

# Friends in Christ News

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

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Come worship with us during Holy Week!

We will be streaming live at <http://facebook.com/ficlc>

- 4/9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.
- 4/10 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.
- 4/12 Easter Day Morning 9:30 a.m.

**And continuing ...**

(During Shelter at Home mandate)  
**Sunday Mornings ... 9:30 a.m.**



## 20-20: A Year for Seeing Clearly Part 4: Seeing the Great Hidden Truth

**Last month when I put this title at the end of that article, I had no idea how apt it would be.** And now we are in the middle of a whole lot of things that can obscure and get in the way of seeing the most important truth in all of human history.

**Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead!** He is the Savior who came to face everything that threatens to destroy us, our families, and our souls. Death, the devil and hell would lead us away from God and leave us separated for all eternity.

**That is why He rode into Jerusalem.** He was there to face them down and defeat them. **Death** was to swallow Him up. But He is the Eternally Living One and has life in Himself. So, death could not hold Jesus. He was the death of death, and death is a broken enemy. It is still the final enemy, and there is still the sting; but it does not work right anymore. For Christians Jesus has left it all wanky, with pieces missing, so for us death simply opens up into being in the presence of God and being welcomed into life by Jesus Himself.

**The devil** prowls about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. But as Luther said, the devil saw Jesus on the

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## Save the Date:

APR 1:	LWML	(Cancelled)	10:00 a.m.
APR 1:	Live stream Lenten Worship		7:00 p.m.
APR 7:	Elder's Meeting	(Cancelled)	7:00 p.m.
APR 18:	Live Stream Maundy Thursday		7:00 p.m.
APR 10:	Live Stream Good Friday		7:00 p.m.
APR 13:	Senior Service	(Cancelled)	1:00 p.m.
APR 18:	Youth Night	(Cancelled)	5:00 p.m.
APR 12:	Live Stream Easter Sunday		9:30 a.m.

### Looking Ahead...

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Voter's Assembly Meeting (May be postponed)

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!  
**HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

*(Continued from page 1)*

cross; the Lamb of God as a helpless victim. He leapt and sunk his teeth in forgetting that Jesus is also the rock of ages. He broke all his teeth out, and now prowls about as a toothless lion looking for someone to gum and slobber. What a ridiculous form he is! "He can harm us none, He's judged! The deed is done. One little word can fell him." And Luther said that word is "Liar! Devil, you lie!"

**Hell** was waiting for Jesus, as He was being judged in our place. And indeed, Jesus descended into hell; but not as a defeated, disembodied soul. Rather, "being made alive in the spirit, in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison" (1 Peter 3:18-19) Jesus went to preach about our salvation, terrifying the devils in hell, declaring His victory and telling them that you belong to Him and that you are going to live forever.

**The Great Hidden Truth** is that Jesus has won. It is hidden right now because He is still gathering His Kingdom, bringing in souls from every nation. He is bringing us in **by faith**, so it has to be a hidden and unseen thing. But if you look through history and all around the world you can see the hand of Jesus at work. No matter what else is going on Jesus continues His work "a light to the nations, that ... salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6) Jesus is persistent. He pursues. He finds. He wins and brings us, each one individually and personally, into His kingdom; revealing to us the great message of salvation, that in Him we have forgiveness, and in His resurrection, we have eternal life.

**"Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face"**. (1 Corinthians 13:12) Finally when this "hidden truth" is revealed the glory will be amazing, and the joy will be beyond anything we can even imagine. I know this. I went ahead and read the end of the book. God wins. Jesus promised. And He wants you to be a part of it.

**Christ is Risen!** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Mark

(Next Month: 20-20 – I have no idea what's coming in even a month)



**DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, LWML WILL NOT MEET IN APRIL.**



Our next meeting, God willing, will be on  
Wednesday - May 6<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.  
 Servers: Deb Carter, Paula Willig & Carol Hansen

## A Lenten Inspiration

On Saturday Feb 29<sup>th</sup> four members of LWML, (De Kirchhoff, Earlene Enervold, Judy Johnson and Bonnie Nelson) attended a "Lenten Inspiration" at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Joliet.

The event began with a continental breakfast followed by Hymn singing. Dr. Allan Buss, President of Northern Illinois District LCMS delivered his message "Led by the Spirit – A Lenten



Walk." **Teach me to do your will for You are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.** [Psalm 143:10] We also heard from Bill Indelli, Director of Walcamp which is a Lodge and campground providing the "Word" and meditations for those who attend.

Lunch was served followed by hymns and information from our LWML District Leaders.

This enjoyable and inspirational day was attended by approximately 200 women.



### A message from Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID President:

Dear LWML Sisters:

Cancel, postpone, distance, self-isolate—these are words we have heard constantly during the past week. We in the mid-west postpone and cancel for snow, flooding and ice but not usually for health reasons. As we watch grocery store shelves empty due to panic among shoppers, we need to remember who is in charge. Psalm 46:1 reminds us that **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

## COVID = CHRIST OVER VIRUSES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Donna Gutzler sent me the above definition for COVID. We need to keep our eyes on the Lord and our hands folded in prayer during this time of uncertainty. Many of us are part of the mature generation which is being hit the hardest by this virus. We all enjoy being independent but if we become ill, we may need to reach out for help whether that is a need for food, medicine or our mail, etc.

**Prayer and Praise:** Our national President, Debbie Larson, asked for our prayers for the 10 Districts within the LWML who had conventions planned for the weeks of April 17-19, 24-26 and 30-May 3. Praise the Lord that our convention is not scheduled until September 11-12, 2020.

We also Praise the Lord that we were able to gather for the Lenten Inspiration on February 27<sup>th</sup> to worship our Lord through Matins and to study about the Holy Spirit. Several of our spring rallies needed to be postponed. But fear not, as speakers can be rescheduled and coordinated with dates available at the host church for this year, they will take place.

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*(LWML...from Jan Gerzevske, continued)*

**Proactive approach:** Let's talk about what we, Lutheran Women in Mission do BEST—serving others. Look around your church and community to see who needs help buying their groceries, picking up medication, getting their mail, or just getting a phone call to check on them. As an LWML group establish a system to identify those in need and reach out to them, pray with them and for them and offer to run errands. Remember, communication via the phone is NOT prohibited.

**Mite offerings:** Since our meetings where mites would be collected are being cancelled along with church services, we need continue to accumulate our mites for when we can safely meet again. We pray that will be before sometime in May. Our Northern Illinois District biennium ends June 30, 2020 so we are requesting that all mite collections be postmarked to the financial secretary by June 15, 2020 so they are deposited during the current fiscal year.

***"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*** (Ephesians 5:1-2)

In a message from our national LWML President, Debbie reminded us to remember the words of this song:

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear little flock! (LSB #736, verse 1)

God bless you as you continue to walk in the love of Christ whose death and resurrection we will celebrate either in person or virtually in the next few weeks.

## Youth

Dear church Family,

This is, no doubt, a difficult time for all of us, but it's a confusing time for our youth. They are now "remote learning" from home on their computers and tablets. They have no interaction with teachers except what they see assigned on their phone/computer screens. All social and sport activities have been cancelled and they miss their friends, and, when the novelty wears off, face days of loneliness and uncertainty. Please pray for them, and their teachers, as they work through this. It is a time in our lives like no other!

If you are a parent or grandparent, here are some helpful links from Christian resources:

(On Twitter) @lcmsyouth

(On Instagram) lcmsnyg (Some of the leaders  
have posted short videos)

(On the web) <http://higherthings.org>  
<http://lcms.org> (President Harrison,  
himself, has posted a video)



*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*  
(John 16:33)

## Missions

We extend a special thank you to all who financially support the ALDI GIFT CARD ministry. It has a HUGE impact in a small way on those who struggle during the holiday seasons to put a little something extra on the dinner table. And now, more than ever, it means so much during these trying times due to the COVID-19 virus. THANK YOU!

## SENIOR SERVICE

### WE WILL NOT MEET IN APRIL!

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

**MONDAY, May 10**

**1:00 P.M.**

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



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

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

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 7<sup>th</sup> Don & Judy Johnson 58 years
- 9<sup>th</sup> Richard & Earlene Enervold 59 years  
Duane & Mary Heren 65 years
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Michael & Laurie Applebee 32 years
- 24<sup>th</sup> Harold & Norma Carlson 55 years

# Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 8,517.25	\$ 10,347.23				\$ 18,864.48	\$ 27,096.00
Expenses	\$ 10,319.36	\$ 13,545.51				\$ 23,864.87	\$ 27,206.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,802.11)	\$ (3,198.28)				\$ (5,000.39)	\$ -

## *Our church has gotten a face lift!*



Our landlord, Tony Baranski, has updated the ceiling lights in the main areas and hallways of the entire building. This means we received new ones as well! The new lights are flush within the ceiling, cast a clean, bright, even light throughout each room. They have been installed in the narthex, fellowship hall, kitchen, sanctuary, the halls leading to the Sunday School wing and within each classroom, including the Altar Guild and conference rooms. No more flickering, buzzing, different-colored lighting to read by!



And Liturgy Readers, YOU will be happy to know a light panel has been installed over the lectern! Yay!

We miss each and every one of you and look forward to coming together again for worship, communion and fellowship! God bless you all!

## *Cleaning as we go ...*

There was quite a mess after the lights were installed – and all of this [happened to be] during a virus outbreak! Pastor and Deb have been wiping down the office, spraying door handles, light switches, and bathroom handles on a daily basis. A big THANK YOU to those who periodically came in to check on things. Earlene Enervold collected the linen tablecloths to launder them (and keep them until we meet again). Kris Farber



came in to wipe down every red cloth chair in the

sanctuary and every green plastic chair in the fellowship hall with liquid Lysol. Pastor Mark spent hours sanitizing floors with a Swiffer mop and gently carpet sweeping before vacuuming could begin so as not to kick up too much dust.





