

Friends in Christ News

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

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"THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS US"

By Pastor Mark Willig

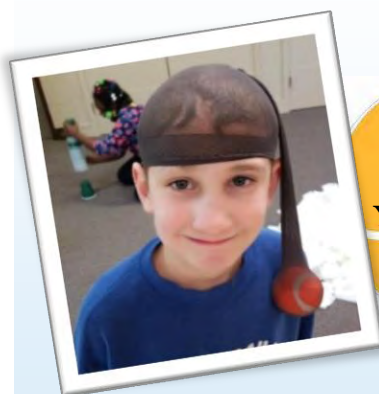
It's February, the month for valentines, hearts, candy - and some talk about love. But this phrase from Paul, "The love of Christ compels us." (2 Corinthians 5:14) What exactly does that mean?

There are many ways to compel - by law, by force, by fear and intimidation. How can and does love compel? When you are compelled by law, force, or intimidation it is in order to avoid something unpleasant. Do not drive over the speed limit through that one town; if you do someone may be waiting to give you a ticket. Get up in the morning and go to school, it is not a choice. Be careful rooting for "the other team." (Well that one doesn't always work.) But still, an outward compulsion effects our outward behavior.

Love reaches far deeper. The love of a mother, a husband, or a wife can compel us in ways that are far stronger. Love doesn't only deal with outward actions. It reaches within and we are moved. Being loved we respond. A young bride will spend hours preparing a special meal thinking of her husband's smile. A young husband will take out the garbage, fix the car, clean the basement (sometimes even do dishes) simply because his wife will appreciate it. We know what it is to be moved by love.

Even on the battlefield love is the deepest motivation. It touches our inner being, our beliefs, and our emotions; and it soldiers to

... *con't on p. 2*



We
had a ball
at our last
Youth Night!
(p.4)

Worship Times

Saturday Evenings	... 5:30 pm
Sunday Mornings	... 8:15 am
	10:45 am
Sunday School	
(Adults and Kids)	... 9:30 am
Tuesday Morning	
Bible Study	... 9:00 am

(See Page 3 for our Midweek
Lenten Service Schedule)

Save the Date!

FEB 7:	LWML Meeting	7:00 p.m.
FEB 12:	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
FEB 13:	Friendly Seniors	11:30 a.m.
FEB 14:	ASH WEDNESDAY	7:00 p.m.
FEB 18:	Youth Night	5:00 p.m.
FEB 21:	Lenten Midweek Service	7:00 p.m.
FEB 28:	Lenten Midweek Service	7:00 p.m.

"THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELS US" ... *com't*

do heroic things. It is on that level God deals with us in Christ. Let's spell it out.

First we are called to look to Christ and know that we are loved. The verses before John 3:16 say, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of Man be lifted up that all who believe may in Him have eternal life." Jesus is lifted up on the cross, raised up before the world so that all may know what God has done to take away our sins. We are loved. This year we have a coincidence (a coming together) when Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday (and Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day). So we will begin our Lenten journey talking about love. It is the one love that is the source of all love. And then the whole Lenten season will lead us step by step to the cross to look into the depths of the love of God in Christ. It is God's will that His love for us in Jesus should be held up for all to see.

Looking to Jesus in faith we are changed. The New Testament calls it a new birth. In the Old Testament (Ezekiel 36) God says He will remove our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh so that we can respond to Him.

God brings us into His family through faith – a faith He creates in our souls. By faith we live every moment in a relationship with Jesus. He is our constant companion. Each and every day of our lives the love of Christ is a force in our lives. He works on us and inside us even when we are resisting and working hard to go the other way. As we grow in faith the love of Jesus works into more and more parts of our life. Our words, our actions, our ways of thinking are changed. This is what Jesus does.

We talk in the Catechism about daily drowning in baptism and about the new man who is to "daily come forth and arise, to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." As Lutherans we talk about "the Means of Grace" or "the Word and Sacraments" in our walk with God. These are what God holds out to us and what He uses to draw close to us and draw us close to Him. The Bible, our baptism and the Lord's Supper weave through our whole life. They guide our outward acts and our inward life of the soul. Deep inside we know how God is calling us to a constant knowledge of His presence in and with us.

So now what? As we grow in knowing the love of Jesus something happens. It is the same as what happened to Paul. After he came to know Jesus he had to tell others. Right at first there was a burst of evangelism. Then very gradually (over a period of 17 years) he was prepared by God for the great missionary journeys of the book of Acts. It is this Paul who said, "the love of Christ compels us." He knew what he was talking about.

At Friends in Christ we come together as a congregation. We worship together. We pray for each other. We search out God's will for the future. And God promises to bless.

We have seen His blessing and provision. It has come in some ways we did not expect. Others we looked for and prayed for. But it is always God who is leading and God who is in charge. Later this spring we will have opportunity to share with a lot of people about the KYKS program telling how we give shoes to children returning to school every fall. (The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally is April 14 in Yorkville.)

Week after week we reach out to everyone we can to tell the good news about Jesus and how sweet it is to know the Savior who loves us and forgives our sins. Our relationships with others in missions continue to grow. Even financially we are growing and doing better each year. We have walked with God and we know that the Lord is good. The joy of being Christians shows in our worship.

God has been preparing us to reach out with the love of Jesus. It's what He does. This is the direction, the plan, and the pattern in our lives. So share the love of Jesus. Seek ways and opportunities. Share Jesus' love in your words and in your actions; by yourself and with others. You will find a joy that grows and keeps on growing.

Pastor Mark



Senior Service

Monday, February 12, 2018
1:00 p.m.



Friendly Seniors

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
CHILI'S RESTAURANT, MORRIS
11:30 a.m.



LWML

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
7:00 p.m.

This month we will be electing our new officers
 as well as hearing from missionary Rev. Dr. John Reinke.

2018 Lenten Service Schedule

"Even His Enemies – Unlikely Prophets"

The theme for our Lenten series this year comes from those passages in the Gospels where some of the most unlikely and unwilling people were brought by God to speak the truth about Jesus.

It started with John reporting that Caiaphas, the high priest that year, said, "it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." Then John reports "He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied ..."

There are other incidences, and we will explore them.

Our schedule is:

Ash Wednesday 2/14 – The Scribes (Luke 5:17-26)

Wednesday 2/21 – Caiaphas (John 11:44-53)

Wednesday 2/28 – The Council (Luke 22:66-71)

Wednesday 3/7 – Pilate (John 18:36-37; 19:9-22)

Wednesday 3/14 – Judas (Matthew 27:3-5)

Wednesday 3/21 – The Crowd (Matthew 27:22-26)

Each one points to Jesus in ways they did not understand. Come, let us walk together in the road that leads to the cross, the place of our salvation.

YOUTH NEWS

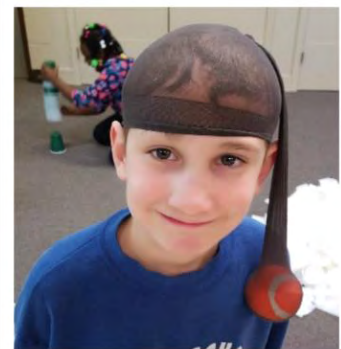


Youth Night Sunday, February 18 at 5:00 pm

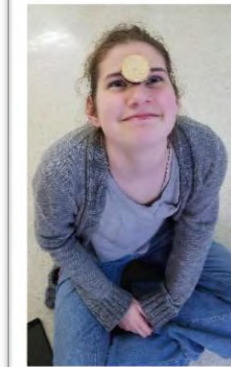
Last month (January 21) we had a delicious taco dinner provided by Cathy Thompson and played “Minute-To-Win-It” games. Fast paced and hilariously funny, the kids had various 60 second races including “Facial Cookie Roll”, “Kleenex Pull Explosion” and “Panty hose Wrecking Ball” ... just to name a few!



Somewhere under this Avalanche of Kleenex is my sister...



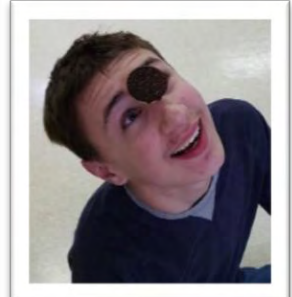
It's easy to knock over cups with a tennis ball in a nylon stocking hanging from your head – but all the LAUGHING makes it hard!



From forehead to mouth in 60 seconds...

GO!

(NO hands!)



How ELSE do you choose who goes first?



Shake, shake, shake ... till the golf ball pops out of the Kleenex box!
(Tissues were already all pulled out thanks to the Kleenex Pull Explosion race.)



We can ALL relate: that sometimes the *best* fun comes from just hanging out with friends.

Birthdays

3 rd	Terri Gillette	17 th	Lois Sampson
6 th	Kim Mann	18 th	Kathy Wills
8 th	Dan Hanson	19 th	Jim Ruedin
10 th	Hannah Jelms	22 nd	Jerry Farber Stephen Wills
13 th	William Kirk	24 th	Will Knapp
14 th	Karen Thompson	27 th	Mike Collins Stephanie Willig
16 th	Lucas Collins		



Anniversaries

13 th	Bonnie & Kenneth Sanders	48 years
19 th	Mark & Paula Willig	41 years



Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	1ST HALF	3RD QTR	4TH QTR	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 67,894.12	\$ 38,104.01	\$ 48,817.30	\$ 154,815.43	\$ 138,180.00
Expenses	\$ 75,023.51	\$ 46,303.35	\$ 44,861.58	\$ 166,188.44	\$ 159,164.02
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,129.39)	\$ (8,199.34)	\$ 3,955.72	\$ (11,373.01)	\$ (20,984.02)

KYKS YOUTH
\$8075.51 \$1,770.00 = \$9,845.51

\$11,373.01 - \$9,845.51 = \$1,527.50 which is 2017 shortfall

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 11,236.38
LCEF	\$ 41,043.41
Total	\$ 52,279.79

By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

-1 John 3:16-18

Prayer Calendar

FEBRUARY 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Missionaries Everywhere, Iglesia San Pablo Church, Deaf Ministry, People of the Book Outreach, Salam Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Thank You for giving us courage and boldness to follow Your leadership Lord. Help us to be still and listen to You.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Lord, we pray that Morris and the surrounding communities would be open to the Gospel. Use us to help grow Your family.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lord bless our children and youth that attend Sunday School. Help them to grow in You!</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, as one of your own, please help me to flee from sin and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Lord, help us to see you at work in our lives.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lord protect our loved ones in school as they pursue their dreams. Help them not to forget You Lord.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>We pray that our love for others will grow with unity, agreement, unselfishness, humility, and oneness in Christ. 1 Cor. 13:4-7 Phil 1:9-11 Phil. 2:1-5 John 17:11, 21</p>	<p>9</p> <p>As you know Lord many of us have family and friends that need to be brought to faith in You. Open their hearts so they can listen and come to know You. Acts 1:8</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lord, walk with our service men and women bless them and keep them safe as they serve our country.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Lord help us to realize that weekly worship, daily prayer, and Bible study need to be a priority in our lives. Ecc. 4:9-10</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lord may we find your grace sufficient for every need.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lord, we pray that You would touch the confirmands hearts, make them hungry to learn God's word and put into practice what they learn.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord we pray that You would comfort those among us that are ill or going through difficult times.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Show us the needs and open our hearts to move us to give of time and money to help with Your mission in the world Lord.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord we ask that we as a nation would have a thirst for God, like our forefathers. Psalm 42:1</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lord, may we rejoice in You always because of who You are, not because of our circumstances. Phil. 4:1</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Lord, help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to Satan's strategies. Eph 6: 10-18 1 Thess. 5:8</p>	<p>19</p> <p>God, help us to realize that with You nothing is impossible. Matthew 17:20</p>	<p>20</p> <p>We pray that we will be a bold witness for Christ in word and actions. 2 Cor. 5: 17-20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>God, open my ears so that I may hear Your call in my life and open my mind so that I may follow that call. 2 Cor. 12:9</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Thank You for giving us the opportunity to serve You O Lord.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lord, may we always come into Your presence with a joyful song.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Lord, help us to put all our trust in You. Prov. 3:5-6</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Lord, when I struggle to make decisions and the path isn't clear, lead me in the way I should go. Psalm 32:8</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lord, give us strength to overcome obstacles. Isaiah 35:3</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lord, bless those who plan for VBS help walk us through each step to have creative ways to reach the children and youth that will attend.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>God, as we seek to follow Christ's example, please bless us with humble, servant's hearts. John 13:1-17</p>			

February 2018 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3 COMMUNION 5:30 PM - Worship
4 COMMUNION <i>Fifth Sunday After Epiphany</i> 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation	5 4:00 PM – Confirmation	6 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM - Elders	7 7:00 PM – Lutheran Women's Missionary League	8	9	10 5:30 PM - Worship
11 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 8:15 AM – Worship 9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly 9:30 AM – Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation	12 1:00 PM – Senior Service 4:00 PM – Confirmation	13 9:00 AM – Bible Study 11:30 AM – Friendly Seniors @ Chilf's	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM – Worship with Communion	15	16	17 COMMUNION 5:30 PM - Worship
18 COMMUNION <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 5:00 PM – Youth Night	19	20 9:00 AM – Bible Study	21 LENT MIDWEEK 1 7:00 PM - Worship	22	23	24 5:30 PM - Worship
25 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation	26 10:00 AM – Park Pointe 4:00 PM – Confirmation	27 9:00 AM – Bible Study	28 LENT MIDWEEK 2 7:00 PM – Worship			