout. And the next adventure awaits the troop later this summer. I hope you are all staying cool in this heat and staying safe as we face continued chances of summer storms.

National Youth Gathering

This year, First Lutheran is sending 1 high school youth (Trace Gallagher) to the ELCA National Youth Gathering held in New Orleans. The event is from July 16 to July 20, and our group is leaving on Monday, July 15th and will return home on Sunday, July 21. Trace will be attending with a group consisting of 3 other youth from Messiah, Galva and Grace, Knoxville. Pastor Jamie and Pastor Katie will be serving as chaperones for this trip. The theme is Created to Be and will explore issues of discipleship, service, and fellowship. The gathering is collecting items to include in hurricane kits to be distributed by a local agency in New Orleans. We have been asked to bring “cooling towels”. If you wish to contribute some “cooling towels”, Trace will have a collection bin in the Narthex gathering space starting Sunday, June 30th through Sunday, July 14th.

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.

Thank You — Special Olympics

Dear First Lutheran Church Monmouth,

On behalf of the athletes and families of Special Olympics Illinois, thank you for your generous support. Your gift encourages a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed.

Through Special Olympics Illinois programming, people with intellectual disabilities are provided the opportunity to discover and reveal their inner champion. Our athletes experience the thrill of competing in authentic sports — they overcome defeat, taste victory, build valuable leadership skills, and stay active for life.

Together, we are helping to make the world a better, healthier, and more joyful place—one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

With gratitude,

Pete Beale-DelVecchio

President & CEO

Special Olympics Illinois

(recently received thank you note for our donation from our Vision and Purpose giving of \$514.)

Strong Families Event

Date Change

Due to the extreme heat, the event has been moved to Thursday, June 27th 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

Congregation Hymn Sing

On Sunday, July 21st, the congregation will have a hymn sing during worship. This is the Sunday when Pastor Jamie will be still on the road returning from the National Youth Gathering. Instead of a sermon, the congregation will be invited to name a few hymns to sing. Carolyn will be our organist that day.

So, start your thinking now ... what are some of your favorite hymns? What hymns do you really crave to sing? During the time after the readings, three of four hymns will be selected based on your recommendations. We will open our hymnals to those hymns and sing one or two verses of them.

Join us on Sunday, July 21st for what will become a much treasured day, and perhaps grow into an occasional new tradition for our congregation.

Worship Guild Members

June 30 — Ordinary Time

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

July 7 — Ordinary Time

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

July 14 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Steve Erlandson
Reader: Kurt Volz
Com Asst: Robin Johnson
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

July 21 — Ordinary Time

Usher: David Sandstrom
Reader: Doug Cruce
Com Asst: N/A
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert



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:

July 8th

July 22nd

August 5th

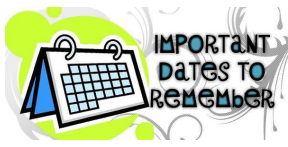
August 19th

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.

Congratulations to Trace Gallagher

Trace was elected at the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly to serve as the youth member on Synod Council. This is a one-year term. Trace will attend regular (4 times a year) and special (as scheduled) Synod Council meetings. He will contribute the voice of young people on synod council as they address mission goals of our synod, financial matters, concerns about congregations or rostered leaders, and more. Feel free to ask Trace about how his term is going on Synod Council (though his first meeting won't be until later this summer or early fall).



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, June 23rd Ordinary Time

Mon, Jun 24 6:30 PM Front Porch Sitting
At Pastor Jamie's House

Sunday, June 30th Ordinary Time

Thur, July 4 Independence Day

Sunday, July 7th Ordinary Time

Tues, Jul 9 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, July 14th Ordinary Time

Mon July 15 to Sun July 21

National Youth Gathering Trip for Pastor
Jamie and Trace

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

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



- 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
- Oct 4 Jamie Reynolds
- Oct 7 Margaret Hackspacher



- 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
- 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

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, \$346

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



And one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Matthew 22:35-36

There is a bit of controversy floating around our nation right now as the legislature and governor of the State of Louisiana passed and signed into law a bill requiring public schools to display the 10 commandments in every classroom. It is a controversy that comes up every now and then. It is controversy because our nation's guiding document, the Constitution, has in its 1st Amendment a prohibition against the state establishing a religion. It is also controversy because history is shrouded in myth over how much influence Christian ideology had in forming our nation. As we consider taking a stance on this controversy here are some things to consider:

Which list of the 10 commandments do we follow? Yes, there is more than one, and the two lists do differ. Which Christian denomination's officially decided upon list are we going to follow? Yes, for various theological reasons, the different denominations do choose which of the lists they call "official". When asked by the lawyer in Matthew chapter 22 which is the greatest commandment, which of the 10 do you suppose Jesus quoted. Aha—that is a trick question, see Jesus didn't even cite any of the 10 commandments when answering this question.

Now consider this as well, do we as a church have the 10 commandments posted anywhere? Do we have Jesus' answer to the lawyer posted anywhere? Are we able to cite the 10 commandments and their meanings as described by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism? Are we able to cite, without looking to Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus' response to the lawyer of his day what the greatest commandment is?

See the stance on this controversy we should be taking as a church is that it is our place, not the place of public schools, to teach these matters of faith. We should be asking public schools to teach math and science and languages and history. We should be asking public schools to be places of refuge and safety for people of all faiths, not just our own. We should be asking public schools to be a place where people of no faith are welcomed. We should also, as a church, be focused on matters of greater importance, like social justice and creating spaces where all are truly welcome. In many ways, this is just another passing fad controversy that some politicians and media pundits use to stir up feelings and distract us from weightier matters. May we see through the distraction, and keep our focus on following Jesus as we love God and love our neighbor. Peace, Pastor Jamie