



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 :: April 20, 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,

What a week of wacky spring storms we experienced, and it seems like I have said that before. To our north, the Illinois town of Lena suffered major damage from a tornado that hit Friday afternoon. There is an ELCA congregation located in Lena, and while its old parsonage did have some damage, their church structure did not. Many residences and other businesses in Lena, though, did have significant damage. I am waiting to hear if there is a way for our church to send relief assistance to Lena or other towns that experienced damage.

As we transition from April into May, we will be once again engaging a Season of Creation thematic lectionary. This will give us an opportunity to marvel at God’s creation, lament at the ways creation is sometimes damaging, and ponder our own contribution to the damage creation suffers. These spring storms certainly show us how our Midwest climate is changing. Illinois is not known for leading the nation in tornado reports, and yet here we are not even to the end of April and we have had more tornadoes experienced in these last 5 weeks than we typically see over a couple years. Climate is changing. And the more we learn about why it is changing and what can be done to reverse our damaging ways, the sooner we can see a shift back to the kind of climate we are more accustomed to.

It is our calling as God’s people to learn more about the beauty of creation and work towards preserving creation for generations to come. From farm fields, to watersheds, to natural spaces, to town garden plots, and how we get to and from all of it—all of this is part of God’s creation that God has given to us to care for in the best possible ways. Join us throughout May as we learn more about creation and our calling to care for it.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

Sunday School

April 26, May 10 & 24

9:45 AM

**Wednesday Bible Study returns
in May**

Northern Illinois Synod— Southwest Conference

Spring Assembly

Now the Green Blade Rises

You are invited to a fun night of meal and worship and a presentation for the Southwest Conference. Tuesday, April 28th beginning at 6 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, Galesburg, IL (304 E. Ferris Street). This is an opportunity to get to know Lutherans from other area churches, like the ones we pray for every week. And it is an opportunity to learn about the amazing ministries that are taking place all over our smaller piece of the Northern Illinois Synod. No RSVP necessary. To share a ride, call Pastor Jamie.

Carol Hanson Funeral Information

Our oldest living member, Carol Hanson, passed away last week Thursday. Her funeral will be Saturday, April 25th at 10:30 AM at the church, with a luncheon to follow the committal. Visitation at McGuire and Davies on Friday, April 24th from 5 PM to 7 PM.

Adult Leaders needed for our Scouting Program

The Scout Troop and Pack that our church charters is looking for a new “charter organization representative.” This person helps connect the troop and pack to the church, represents the church when leaders are being approved, and can attend troop activities as he or she chooses. A charter organization representative must register as an adult leader with the unit and participate in youth protection training as required by Scouting America. If you are interested in assisting the troop, please contact Pastor Jamie

Additional adult leaders are needed for serving the committee as treasurer and committee chairman. We have a couple parents who have held these roles for years and are planning to step back in the coming months. Any adult leader must register with the unit and participate in youth protection training as required by Scouting America.

For more information on how you can help our troop and pack, contact Pastor Jamie.

Updated Security System for Day Care/ Office Entrance coming soon

If you come to the church during the week, you know we have a camera/buzzer system for letting visitors in. This comes with a key card as well. Over the last few months our current system has not been working properly and we have been evaluating new options. In the coming weeks a new system will be installed. If you have a current key card, we will be able to transfer that key card to work with the new system. More information will come about installation dates soon.

New Involved Vision and Purpose

For years, we have named a ministry in the community or across the church that we dedicate a special offering to support. We gather these offerings on each Sunday of the month and when the month is over send the funds to that designated ministry.

The congregation council is looking to build upon our vision and purpose giving program each month. We are seeking members who feel particularly passionate about one of our vision and purpose designations to sign up to help boost that month’s engagement with the designated ministry.

We are looking to increase advertising within our church newsletters, social media/website, and church giving spaces.

We are looking to increase engagement with representatives of our designated ministry by inviting someone to give a temple talk at least once a month.

We are hoping to increase community involvement by possibly adding an event during the month that is a special fundraiser event for that designated ministry.

Here are some ways to consider if you are called—you feel very passionate for one or more of our designated ministries; you have a specific connection that could lead to inviting someone from that organization to our church; you like planning and advertising and telling people why it is so important to give for this particular cause.

Here are some things to consider as you step into this ministry—the council designations for each month are not entirely set in stone. We can change these based on members interests of which ministries to support. No one is called to lead this alone, someone stepping into this role would work with the pastor, the council and other members of the church to help plan and advertise.

Are you called to lead? More information will be shared in the coming weeks. And you can always talk with either Pastor Jamie or Pam Van Kirk (congregation council president) for more information.



Easter

April 5 to May 24

Ever wonder why we use Lilies as an Easter Flower?

I did, and here is what I found:

Easter Lilies symbolize purity, resurrection and new life. The bulb, buried underground, represents Jesus in the tomb. The flower's emergence and radiant white bloom symbolize Jesus' rising and glorified body. The upward growth of the lily also reflects the ascension and eternal life.

So in many ways it represents the whole Easter Cycle.

Lilies have as far as anyone can remember been associated with Easter, but we rarely stop and consider why. Hopefully this scratch of the surface look into its meaning has been delightfully helpful.

Worship Guild Members

April 26 — Easter Sunday 4

Usher:	Steve Erlandson
Reader:	Ellen Shrader
Com Asst:	Doug Cruce
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

May 3 — Easter Sunday 5

Usher:	David Sandstrom
Reader:	Chip Algren
Com Asst:	Trace Gallagher
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Carolyn Kellert

May 10 — Easter Sunday 6

Usher:	Chip Algren
Reader:	Kurt Volz
Com Asst:	David Sandstrom
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

May 17 — Easter Sunday 7

Usher:	Doug Cruce
Reader:	Julie Blaesing
Com Asst:	Chip Algren
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren



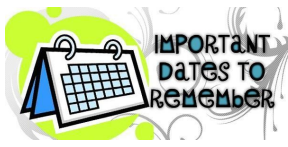
A Message of Thanks from the Council goes out to...

- Betty Bruyn and Glenna Martin for their many years leading our Caring Hearts Ministry. All those who helped with the reception for them.
- Janice Algren for arranging our special music and musicians.
- Janice and Carolyn Kellert for their music during Holy Week services
- Pam Van Kirk for all her work arranging the special Easter Morning breakfast and activities for the children. All who helped or contributed food for the breakfast.
- Diane Carlson for filling in as needed during Sunday morning worship services.

Wednesday Bible Study in May

You are invited to join a Wednesday morning Bible study in the month of May. Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Pastor's study. We will begin on Wednesday, May 6 and continue for all 4 May Wednesdays.

Our topic will be Creation stories in the Bible. Let's look at the many ways God is attributed the title "Creator" and the many ways we see creation praising God and how God is restoring creation in and through the resurrection of Jesus.



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, April 19th — Easter 3rd Sunday

Monday, Apr 20 to Wednesday, Apr 22,

Pastor Jamie will be out of the office

Sunday, April 26th—Easter 4th Sunday

Sun, Apr 26—9:45 AM Sunday School

Tue, Apr 28th—6 PM Southwest Conference
 Spring Assembly at Trinity Lutheran,
 Galesburg

Sunday, May 3rd—Easter 5th Sunday

Wed, May 6—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 10th —Easter 6th Sunday

Sun, May 10 Happy Mother's Day

9:45 AM Sunday School

Wed, May 13—10 AM Bible Study

Sunday, May 17th — Easter 7th Sunday

Tue, May 19th—6 PM rescheduled Council
 meeting

Wed, May 20th—10 AM Bible Study

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



- Apr 20 Diane Carlson
- Apr 20 Warren Dobry
- Apr 20 Rachael Nuckles
- Apr 23 Lindsay Martin
- Apr 23 Rob Ravel
- Apr 25 Deve Erlandson
- Apr 28 Sharon Edwin
- May 6 Andrew Youngquist
- May 7 Jacob Ide
- May 8 Sophie Shrader
- May 16 Shelly Golden
- May 18 Todd Champion
- May 19 Carl Hamberg
- May 22 Lorene Nelson
- May 26 David Sandstrom
- May 27 Charlotte Sanberg
- May 28 Lena Johnson
- May 28 Nancy Reynolds
- May 29 Kaylee Teel
- May 31 Tammy Slater
- Jun 2 Alexia Golden
- Jun 2 Jarrod Hippens
- Jun 2 Susie Jurgens
- Jun 6 Rose Youngquist
- Jun 11 Wendy Anderson
- Jun 21 Aaron Jensen
- Jun 22 Denise Mann



- Apr 25 Todd & Kris Champion
- 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
- 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 Warrne & Marlyn Dobry

Prayer Requests

Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Janet Lowe, Wes Lovdahl, Pat Clark, Jennie Best, Dee Dee Yez, Charlotte Volz, Richard Schlicher, Tim Greene, Eloise Swisher, Cecil Lovdahl, the family and friends of Carol Hanson

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

In April, we will be supporting the local Special Olympics. We will have a guest speaker on April 12th share why the Special Olympics are so important.

Kaylee McLaughlin is an athlete as well as an ambassador for Special Olympics. She has joined us in years past to share the value of Special Olympics, and I hope you all are able to join us again this year to hear her share her story and encourage our support for Special Olympics.

Thank you for all the ways you support all our Vision and Purpose monthly giving causes.

January, Mosaic == \$140

February, Lutheran Disaster Response ==\$252

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$900.00

April, Special Olympics

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



28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. - Luke 24:28-31

Jesus was made known to these disciples in the breaking of the bread. This is one of many key moments in this resurrection appearance that takes place on the day of Jesus' resurrection. Luke has Jesus walk with these disciples all the way from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a seven-mile walk. But this entire walk, Jesus' identity is hidden from them. But there at the table, in the breaking of the bread, these disciples instantly recognize Jesus and he leaves them again.

As we celebrate Easter it is important to be reminded where we will find Jesus, and where we will not find Jesus. These disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and they ponder the feeling they were experiencing as Jesus opened scripture to them. The Gospel writer is giving his readers a clue. When they gather and celebrate communion, when the gather to hear God's Word read, they will experience Jesus. And Scripture tells us Jesus is found in the healing of the world, Jesus is found in the feeding of the hungry, Jesus is experienced in a community of radical hospitality.

This is in stark contrast of systems of power that try to co-op Jesus for their message of global domination, of military might, of political corruption. Jesus is not found when people are excluded for their gender identity or nation of birth. Jesus is not found in bombs. Jesus is not found in movie quotes disguised as bible passages.

Luke says in the breaking of bread, when our hearts burn within us as Scripture is rightly read, this is where we will find Jesus. And while these moments are ritualized in worship, they are not moments that are exclusive to worship. When you gather and break bread with someone who is hungry, a neighbor, a friend, a stranger, you will see Jesus. When you hear God's Word calling you into the same life of sacrificial love as Jesus lived, you will see Jesus. In other words, Luke reminds us we will not find Jesus draped in Empire-Robes or authoritarian power or icons that falsely portray Jesus in the place of political leaders. We will find Jesus right where we were told to find him—in sharing our bread, and hearing God's Word.

Peace, Pastor Jamie