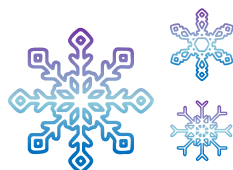




NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Friends In Christ Lutheran Church, L.C.M.S.



TIME – A GIFT FROM GOD

God cares about time. The first thing to be created was light and the result was the first day. On the fourth day God created lights in the expanse of the sky "to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years." There is a prayer in one of our books that says "Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have given us space and time to live in." God gives time and we are to return the gift. Psalm 90 says, "Teach us to number our days that we may present to You a heart of wisdom." (NASB)

Measured

God gives us time, measured out in our days and hours and minutes. We fill those hours and minutes with the things we do and things we don't do. We spend our time in work and rest, waking and sleeping, spending time in relationships, creating, building, and sometimes doing nothing. When God created Adam and Eve they were to work the garden, and they were to rest. There was time spent in doing, time spent with each other, time spent in their relationship with Him, and time spent in rest. (Solomon said, "There is a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1)

(Con't...on page 2)



Serving at Friends In Christ:

PASTOR
Mark Willig

SECRETARY
Deb Carter

MUSIC
Bonnie Nelson

ORGANIST
Kris Farber

CHAIR
Kim Breyman

VICE CHAIR
Bonnie Nelson

TREASURER
Georgette Walker

ASSIST. TREASURER
Carol Hansen

ELDERS
Dick Enervold

MISSIONS
Vicki Kahn

YOUTH
Cathy Thompson

HOSPITALITY
Earlene Enervold

SENIOR SERVICE

*Come Worship
with us!*

Monday



January 9th

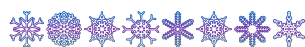


1:00 p.m.

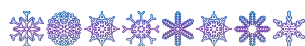


FRIENDLY SENIORS

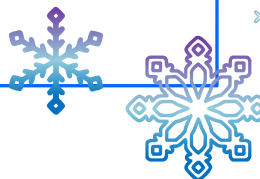
Tuesday,
January 10th



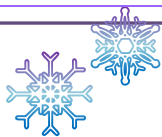
R- Place
Restaurant
(Morris, IL)



12:00 p.m.
(Noon)



(Con't...from page 1)



Once

Time is an amazing gift. Each moment is given by God. And each moment can be spent only once. The hours we have spent we cannot get back. They are gone. So what we do with our time is very much who we are. When we can only live a day once, how we live it tells what is most important to us. Time can be spent creating and building something, or it can be spent complaining about what is not. Time can be spent in our relationships, or time can be spent in regrets. Time can be spent with God or ignoring God. (Paul says, "walk not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time." Ephesians 5:15-16)



Balancing

When we work we give part of the time of our lives to serving others. And since we have only a finite amount of time it really is giving part of ourselves. It is a gift we give. So also with our relationships, our families and friends. The time we spend we give. We balance out our duties and there is never enough time to give how we wish. Dr. Dobson says children measure love in the time we spend with them. So parents throughout history have struggled to balance the duties of work and family.



Wise

Many will make New Year's Resolutions. Whatever else they are they are always about making more wise use of our time and days. There is so much that can be done and there really is little time to do it, so we feel the need to be more focused in our lives. It is so easy to forget what is important and spend months and years in ways we will later regret.

Jesus

And then "when the time had fully come;" then it was time for Jesus to come into the world. God was going to measure out time that He would walk with His people for 30 some years. John says, "What was from the beginning ... we have heard ... seen ... and our hands handled" (1 John 1:1). Through that gift of time God would purchase and win the time that we had lost. He would restore eternity to us. And again it's a gift.

The Bible says it in picturesque language: "As the days of a tree, so will be the days of My people." (Isaiah 65:22) "Till the moon is no more." "Into the ages of the ages." The most exciting part is that we will be with Jesus our brother (see Romans 8:29, John 20:17, and Hebrews 2:17).



Now

Our eternal life is already started. It involves peace that the world cannot give and joy that the world cannot take away. And our days and times have been redeemed by God as well. Listen again to these words from the Catechism, "that all my doings and life may please you." It is not only the specifically religious things that are pleasing to God.

Worship is not just what happens at Church. It might begin there with our baptism. But it works into every part of life. Sometimes the exactly proper worship is a joyful shout, maybe even at a football game (moment of sadness for the Bears this year)! Sometimes it's a quiet hug of friendship. Sometimes it's putting together that new toy gotten at Christmas. One day in July this year it was learning about a game called "Nine Square" and playing Giant Jenga and "Human Hungry Hungry Hippo" with a bicycle helmet and laundry basket lying on a piano cart with a rope attached. (C.F.W. Walther said, "You cannot spend your time to better advantage than by serving well the young people of the congregation.")

I like how Isaiah says it "For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9) May living and moving in the knowledge of God be every part of this New Year for you.

Pastor Mark





LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Women of the Word – LWML

will meet Wednesday, January 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. We will have installation of officers, a short devotion and discussion of possible programs for the coming year. We want to make more of our meetings working meetings, where we put together mission projects or have a craft day. Come with your ideas to share.



PRAYER SHAWLS
CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!
We need your help!



We are looking for people who enjoy knitting or crocheting and would like to share their favorite pastime passion for this ministry.

Please contact Tina Nighsonger
for more information

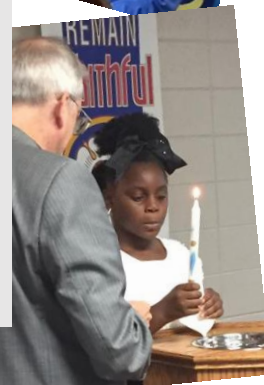
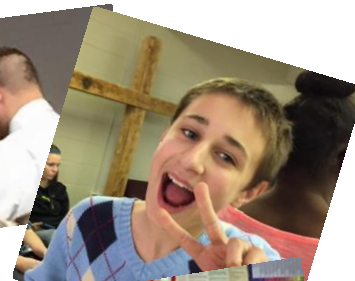
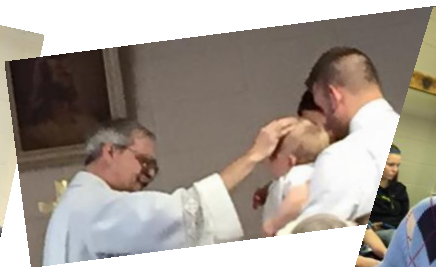
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Sunday School Christmas Program

New Members 2016



"Class of 2016"

Friends in Christ celebrates having a large group of new and confirmed members this year. We welcomed 2 members through Infant Baptism, and 3 new members through the baptism of older children. We had 8 members join our Church through transfer from other Lutheran congregations. We had 2 young people confirmed, And 1 came in through adult confirmation. That is a total of 16 new members and confirmations.

The influx of new members actually started in December, 2015 with Ray and Jeanette Andreae joining Friends in Christ, and it continues on into 2017 as we receive Stephen White on January 1 through Adult Instruction. We are also getting ready to have another class.

By Baptism (Infants) Owen Duvick and Jillian Runchey (Older Children) Amber Brown, Logan Tondini and Tarahji Taylor. By Confirmation – Paige Thorson and Laina Johnson. By Transfer – Jared Laesch; Jim, Dianna, Silas, Mary, Laura, Jamie and Teddy Ruedin. By Adult Instruction – David Smolich.





Youth Group Party



THE GREAT *Psalm*

A CONTINUING DEVOTION FROM PSALM 119

Come, let's walk together in the ways and testimonies of God's Word....

BETH – Part 3

- ¹³ By my lips I declare
all the just decrees of Your mouth.
- ¹⁴ Blissful, I exult in the way of Your testimonies
as over all riches.
- ¹⁵ Bound to Your precepts I meditate
and I fix my eyes on Your ways.
- ¹⁶ Boundlessly I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.



Verses 13-16 “Celebrating Blessings”

It comes out of the deep relationship (the deep connection) with God. It comes to us through His words and promises. And remember that the Word of God became flesh, and in Him are gathered all the promises of God.

Our of this comes the celebration and praise. Jesus said to His disciples on the way to the cross, “I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” (John 16:22) It is a joy founded and built on the work of Jesus.

So:

By my lips I declare
Blissful I exult
I meditate
I fix my eyes . . .



The wondrous works, the amazing ways of God come together and they are the story of salvation. These are the testimonies of God – the telling of all that God has done from the beginnings of the promise (Genesis 3:15); to the amazing pictures in Genesis 22; Exodus 12; Leviticus 14; Isaiah 51; to the story of Jesus entering our world (Luke 1-2). And then the Testimonies of God and the preaching of Jesus, from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); to the words of Jesus before the Council and Pilate . . . and on the Cross: “Father, forgive them” . . . “Today you shall be with Me in paradise” . . . “It is finished.” And then the Easter words in the garden (John 20), on the Emmaus road (Luke 24) and in the upper room (Luke 24 and John 20). This is so much the testimonies of God that the onlookers in Acts 2 said “We hear them telling . . . the mighty works of God.”

(Continued on page 8...)





THE GREAT

Psalm

...Continued

This is the one story. The word of God to us in Jesus is where God is bringing all our stories together – gathering us together within “the mighty acts of God.” To have and to know Jesus is worth more than all other riches. Celebrate! Sing for joy! Maybe even dance! You have everything in Jesus because of the cross and empty tomb! That is why we are “right there” with the psalmist:

By our lips we declare all the just decrees of Your mouth – because Your words declare that I am justified, made holy by Jesus and all that He has done.

Blissful, we exult in the way of Your testimonies as over all riches – they are our true riches; riches of life and blessings forever.

Bound to Your precepts we meditate – we want to think on, ponder, and hold in our souls what You have decided and set down.

We fix our eyes on Your ways – focused in on what You have done and how You have done it.

Boundlessly we delight in Your statutes – being taught by God is beyond compare; learning from Jesus is better than anything else. So it should go without saying that we will not forget Your word – because of all that Your Word is to us. But we are who we are . . .

Lord, by Your Spirit keep Your word in my heart and mind.

What more is there to say? The delight in God’s word and His teaching knows no bounds. There is no limit. The blessings, the joy, the peace, the life and everything else. The celebration is endless as God’s walk with us is endless. Why would we; how could we ever forget His word?



Prayer:

Lord, fill my heart, my eyes, my thoughts and my words with the joy of Your blessings; with exulting in the gift of life, peace and forgiveness in Jesus; with the wonder of the blessings to come; and with the sweetness of Your ways of walking with me. Amen.

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BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Alex McComb
- 5 Jean Wartsbaugh
- 8 Si Ruedin
- 9 Vicki Kahn
Alec Wills
- 11 Tricia Johnson
- 12 Alyssa Applebee
- 15 Kim Foehringer
- 16 Ethan Thompson
- 17 Mark Thompson
- 20 Paige Whalen
- 22 Cathy Thompson
Laura Wills
- 24 Jared Carlson
- 29 Mary Reudin



The Lord is faithful
to all His promises
and loving toward all
He has MADE!

-Psalm 145:13b



ANNIVERSARIES

5th	Darrel & Judie Thompson	54 years
15th	Scott & Lisa Heren	21 years
16th	Cliff & Tina Nighsonger	63 years
19th	Jim & Diana Ruedin	32 years