



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 :: June 1, 2026

Our Staff

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

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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,

The summer has arrived. We are all very excited for this season for many reasons. Please take an time to keep up with the newsletter publishing schedule, and especially the church calendar.

I have a few weeks I will take as vacation in June and July. If you need anything from the office, calling first is always a best practice. In June and July, I have two weeks of scout activities. One week is scout camp, and one week is the troop going on a 50 mile hike to earn a hiking award. I am very excited for these opportunities to mentor our scouts through these experiences.

Later in July, I do have a vacation with my wife, and it is more outdoor experiences as we are traveling to Yellowstone National Park and other areas in NE, WY, ID, and Montana. All these places have been on my bucket list for years and I am finally getting there.

As we approach each stretch of my time off, I will share who to contact for pastoral care.

I am also very excited to share in the Strawberry Festival and the Prime Beef Festival. These community events draw us close together as church and help us interact with all our Monmouth - area neighbors.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

Sunday School

May 10 & 24

9:45 AM

**Wednesday Bible Study returns
in May**

Strawberry Festival

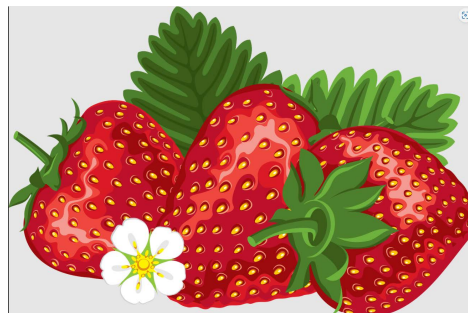
Join us for our annual Strawberry Festival.

Thursday, June 11.

Serving from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Monmouth Civic Band performing at 6 PM in the sanctuary.

Menu of Sloppy Joe sandwiches, chips, drink, and dessert with ice cream and strawberry topping.



Summer Bible Reading Challenge

During the months of June, July, and August, we will embark on a reading challenge. Over the course of 14 weeks, we will read through the entire Gospel of Matthew. Our current lectionary cycle centers on Matthew, so this summer we will get to read all of Matthew, not just the parts that are read aloud during worship.

Each week will have readings from two chapters of Matthew. The series will feature an introduction/overview of the week; a deep dive into each of the two chapters; a video to read along with Pastor Jamie; and a devotional recap. That is 5 different ways to engage the readings throughout the week.

The reading challenge will be posted on our website and our Facebook page. As you join in through the summer, you are encouraged to share with friends, comment on the Facebook posts throughout each week to share your encounter with God's Word, and discover what the Gospel of Matthew offers for you today.

Updated Security System for Day Care/Office Entrance

The new security system is installed. If you have a key card, please bring it to the church office and we will get it reprogrammed for you to match our new system. Either Pastor Jamie or Ms Bobbi in the Day Care can program your card. If you would like to use the new phone app, you may also see Pastor Jamie or Ms Bobbi to get that set up as well.

Naomi Circle

Linda McGuire is hosting Naomi Circle on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6 PM at her place:

301 Courtyard Blvd.

New Office Publishing Software

After a journey of learning new apps, the church office is now using Adobe software to create our bulletins and newsletters. This software most closely matches what we were using with Microsoft Publisher. But you may find that some margins are off, or a couple typos. I am still getting fully familiar with all the features. But I as we head into, I will be learning and getting better at this software.

Thank you from the Special Olympics

In April, our Vision and Purpose Giving was collected to support the Warren County Falcons Special Olympics Team. We had a wonderful visit from Kaylee McLaughlin who shared about how the Special Olympics teaches about inclusion - that all have a place to be included, not just some. Throughout April, our church, along with the Endowment Fund starting and matching giving, raised \$550 for Special Olympics. This week, we received a thank you card:

"Thank you, for your generous support of our Special Needs Athletic Program. Your gift will provide the joy of competition and teamwork to many of our athletes. "Thanks again, the Warren County Falcons."

Vacation Bible School

This year VBS will be held from Sunday August 2nd to Thursday, August 6. The times are from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. First United Methodist Church is hosting. Volunteers are needed, and when we know what supplies they need, we will share that list. If you are interested in helping with VBS at the Methodist Church, please let Pastor Jamie know.

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The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

We now enter the longest season of the church year. The season after Pentecost is a time to reflect on our calling as Jesus' disciples in the world today. Throughout this season we will hear of miracles, learn from parables, and see Jesus reach out to people the establishment would rather forget.

In other words, these lessons will demonstrate how we as the Church can be the miracle, proclaim God's Word in fantastic ways, and reach out to people the establishment would rather we forget today.

This is our ordinary life as Jesus' followers.

Worship Guild Members

June 7 — Sunday after Pentecost

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

June 14 — Sunday after Pentecost

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

June 21 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Adam Sanberg
Reader: Pam Van Kirk
Com Asst: Kurt Volz
Narthex Host: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

June 28 — Sunday after Pentecost

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



Are You Interested in Serving in Worship?

At this time, our list of worship helpers includes:

11 lectors; 12 communion assistants, 12 ushers

Which means a person volunteering helps out about 1 time every 12 weeks or so. Though, some of the folks on this list are on two or even three of these lists. So, often a person is helping in worship more like 2 or 3 times every 12 weeks.

Perhaps you have an interest and would like to help as an usher, or assisting in communion, or reading the scripture passages and prayers of intercession?

Let Pastor Jamie know you are interested in helping out in worship and get your name added into the rotating list of those who help bring our worship services to life.

Summer Newsletter schedule

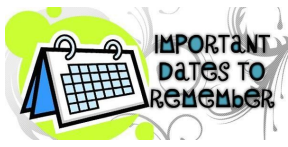
We will not have weekly newsletters through the summer. Please take note of this schedule and watch for our newsletter publications accordingly:

June 1, June 15

July 6, July 20

August 3, August 17, August 31

If additional information or updates need to be shared between newsletters, an email and FB social media post will share that.



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, June 7th – Season after Pentecost
 Tues, Jun 9—6 PM Council Meeting
 Thurs, Jun 11—5—7 PM Strawberry Festival
 6 PM Municipal Band Performs

Fri, Jun 12 to Sat, Jun 13—Synod Assembly

Sunday, June 14th – Season after Pentecost

Sunday, June 21st—Season after Pentecost
 Sun, Jun 21 to Sun, Jun 28, Pastor Jamie
 on Vacation

Sunday, June 28th -- Season after Pentecost



Jun 2 Alexia Golden
 Jun 2 Susie Jurgens
 Jun 6 Rose Youngquist
 Jun 11 Wendy Anderson
 Jun 21 Aaron Jensen
 Jun 22 Denise Mann
 Jun 30 Collin Nuckles
 Jul 3 Hal Tate
 Jul 9 Cohen Anderson
 Jul 13 Reese Anderson
 Jul 15 Pastor Jamie
 Jul 17 Cecil Lovdahl
 Jul 19 Mark Shrader
 Jul 20 Ron Manuel
 Jul 25 Barb Pearson
 Jul 26 Konner Elliott
 Aug 2 Karen Erlandson
 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
 Sept 1 Ila Roseberry



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
 June 19 Stan & Diane Carlson
 Jun 23 Mike & Susie Jurgens
 Jun 23 John & Pam VanKirk
 Jun 26 Dave & Kathy
 Erlandson
 Jun 26 Gary & Jan Martin
 Jun 30 Chip & Janice Algren
 Jun 30 Warren & Marlyn
 Dobry
 Jul 2 Jeremy & Wendy
 Anderson
 Jul 8 Tom & Pam Best
 Jul 12 Steve & Karen
 Erlandson

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, Kathi Cruce, Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Jennie Best, Dee Dee Yez, Charlotte Volz, Richard Schlicher, Cecil Lovdahl

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

In June, we are supporting Wendy Anderson and her annual run for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Please see her letter on page 3 for more information on how her fundraising helps St. Jude's and for the many ways you can support her, including through donating through church to help get our endowment fund matching donation for this month.

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

January, Mosaic == \$140

February, Lutheran Disaster Response ==\$252

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$900.00

April, Special Olympics == \$550

May, Recharge Center

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson)

July, LWR School Kits

August, Kiwanis Club

September, Out of Darkness Walk

October, Strom Center

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School

December, Jamieson Center



9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."

Mark 5:9

June is Pride Month. This is a month that celebrates the identity of people who are LGBTQIA+, celebrates their contributions to our world, and helps remind us that we have neighbors who are still fighting for equal rights. One passage of the scripture comes up occasionally from people who want to use the Bible to hurt people who identify as LGBTQIA+ is this passage from Mark. In this story, Jesus travels to the region of the Gerasenes and encounters a man possessed by many demons. The abuse of this story comes when someone shows this is the only story that someone uses a plural pronoun to identify themselves, and how that is somehow equated to an individual who might identify with a pronoun that can be used in either the singular or plural form - ie, they/them. This interpretation of this story is a complete weaponization of the story and a complete misrepresentation of who Jesus has encountered.

First we need to remember that a person who choses to use "they/them" pronouns to identify themselves, or a person who does not conform to the binary male/female constructs, is not a person who is possessed with demons. There is never any reason to identify anyone as being demon possessed, let alone because they identify as LGBTQIA+. Second, the story is about many demons in this person. The voice speaking is speaking for the whole group. It is as if you were speaking on behalf of your family and you said, "We are going on a picnic today." You are using the "We" to refer to the whole group. This is what is happening in this story. So again, this is not the story to use to say people who identify as LGBTQIA+ are somehow evil and need something cast out of them.

Pride Month is an opportunity for us to be reminded that we, as a whole group, need to stop using scripture passages like this one to hurt our neighbors. We, as a church, need to wrestle with why we, as a church, have long held views that hurt people who identify as LGBTQIA+. We, as followers of Jesus, need to ask ourselves what is the best way to welcome all our neighbors, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+, how we respect them, fight for their rights, and honor their contributions to our community. And it starts with our letting go of scripture bashing.

Peace, Pastor Jamie