



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONMOUTH, IL

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**Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith With:
Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy**



Our Church—This Week :: August 17, 2026

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

prjamie@flcmonmouth.org

Cell (630)200-3550

Musicians: Janice Algren

Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbi Nees

(309) 734-5350

Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk

Vice President: Chip Algren

Secretary: Pam Best

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

Some days just don't start the way you plan. Yesterday, as our friends Doug and Kathi arrived at church, they entered the elevator and prepared to arrive at the sanctuary level and come in and greet friends. The elevator, however, had other plans. In fact the elevator did not work properly at all, leaving our friends stuck. Steve Erlandson worked with them while worship began, and eventually called the fire department, who came and helped Doug and Kathi get out of the elevator. What a moment they will not forget.

I share this story to say that for the time being our elevator is out of service. Steve will be contacting our elevator maintenance company and as soon as it works again, we will announce it. But if you need assistance getting into the sanctuary or the fellowship hall, please call me on my cell phone and I will help you figure out the best way to get in. We do expect the repair to be complete soon.

I talked to Doug in the afternoon, and they had a good chuckle from their misfortune. After being rescued, they did go for a nice breakfast and then on to their Sunday errands before returning home.

During worship, we did have a special moment that I invite you to watch in our worship video. We heard a new hymn that was written for the CASTLE Project at Wartburg Lutheran Seminary. The hymn was written to help us remember our baptismal promises, and we had the joy of the author of the hymn being with us and since it tied into the sermon message, Pastor Katie Gallagher sung her hymn for us. We were the first congregation to hear the new hymn sung.

Pastor Katie's work in the Nebraska Synod is helping members of the churches live out their baptismal call, and this hymn is written to remind us what that call is. It is a beautiful hymn, and I thank Carolyn Kellert who was handed the music half an hour before worship began and was able to play it for Pastor Katie during the sermon.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

Aug 23,

Sept 13, 27

9:45 AM

Prime Beef Festival

Thursday, September 3rd

Serving 11 AM to 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM

Connie Larimer is coordinating volunteers

Diane Carlson is coordinating pie donations

Summer Bible Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is still before us ... We continue through the Gospel of Matthew. So far the first 11 weeks of resources are posted on our website. Pastor Jamie is a little behind in recording videos, but should be caught up this week.

Week 12 resources will be published this week.

Welcome MRHS Students back to school

Help us welcome back MRHS students as they begin another school year. Join Pastor Jamie on the mornings of Wednesday, August 19, Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 21st from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM. We will meet in the parking lot and offer students a bottle of water and donut as they head into class.

This is also an opportunity to remind returning students and to share with new students which parking spaces they can use and which spaces they cannot use during the school day.

And it builds community as we visit with students and greet them and get to know them and let them know they have a safe space here.

Monmouth College Walk-Out Monday, August 24th

We welcome the new students to Monmouth College on Monday, August 24th.

Meet at 1 PM in Pastor Jamie's office as we prepare treat bags for about 200 students.

Just before 3 PM we will set up at the corner of 1st Street and Broadway and at 3 PM we will greet the students.

We should be finished by 3:45 PM

Women of the ELCA + Northern Illinois Synod 2026 Annual Convention

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9AM - 3PM

New Life Lutheran Church
249 N Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook, IL

Registration and coffee start at 8:00 a.m.



All women in the Northern Illinois Synod are welcome to attend the 2026 Annual Convention, I Am Worthy, All Are Worthy, on Saturday, September 19, at New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook.

Our worship will be led by Pastor Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, and Pastor Lindsay Fertig-Johnson, Synod Generosity Director and Associate Pastor at New Life in Bolingbrook.

Our afternoon breakout sessions will be led by Pastor Pat Fish and Yenny Muñoz-Swainger. Registration information at www.nisynod.org



God is Love



Word list:
FAITH
FORGIVE
GRACE
GUIDE
HEAL
LOVE
MERCY
PATIENCE
SALVATION
TEACHER
TRUST
WISDOM



The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

Worship a time to praise the Lord. Recently in VBS, we talked about what praise means. It basically means we are celebrating who God is. And that is at the heart of worship. We don't come to worship to hear a good message, to hear a sermon we will agree with or disagree with, to be fed for a new week. Those may be added benefits of worship. But the real reason we come is to praise God.

Worship begins with God's promise of forgiveness, and we celebrate. We hear God's word read aloud and we marvel at what God is doing, and we celebrate. We receive the meal of Jesus and we are connected to the whole Church across time and distance ... and we celebrate.

And before we leave, we hear God's blessing - God imparts goodness into us as we leave this space and enter the rest of our week, and we celebrate.

When else do we get to celebrate God so much?

Join us in worship, join us in celebrating God.

Worship Guild Members

August 23 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Diane Carlson
Reader: Trace Gallagher
Communion: David Sandstrom
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

August 30 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Pam Van Kirk
Reader: Steve Erlandson
Communion: Mark Shrader
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Jannice Algren

September 6-- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Kurt Volz
Reader: Pam Van Kirk
Communion: Julie Blaesing
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

September 13 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Adam Sanberg
Reader: Pam Best
Communion: Gary Sanberg
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

A message of Thanks from Wendy Anderson

To my FLC family,
Thank you for supporting another successful; and record-breaking St. Jude run. We had beautiful weather for a couple days, rain for a couple days, but we take what weather we get. Thankk you for all your continued support year after year; I appreciate you. I can only continue to participate in this event because of your support. God willing I will be back next year for my 12th year running for St. Jude.

With many thanks,
Wendy Anderson



A Message of Thanks from the Council

Thank you from the council goes to:

Pam Van Kirk, for leading 3 services this summer
Steve Erlandson, for helping when the fire department came when a sensor was tripped
Pastor Jamie and Pam and Carl who helped at VBS this summer



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.



Sunday, August 16th -- Season after Pentecost

Wed, Aug 19/Thurs Aug 20/Fri Aug 21

7:45 AM - MRHS Welcome Water

passing out

Sat, Aug 22 -- 10 AM Donna Hauge Burial

service - for the family

11 AM Celebration of Life in

Fellowship hall - for the

community

Sunday, August 23rd - Season after Pentecost

Sun, Aug 23rd - 9:45 AM Sunday school

Mon, Aug 24 - 3 PM Monmouth College

Walk-Out

Sunday, August 31st -- Season after Pentecost

Thurs, Sept 3 - Prime Beef Drive Thru

11 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm

Sunday, September 6th - Season after Pentecost

Mon, Sep 7 - Labor Day, Office Closed

Tues, Sep 8 - 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, September 13th - Season After Pentecost

Sun, Sep 13 - 9:45 AM Sunday School



Aug 23 Kenny Reynolds

Aug 24 Pam Best

Aug 25 Robin Johnson

Aug 25 Tammy Ravel

Aug 27 Kathy Fillman

Sep 1 Ila Roseberry

Sept 4 Chris Algren

Sep 12 Tiny Fillman

Sep 23 Dennis Mann

Sep 24 Manohie Alcin

Sep 25 Lacey Elliott

Sep 28 Maddie Blaesing

Oct 7 Margaret Hackspacher

Oct 10 John Van Kirk

Oct 11 Julie Blaesing

Oct 16 Ayla Johnston

Oct 18 Loretta Reynolds

Oct 21 Betty Bruyn

Oct 26 Paula Buban

Oct 28 Jackie Heerwagen

Nov 9 Ted Hanson

Nov 19 Jan Martin

Nov 23 Jenny Sanberg

Nov 26 Brady Sanberg

Nov 28 Ray Golden

Nov 29 Brenda Jones

Nov 30 Glenna Martin

Nov 30 Judy Sanberg

Dec 2 Linda McGuire

Dec 13 Kathy Erlandson

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds

Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovedahl

Mar 14 Jim & Tammy Slater

Apr 2 Don & Kathy Fillman

Apr 28 Ron & Deb Manuel

May 5 Craig & Brenda Jones

May 6 Chuck & Connie Larimer

May 21 Ted & Sue Hanson

Jun 4 Gary & Judy Sanberg

Jun 7 Angela & Kathleen

Bradley-Volz

Jun 7 Dennis & Becky Terpening

Jun 8 Ben & Jenny Sanberg

Jun 12 Neal & Jackie Heerwagen

Jun 13 Michael & Barb Pearson

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 Van Kirk

Jun 26 Dave & Kathy Erlandson

Jun 26 Gary & Jan Martin

Jun 30 Chip & Janice Algren

Jun 30 Warren & Marlys Dobry

Jul 2 Jeremy & Wendy Anderson

Jul 8 Tom & Pam Best

Jul 12 Steve & Karen Erlandson

Jul 24 Michael & Julie Blaesing

Aug 4 Ray & Shelly Golden

Aug 28 Hal & Kathy Tate

Sept 2 Dennis & Denise Mann

Oct 11 Jamie & Katie Gallagher

Oct 15 Ken & Theresa Miller

Oct 25 Mark & Ellen Shrader

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

Prayer Requests

Ila Roseberry, Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Dee Dee Yez,
Richard Schlicher, Cecil Lovdahl, Donna Winbigler

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.



Vision and Purpose Giving

Throughout August, we are supporting the Monmouth Kiwanis Club. This is a service organization with the goal of helping children in our community. Each year, one of their big projects is getting shoes and boots for children who need them. Tom Best shared a great story of how the Kiwanis Club helps these children in his message with us on Sunday morning.

Thank you for all the ways you support our Vision and Purpose Giving throughout the year.

Jan, Mosaic == \$140
Feb, Lutheran Disaster Response == \$252
Mar, ELCA World Hunger == \$900
Apr, Special Olympics == \$550
May, Recharge Center == \$380
June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson) == \$625
July, LWR school and health kits == \$372
Aug, Kiwanis Club
Sept, Out of the Darkness Walk
Oct, Strom Center
Nov, Lutheran Day Care & Preschool
Dec, Jamieson Center



[Jesus] answered [the woman], It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Matthew 15:26-27

Jesus is away on his vacation, or a side ministry trip, or for a reason Matthew otherwise does not explain. He is in the region Tyre and Sidon, these are cities on the Mediterranean coast, north of Galilee. Jesus is with his disciples when this woman comes up to him. She is not Jewish. She is not from Galilee. And yet, she has a request of Jesus. "Heal my daughter, please," she asks. And the disciples realize the request is out of order, so they attempt to send her away. And yet she persisted. (I know this is a loaded phrase, that is associated with the modern women's rights movement).

The woman asks Jesus again for help, and Jesus also, following the lead of his disciples, tries to dismiss the woman. And yet she persisted. This woman's persistence changes Jesus' response to her. He started by insulting her - calling her a dog - and then grants her request and even calls her faith "great".

Jesus needed a moment to learn that his mission truly is for all, not just the lost of Israel. Matthew's community needed to be reminded, by this story, that their mission is also for more than just a group of insiders. And today, we still need to realize our mission is for people outside our walls, those who have turned away from faith, those who know about faith but have been hurt by the church and its message, those who the church has actively worked to shame or exclude based on a variety of reasons.

We need to learn that the message of salvation from Jesus is not only for those who are already on the inside. This message of salvation is for all. The message of healing is for all. The message of forgiveness is for all. There is no one that is excluded from the promises of God. And for those we have shamed or harmed by calling them slanderous terms, by making them persist when they shouldn't have to, we need to hear them crying for the promises that God holds for them. We need to break down the barriers we put in place to keep them away, and we need to actively work to help them experience the love of God, the salvation in Christ, the freedom within the Spirit.

Yet she persisted - for justice, for equality, for the same space that is rightfully hers. Yet she persisted - for cycles of abuse to end, for unequal pay to end, for a voice at the table and recognition of personhood. Yet she persisted - it is a modern political expression, but it is rooted in this Bible story in Matthew, and this courageous woman who taught Jesus, and continues to teach us today.

Peace, Pastor Jamie