



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONMOUTH, IL

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106

www.flcmonmouth.org; email: office@flcmonmouth.org

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

Our Church—This Week :: October 5, 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,

Thank you to all who came to help with Trace's Eagle project on Saturday. The playground for the Day Care is getting a big overhaul. Trace and the team of volunteers were able to clean weeds and vines off the fence, sweep the perimeter of the fence, and remove old playground equipment.

The old red shed, the one we used to use when we ran the food tent at the Prime Beef Festival, needs a new home. When not used for the Festival, it has been storage for the day care. But it is need of some tender loving care, and no longer serves us at the festival, and the day care will store its items in the garage. If you have interest in the shed, it can be yours for the low, low price of simply removing it yourself. Please talk with Steve Erlandson if you are interested in the shed.

In the coming weeks, the final playground set will be removed and relocated to a new home, then a new playground set will be installed. Trace will complete the project with a day to spread gravel, and set out a few other playground items, and help paint an interactive mural and a four-square game grid.

Ms. Bobbi was delighted that Trace offered to use her Eagle project to help with this day care playground renovation. The volunteers certainly made all the hard work go by quickly. I will announce when the date is for the follow-up work and finishing touches to this project.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

Oct 11, 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

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

We are already planning our next Halloween Fun Night. This year, we will hold the event on Thursday, October 29th from 6 PM to 7 PM in the fellowship hall.

Donations of candy will be accepted beginning October 1st. Bring your donations to the church office or to worship on Sunday. Volunteers needed for helping check guests in as they arrive and hand out the goodie bag. More information on volunteers needed will be coming.

Our Halloween Fun Night is a great way to invite the community to our church to experience Halloween safely and comfortably. This happens in partnership with the preschool/day care staff and with volunteers from the Scout troop and MRHS Music Department.

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

Worship is a major disruption to our weekend. We could be sleeping in, shopping, walking in the woods or on a golf course. We could be getting children ready for homework, or attending a sporting event (either one our children are in or one we are attending because we are huge fans). But then Sunday morning arrives and Jesus is calling, the candles are burning, the organ is warming up, the bread is set on the table and the wine is poured.

Worship disrupts everything and draws us into a space where we engage the Holy One with all our senses, even the senses that are too tired to be functioning at that moment.

Come experience the major disruption that worship is. Discover the life-giving ways this disruption changes us.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 1st, 2026

we will celebrate members who are 85 years old or older during our All Saints Worship service at 10 AM that morning. We also have children who will be preparing to receive their first communion on All Saints Sunday. So this will be a very important Sunday for our congregation.

We will also have a congregation luncheon following worship that morning.

Details about the lunch will be coming soon.

Worship Guild Members

October 11 - Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: David Sandstrom
Reader: Maddie Blaesing
Communion: Steve Erlandson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

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: Trace Gallagher
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

*Changes from original publishing due to schedule changes

ELW is 20 years old!

Since we use screens and power point, and rarely a hymnal, you might be surprised to learn that the worship settings we use most often come from the red ELW hymnal. And most of our hymns do as well.

The red ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) hymnal is now 20 years old. And it still has a lot to offer. When you are sitting in your pew, before or after worship, take some time look through the hymnal as a resource for more than just worship texts. Look for devotional prayer, find the Small Catechism there. Count how many hymns are new or are from our previous green or blue hymnals.



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



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.



Sunday, October 4th - Season After Pentecost
Sun, Oct 4 - 9:45 AM Sunday school
Mon, Oct 5 - 7 PM Building and Grounds meeting
Tues, Oct 6 - 11 AM Bible Study at Faith UP
Thur, Oct 8 - 6:30 PM Bible study - fellowship hall

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 Hall

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
Tues, Nov 3 - 11 AM Bible study at Faith UP
Thurs, Nov 5 - 6:30 PM Bible Study in fellowship
Hall

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
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



"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom." Matthew 21:43

Have you ever just wanted to give up on a project? I had this model train layout I was trying to make, and I got the track laid, power to the rails, an engine working -- well sort of. No matter what I did, I could not figure out why the train wouldn't go around the whole layout. It always stopped, always fell off the track, and always at the same spot. And different wiring didn't help, cleaning the track didn't help. Nothing worked for me. I tried to give myself some time. I walked away from the layout. I stared at the layout from across the room. I ignored the layout. I spent sometime reading up on how to wire your layout properly. But nothing was working. So I finally gave up on the project. I tore it all apart and walked away from it. Another day, I designed a different layout, started over completely, and did actually get everything working properly. But I had to give up on the first try. I had to say, this isn't working, and I can't figure out why.

There are some days we look around the world, and we think God has just given up. The amount of evil we see, the wars, the natural disasters, the climate change that keeps making weather patterns more intense and less predictable, all of this suggests God has walked away from the project. Even hearing Jesus talk about this landowner who is ready to take his land away from the tenants who have been wicked suggests God walking away. But then Jesus says what he says in verse 43. The kingdom will be given to a new people.

We live in God's good creation. We live in a world that God very much wants to have work according to his Kingdom. And God's ways are peace, and compassion, and mercy. This is what God wants. And seeing that right now it isn't happening might suggest to us that God walked away, like I walked away from my earlier train layout. But Jesus says, nope, God is going to keep trying. This is God's creation, and God isn't giving up. Yes, God has sent the prophets, yes God even sent his own Son. And our ancestors in faith disregarded the prophets, and ultimately killed God's Son, but even that isn't stopping God from still trying.

So, the next time you see that news story that something wicked is happening, just know God hasn't given up on us yet. God is still actively trying to help us live into the Kingdom here and now. And God will always keep trying.

Peace, Pastor Jamie