



Our Church—This Week  
for May 13, 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 briefly shared in a recent email that I was going to have an MRI. I have been dealing with a right shoulder injury that has taken me a while to figure out. As most motions, I am quite normal. Then I twist my arm a certain way, and boy does that pain hit ... sometimes subtly, sometimes quite harshly. You probably won't ever notice me in pain, unless I try to put my arms behind my back, as I do sometimes in worship—at least until the pain reminds me I can't do that. Anyway, the MRI indicated that I have some torn cartilage, something called a Labrum. I am waiting to see a surgeon to figure out what happens next. And what happens next may not be for a while. But if you read me saying something about that MRI in a previous e-mail or overheard me talking about it with someone, this is what it is about. Nothing too serious. Just a crazy injury that happened for some random reason that I can't explain.

#### 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

#### 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.



### **Assistance Sought**

A resident of Monmouth called the church, she is looking for assistance for some very light-household chores about once a week, maybe only a half-hour at most. She is also needing very occasional rides to doctor appointments. She lives on East 7th Avenue.

If you are interested, and available to work out a schedule with this person, please call Pastor Jamie to get connected with this person in our community.

### **Graduate Recognition**

This is the last call for graduate information.

Maddie Blaesing and Elise Blaesing both graduate this month — Maddie from Monmouth College, and Elise from Monmouth Roseville High School. They are unable to join us on Sunday, May 19th due to Maddie's graduation that very day. But we will get them here soon to be recognized.

Heide Gallagher graduated from Northern Michigan University. She is grateful for all the cards she has been receiving and all the people who came for her reception on Saturday, May 11th.

### **Items for Sale**

Robin Johnson and Dawn Johnson have a few items from their mother's estate they are hoping to sell. If you would like more information on these items, please contact either Robin or Dawn.

Curio Cabinet (\$100)

Recliner (\$25)

Lift Chair (bought recently for \$1000, minimum offer \$500)

Queen Bed (\$100); Dresser and night table (\$100) or \$200 for set

Entertainment center for 55-inch TV (\$100)

Two small matching end tables (\$25) and two matching lamps (\$25)

### **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.

### **Transitions**

Carol Hanson has moved to Seminary Manor. We continue to pray for Carol in her transition. If you would like Carol's new address, please contact the church office.

Welcome to the Mueller Family. Doug and Jamie Mueller are the parents of a family that lives in Oquakwa and is in the process of joining the church.

The family includes 7 children: Jeremiah, Adrianah, Braxton, Makayla, Melanie, Jaxon, and Kylee.

Their birthdays and anniversary will begin being included on our list of celebrations

### **Community Care Days**

Community Care Days is coming. The day of volunteering is Saturday, June 15.

Talk with Steve Erlandson if you are able to assist on that day.

If you have a house project you would like the Community Care Days team to evaluate and possibly accomplish for you, there are applications available in the church office.

Community Care Days is one way we live our mission statement as we demonstrate compassion to those in need, grace towards those receiving assistance, gratitude that God has gifts us with abilities to help, and joy in completing a project for a neighbor.



## Easter

### Sunday, March 31 to Sunday, May 19

The season of Easter comes to a close with the onrush of the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost ushers in the age of the Church, a new age in which the Church continues the mission of Jesus.

Here at First Lutheran, we have identified our mission with a few simple words—First, the mission involves being gathered by God. God brings us together for the sake of mission. We cannot do mission alone or apart from others in the church. It is work we do together, from worshipping to serving.

And we live this mission with compassion, grace, gratitude, and joy. These key words which make up our mission statement help us to stay focused on what our mission is to look like. Whenever we are confused about what God is calling us to do in a situation, we can ask—how are we to be compassionate, where do we demonstrate grace, how do we express thankfulness, and is God completing our joy through this work?

With these simple questions leading us, we become the church filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaiming the Good News.

## Worship Guild Members

### May 19 — Pentecost Sunday

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

### May 26 — Holy Trinity Sunday

Usher: Doug Cruce  
Reader: Pam Van Kirk  
Com Asst: Mark Shrader  
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
Musician: Janice Algren

### June 2 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Ray Golden  
Reader: Pam Best  
Com Asst: N/A  
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire  
Musician: Janice Algren

### June 9 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Diane Carlson  
Reader: Judy Sanberg  
Com Asst: Julie Blaesing  
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:

May 20th	June 10th
June 24th	July 8th
July 22nd	August 5th
August 19th	September 2nd

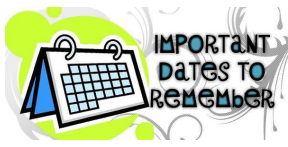
As we enter September, we will resume having weekly newsletters again promoting the many mid-week ministry events we have going on throughout the fall.

### 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, May 12th      Easter Sunday 7  
 Sun, May 12            Happy Mother's Day  
 Tues, May 14          6 PM Council meeting  
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Sunday, May 19th      Pentecost Sunday  
 Sun, May 19            Graduate Recognition  
                                  Semi-Annual Meeting  
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Sunday, May 26th      Trinity Sunday  
 Mon, May 27th        Memorial Day, office closed  
 Mon, May 27th to Thursday, June 6th,  
                                  Pastor Jamie will be on vacation  
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Sunday, June 2nd      Ordinary Time  
 Mon, Jun 3rd          9:30 AM Sarah Circle  
                                  7 PM Building and Grounds Committee Meeting  
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Sunday, June 9th      Ordinary Time  
 Tues Jun 11            6 PM Council Meeting  
 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.

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



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 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



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  
 Jul 24 Michael & Julie Blaesing  
 Aug 4 Ray & Shelly Golden

## 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

*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

During May, our Vision and Purpose Giving will go to support the Teen Recharge Center here in Monmouth.

The RECHARGE Teen Center is a safe place for local teens to go after school to hang out with their peers, work on homework, and participate in fun programs and events.

Thanks to our amazing community partners, the RECHARGE Teen Center is able to offer a variety of activities such as gardening, art, cooking, mental health practices, and more!

Throughout the school year, the Recharge center is available after school to 6 PM. Throughout the summer, the center opens at noon and closes again at 6 PM.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry in Monmouth.

### Weekly Devotional



Jesus said to [Mary Magdalene] “Do not hold onto me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” John 20:17

Have you ever noticed that throughout the Easter season, which is 7 weeks long, we have very few stories of the Risen Jesus? Of the four Gospels, Mark has no resurrection appearances at all; Matthew has just one; Luke adds a road trip with Jesus to Emmaus; John has Jesus appear to Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, then to the disciples three times. That’s it. Those are all the stories. Yes, it begins with the discovery that the tomb is empty; and, yes, each Gospel has an announcement from an angelic figure proclaiming Jesus is risen, then each Gospel really does not dwell on that, they all end in an abrupt manner. One reason for this dramatic shift is the Gospel writers are telling us the work of Jesus continues through the work of the Church. We experience the Risen Jesus now in road trips, worship, opening scripture, sharing meals, and doing the very things that Jesus did. So, Mark and Matthew have an emphasis on returning to Galilee, the place where Jesus’ ministry began. Luke emphasizes remaining in Jerusalem for the coming Holy Spirit, the experience we mark as Pentecost Sunday, as the sign to go out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. John moves the story away from actual proofs that Jesus is risen to a simple command, “Feed my sheep”, continuing a theological motif throughout John’s Gospel and his three letters that faith in Jesus is demonstrated in love for others.

So the resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene, which only appears in John’s Gospel, is the clue to unravel this mysterious way all the gospels end. “Do not hold onto me,” Jesus says. If we stay at the tomb, if we stay holding on to a physical Jesus, then we cannot go and do what we are supposed to be doing. We have to let the physical Jesus go, the Jesus who was Crucified and is Risen has to be also Ascended so that we can go about our work. There may be a bit of a metaphor here that connects to our season of high school and college graduates. These students are finishing their courses of study and in order to go on into their field, they have to leave their professors and academic advisors behind and go into their field of work and do all they have been trained for. So it is for us as Jesus’ disciples. We have completed another cycle of stories with the presence of Jesus—his birth narrative at Christmas welcomed Jesus to the world; now his Passion narrative tells us his physical presence is no longer here, rather how we experience Jesus today is in the church, its many and various ministries, the sacraments, the scriptures, and more. May we ever experience the Risen Jesus through all the Church offers. Peace, Pastor Jamie