

DECEMBER 2017

Friends Bringing Friends to Christ

FRIENDS IN CHRIST NEWS

Friends In Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL 60450

Unto us a Child is born...

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Anticipation

That's a great word looking forward to Christmas. 25 days to go. Do you have your shopping done? Your decorating?

Anticipation – it reminds us of how long the world waited for the coming of the Christ. Anticipation – as there were different parts of the promise revealed, different hints what it would be like when God came into the world.

The virgin will conceive and bear a son.

He will be the shepherd of My people. Wonderful Counselor, ... Prince of Peace.

Humble and riding on a donkey. A bruised reed He will not break

He will write the law new into our hearts.

He will be a light to the nations. In Him the Gentiles will hope.

...(Continued on p. 2)

Christmas Worship Times

Christmas falls on Monday this year – Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are at “9 a.m., 9 p.m. & 9 a.m.”

(Please note: There is no Saturday Evening Service on December 23rd)

Sunday December 24:

9:00 a.m. – Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Monday December 25:

9:00 a.m. – Christmas Morning Communion Service

This service set to the tune of Christmas Carols



Pastor- Mark Willig
Chair- Bonnie Nelson
Elders- Dick Enervold

Secretary- Deb Carter
Vice Chair- Cathy Thompson
Missions- Vicki Kahn

Music- Bonnie Nelson
Treasurer- Georgette Walker
Youth- Cathy Thompson

Organist- Kris Farber
Assist. Treasurer- Carol Hansen
Hospitality- Earlene Enervold



Hints:

The whole Old Testament is filled with hints, prophecies telling the life of Jesus. It was so much that when the disciples went out to tell the Good News, they did not have to begin by writing the Gospels. They already had all the details written out for them. All they had to do was open the books of the Old Testament and show others how it was already told by God hundreds of years before. (Just to put that into perspective – our nation is 241 years old dating from 1776; but the last Old Testament book dates to about 400 B.C. That is a long time to wait between the writing and the fulfilling.)

Two Amazing Things:

Two things are absolutely remarkable about this. **First** is that God actually did tell so many details about the life of Jesus; all of them written out and inviting every person in that time to believe in the promise that was coming. And a multitude did. Not only Jews. Many from other nations heard and believed. Some of them are: Jethro of Midian, Melchizedek of Salem, Ruth of Moab, Rahab of Jericho, Uriah the Hittite, many of the people of Nineveh as well as the sailors on the boat with Jonah, and the list goes on. God has always been calling from far and wide. In the prophecies God shows His hand. Writing out this kind of detail centuries before and fulfilling all of it is absolutely unique. It has never been repeated – has never been tried by anyone else. It could only be done by someone who already sees and knows the future; only the true God.

The second amazing thing is this. After telling in detail (my Bible has 803 pages in the Old Testament; and what we say in our Bible Studies and Youth Group meetings is “Jesus on every page.”) – after telling in detail what He was going to do ((drum roll)) IT WAS STILL A SURPRISE WHEN GOD DID IT. How do you do that??

When I want to do a surprise party I have to be all kinds of tricky. And even then, half the time the wife says “I knew what you were up to.” But God tells exactly what He is up to. For 803 pages He tells His people what He is up to. And then when He does it He absolutely amazes them. (We’re talking the jaw dropping, not knowing what to say, try to figure out what’s next and get it completely wrong, kind of amazement. The amazement that is so complete that people look confused, kind of amazement.)

((Go ahead, I dare you, ask all the Christians you know if Jesus is still amazing. You know what you’ll hear?))

Here’s the reason. No matter how much you learn about Jesus, no matter what the anticipation; Jesus will always far surpass anything you could ever hope for.

Christmas then:

Year after year as we draw close to Christmas there is a sense of the immense. The full measure of what God has done is way beyond our understanding.

Jesus’ birth changes everything in heaven and on earth.

When God became man He changed what it means to be man.

When Jesus took flesh on Himself, He brought our flesh into communion with God.

When He was born in a stable and laid in a manger, He revealed an unexpected part of the character of God.

The humble God (think about that!) who comes to serve was going to fully reveal that part of who He is on the cross.

Christmas is the time when we learn every year that there are amazing things unfolding and things beyond our imagination happening. Jesus’ birth is the beginning of all that is to come; and He will continue unfolding His kingdom until we are standing before His throne amazed again, and singing and celebrating.

May this Christmas be for you a time of reflection, a time of peace, and a time of amazement as you ponder the love of God revealed in the stable and the manger of Jesus.

Remember the Special Activities and Worship Services of this season.

Pastor Mark



Come help us
Decorate
the church for Christmas!

Wednesday
December 6th
9:00 am

Everyone is invited to an
ADVENT

Potluck
Wednesday
December 6th
6:00 pm

Poinsettias

A sign up sheet to order
poinsettias will be available
soon on the bulletin table.
Each plant will cost \$15.





Please join us to celebrate another year of God's blessings at our Christmas potluck, December 6, at 6 pm before the Advent service.

LWML members please take a moment to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin table in church.

All are welcome to attend as our guests!

Youth Night

In November, it was "all hands on deck" as the kids assisted our Missions Ministry by helping to fill the Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

**The next Youth Night will be held:
December 10th at 1:00 pm**



S*UNDAY S*CHOOL ❄️ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: "JUST A LITTLE CHRISTMAS"

Wednesday, December 20, at 7 p.m.

The children are presenting the Christmas story in a way you've never seen before!



Advent Calendar of Events *December 2017*

Sunday December 3 – Advent Starts

Wednesday December 6

9:00 a.m. Gather to Decorate the Church

6:00 p.m. Lutheran Women's Missionary League Christmas Potluck (all are invited)

7:00 p.m. – *Advent Midweek Worship # 1 – "An Interview with Abraham"*

(December 9-10 Weekend Services feature a Hymn Sing)

December 10

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. – Youth Group Christmas Party

Monday December 11

1:00 p.m. – Senior Service

Wednesday December 13

7:00 p.m. – *Advent Midweek Worship # 2 – "An Interview with Rahab of Jericho"*

Sunday December 17

Installation of Officers and Board Members – at 8:15 a.m. and other services as needed

Wednesday December 20

7:00 p.m. – *Sunday School Christmas Program*





Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	1ST HALF	3RD QTR	OCTOBER	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 67,894.12	\$ 38,104.01	\$ 17,990.69	\$ 123,988.82	\$ 118,150.00
Expenses	\$ 75,023.51	\$ 46,303.35	\$ 17,018.31	\$ 138,345.17	\$ 132,636.68
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,129.39)	\$ (8,199.34)	\$ 972.38	\$ (14,356.35)	\$ (14,486.68)

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 11,236.38
LCEF	\$ 41,001.28
Total	\$ 52,237.66



A warm thank you from WE CARE for all you've done to help in 2017!



Mike Wright

J Christensen

Christie
Mensch

Merry
Christmas

Kathy McInerney

Barbie Hennig

from the We Care Board of Directors

maressa

Adrian

Jess Alvaraz

Chuck Richardson

Dee Ann Hall



- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st | Zackary Carlson |
| 4 th | Logan McDaniel |
| 6 th | Bonnie Sanders |
| 8 th | Sharon Benner |
| 9 TH | Erma Turner |
| 10 th | Laura Ruedin |
| 11 th | Pat Kennard |
| 14 th | Darrel Thompson |
| 17 th | Michael Applebee |
| 19 th | Gloria Durkee
Trevor Thompson |
| 20 th | Kari Whalen |
| 23 rd | Logan Tondini |
| 24 th | Sharon Wendling |
| 25 th | Elizabeth Kirk |
| 26 th | Tim Brandt |
| 29 th | Ann West |
| 30 th | Chris Willig |

December 7th
Denny & Terry Knapp
46 years


Dec 10th
Kurt & Tricia Johnson
18 years

ANNIVERSARIES

Prayer Calendar

DECEMBER 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries everywhere, Iglesia San Pablo Church, Deaf Ministries, People of the Book Outreach, Salam Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.	Lord, help us to live with compassion and let our hearts be caring towards others. Luke 2:21-40
Pray that God would grant us spirits of extreme gratitude for all He has entrusted to us.	Be with our military Lord so they can feel the love of Jesus during the Christmas season. Bless them Lord, and keep them safe out of harms way.	Lord I want Your word to be deeply rooted in me so that I not only know the truth but express it in the way I live.	Christmas can be a very difficult time of year for many. Be with those who struggle through the holidays. Have mercy on them and give them a special peace only you can give.	Bless those living in retirement homes and those that are home bound. Help them to see the wonders of Christmas.	Thank You Lord for knowing my heart, hearing my prayers and answering them in accordance to Your will for me.	Lord help us to remember to prepare our hearts before we come to worship You.
Lord, as our Youth enjoy Christmas fellowship together bless them and help them to be lights for You in this Christmas Season.	Thank You for our families, friends and our Church family. Help us to treasure them as You treasure us. Luke 1:67-80	Walk us through each path Oh Lord, that You have set before us as we do Your Mission Work.	We pray that God will enable us to meet the financial challenges before us and that You would grant us wisdom concerning what You have entrusted to us.	Lord, help us to look beyond the glitter of the holiday and see the glory of Your presence.	Lord, satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all of our days. Psalm 90:14	Lord as we celebrate Christmas help us to be blessed with Your love. We ask that Your love will overflow to those around us. Matthew 2:19-23
Lord, please bless us with wisdom, discernment and a God like heart for all our congregation. 1 Kings 3: 6-15 1 Chronicles 29: 11-12	Lord, teach me to carve out quiet reflection time with You each day. Teach me to study Your Word, Pray and spend special time with You.	We pray Dear Lord, that we would not love worldly things but set our minds on Christ. 1 John 2:15-17 Phil. 4:8	Lord, bless our Children and youth as they are in the Christmas program. We all delight in the blessings that each child brings to our Church Family. Thank You Lord for every one of them.	Pray that we would put on the full armor of God and be alert to satans strategies. Eph. 6:10-18	Some of the best gifts we can give are gifts of time. Thank You for the special moments You have given to us as we share our gifts of time with others.	Let us remember that Jesus is the reason for the Season. Isaiah 9:6
Before the celebrations begin let us turn our hearts to You oh Lord. No gift has ever been so costly, treasured, precious, or perfect. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. 2 Cor. 9:15	Dear God, we Thank You for Jesus. Joy in the heavens and peace on earth, for onto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and He will save His people from their sins.	Lord, my prayer is simple. Make my faith greater in You. Luke 17:5	Lord, help me to trust You with my whole heart and not try to lean on my own understanding. Proverbs 3:5	Lord, when you speak to me help me to realize it is You and be still and listen. 2 Cor. 9:15	Thank You Lord for helping us to see the gifts you so generously give	Lord, we take our hearing for granted so many times. We Thank You for another kind of hearing through sign language and ask You to help us all to hear Your word in many different ways. Thank You for the hands that sign and the lips that speak Your word.
Lord, as You give us a fresh start daily, help us to start off each day of the New Year with You. If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation: old things have passed away, and new things have come. 2 Cor. 5:17						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	27 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	28 9am - Bible Study	29	30 7pm - Trustees Meeting	1	2 Advent Begins Communion 5:30pm - Worship
3 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	4 4pm - 8th Gd Conf	5 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 7pm - Elders Meeting	6 6pm - LWML Potluck 7pm - Advent Service	7	8	9 5:30pm - Worship
10 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 1pm - Youth Party	11 1pm - Senior Service 4pm - 8th Gd Conf	12 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	13 7pm - Advent Service	14	15	16 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
17 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	18 4pm - 8th Gd Conf	19 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	20 7pm - Christmas Prog	21 4pm - St Vincnts Table	22 Nursing Homes 10am - Park Pointe 1pm - Assisted Living 3pm - Regency Care	23
24 Communion 9am - Worship 10am - Bible Study 10am - Sun. Sch. 9pm - Candlelight	25 Communion 9am - Worship	26 9am - Bible Study	27	28	29	30 5:30pm - Worship
31 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	1	2 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 7pm - Elders Meeting	3 10am - LWML	4	5	6 Communion 5:30pm - Worship