



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 :: October 12, 2026

Our Staff

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Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk

Vice President: Chip Algren

Secretary: Pam Best

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

We have a number of fall activities coming up that will keep our church buzzing for quite a while. We have the homecoming dinner for the MRHS Marching Band this week Friday, the Halloween Fun Night is soon, and then our All Saints Day Celebration will be full of remembrances, honoring, and celebrating. On the upcoming pages, you can read about the ways you can be a part of all of these moments.

Our fall Bible study is underway now. We are wrestling with what the Bible says and what it doesn't say. And this last week, we talked about the expression "The Bible Says So". We use this simplified statement for many reasons, and often times when we say it, we don't realize it has multiple meanings. For instance, the word Bible may refer to the 66 book canon of our Bible, or it may refer to the Roman Catholic Bible with their 14 more books, or the Ethiopian Bible with even more or the Greek Orthodox Bible with its 151st Psalm (we only have up to 150). So to say "the Bible" says so means we have to qualify which Bible. That is just one of the multiple layers of meaning when we say "The Bible Says So."

Sharing this isn't about saying well, then, toss it all out, the Bible doesn't say anything. It is to help us grow in understanding with our faith and have a fuller understanding of why we have the chosen texts we have for our Bible, why one passage of scripture may say "X" is permissible but another may say the same "X" is not permissible. Or why one passage may say Jesus is the Son of God, but another says Jesus is just a human who happened to just be a good person. Yeah. "The Bible Says So" is now suddenly not so easy to say. But we still just rely on it. So join us for the study, learn more, grow in faith. Appreciate your Bible more fully with all the layers of complications found there.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

Oct 18, 25 9:45

AM

The Bible Says So

Come dive into topics and explore what we think the Bible says versus what the Bible actually says. We will use the book "The Bible Says So: What We Get Right (and Wrong) About Scripture's Most Controversial Issues" by Dan McClellan as our guide for this study.

Tuesday mornings at 11 AM on Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov 3 and 10
at Faith United Presbybyterian Church

Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM on Oct 8, 15, 22 and Nov 5, 12, 19
at First Lutheran Church

The Second week we are looking at chapter 19; the third week we will look at chapter 9.

Jamieson Community Center

Volunteering need

Jamieson Community Center needs volunteers to assist with packing "weekend meals" for students in the MR School district, grades pre-K to 6th grade.

Volunteering is needed on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 PM. The center packs about 80 meals. 4 to 6 volunteers get this done in about an hour.

Please let Pastor Jamie know if you are interested in volunteering for this. We are hoping to establish a small group of volunteers that could work regularly for Jamieson Community Center.

It would be great if First Lutheran Church could have a monthly Wednesday we always provide volunteers for.

Halloween Fun Night

Our Halloween Fun night is a great holiday tradition. We set up our fellowship hall into a space of Halloween games and activities. The Day Care and Preschool and the Church come together to put this event on for our community.

We recruit help from the high school and from the scouts to also help.

How can you help? We set up on Wednesday, Oct 28 at 5 PM. We need donations of candy. We can use help passing out treat bags with our church information in it when guests come in. The event is Thursday, October 29th at 6 PM.

Bring your children, your grandchildren. Just come yourself and see the fun happening. We celebrate the fun of Halloween, the delightful costumes, the imaginations of everyone who dressed up as a favorite movie, tv, comic book character or as a scary monster.

Halloween is always a fun time of the year, and our church provides a great community event. We look forward to all the ways you help bring Halloween Fun to Monmouth this year.

MRHS Marching Band Dinner

On Friday, October 16th, Monmouth Roseville High School celebrates its homecoming. There is a parade and then the football game that night.

We have begun a tradition of supporting the high school marching band by providing dinner for the band. This year, the parade route leaves the high school and ends at the football field. The Marching Band will remain at the field between the parade and the game. We are going to provide dinner for the band at the field.

To do this, we need to gather at church at 2:00 PM to prepare a meal we can easily take to the football field, and easily serve to the marching band as they bide their time between parade and football game.

Donations of homemade cookies are welcome. The church will provide the rest of the supplies for the meal.

Volunteers are needed for assembling the meals and for delivering the meals and serving the meals at the football field.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Pastor Jamie with all the ways you are able to help out so we can continue to support the MRHS Marching Titans.

Are you interested in learning how to preach? Does your congregation have lay leaders ready to grow?

Preaching Among Friends is a seven-week online course through Backstory Preaching designed to equip and empower lay preachers with the confidence, skills, and support they need to share God's Word.

This entirely online course will give lay preachers the tools needed to craft a compelling message of Good News while deepening their connection to God. Talk to Pastor Jamie for more information.



The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

All Saints Day is approaching. We are having three big congregation moments collide that day.

We are remembering those who have died since last All Saints Day. These are the members, past or present, we are remembering: Marlene Moulden, Dean Sandstrom, Carol Hanson, Donna Hauge, Ila Roseberry, Cecil Lovdahl.

We are honoring members of the church who are 85 years old or older during 2026: Anna Lovdahl (85); Kay Lovdahl (85); Warren Dobry (86); Betty Bruyn (89); Helen Babcock (92); Eloise Swisher (92); Margaret Hackspacher (95); Glenna Martin (95); Lorene Nelson (95); Rose Youngquist (95);

We are also welcoming to the Communion Table these members who are learning about communion and preparing for first communion: Charlie and Brady Sandberg, and Sophie Shrader.

Save the Date

The All Saints Day Celebration is Sunday, November 1st. We will have our regular 10 AM worship followed by a special luncheon hosted by the congregation council. The luncheon will be soups and salads.

This is an opportunity to celebrate with all the families we name in our remembrances, our honoring, and our welcoming to the table. Please plan to stay for this luncheon and be a part of our congregation's All Saints celebration.

Worship Guild Members

October 18 - Season After Pentecost

Usher: Chip Algren
Reader: Doug Cruce
Communion: Adam Sanberg
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

Usher: Doug Cruce
Reader: Trace Gallagher
Communion: Chip Algren
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Carolyn Kellert

November 1 -- All Saints Sunday

Usher: Ray Golden
Reader: Kurt Volz
Communion: Diane Carlson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

November 8 -- Season after Pentecost

Usher: Diane Carlson
Reader: Julie Blaesing
Communion: Doug Cruce
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

*Changes from original publishing due to schedule changes

ELW is 20 years old!

The Red Hymnal in our pew is 20 years old! Incredible.

I know we use our worship screens, but the hymnal is still a wonderful and useful personal devotional resource.

for instance, while sitting in your pew, open to the front and see all the prayers that are written for so many occasions.

Rose Youngquist always opens to page 72 and prays the prayers for before holy communion and after holy communion when she attends worship. These prayers are a part of her worship life. And they are in our hymnal on pages you may have skipped by before. Feel free to explore these pages. who knows what you will find that will become valuable to you.



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.



Sunday, October 11th - Season After Pentecost
Sun, Oct 11 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Tues, Oct 13 - 11 AM Bible study at Faith UP
6 PM Church Council meeting
Thurs, Oct 15 - 6:30 PM Bible study in Fellowship
Friday, Oct 16 - Seve Homecoming Dinner for
MRHS Marching Band

Sunday, October 18th - Season after Pentecost
Sun, Oct 18 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Tues, Oct 20 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Thurs, Oct 22 - 6:30 PM Bible Study in
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 25th - Reformation Sunday
Sun, Oct 25 - 9:45 AM Sunday School
Tues, Oct 27 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Wed, Oct 28 - 5 PM Set Up Night for Halloween
Thurs, Oct 29 - 6 PM Halloween Fun Night

Sunday, November 1st - All Saints Sunday
Sun, Nov 1 - Congregation Celebration Meal after
worship

Mon, Nov 2 - 7 PM Building and Grounds
Tues, Nov 3 - 11 AM Bible study at Faith UP
Thurs, Nov 5 - 6:30 PM Bible Study in Fellowship

Sunday, November 8th - Season after Pentecost
Sun, Nov 8 - 9:45 AM Sunday School
Tues, Nov 10 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Thurs, Nov 12 - 6:30 Bible study in Fellowship Hall

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
Dec 13 Ben Sanberg
Dec 16 Michael Pearson
Dec 17 Caleb Sanberg
Dec 17 Jackie Slater
Dec 18 Adam Sanberg
Dec 23 Derek Johnston
Dec 26 Janice Algren
Dec 28 Emma Nuckles
Dec 30 Gary Sanberg
Jan 3 Ellen Shrader
Jan 4 Kay Bailey
Jan 5 Neal Heerwagen
Jan 5 Dennis Terpening
Jan 5 Mike Jurgens

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds
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

Prayer Requests

Janet Lowe, Pat Clark, Dee Dee Yez, Richard
Schlicher, Donna Winbigler, John Van Kirk, Kurt Volz

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

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

The Council made a switch for our September Vision and Purpose. We will be supporting the Strom Center in September. Strom Center helps seniors and individuals with disabilities in Warren County with a variety of short-term and long-term programs. Strom Center relies on donations to help ensure its programs remain sustainable for all who need.

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 == \$280

Sept, Strom Center

Oct,

Nov, Lutheran Day Care & Preschool

Dec, Jamieson Center



All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness ... -- 2nd Timothy 3:16

Perhaps you have heard that scripture is the Inspired Word of God. Have you ever wondered where we get this from? There is a single verse in a letter written probably around the year 100 AD, maybe even as late as 125 AD, that has given backing to this dogmatic understanding. And well, because the Bible says so, it must be settled, right? Here are some things to consider: When written, the author of 2nd Timothy (who was not Paul), was not thinking he was writing something that would one day be considered scripture. Nor did he see what we now call scripture come to be as what we know as the Bible would not be settled for several hundred years after this was written. And even what Jewish tradition holds as scripture was changing through the 1st two and three centuries of the Common Era. So, what was he referring to? This author was referring to the set of texts his community agreed were indeed sacred. So, today, we have a set of texts our community agrees is sacred. While the author then was not referring to the same set of texts, we infer from this author's intent that if we as a community give sacred authority to a set of texts, those texts are what we have decided are inspired by God. So, the Bible does not say the Bible is Inspired. We have said so. By agreeing as a community, as a church, which texts are the Bible, we decided which texts are sacred. Let's also take a moment to look at what Inspired means. The Greek word is "Theopneustos". Literally broken into the parts that become "God/Theo" and "Breathed/pneustos". When the author wrote this word, he intended a meaning like "All scripture is breathed from God" or "All scripture brings God's breathing life to the reader". The notion this word means Inspired, and conjures up images of God hovering over an author dictating the words, comes from an early church leader named Origen almost 100 years after this letter was written. So, did God hover over the author, dictate words for the page? Did the author feel the Spirit moving within as pen touched parchment? Does the Holy Spirit move through the words, leaping from thin paper into human soul as they come to life? Well, the Bible doesn't fully solve that. But we who interact with the Bible, who read the Bible, who hear the Bible read, we who attend Bible studies, we decide what this text is, how this text is sacred, how God moves in and through the text from paper to ear to brain synapses firing on all cylinders to understand. We do have a set of texts we agree is sacred. We do have a set of texts we agree God is engaged in and through so that our faith may grow. Is it because the Bible says so? Or because we have decided so? -- Peace, Pastor Jamie