

NEWSLETTER



Lent/Easter Worship Times:

April 5	Wednesday Lenten Service – The Seal	7:00 p.m.
April 13	Maundy Thursday w/Communion	7:00 p.m.
April 14	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	7:00 p.m.
April 16	EASTER: Sunrise Worship Service	6:30 a.m.
	(Breakfast – compliments of our Youth)	7:30 a.m.
	Worship Service	8:15 a.m.



A sign-up sheet will be available on the bulletin table beginning March 29th....

**Serving at
Friends In Christ:**

- PASTOR**
Mark Willig
- CARD MINISTRY**
Lois Sampson
- CHAIR**
Bonnie Nelson
- VICE CHAIR**
Cathy Thompson
- ELDERS**
Dick Enervold
- HOSPITALITY**
Earlene Enervold
- MISSIONS**
Vicki Kahn
- MUSIC**
Bonnie Nelson
- ORGANIST**
Kris Farber
- PRAYER SHAWLS**
Tina Nighsonger
- SECRETARY**
Deb Carter
- TREASURER**
Georgette Walker
- ASSIST.
TREASURER**
Carol Hansen
- YOUTH**
Cathy Thompson

What Does Easter Mean to Me?

I have to share with you that when I think of Easter my first thoughts are not of egg-laying bunnies and chocolate. Easter is far deeper than just one of many holidays. The things of Easter, the empty tomb and Jesus rising with glory and victory, change everything. So then, what does Easter mean to me?

- 1.** It means that I will see my father again. I expect that he will still have that same odd sense of humor.
- 2.** It means that Paula and I, both believing in Jesus, will not and will never lose each other.
- 3.** It means that one day this body will rise from the grave and be renewed, perfect and glorious. I will have all my hair back and not need glasses.
- 4.** It means that my ((very rare moments of)) contrariness and stubbornness (my story and I'm stickin' with it) will not be there anymore. And neither will any of my other problem attitudes (including sticking with my story). And neither will yours either. So ...
- 5.** It means that there will finally be peace between all of us. We will understand each other because all of our attitudes will be connected with God.
- 6.** It means that I will one day see angels, and probably be amazed. And I will get to see the amazing things God has planned for all the endless time after Jesus comes back.

7. It means that I will get to reach out and actually touch Jesus, physically, with my fingers and His hands.

8. It means that heaven will not be dull and boring, because the character and pattern of Easter is one of celebration.

9. It means most of all that Jesus won the victory. I am forgiven and right with God and do not have to work to earn salvation.

Christianity is built completely on the grace of God and is the most amazingly free existence ever. Jesus said, "It is finished" and all my struggle to earn and deserve could just stop. Then on Easter He said, "Go, tell My brothers" and He made us His own, members of His family. And that is forever.

Have a Happy Easter. Celebrate!

Pastor Mark



Notes from your Board of Trustees.....

In our first three meeting of this 2017 year, we introduced our new BOT members, Eileen Tondini and Jerald VanHeiden, and our new Treasurer, Georgette Walker. New financial procedures were presented which included the streamlining of our financial reporting.

Also, at our March meeting, we welcomed our new member, Deb Krugler.

In future newsletters look for our "Notes...." to keep you informed about new and exciting things for our congregation as we grow our ministry!



Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	January	February	March	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 11,328.91	\$ 8,238.03	\$ 10,610.63	\$ 30,177.57	\$ 37,257.36
Expenses	\$ 11,967.83	\$ 12,948.52	\$ 12,958.17	\$ 37,874.52	\$ 42,077.49
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (638.92)	\$ (4,710.49)	\$ (2,347.54)	\$ (7,696.95)	\$ (4,820.13)

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 46,236.38
LCEF	\$ 5,933.17
Total	\$ 52,169.55

Birthdays

- 2nd Gary Gillette
- 4th Kris Farber
- 5th Ashley Van Heiden
- 6th Harold Carlson
Shaye Carter
- 7th Harry Benner
Scott Heren



- 13th Willene Turner
- 17th Adolph Wendling
- 19th Marge Anderson
Brenda Collins
- 21st Michael Kahn
- 22nd Alex Mann
- 23rd Deidre Carlson
Judie Thompson
Alexa Thorson
- 26th Jacob Van Heiden

& Anniversaries

- 7th Don & Judy Johnson 55 years
- 9th Richard & Earlene Enervold 56 years
- Duane & Mary Heren 62 years
- 10th Bob & Kathy Wills 41 years
- 23rd Michael & Laurie Applebee 29 years
- 24th Harold & Norma Carlson 52 years

LWML Women on a Mission



In March we made cards for the FICLC Card Ministry.

We will meet April 5th at 10 am. Bonnie Nelson will treat us to a glimpse into Bangladeshi dress and culture.



Friendly Seniors Luncheon

GIPPERS SPORTS GRILL

(8455 E. Pine Bluff Rd, Coal City, IL 60416)

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

5:30 p.m.

Please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin table in the Sanctuary.



Senior Service

Monday, April 10, 2017

1:00 p.m.

(Lunch immediately following)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A thank you from Pam Butler, Morris Hospital Intensive Care Unit:

"Thank you for sharing your beautiful talents with our Intensive Care patients and families. Your prayer shawls bring so much comfort to our patients and bring hope to a stressful time in their lives."

If you would like to join our team of knitters and crocheters in this important ministry, please contact TINA NIGHSONGER at 815/942-6737



"...For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones." -Isaiah 49:13b

March Youth Night



Getting ready for a game (above).
Answering questions during Bible Study with Pastor. (side and below)



In April we will help make and serve Easter Breakfast.

THE GREAT *Psalm*

d (DALETH) – Part 1

- ²⁵ Dejected, my soul clings to the dust;
revive me according to Your word!
- ²⁶ Disclosing my ways I spoke; and You answered me;
teach me Your statutes!
- ²⁷ Discipleship in Your precepts, make me to understand;
and I will meditate on Your wondrous works.
- ²⁸ Dissolving for sorrow is my soul;
strengthen me according to Your word!
- ²⁹ Deceitful ways put far from me
and graciously teach me Your law! [†]
- ³⁰ Discipleship of faithfulness I have chosen;
Your ordinances I set before me.
- ³¹ Devotedly I cling to Your testimonies, O LORD;
let me not be put to shame!
- ³² Discipleship to Your commandments I will pursue,
when You enlarge my heart!

Verses 25-28 “The Struggle of Discipleship”

“Come, follow Me” He says and calls us to turn away from the things of this world. And no matter how glorious is the turning toward, with all the promises, glory, forgiveness, life . . .; still the turning away is hard. It will involve “Thy will be done” and it will include the breaking and hindering of my will – not only the things of this earth; also the heart of this earth. My soul clings to the dust with a love for the dust and trouble letting go of the dust. I am dejected, disappointed and hoped for better of myself.

Revive me Lord. Give me life again! Give me that life that comes only from You, because that is the only life that endures forever. Give me life by Your living word.

And so I empty my soul, bringing my confession of who I am and how I am. Taught by Your word I learn the truth about me and I say it to You, no matter how painful it is . . . and You answer! You speak the truth about Yourself as the Savior, the Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God; and about me as Your own, bought with the price of Your own blood.

These are the statutes – the truths that You are writing into the whole creation, making the whole creation new. Teach me these, for as You teach them my soul hungers for them – indeed I find a new hunger for them as I learn them; and the more I learn them the more I hunger for them.

And this is how You call me into discipleship: “Discipleship in Your precepts” (v. 27); “discipleship of faithfulness” (v. 30); and “discipleship to Your commandments” (v. 32).

Continued on page 8...

THE GREAT *Psalm... (Con't)*

First is “discipleship in Your precepts” and v. 27 speaks of it with longing – “make me to understand.” God’s precepts are His teachings of what should be in His universe, in the world and in life. They have to do with wondrous things, with the amazing acts of God, creation by His word; and then salvation through His blood! The psalmist calls out in prayer that his soul may meditate on what God does, looking to God’s works and not to the things of dust. We want to have our heart and soul focused on the acts of God and not distracted by the many lures of the world that are nothing by dust and must return to dust.

But we find ourselves wandering and unable to walk as disciples with the dedication and spiritual vision we long for; so in our soul there is sorrow – “dissolving for sorrow,” and then the cry comes forth again, “strengthen me!”

Strengthen how? The only way possible – again and again the same answer – by the word, in the word, according to the word! And the hunger becomes deeper and deeper for the words and promises of God. Without them we have no strength. They are our life because those words and promises are entirely bound up in the person of Jesus and He is our life! He is God’s “Yes” and God’s “Amen” to us.

What is the reason why discipleship in God’s precepts is this – this focus on His works and being given strength from His Word in the path of discipleship? Simply this: It was the path and walk of Jesus. With His eyes set on the plan of God, drawing His strength from the words and promises of God, He is the Great Disciple. He is “the faithful witness” (Revelation 1:5) who speaks what He hears from His Father, and does what He has learned to do from His Father. (Jesus talks about His relationship with His Father and uses words of discipleship in detail in John chapter 5 and then all the way through the rest of John, to Easter.)

The prayer life of Jesus is described in Isaiah 50:4-7. He talks about the “instructed tongue” and says “He awakens My ear to hear as those who are taught.” The Savior took His place under the word of God – day by day, as He did in the 40 days of fasting and prayer, saying “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4) He took that place of prayer so that He could sustain the weary “with a word”. (Isaiah 50:4) The work and the teachings of Jesus come from that deep relationship with His Father through Scripture and prayer. Therefore His face was set on the path of our salvation.



Prayer:

Lord, call to me. Call to my soul through Your word. Call to my heart through Your promises, and lead me away from the things of dust. As You have walked the road, teach me the path of discipleship – to follow You, to seek and hold to the things of eternity. They are the treasure You have won and earned and given to me; and for them I praise You. Amen.

Prayer Calendar

APRIL 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries everywhere, Deaf ministry, Iglesia San Pablo Church. People of the Book Outreach, Salam Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.
2 Dear God may each child in Sunday School grow in wisdom as they learn from Your Word.	3 Dear God, please make me an effective person so I can help make this world a better place. According to Your will.	4 Father, In Jesus name thank you for being my God and letting me live in your world. I want to love you more, trust you more, and see more of you in me.	5 Lord, I surrender my day to you. Let my thoughts and words be pleasing to you, and let my actions bless you O Lord.	6 Lord, Help those who work for Voice of Care Ministries. Help them to have the resources to help others. Help to raise up and train ministry workers and lay volunteers so this program can reach out and bring others to know you.	7 Dear Lord, bless those we go to church with today.	8 Lord, be with those who work for Salam Christian Fellowship. Guide them to do your will. Keep them safe from harm and danger. Bless their ministry. Open hearts so other can hear your word and believe.
9 Heavenly Father, help us to hear Your Word of hope today and speak words of hope to others.	10 Lord, we thank you for all you have entrusted us with. Help us to use our resources to help others. Thank you for our blessings.	11 Lord, Thank you for this new day. Fill us each morning with your love and let us carry it out into your world.	12 Thank You for the challenges of life. They teach me about You, they teach me about me.	13 Thank you, Lord, for Your Bible-Your Word to us.	14 Dear Lord, help us to be supportive of those around us, especially our family, church family, friends, and neighbors.	15 Heavenly Father, Be with us as so many in our congregation have lost loved ones. Give us an extra measure of your special peace that only you can give. Help them through each day.
16 Lord, we ask that our youth would be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:6	17 God you send us to be lights in a dark world. With the help of the Holy Spirit give us courage to confess our faith in Jesus. Help us to be a light to others.	18 Lord, remind me to live in the now, where You are present. Thank You for taking care on my every need.	19 Lord, I pray that You would lead me down a righteous road. Help me to have a solid foundation in You.	20 Lord, help us to remember we can do all things through you. Thank you for being with us as you guide our steps.	21 Dear Lord, give hope to those who are unemployed and feeling desperate.	22 We pray Lord, that you will touch more people to share our vision of reaching out in more deaf ministry around the world. Put upon hearts of congregations a hunger to serve others with a deaf ministry in their church.
23 Heavenly Father, I pray that You would guide me so that I have a strong foundation in You. Give me an extra measure of discernment so I can do things that are pleasing to You.	24 Lord, Thank You for forgiving me and loving me unconditionally.	25 Lord, help our youth develop a strong self-esteem rooted in the realization that they are Your workmanship. Ephesians 2:10	26 Father, you are so kind and loving to each of us. We thank and praise you for everything.	27 Lord, may our leaders in all levels of government lead with honesty and respect.	28 May we treat everyone with Christ-like equality and see beauty as Christ does.	29 Lord, be with those who work for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. Guide them to do your will. Keep them safe. Bless their ministry. Open hearts so other can hear your word and believe.
30 Lord, we ask You to speak to the hearts of our youth. Help them to come to trust you as their Saviour. Walk with them each day and lift them up. Bless them Lord.						

Mark Willig, Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

Apr 2017 (Central Time)

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 - 7th Gd Conf	28 9am - Bible Study 10am - Worship Com	29 5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship	30	31	1 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
2 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	3 4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	4 9am - Bible Study 10am - Altar Guild 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	5 10am - LWML 5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship	6	7	8 5:30pm - Worship
9 Palm Sunday 8:15am - Confirmation 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Reception 10:45am - Worship	10 4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	11 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	12	13 Maundy Thursday 7pm - Worship	14 Good Friday 7pm - Worship	15
16 Communion Easter 6:30am - Worship 7:30am - Breakfast 8:15am - Worship	17 1pm - Senior Service	18 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission Meeting	19	20	21	22 5:30pm - Worship
23 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	24	25 9am - Bible Study	26 4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf 7pm - Trustees Meeting	27	28	29 5:30pm - Worship
30 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	1 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	2 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	3 10am - LWML	4 4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	5	6 Communion 5:30pm - Worship