


DECEMBER 2018

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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Christmas Everywhere



A few years back the Lutheran Witness featured an article about a missionary family far from home on Christmas morning. It came time for the Christmas Morning Church Service and there was nobody at the church except the Pastor's family. What to do?

There would be no choirs, and no large family gathering.

Was it time to be disappointed and sad on Christmas morning?

The Christmas meal would be very modest.

There was no snow and there had been no Christmas carolers.

Would it even feel like Christmas?

The author writes that on that morning, so far from home, as they started their worship, she was

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Christmas Worship

Monday, December 24:

7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25:

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Morning Communion Service



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overwhelmed by the full meaning of Christmas.

The very first Christmas was celebrated far from home, in a cattle stall.

The Christmas caroling was done out in the fields among sheep, not in town and not heard by Mary or Joseph.

The sermon was preached by shepherds, straight out of the fields.

The smell wafting through the air was not sweet potatoes, or turkey, or the smell of a Christmas tree but . . . well, the smells that go with cattle and sheep and goats.

But that was the first Christmas and it was the best Christmas.

That first and best Christmas has changed the world. God has come to live among us. He came to be with us as a child, to grow up, to laugh and play, to share our joys and sorrows – and then one day to would go to a cross and on that cross to earn, win and give us eternal life.

That is what Christmas is all about, the work of God, begun in Bethlehem, finished on Calvary and revealed on Easter morning.

Christmas is what God has done –

And because He has done it nothing can change it. Nothing can replace it. And nothing can improve it. The birth of Jesus into our world is a gift we celebrate wherever we are. And the whole world is changed because of what God has done. Jesus is born – and we are re-born as children of heaven.

So it is Christmas – in the small towns of America as our families gather.

It is Christmas in our big cities teeming with both wealth and poverty.

It is Christmas far from home where missionaries celebrate alone, and share the good news of Jesus.

It is Christmas on the battlefields of Afghanistan, because Jesus the Savior brings the only true peace to a war torn world.

Christmas opens up into this world in a cattle stall in Bethlehem with a young mother hushed and reverent and a newborn baby, with shepherds and noises and smells. That image from 2,000 years ago still takes control of the season and quiets us and calls us to God.

This Christmas season look long and deeply at the heart of the season.

In your soul gaze on the Christ Child and think about how you have been blessed.

When you hear the Christmas carols think about the shepherds startled by the angels.

When you shop for presents, think about the wise men, journeying for months to see the greatest present of all - the baby Jesus.

When you decorate for Christmas, think about God the Father decorating the sky with stars and the earth with amazing beauty to prepare for His Son to come into the world.

And when it is time to come to church, think about the shepherds saying "Let us go to Bethlehem then and see this thing that has happened."

And then when it comes time to open presents, think about Jesus who gave Himself for you.

The angel said, "Today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior who is Christ the Lord."



Pastor Mark



Decorate

the church for Christmas!

**Wednesday
December 5th
9:00 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to an
LWML

Potluck

**Wednesday
December 5th
6:00 p.m.**

Poinsettias

A sign-up sheet to order poinsettias is available on the bulletin table.

Each plant will cost \$15.

(Please remember to take your poinsettia home right after Christmas as they don't last long left unattended.)



Friendly Seniors

We're going to take a break from meeting during the winter months and we'll pick up where we left off in the spring!

Stay tuned to upcoming FICLC Newsletters and bulletin insert announcements for times and locations.



Senior Service

**Monday
December 10
1:00 p.m.**





Happy Birthday!

1 st	Zackary Carlson
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	Trevor Thompson
20 th	Tristan Willig
23 rd	Logan Tondini
24 th	Sharon Wendling
25 th	Elizabeth Kirk
29 th	Ann West
30 th	Chris Willig

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Matthew 1:17



All are welcome to attend as our guests!

Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Please take a moment to sign up
on the sheet on the bulletin table in church.



Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 9th

1:00-5:00 pm (at the church)

We will practice our Christmas Program first followed by dinner, games and a white elephant gift exchange!

(Questions? Talk to Cathy Thompson,
Paula Willig or Deb Carter.)

See you all then!

Sunday School Christmas Pageant:

"God's Gift to Us"

Wednesday, December 19, at 7 p.m.

Feeling frazzled this time of year?

So are so many others-you are not alone!

Come, rest at the manger with our Sunday School kids as they pause to remember the real Reason for the season!



November Youth Night – Bowling Party

We had record breaking attendance at our last Youth Night! 17 kids!

Good friends! Good food! Awesome fun! Let's keep the good times rolling!



Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2018



General Fund	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 16,211.19	\$ 15,402.48	\$ 13,910.33	\$ 11,101.09	\$ 15,229.85	\$ 134,923.57	\$ 136,550.00
Expenses	\$ 13,059.89	\$ 13,607.56	\$ 11,661.18	\$ 13,400.99	\$ 13,520.78	\$ 129,134.72	\$ 136,550.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 3,151.30	\$ 1,794.92	\$ 2,249.15	\$ (2,299.90)	\$ 1,709.07	\$ 5,788.85	\$ -

A warm thank you from WE CARE for all you've done to help in 2018!

Mike Wright

Christie
Menden

Valley Pugh

Adrian

Merry
Christmas

from the We Care Board of Directors

Jess Alvarez

J Christensen

Kathy McInerney

maresca

Lydia Anne Hall



December 2018, Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 COMMUNION 5:30 PM –Worship
2 COMMUNION 1 st Sunday in Advent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	3	4 9:00 AM – Bible Study 1:00 PM – Euchre Club 7:00 PM – Elders	5 9:00 AM – Church Decorating 6:00 PM – LWML Potluck 7:00 PM – Worship	6 7:00 PM - Church Council	7	8 5:30 PM –Worship
9 2 nd Sunday in Advent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:00 AM – Special Voters’ Meeting 9:30 AM – Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 2:00 PM – Youth Christmas Party	10 1:00 PM – Senior Service	11 9:00 AM – Bible Study	12 7:00 PM – Worship	13	14	15 COMMUNION 5:30 PM –Worship
16 COMMUNION 3 rd Sunday in Advent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation	17	18 9:00 AM – Bible Study	19 7:00 PM – Sunday School Christmas Program	20	21 Nursing Homes: 1:00 PM – Assisted Living 2:00 PM – Park Pointe 3:00 PM – Regency Care	22 5:30 PM – Worship
23 4 th Sunday in Advent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 COMMUNION 10:00 AM – Christmas Morning Worship	26	27	28	29 5:30 PM –Worship
30 1 st Sunday After Christmas 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	31					

