



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 6, 2025

Our Staff

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Carolyn Kellert

Preschool and Day Care Director

Bobbi Nees

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Congregation Council

President: Pam Van Kirk

Vice President: Chip Algren

Secretary: Diane Carlson

Pam Best

Brian Elliott

Adam Sanberg

Kurt Volz

Dee Dee Yez

Dear Friends and Family,

October is getting ready to begin a busy stretch for our congregation. We now have two Bible study opportunities, one on Tuesdays and one on Wednesdays. You can read more about the Tuesday opportunity below and the Chosen Watch Party is talked about on the next page.

We have the Halloween Fun Night coming up. This is our annual community event that draws in over 200 people to our fellowship hall. The festive costumes, the joy of games being played. And this year, we have a new animatronic DJ who will be playing some Halloween tunes for kids to dance with. It is going to be a really great time as always.

All Saints Sunday is November 2nd, and we have a luncheon opportunity here that will follow our worship service and then we have a synod celebration at Faith Lutheran Church in Rochelle, IL for the World Hunger Giving campaign that is ending this month. I am leading that worship and I hope a few of us are able to make the trip over to meet with other Lutherans who share our passion for supporting ELCA World Hunger.

Ministry is exciting when there is a lot happening. It helps us live out that last part of our mission statement—Gathered by God, we live our faith with: JOY. And this is certainly a joyful time of the year when we have so much going on.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM Worship

Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesdays, beginning Oct 7

at 10 AM: BYOB&B

Wednesdays, beginning Sept 24,

at 10 AM: The Chosen Watch Party

BYOB&B: Thinking Faithfully Out Loud

We are hosting a new Bible study that is being co-sponsored with the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in town. This study is designed to help us understand the hows and the whys of our theological thinking.

Why do we think about Jesus as Son of God, as the one who took the place for our sins? Why do we think about the end times? (Which again, will not happen in some rapture style event, which did not happen this month, despite some social media fervor suggesting it was supposed to.) Why do we use words like “Grace” “Forgiveness” “Reconciliation”? What do we mean when we say “Jesus Saves”?

There are many influences on our thinking theologically. And this study will help us learn all about these influences. It will be a no-judgement study, but a space for fair conversation. So join us on Tuesday mornings here in our own fellowship hall, beginning October 7th at 10 AM and Bring Your Own Bible and Beverage and share in growing in faith together.

The Chosen TV Series Watch Party

Continue watching The Chosen TV Series with your friends at church. Season 5 is now available and we will watch the episodes on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM with conversation about each episode following the watching. We will continue watching episodes through Wednesday, Nov 12.

To catch up on the seasons, check your favorite streaming services for options. Each season is 8 episodes long. The Chosen began in season one with Jesus gathering his disciples, and now the timeline of Season 5 brings us to the events of Holy Week.

The Chosen is historical/Biblical fiction, yet it follows many stories that we read in the Gospels. Our conversation is often filled with understanding the difference between the fictional TV narrative and the Gospel stories.

Halloween Fun Night

This year's Halloween Fun Night will be Tuesday, October 28th beginning at 6 PM.

We have coordinated with the MRHS Music Department for volunteers; the Scout Troop will be here once again; the Day Care is a Co-Sponsor of our event and will have folks here from teachers and the Board.

We are waiting to hear back from a couple others for their help.

Here are some ways you can help:

Volunteer for the set-up day on Monday, Oct 27 at 5 PM to help with decorations and assemble the treat bags.

Volunteer on the night of to help with the welcome table, with snacks, or to help with the photo booth

Donate candy treats ... we expect about 200 people based on previous years events. Candy may be brought to the office any time in October, or to any Sunday worship and given to Pastor Jamie

You can also help by bringing your family and friends the night of the event and just having fun. There will be games, candy, crafts, candy, photos, candy, and new this year a animatronic music playing skeleton DJ ... and did we mention candy?

Halloween Fun Night, Tuesday, October 28th .. 6 PM to 7 PM. Join us for a great time celebrating the holiday.



Mark Your Calendars Now:

Tuesday, October 28, Halloween Fun Night

Sunday, November 2, Congregational All Saints Soup Luncheon, following Worship

4 PM at Faith Lutheran, Rochelle, the Northern Illinois Synod Gathering to celebrate accomplishing the ELCA World Hunger Giving Challenge

Sunday, November 23, following worship decorate for Advent/Christmas

Sunday, November 30, First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Worship

NIS World Hunger Celebration

You are invited to attend a celebration hosted by the NIS World Hunger committee on Sunday, November 2nd at 4 PM at Faith Lutheran Church in Rochelle, IL.

This celebration includes worship and a sandwich/cake reception after worship. Pastor Jamie, who has been instrumental with the World Hunger Committee plans and announcement and promotion of this challenge, will be a worship leader. Bishop Stacie Fidler will be preacher. And we will have special guests from ELCA World Hunger.

This is a synod event, so you will get to meet other Lutherans from across Northern Illinois and hear about how their congregations met the challenge and be further encouraged as this is not an end to our giving, but a moment to celebrate a massive gift and a moment to encourage continued generosity.

WELCA Southwest Fall Conference Gathering

Saturday, October 18th, the WELCA Groups of the churches of the Southwest Conference will gather here at First Lutheran Church at 8:30 AM for breakfast and registration, and 9:00 AM for the program. Speakers are from the Open Table of West Illinois who will share their successes with individuals and families impacted by generational poverty.

All women the of church are invited to attend. RSVP by Oct 12th to Pam Van Kirk.



Ordinary Time

June 15 to November 23

The seasons are gradually changing outside; and inside the sanctuary too. Our longest season of the church year—Ordinary Time, or the Season after Pentecost—is beginning to change, too. The green paraments will be changing to red for Reformation Sunday, white for All Saints Sunday, green again, and white once more for Christ the King Sunday.

Meanwhile, we have fall decorations and colors bringing a bit of the outside seasons inside to remind us that God is with us, even in the dying nature of the coming autumn and winter. Where do you find God in the changing of the season? Is it the cooling of the air? The oranges and reds and yellows of the leaves that will soon be falling? The deer hustling and bustling through fields avoiding combines and hunters alike?

Or is it the pumpkin spice being added once again to your favorite beverages and snack foods? The fireplaces roaring back to life warming a living room? A quiet cozy nook with a blanket and book? God is there, in all of these places, in all of these seasonal joys. Join us to worship the God of the autumn.

Worship Guild Members

October 12 — Ordinary Time

Usher:	Ray Golden
Reader:	Maddie Blaesing
Com Asst:	N/A
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

October 19 — Ordinary Time

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

October 26 — Reformation Sunday

Usher:	Pam Van Kirk
Reader:	Doug Cruce
Com Asst:	Diane Carlson
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren

November 2 — All Saints Sunday

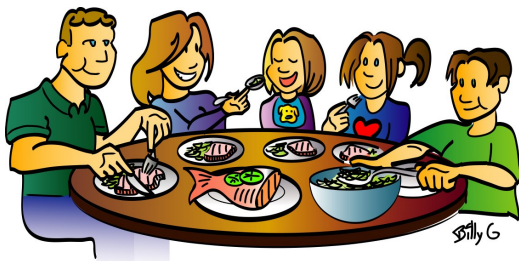
Usher:	Kurt Volz
Reader:	Julie Blaesing
Com Asst:	Robin Johnson
Narthex Host:	Linda McGuire
Musician:	Janice Algren



All Saints Luncheon

Join us after worship on Sunday, November 2nd for soup luncheon hosted by our congregation council.

This luncheon is for the entire congregation. This is just an opportunity to have lunch together and foster our family dynamic. Invite your family and friends to join us that Sunday to also stay with us for the luncheon.



Mosaic Partners in Possibilities Fundraiser

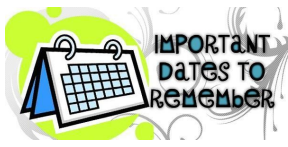
Thursday, October 23, from noon to 1 PM

Park Place Event Center

127 E Carroll Street, Macomb

Mosaic invites you to join them for a one-hour event to discover how you can help Mosaic further its mission of relentlessly pursuing opportunities that empower people. A free lunch is included in this event.

For more information, or to sign up to attend, call or email Melody Robertson by October 10th. (309) 648-7617 or melody.robertson@mosaicinfo.org



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.

Sunday, October 5th — Ordinary Time

Mon, Oct 6 9:30 AM Sarah Circle

7 PM Building/Grounds meeting

Tues, Oct 7 10 AM BYOB&B study

Wed, Oct 8 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

Sunday, October 12th—Ordinary Time

Tues, Oct 14 10 AM BYOB&B Study

6 PM Council

Wed, Oct 15 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

Sat, Oct 18 8:30 AM WELCA Southwest
Conference Fall Gathering

Sunday, October 19th—Ordinary Time

Mon, Oct 20 6:30 PM Pathways Team Meeting

Tues, Oct 21 10 AM BYOB&B study

Wed, Oct 22 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

Thur, Oct 23-Sat, Oct 25 Pastor in Chicago for
Heerwagen wedding

Sunday, October 26th—Reformation Sunday

Mon, Oct 27 5 PM Halloween Fun Night SetUp

Tues, Oct 28 10 AM BYOB&B study

6 PM Halloween Fun Night

Wed, Oct 29 10 AM The Chosen Watch Party

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



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

Oct 30 Bryan Osborn

Nov 9 Ted Hanson

Nov 14 Theodore Coombes

Nov 15 Troy Hippen

Nov 19 Jan Martin

Nov 22 Delmar Champion

Nov 23 Jenny Sanberg

Nov 26 Brady Sanberg

Nov 28 Ray Golden

Nov 29 Brenda Jones

Nov 30 Glenna Martin

Dec 1 Evelyn Sprecher

Dec 1 Lewis Sprecher

Dec 2 Linda McGuire

Dec 5 Carol Hanson

Dec 10 Kevin Sprecher

Dec 13 Kathy Erlandson

Dec 13 Ben Sanberg

Dec 16 Michael Pearson



Oct 11 Jamie & Katie
Gallagher

Oct 15 Ken & Teresa Miller

Oct 25 Mark & Ellen Shrader

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy
Reynolds

Mar 1 Phil & Trudy Bergren

Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovdahl

Mar 14 Jim & Tammy Slater

Apr 2 Don & Kathy Fillman

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 1 Rodger & Linda Ellison

Jun 4 Gary & Judy Sanberg

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

Prayer Requests

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Wes Lovdahl, Doug Moulden, Marlene Moulden, Dan Golden, Teresa Eyler

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



Vision and Purpose Giving

In October, we are supporting Mosaic. Mosaic is a Lutheran rooted ministry helping adults with intellectual disabilities. Their closest office to us is in Macomb. Mosaic assists their clients with life-skills training, independent life opportunities, in-home services, and more.

A big part of their ability to support these adults happens because of donations from individuals and congregations, like ours. See the article on page 2 for more information about a fundraiser they are hosting in October.

Thank you for supporting this months Vision/Purpose.

January, Strom Center == \$250.00

February, Lutheran Disaster Response == \$515.00

March, ELCA World Hunger == \$2,609.00

April, Special Olympics == \$410.00

May, Recharge Center == \$407.00

June, St. Jude Run (Wendy Anderson) == \$772.00

July, LWR School Kits == \$270.00

August, Kiwanis Club == \$460.00

September, Out of Darkness Walk == \$412.00

October, Mosaic,

November, Lutheran Day Care and Pre-School,

December, Jamieson Center,



O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? — Habakkuk 1:1

Sometimes we need a good reminder that just because someone long ago wrote a book that would eventually become part of scriptures, doesn't mean that one had it all figured out. Habakkuk is a prophet from the late 6th century BCE, he was a prophet in Judah just before Babylon would come in and destroy the temple and cart everyone off into exile into Babylon. Habakkuk could see the troubles coming. He could see the nation falling apart. He could see the impending danger of a foreign invader chomping at the bit to rush in and conquer God's people. And he didn't have it all figured out. He was quite frustrated by the whole thing.

See, Habakkuk was a man of faith. He believed in God. He believed his nation was the chosen people of God. He believed God would take care of everything. He believed God would keep his nation and his people living in peace and prosperity and as a shining beacon to the rest of the world. And yet his beliefs were being challenged by the impending doom he could see, the crashing of his nation, the people turning away from worshipping God. And it was disheartening to Habakkuk. He even felt like God had gone silent. And if God went silent then that would mean everything really would fall apart.

There are some parallels between Habakkuk and our modern day and age. We, too, are probably crying out "How long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?" to a God who seems silent in the face of—wars, droughts, economic crisis, mass shootings, political violence, now a government shut-down, political tensions so thick you could cut it with a knife. And of course everyone has their own way of seeing the crisis and everyone has their own answers for how God is speaking through this time. And everyone thinks they have the right answer for what God is saying or doing in and through all this chaos happening around us.

Habakkuk will go on and in verse 2:1 he says, "I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint," And then in the following verses, God does reply. God reminds Habakkuk that God has a vision, and God's vision will happen at God's time, not human time; and God reminds Habakkuk that the proud do not have a right spirit within them; and that the righteous shall live by faith. Oh this will take many more articles to fully parse out. But just sit on that for now. Sit on the rampart with Habakkuk as we listen for God speaking today. Ponder the words "the proud do not have a right spirit within them" and ponder how the righteous live by faith. What is God saying to us today with these words? Peace, Pastor Jamie