



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONMOUTH, IL

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Follow us on Facebook @FLCMonmouth.org

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



Our Church—This Week :: August 31, 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

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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,

Last newsletter, we shared that our elevator was not working and in need of repair. That repair has been carried out. You may have seen that email go out as well, but I just wanted to share that news again here. Thank you to Steve Erlandson who coordinated with our Elevator service company and got the necessary repairs happening.

This week our second big festival happens. I am looking forward to seeing everyone who brings donations or who volunteers to help with our Prime Beef Fall Festival Drive Thru. This is an exciting opportunity as church to be present in the community and serve the meals we are known for. Your pies always make a huge difference for those who come through and choose to support our church through this meal fundraiser. And it is an opportunity to share in community with one another.

Sharing in community goes beyond our local Monmouth. Lutheran Disaster Response is providing relief both domestically and internationally. Wildfires across the northwest of the US is one area where need is in our own country, and now there have been devastating floods in Nepal. LDR has partner ministries all around the globe, including Nepal, and is providing relief. Your donations matter. You can always designate your giving to the church. Simply indicate on your envelope how much is general offering, how much is vision and purpose, and how much is for another cause, whether ELCA World Hunger or Lutheran Disaster Response. We will see that your donations get to where you have designated it to go.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Coffee

10:00 AM

Worship

Sunday School

Sept 13, 27

9:45 AM

Prime Beef Festival

Thursday, September 3rd

Serving 11 AM to 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM

Classic Sloppy Joe Sandwich, chips, slice of pie: \$10

Ribeye Sandwich, chips, slice of pie: \$12

Connie Larimer is coordinating volunteers

Diane Carlson is coordinating pie donations

Summer Bible Reading Challenge

The summer Bible reading challenge comes to a close this week. How did you do? Did you read one chapter? More than 5? Did you read all of Matthew across the summer?

Did you use any of the resources published online? They will remain there, so you can download them at your convenience.

What insight did you gain from reading Matthew this Summer?

Join us on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30 PM for a Matthew Reading Challenge Recap and Dinner. Bring a simple dessert to share. Dinner will be pasta and salad.

We will review our readings, share our insights, and answer questions you have been holding onto all summer as you read the Gospel of Matthew.

Let Pastor Jamie know if you and your family are able to attend on the 16th so enough can be prepared for everyone.



Curious what your baptism has to do with everyday life? Waterways is a six-week journey for lay people to explore the five baptismal promises and how we live our faith wherever we go.

This series is led by Pastor Katie Gallagher, CaSTLE Project Director, with over 24 years of ministry focused on faith formation in small-town and rural contexts.

Online series meets by Zoom in the evenings from 7:00–8:30 p.m., starting October 1, for six weeks.

Ask Pastor Jamie to send you the link for registering through the Nebraska Synod for more information.

Women of the ELCA + Northern Illinois Synod 2026 Annual Convention

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9AM - 3PM

New Life Lutheran Church
249 N Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook, IL

Registration and coffee start at 8:00 a.m.



All women in the Northern Illinois Synod are welcome to attend the 2026 Annual Convention, I Am Worthy, All Are Worthy, on Saturday, September 19, at New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook.

Our worship will be led by Pastor Julie Monnard, Assistant to the Bishop, and Pastor Lindsay Fertig-Johnson, Synod Generosity Director and Associate Pastor at New Life in Bolingbrook.

Our afternoon breakout sessions will be led by Pastor Pat Fish and Yenny Muñoz-Swainger. Registration information at www.nisynod.org

ELCA Website

Have you checked out the ELCA Website?
www.elca.org

The ELCA website is a treasure trove of information about our denomination. There are press releases, resources for ministries, education resources about what our church teaches and believes and so much more.

One of the most recent ELCA News Releases that is listed under the newsfeed section is titled: "A Call to be Trusted Messengers this Election Season." This is a piece written by presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry. And it talks about how our faith and our politics intersect and how we carry our faith with us into the polling booth. Check this article out and many others at our denomination website.



The Season After Pentecost May 31 to November 22

Coming Soon to a worship service at First Lutheran:

We are looking to incorporate a new tradition in our worship time: a time to celebrate joys.

This new tradition will be similar to how we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries on the first Sunday of the month, but will give members a chance to share something really good going on in their life. Maybe it is something good this day or this week or in the past month.

On Sunday, September 13th Pastor Jamie is hosting a forum after worship to discuss how to bring this new tradition to life. Stay after worship and explore the possibilities as we ponder which Sunday of the month this new tradition should take place, what kind of format it may have, and how we will encourage members to share as we start a new tradition.

This Spot intentionally left Blank

Future planning of events such as Bible studies and other church ministry events is still being dreamed up.

If you have a program interest, a bible study interest, a church forum conversation interest ... talk with a member of council or Pastor Jamie to get it happening here at First Lutheran Church.

Worship Guild Members

September 6-- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Kurt Volz
Reader: Pam Van Kirk
Communion: Julie Blaesing
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

September 13 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Adam Sanberg
Reader: Ellen Shrader *
Communion: Gary Sanberg
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

September 20-- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Pam Best
Reader: Judy Sanberg
Communion: Kurt Volz
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

September 27 -- Sunday after Pentecost

Usher: Mark Strader
Reader: Pam Best
Communion: Diane Carlson
Narthex: Linda McGuire
Musician: Janice Algren

*Sept 13 reader is changed due to a conflict with the original assigned reader

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.



Every Sunday

9:30 AM Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Worship



For corrections and updates, please call the Church office.



Sunday, August 31st -- Season after Pentecost

Thurs, Sept 3 - Prime Beef Drive Thru

11 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm

Sunday, September 6th - Season after Pentecost

Mon, Sep 7 - Labor Day, Office Closed

Tues, Sep 8 - 6 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, September 13th - Season After Pentecost

Sun, Sep 13 - 9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Forum for new Sharing

Joy worship tradition

Mon, Sep 14 - 7 PM Scout Pack/Troop

Committee Meeting

Wed, Sept 16 - 5:30 PM Matthew Study Recap

Dinner

Sunday, September 20th - Season After Pentecost

Sunday, September 27th - Season After Pentecost

Mon, Sep 28 to Wed, Sep 30 - Pastor Attends

Northern Illinios Synod Professional

Leaders' Conference

Sunday, October 4th - Season After Pentecost

Sunday, October 11th - Season After Pentecost

Tues, Oct 13th - 6 PM Council Meeting

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



Sept 4 Chris Algren

Sept 12 Tiny Fillman

Sept 23 Dennis Mann

Sept 24 Manohie Alcin

Sept 25 Lacey Elliott

Sept 28 Maddie Blaesing

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

Feb 22 Kenny & Nancy Reynolds

Mar 11 Cecil & Kay Lovedahl

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,
Cecil Lovdahl, Donna Winbigler, John Van Kirk

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



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

Sept, Strom Center

Oct,

Nov, Lutheran Day Care & Preschool

Dec, Jamieson Center



And Peter took [Jesus] aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."
Matthew 16:22

Jesus and his disciples went on a field trip to Caesaria Phillipi. While there, Jesus asked some important questions about his identity, leading Peter to proclaim, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." And Peter was rightly praised for this affirmation of faith. But just seconds later Jesus defines what will happen to the Messiah, namely that he will suffer and be killed, and be raised on the third day. And here, the same Peter who so pointedly named Jesus as the Messiah calls a big time-out. You know how at the end of a basketball game, the coaches and players trade time-outs pausing the action to set up the next play, to see which player will be the hero and which player will suffer humiliation, all while dragging the clock out. Yeah, Peter calls that kind of time-out here. In effect, Peter is defining Messiah in his own terms. Peter wants Messiah to be undefeatable, strong, with a huge army, restoring Israel's glory, and cleansing the Temple practices so the high priests no longer align with Roman benefactors but align only with the Living God. This is what Peter wants, this is what all of Israel wants. Matthew, the gospel writer here, puts these words in Peter's mouth, but really almost anyone in all of Israel in Jesus' time would have said this. Matthew is also writing in the decade after Roman armies squashed another uprising and seiged Jerusalem and ultimately destroyed the Temple, replacing it with a temple to the Caesar and their gods. So for Matthew and Matthew's community, the desire for Peter's image of a Messiah was real. But instead, we get Jesus who is defeated, he is killed on a cross. Matthew's community knows that is what happened before they even get to the end of this gospel story. So to hear Jesus already using Peter's called Time-Out to redefine the Messiah not in terms of what people in Israel wanted, but instead in terms of what God is actually doing -- this is an important time-out.

During this time-out Jesus reminds us the point of our faith is to deny ourselves, and to learn to put others first and foremost. Sure, Jesus did this to the extreme measure of giving up his life for the world. And sure, how we do this will not be as extreme. But we are still called to learn what it means to be self-sacrificial, to relearn our faith, to not be concerned with right doctrines, but instead to be concerned with rightly loving those who need to be loved. This time out isn't just for Matthew's community, it remains important for us, too. Peace, Pastor Jamie