

Friends in Christ News

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

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| PASTOR'S ARTICLES | 1-2 |
| LWML | 3 |
| YOUTH | 4 |
| FRIENDLY SENIORS | 5 |
| SENIOR SERVICE | 5 |
| BIRTHDAYS | 5 |
| ANNIVERSARIES | 5 |
| FINANCIAL REPORT | 5 |
| PRAYER CALENDAR | 6 |
| CHURCH CALENDAR | 7 |



"He Got Pranked!"

(That's one way of saying it.)

A little snippet from confirmation class when we were talking about Good Friday:

Pastor: So right when the devil thought he was going to have the victory, and thought that God was going to lose, and when Jesus was saying "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me" the devil thought that the trinity was going to be torn apart – right then Jesus is loved completely by His Father and winning the victory. The devil thought he would have Jesus in hell, but on Easter Jesus goes right into hell to declare His victory and preach about the devil's doom.

Student: So he got pranked. Like on April Fools.

Pastor: Yes. Why do think April 1st comes along when it does, so often real close to Good Friday and Easter?

- (Many years back: a few of us in the youth group asked the pastor if we could have a lock-in from Good Friday to Easter. And he said yes! Looking back on it all I think we were a bit of a handful. But he agreed and after the service on Good Friday we settled in and stayed at Church overnight. Saturday morning came and we were talking about Jesus' crucifixion and death and being placed in the tomb.

He asked, "How are you feeling about it all today?" I answered, "I feel like there's

(Continued on page 2)

Come worship with us during Holy Week!

- 4/18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.**
"Behold the Man Giving His Flesh & Blood"
- 4/19 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.**
"Behold the Man Bleeding...the Man Dead"
- 4/20 Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m.**
"Behold the Man Preaching in Hell"
- 4/21 Easter 6:30 a.m. & 8:15 a.m.**
"Behold the Man Risen"

Save the Date:

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| APR 3: | LWML | 10:00 a.m. |
| | <i>4th Wed. in Lent - Worship</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 7: | Confirmation Class | 12 (noon) |
| APR 9: | Elder's Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 8: | Senior Service | 1:00 p.m. |
| APR 10: | <i>5th Wed. in Lent - Worship</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 18: | <i>Maundy Thursday - Worship</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 19: | <i>Good Friday - Worship</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 20: | <i>Easter Vigil – Worship</i> | 7:00 p.m. |
| APR 21 | EASTER – Worship | 6:30 a.m. & 8:15 a.m. |
| APR 23: | NO Tuesday Bible Study | 10:00 a.m. |

Looking Ahead...

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| May 4 th | LWML Spring Rally | 8:30 a.m. |
| May 5 th | Voter's Assembly Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |

(Continued from page 1)

a victory. But it's a secret. It's being hidden until Easter. Jesus won, but we're being real quiet about it until tomorrow." He said, "You've got it. That's right.")

- So we are coming into Holy Week.

Everything hangs in the balance. The devil riles up Jesus' enemies. He leads Judas into betraying. The disciples have no idea. And Jesus goes into the city, cleanses the temple, and observes the Passover ready to be the Lamb of God.

There is the prayer in the garden and then the arrest, and Jesus said to the chief priests and temple officers, "this is your hour".

The crowd is stirred up by the evil one and shouts "Crucify!" and Pilate washes his hands. And then the cross and darkness.

The image is vivid: Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Isaiah 53:7), and the devil a roaring lion prowling about looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8, Psalm 22:13, 21; Psalm 10:9, Psalm 17:12)

He leapt, he struck, he seized on the chance to destroy the One whose love for mankind and whose promises had tormented him from the time of the fall. And he had no clue.

This was the plan all along. The Son of God would humble Himself; and He would give Himself as the One Holy Sacrifice in place of a whole human race gone wrong. He would hold to the Word of God where we had let it go. He would believe, with perfect faith, the promises of life and salvation right in the face of darkness, in the middle of suffering, and under the full weight of the curse. By His suffering and death Jesus brings the promises into our darkness and separation.

Where it looked like defeat, there is victory. Where it looked like death, life comes sweeping through (See Matthew 27:52). Where it looked like everything was lost, there was hidden away and waiting to be revealed the complete victory over sin, death and the devil.

Likewise: Where the devil thought he had won, soon the Son of God would come intruding right into hell itself. And where the devil thought he would have a dead disembodied and cursed soul of Jesus, what came upon him was the glorified, in body and soul, living and victorious Son of God, and Son of Man, declaring a victory that would include every believing (lowly) human soul – and then take those same bodies he had brought the curse of death upon and have them rise glorious on the last day and inherit eternal life.

- He had no clue, that pathetic self-glorifying creature who styles himself as so powerful and so threatening, and (as Luther says) leapt on the Lamb of God to sink his teeth in, "forgetting that Jesus is also the Rock of Ages, and broke out all his teeth."

Now he prowls about as a toothless lion looking for someone to gum. And that, I suggest, is why we have April 1st on April 1st. It is a day for pranks and laughing, and laughing at the greatest fool of all time, and celebrating that he got pranked.

† God is good! And everything is leading up to Easter!

Pastor Mark (1 Corinthians 2:2)





Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday - April 3rd - 10:00 a.m.

Servers: Alice Hunt & Marcia Gjerde

Our meeting time in April will be devoted to working on preparations for the Spring Rally happening on May 4, 2019.



The FICLC LWML
will be hosting the

**LWML ZONE 7
SPRING RALLY**

**Saturday
May 4, 2019**

Special Emphasis on
Young Women in LWML

LWML Grant # 19, Reconnect to the Body of Christ Circuit 28 of the Texas District has come up with a plan to share the work of a trained church worker within the circuit and also train additional young adults to reach out to their neighbors and friends in Rio Grands, one of the poorest areas in the U.S. They will be working with congregations and community organizations to help and to share the love of Jesus through ESL classes, literacy classes and Bible Studies. These people are sharing the love of Jesus ... *we love because He first loved us* ... (1 John 4:19). For more information about this grant, go to www.lwml.org/2017-2019-mission-grant-19

Missions

Easter Aldi Gift Cards

The Missions Board will be collecting donations for the purchase of Aldi Gift Cards from now through April 14th to help those in need at Easter time. Please drop money or purchased Gift Cards in to the clear lock box in the fellowship area. Thank you for your continued support with this ministry!

Vicki Kahn is recognized for her work with our K.Y.K.S. program!

On Sunday, March 24, 2019, after the 10:45 worship service, a special, surprise ceremony of recognition took place to honor Vicki Kahn for her years of hard work and dedication in the K.Y.K.S. Ministry.

Georgette Walker had heard on the radio that the Community Foundation of Grundy County, in celebration of their 20th anniversary, were going to be awarding 20 \$1,000 grants via nominations. Georgette secretly asked for nominations for Vicki from a few friends here at church.

Julie Buck and Devan Gagliardo, both from the Community Foundation, came to the church to present Vicki with the \$1,000 grant. Vicki was touched and grateful - but said the real glory belongs to Jesus for the way HE works through our shoe ministry.

(L to R) Julie Buck, Cathy Thompson, Devan Gagliardo, Georgette Walker, Vicki Kahn, Pastor Mark Willig, Deb Carter



YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

YOUTH NIGHT (Bring a swimsuit!!)

Hey Kids!! Are you suffering from 'Cabin Fever' and feel a slight 'swimmers withdrawal' from a long winter away from your favorite pool or beach? Then you need to join us this month!!

Sunday, April 28th at 1:30 p.m. (Meet at church)

We will begin our time together with a devotion and then carpool over to M.A.L.S. (located behind the Morris high school) to swim from 2 – 4 p.m. We will then return to the church for dinner. Remember to bring (or wear) something warm and dry to change back into. We aren't having 90°F heat waves just yet!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget you can "hang out" EVERY week with us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School! See you then! Need a ride? Call the church office at 815/941-1255.

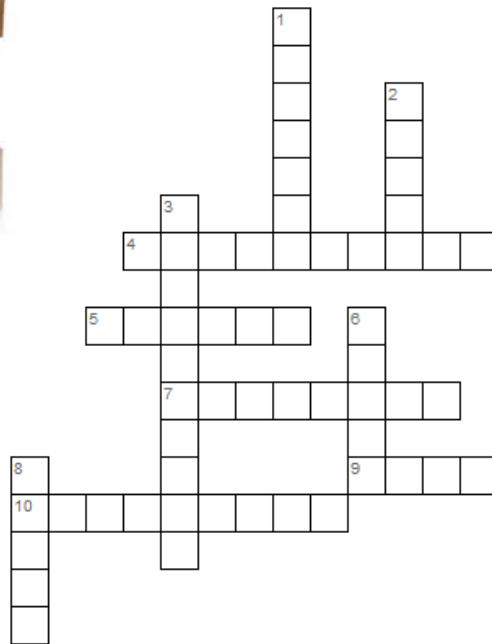


Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers and example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

-Timothy 4:12

God's Promise to Israel

(You can find answers in Exodus 19 (NIV))



Across

- 4 Full name of the mountain that the Israelites were near (19:18)
- 5 The Israelites were camped in a _____ (19:2)
- 7 God commanded Israel to 'keep my _____' (19:5)
- 9 Israel was set apart as God's _____ nation (19:6)
- 10 God showed up with thunder and _____ (19:16)

Down

- 1 'A very loud _____ blast' announced the Lord (19:16)
- 2 Moses and _____ were allowed to come up the mountain (19:24)
- 3 God commanded Moses to 'Go to the people and _____ them today' (19:10)
- 6 'Whoever touches the mountain, shall surely be put to _____' (19:12)
- 8 God appeared to them as a _____ over the mountain (19:9)

(Answers on page 5)

SENIOR SERVICE

Weather permitting, we will resume having Senior Services the second Monday of each month beginning on

MONDAY, APRIL 8

1:00 P.M.

Need a ride? Call the church office at
(815) 941-1255

FRIENDLY SENIORS

Friendly Seniors is set to resume soon! Stayed tuned in to our newsletter for upcoming places and times!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 2 nd | Gary Gillette |
| 4 th | Kris Farber |
| 5 th | Ashley Van Heiden |
| 6 th | Harold Carlson Shaye Carter |
| 7 th | Harry Benner Scott Heren |
| 13 th | Willene Turner |
| 17 th | Adolph Wendling |
| 19 th | Brenda Collins |
| 21 st | Michael Kahn |
| 22 nd | Alexx Mann |
| 23 rd | Deidre Carlson Judie Thompson Alexa Thorson |
| 26 th | Jacob Van Heiden |

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|------------------|--|----------------------|
| 7 th | Don & Judy Johnson | 57 years |
| 9 th | Richard & Earlene Enervold Duane & Mary Heren | 58 years 64 years |
| 10 th | Bob & Kathy Wills | 43 years |
| 23 rd | Michael & Laurie Applebee | 31 years |
| 24 th | Harold & Norma Carlson | 54 years |

Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019



| General Fund | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL | MAY | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|------|---------------|--------------|
| Income | \$ 10,883.11 | \$ 12,030.32 | | | | \$ 22,913.43 | \$ 27,310.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 12,165.80 | \$ 13,678.43 | | | | \$ 25,844.23 | \$ 27,306.00 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ (1,282.69) | \$ (1,648.11) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ (2,930.80) | \$ 4.00 |

(Answers to Crossword Puzzle on page 4)


(ACROSS) 4-MountSinai, 5-Desert, 7-Covenant, 9-Holy, 10-Lightning

(DOWN) 1-Trumpet, 2-Aaron, 3-Consecrate, 6-Death, 8-Cloud

Prayer Calendar

APRIL 2019



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | 1 Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. | 2 Lord, be with the farmers as they get in their fields to plant crops. Bless them with a good harvest this year. Help them to remember others who are less fortunate. | 3 God, Thank You for our many blessings. | 4 Lord be with those that are home bound and in health care facilities. Bless them Lord and help them through each day. | 5 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. | 6 Lord, You are our Good Shepherd help us as Your sheep to hear and know Your voice so we can follow You. John 10:1-18 |
| 7 Thank You Lord for enabling us to trust in You and lean not on our own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 | 8 Help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies. | 9 God, help us to praise You with all our hearts for You are gracious and compassionate Psalm 111:1-4 | 10 Lord, help us to remember we never retire from serving You. | 11 Lord, we thank You for the opportunities to witness to others. Help us to get out of our comfort zones and be the witness You want us to be. 2 Cor.5:17-20 | 12 Lord, thank You for our Pastor. Guide him as he leads us closer to You. Bless his family and keep them in Your steadfast love. | 13 Lord, May Your people on earth and all Your creation praise Your name. Gen. 1:1 |
| 14 Many of us have bad days. Help us to come to You Lord in prayer when we are hurting. Thank You for being there for us. | 15 Lord, help me to have a deeper understanding of Your Word. Eph. 6:10 | 16 Lord, we thank You for the gift of time. Help us to prioritize our time and give more of it where You are concerned. | 17 Lord, may each of us feel Your presence in our lives regardless of our circumstances. 2 Cor. 12:10 | 18 Lord, teach us to rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance, character and hope. Romans 5:1-11 | 19 By Your bruised body, precious blood, and bitter agony, have mercy on me, a sinner. I praise You, bless You, and adore You because by Your death and resurrection You redeemed the world. | 20 Lord, we pray visitors to our church will be so inspired Easter Sunday that they will seek first Your kingdom. Matthew 6:33 |
| 21 Almighty and everlasting God, through the glorious resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened to us the gate of eternal life. | 22 God, Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your one and only son so that we will have eternal life. John 3:16 | 23 Bless the children and young adults in our church. Help them to be good examples for You to their friends and those that are not kind to them. | 24 Lord, forgive us when we complain and test Your patience. Teach us to count our blessings, one by one. Ex. 17:1-7 | 25 We pray for those who have just heard the message of God's love through Jesus that it would work faith in their hearts and move them to share the love of Jesus with others. | 26 Lord, help us to continue to pray and rejoice in hope. Keep us patient in difficult times. Romans 12:12 | 27 God, You want us to be like Jesus help us to discern between what we want and Your will for us. Hebrews 5:14 |
| 28 Lord, we ask that You would fill us with the Holy Spirit as we worship You today. | 29 Lord help us to slow our hectic lifestyles and take time to watch and wait for You. Matthew 24:42 | 30 Lord, I give thanks for Your greatness, Your goodness, and Your love. I now draw near to enjoy Your presence. | | | | |

April 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 9:00 AM – Bible Study 1:00 PM – Euchre Club | 3 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women's Missionary League 7:00 PM – Worship | 4 | 5 | 6 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 7 COMMUNION 5th Sunday in Lent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation | 8 1:00 PM – Senior Service | 9 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders | 10 7:00 PM – Worship | 11 | 12 | 13 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 14 Palm Sunday 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship | 15 | 16 9:00 AM – Bible Study | 17 | 18 COMMUNION Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM – Worship | 19 Good Friday 7:00 PM – Worship | 20 Easter Vigil 7:00 PM – Worship |
| 21 Easter COMMUNION 6:30 AM – Sunrise Service 8:15 AM – Worship | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 7:00 PM – Church Council | 26 | 27 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 28 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 1:30 PM – Youth Meet to go Swimming @ MALS | 29 10:00 AM – Park Pointe | 30 9:00 AM – Bible Study | May Notes: May 5 – 9:00 AM Voters' Assembly Thursday May 30 – Ascension Day In June: Vacation Bible School is a one day event this year. "Gone Fishing" Thursday, June 6 – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM | | | |