



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

### 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

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to Summer. The local schools are all wrapping up their terms. Our parking lot will be much quieter again as the high school students who park here will be on their summer break. The day care will be busier with students all day. Vacation plans are in full swing for most families. The publication of the newsletter will be slowed to twice a month (See full schedule on page 3). Ahh, yes, the joys of summer.

And yet it is fully in this season that as we gather, the Word of God shared in worship lifts up how we are the Body of Christ in the world around us. So, we gather in worship, in new social events (Front Porch Sitting), for our summer festivals of Strawberry and Prime Beef, new outreach opportunities (Strong Families Event), and more. Our cultural cues, especially from the typical school calendar, may tell us it is time to rest. But the Church never rests, it keeps on being the body of Christ. I look forward to celebrating summer with you all in all the ways our congregation lives as Christ's body in the world.

### **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.



### **Front Porch Sitting**

Pastor Jamie invites any and all to come over to his home on Monday, June 10th and Monday, June 24 at 6:30 PM to just gather around the front porch/driveway to just have a fun social time. Bring a lawn chair, bring a beverage ... Pastor Jamie will provide some snacks, and have a small campfire going. We will just sit and visit and catch up on all the summer time fun we are having. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will simply move inside to the family room.

### **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.

### **Thank You Note**

Dear friends at First Lutheran,

I want to thank you so much for the support and all the cards and the gifts celebrating my graduation from Northern Michigan University. Since my family moved here when I was beginning my junior year of high school, I have always felt welcome and well supported by this congregation. I always knew when I came home from college I would get a warm welcome. Now I am excited to be preparing for my new position teaching in Waterman and Shabbona, IL, but I know whenever I come to visit I will still be warmly welcomed. And that means so much to me. Thank you again,

Heide Gallagher

### **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.

### **Thank You Note**

Dear Pastor Gallagher and Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the overall donation of \$514.00 to our local Special Olympics program here in Monmouth, IL.

For 51 years Special Olympics has been thriving throughout Monmouth and Warren County.

Our program relies solely on donations to exist and we never charge our athletes or families to participate in any of our programs. We celebrate each athlete's unique abilities instead of focusing on their disabilities. We will continue to empower our athletes to do their best!

Warmest regards,

Cathy Brennan-Betar (Director - Region F)

And

Kaylee McLaughlin



## Ordinary Time

### May 26 to November 24

Ordinary Time is a phrase that describes a great portion of the church calendar year. But this word “Ordinary” doesn’t have the common usage meaning to it. It does not mean, plain, boring, routine, usual.

In the Church year “Ordinary” comes from the Latin “Ordinal”, which is just a fancy way of counting Sundays. Throughout the year, there are 52 Sundays in a year. Many of these Sundays are designated by their relationship to either Christmas (Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany) or Easter (Lent and Easter). Some Sundays have special feast day designations, such as Pentecost Sunday, Holy Trinity Sunday, Reformation Sunday, and others. But then there are just Sundays that are just sequentially numbered through the rest of the year. This is the time we enter now. Ordinary Time for the summer begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and will end with Christ the King, or Reign of Christ Sunday. In between we simply gather to celebrate the life of Jesus as it now becomes our life. The Christmas Cycle celebrates the incarnation of Christ, the Easter Cycle celebrates Christ’s Passion, Ordinary Time is the Church being the Body of Christ in the world today.

## Worship Guild Members

### 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

### June 16 — Ordinary Time

Usher: Pam Van Kirk  
Reader: Mark Shrader  
Com Asst: Gary Sanberg  
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 10th  
June 24th                      July 8th  
July 22nd                      August 5th  
August 19th                    September 2nd

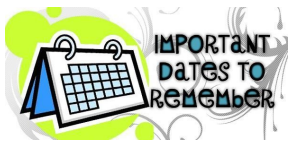
As we enter September, we will resume having weekly newsletters again promoting the many mid-week ministry events we have going on throughout the fall.

### 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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

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  
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.

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



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  
Aug 23 Kenny Reynolds  
Aug 24 Pam Best



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 Eycler, Cecil Lovdahl, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Hannah Taylor, Carol Hanson, Suzanne Lovdahl, Ron Rieck

*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



Amazed and astonished, [the crowd] asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?” Acts 2:7

The story of Pentecost is mostly focused on the rushing sound of the Holy Spirit, the flames of tongue sitting on each disciple shoulder, Peter telling the crowd, “It’s only 9:30 AM, No, we are not drunk!” We also think about all the peoples from all over the Mediterranean region who have come to Jerusalem for the pilgrim festival taking place at that time. And with that spark of flame, with that rushing wind, the church is born. Lost in the middle of our excitement to celebrate the birth of the church, is this small detail. All these people from all over the world were hearing the Good News about Jesus in their own language. Now, I will spare listing all the nations mentioned in Acts 2:10-11. But suffice to say, no these people did not all speak one unified language.

Language is an important thing. Language is not just a verbal or written communication, language is about how our heart and mind speak to each other, how we internally think and dream, that inner voice that has constant dialogue going on inside our head interpreting to us all that we are engaged with at the moment. Language is important for how we hear the message of God, too. If we have to stop and think and translate, all our energy is used up, and the point of what we are trying to hear is lost on us. Now here where we are in Monmouth, we generally all speak and think in the language called English. But as we know, here in Monmouth, we have significant immigrant populations from Latin America, various nations from Africa and Asia, and now from Ukraine. We tend to assume that as immigrants integrate into American life, they adapt and learn English. And generally speaking, that is what happens. But still that inner dialogue, those dreams, that heart-to-mind connections, is still done in native languages learned from infancy. The story of Pentecost reminds us of the value of proclaiming the Good News in ways that others can hear it. Sometimes, we do need to make intentional efforts to speak another language. Sometimes, it isn’t about the English, the Spanish, the French, the Ukrainian, or whatever language it is -- sometimes it is just about how do we communicate the love of God in Christ Jesus, the Good News of Resurrection, even without words - but in a way that others hear it and recognize it and receive it and rejoice with us for it. This part of the Pentecost story is why we still celebrate Pentecost. For this story is not over. We are still receiving the Holy Spirit who guides us to communicate the good news in ways everyone can understand it. The next time you find a flaming tongue sitting on your shoulder, don’t put it out - for that is the Spirit enabling you to tell someone in their own way that God loves them.

Peace, Pastor Jamie