

Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER



August, 2016

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CALENDARS



- **Pastor-** Mark Willig
- **Secretary-** Deb Carter
- **Music-** Bonnie Nelson
- **Organist-** Kris Farber
- **Chair-** Kim Breyman
- **Vice Chair-** Bonnie Nelson
- **Treasurer-** Bob Hunt
- **Assist. Treasurer-** Carol Hansen
- **Elders-** Dick Enervold
- **Missions-** Vicki Kahn
- **Youth-** Cathy Thompson
- **Hospitality-** Earlene Enervold

From the Pastor



"AFTER THE YOUTH GATHERING"

AND

"AFTER THE HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCE"

'This article is reflections on the National Youth Gathering.

See the article by Mary Ruedin (page 10) on the Higher Things Conference.)

This summer we had groups from Friends in Christ going to both "National Youth Gathering" and "Higher Things / Dare to be Lutheran." Coming back from both, there is a lot of talk about things of the Christian life: Prayer; Worship; Communion; and sorting out what it means to be a Christian in our daily lives and in front of other people. That is almost always what happens when we gather with large numbers of dedicated Christians and spend time together being serious about our faith.

(...continued on page 2)



“AFTER THE YOUTH GATHERING”

(...continued from page 1)



Some reflections and thoughts that have been shared after the National Youth Gathering:

- It is amazing to be with so many who are Christians. We're not alone in believing the promises of the Bible, and that's really good!
- One of the speakers talked about believing that God is with us when everything goes wrong. And she talked about how it didn't feel like that when she was going through it, she didn't know what to expect, but God held onto her through it all and through it God taught her that she can always trust in Him.
- Another talked about forgiveness, and how much of a struggle it can be. But all of the things we could hold onto are nothing compared with God's call to us within the soul, and through His word, and through the cross of Jesus.

There were workshops – hour long presentations – a lot of them.

- One had to do with facing the problems and temptations in our culture. A couple of our young people came back inspired.
- Another was about prayer, and encouraging us to pray.
- There was another we tried to get into, but the room was packed and closed almost 2 hours ahead of time. It was by a woman who as a baby had survived an abortion. She tells about forgiving her mother who did not want her and was angry that she was alive. How do you deal with that as a person? How do you deal with that as a Christian?

There was the excitement of being with 25 thousand young people who were inspired by the Word of God to love one another and care for one another. In many little ways there were glimpses of what the Gospel does, working within our souls.

- Yes, the people of New Orleans commented, over and over again.
- The mayor came to one session to say how kind and loving the young people were.
- Some of the bar and tavern owners saw the large numbers and then were wondering why no one was coming in to their businesses.
- There were news reports on how the youth packed meals for the hungry and donated blood for the emergency in Baton Rouge.
- And then there were encounters with Muslims (on the way home and after getting home) who were asking about Christian beliefs.

Lord Jesus Christ who bought and won us at the cost of Your own innocent suffering and death, thank You for calling us Your own, thank you for gathering us to worship You, thank you for the great many fellow believers we have, and thank You for sending us out to share the forgiveness, peace and joy we have in You. Help us to be ready always to share the reason for the hope that we have. Amen.

Pastor Mark



Bible Studies



Sunday mornings at 9:30: We are looking at the history of Christianity, The First Three Centuries with Dr. Paul Meier. This has been a very interesting study that looks at the writings of historians about people in the New Testament and the early church.

Tuesday mornings at 9:00: We have been working through books of the Bible. Right now we are in Acts, with a side trip through Galatians and James. You may listen in on past sessions by going to the Members Only section (ficlcmember) of our website: www.ficlc.org.



IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

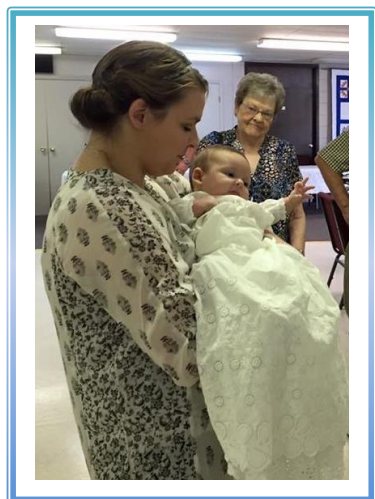
WELCOME!

*If anyone is in Christ he is
a new creation. The old
has passed away; behold,
the new has come.
-2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Jillian
Taylor
Runchey**



**BAPTIZED
July 26, 2016**



BIRTHDAYS

August 2016

- 2nd John Nelson
- 4th Shirley Seidler
- 10th JoAnne Heck
- 11th Curtis Johnson
- 12th Kris Houchin
- 16th Cliff Nighsonger
- 18th Linda Hanson
- 19th Doug Halkyard
- 22nd Patty Houchin
- 25th Jaime Ruedin
- 28th Carley Hood
- James Krugler
- Arthur Turner
- 30th Pastor Gruenbaum
- 31st Marcia Gjerde

Anniversaries

August 11th

Ray & Donna Carlson

58 years

Back to
School



Back to
School



Back to
School

Missions

Who will go?...



Send me! Send me!

WE CARE Items

We are focusing on item per month but any and all donations are welcome!

AUGUST

Toilet Paper

SEPTEMBER

Feminine Hygiene Products

OCTOBER

Light Bulbs

NOVEMBER

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

DECEMBER

Paper Towels

(Thank you for your generosity! Please leave collected items in the kitchen on the black shelving unit by the door to the hallway. There are signs so you know where to leave things.)



K.Y.K.S.

Shoe Ministry

K.Y.K.S. is currently in FULL SWING!

So far, 182 pairs of shoes have been given away to families with kids getting ready to go back to school --- and that's only the beginning! At the time of this newsletter going to print, we have 2 more shoe fitting dates scheduled so those numbers are going to GROW! We will keep you updated in the weekly bulletin inserts just how many pairs of shoes we add to the grand total. Stay tuned!

**Our next scheduled shoe fitting
will be on:**

**AUGUST 11th
9:00 am - NOON**

We are SO GRATEFUL for the MANY helpers from our congregation that are working hard, both at the shoe fittings AND behind the scenes, to be Jesus' hands and feet for these kids and their families and we extend the first of many "THANK YOU!"s to you all!

Missions

Continued...



Prayer Shawls

Our prayer shawl ministry is still going strong! We hand-make small, crocheted and knitted shawls (or lap blankets, as they are sometimes called,) to comfort those who are hospitalized, have lost a loved one or are simply going through a rough time.

If you know of someone who needs to feel wrapped in Jesus' love, please contact Tina Nighsonger at 815/942-6737.

Do you love to knit or crochet?

We are always looking for volunteers and we would love to have your help with this ministry! Please call Tina if you would like to donate your time and creative talents!

FICLC Food Cabinet

If you would like to donate to help keep our own Food Cabinet stocked, please feel free to donate any of the following:

Canned meats

Beans

Canned soups

Canned stews

Canned chili

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Jarred pasta sauce

It is important that the items purchased be in either cans or jars for maximum shelf life.

Monetary donations or Aldi gift certificates will also be happily accepted.

Just a reminder: The food cabinet is for those we know *personally* who might need help. If you would like to give someone food, please contact Cathy Thompson, Paula Willig, or Vicki Kahn and they will get the food to you.

LWML

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3RD 10:00 am

Why is the World So Crazy ???

A little bit of culture theory, and a Lutheran response.

On Wednesday, August 3, at 10:00 am we will look at the big changes that have happened in our world in the past 10 years, talk about the hidden changes that have been silently happening, and discuss our response to these changes.

Come to our Lutheran Women's Missionary League meeting and join the discussion.



Make a JOYFUL NOISE unto the lord

We will be kicking off our music program this fall. All who are interested in participating in our vocal choir and bell choir, please let us know by signing the sheet on the bulletin table.

Let us know your contact so that we can send you further notice of our rehearsal days and times.

Also, let us know which days of the week are best for you!

YOUTH NEWS



LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



In Christ Alone

2016 - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Greetings!

...from a
Still-Recovering-from-the-
National -Youth -Gathering
Adult!

I'm going to share a bit about my experience as an adult leader for the National Youth Gathering. The kids will share about their experience at our shareholders dinner (by the way...if you are a shareholder, be watching for your personal invitation to be coming soon!).

It was my privilege to take three young adults from our church to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20. To say that the NYG is life-changing experience is an understatement...it's an ETERNAL LIFE-changing experience! I was blessed to go to an NYG as a high school student and even more blessed to do it as an adult and watch our three Friends in Christ learn about God in a way designed especially for them.

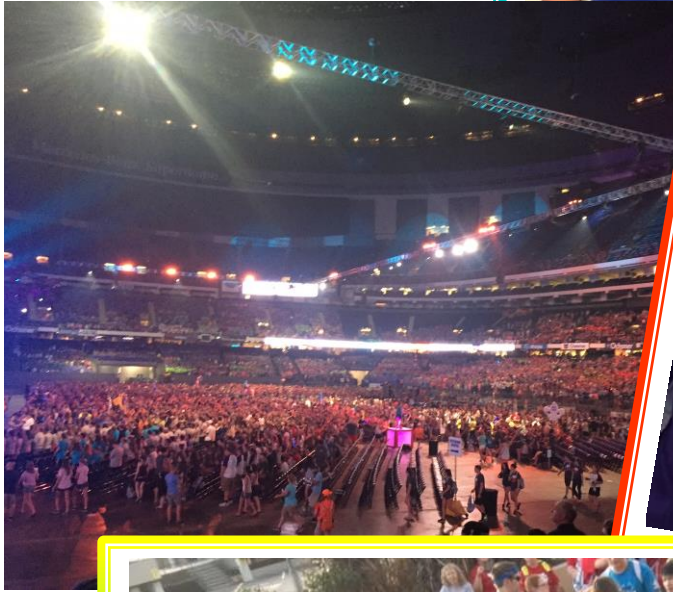
The theme of the Gathering was "In Christ Alone". Every day started with Bible study in our hotel where we delved into the book of Philippians led by a Pastor from Texas (who incidentally just happens to be one of my former youth when I was the youth leader at my home church in Red Bud...How cool is that?!). After Bible study, we usually headed over to the mall food court to have lunch. Our afternoons were spent at the convention center going to sessions/workshops on LOTS of different topics. There was an experiential center in the convention center where we could visit booths from different Lutheran charities and services and the different Concordia colleges. It was at the experiential center that we participated in a servant event of packaging soup mixes to be sent overseas and to food pantries in New Orleans. The experiential center also had a HUGE section of games. The kids had a lot of fun playing those games with other youth from the United States and abroad. They even want to build a game called 9-square in the air for our church (if you want to donate PVC pipe, let me know!). Every evening we walked 1.4 miles (each way) to the Superdome where our Mass Events were held. I can't even begin to explain the range of emotions I felt worshipping with 25,000 others at these mass events. Yes, tears were shed. Amazing, moving experience.

On Wednesday morning, we attended the closing service. The closing service was a more traditional service using the same Divine Service we use here at Friends in Christ. We celebrated Holy Communion. Wow...celebrated Holy Communion with 25,000!!

Thank you so much for your support of our youth! I know Shaye, Zack, and Emma appreciate it as much as I do. Please ask them about it when you see them! We are already making plans for the 2019 Gathering in Minneapolis. If you want to view a quick synopsis of the week, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6By6AZmW8VY> or type that into your computer's browser if you are reading a hard copy.

In Christ Alone,
Cathy Thompson

We had a *ball*...



...growing together in *Christ!*



Written by: Mary Ruedin, H.T veteran

(And my wonderful edit monkey: Diana Ruedin (Thanks Mom!))

The National Youth Gathering is over. You had a great time worshipping, learning, serving and fellowshiping with other LCMS youth. What do you for the next three years? Would you like to do some of those things but with a few less than 20,000 people closer to home? Higher Things may be just what you are looking for.

What is Higher Things? Higher Things is a recognized service organization of the LCMS. It was founded by pastors, parents and youth leaders who had a growing concern with what could and does impact our youth in this hostile and sinful world we live in. Higher Things teaches youth about their faith and how they can defend their faith. Thru this in depth teaching these youth learn what we do and why we do what we do as LCMS Lutherans while we form lasting relationships, serve others, worship and have lots of fun.

That's the mission of HT, and what are the events like? Throughout the year there are small regional overnight or 2 day retreats and 3 conferences 4 days in length. The conferences are usually one in the Midwest, one in the west, and one in the east. The retreats are at different parishes. The cost of the retreats is between \$50.00- \$75.00 depending on whether it is a 1 or 2 day retreat. The cost of the conferences is between \$325.00 and \$400.00 per person. HT includes sleeping accommodations, food (3 meals a day and snacks), a t-shirt or backpack, service book, all hand-outs and schedules, HT magazine, and entertainment. The retreats provide the same amenities but on a smaller scale.

So you are ready to "Dare to be Lutheran". What will you do at your retreat or conference? You start with a full Divine Service with communion, we also end with a Divine Service. We start with Jesus and end with Jesus. In between there are other services such as, Morning Prayer, Matins, Vespers, and Compline. This may seem intimidating at first but believe me it is so moving to sing and speak those words. I truly look forward to hearing and participating in services that we don't get to do ordinarily. The reason HT does this is because of their focus on teaching and practicing our Lutheran faith. We have a rich tapestry of services that enhance and solidifies our relationship with Jesus. This helps us grow up appreciating the faith our parents baptized us into. It also makes it interesting as you learn about the Divine and other church services you can point out the things and say, "hey! I just learned that and that's why we do that on Sunday!" Getting to participate with other youth in these services is so amazing as well!

Just so you don't think this is all service time, we do have our plenary teaching sessions on our themed topics with a few surprises thrown in like pastors who gave out \$50.00 bills!(that doesn't happen all the time but you never know!). Then there are the break-a-ways that give you topics to pick from like, What's up with Those Ladies in Blue or How To Become A Deaconess, Finding the Gospel in Star Wars, Lutheran Church Art - Cranach To The Present Day, Dating, Vocation, etc. The list goes on and on. Sometimes it is hard to choose! Afterwards the comparing of content leads to lots of discussion with your new friends and friends you came with!

The conferences are held on college campuses to help defray costs and give youth a taste of what college dorm life is like.

(Continued on p. 11)



Every evening there is tons of entertainment. Whether it is as simple as board games, video games, and karaoke or as over the top as water parks, St. Louis Cardinal baseball game, fireworks, knockerball, swimming, slip-n-slide kickball, English country dancing, rock wall climbing, Mega Jenga, etc., but one of our favorite highlights is the Lutheran's Got Talent Show! Yes, Lutheran youth are awesomely talented! We have seen youth play bagpipes, piano, violin, drums, ukulele, kazoos, etc. They have done color guard flag routines, ballet, acrobatics, recital poetry in old English, make short video films, done chant-offs against the pastors, rapped the catechism, etc. All in front of a panel of esteemed pastors and CCVs! We have seen them win a giant vat of cheese balls or a bobble-head Luther and bragging rights! Fun, Fun, Fun ! In a nutshell that's what you can expect.

As a youth myself who has been going to HT for awhile this organization has helped me love Jesus, my church, and my neighbor more. I have learned so much about the scriptures and really enjoyed time spent learning. It has helped me be a more open person with others. I used to be a very, very shy person. Now I've learned to step outside of my comfort zone and strike up a conversation with other teens about what we've been taught. I made a lot of friends through HT - which is pretty cool because we have as the basis of our relationship our shared belief in Jesus Christ.

I hope I haven't bored you too much with this article. If you are interested in HT, I highly recommend you sample an upcoming weekend retreat, and have fun learning about your faith and fun making friends! For now I "Dare you all to be Lutherans".

A NOTE TO PARENTS FROM PARENTS:

We have driven many miles, spent lots of money, did many fundraisers, and lost lots of sleep (*ha ha!*) and would like to share a few thoughts:

As parents, we've learned more about our faith and how to encourage our teens to stay true to their faith. We also have made friends with other parents struggling to keep those promises we made when we brought our children to the font. I have met pastors who have helped me repent when I no longer remember how HARD it is to be a youth in our world and then received the Lord's forgiveness so (hopefully!) I will remember I am a sinner too!

HT is equally fun for the adults as well. All entertainment is open for us to join in on and just watching the kids be goof balls is hysterical!

So HT is for parents too! Come join us as we travel along and dare to be and stay Lutheran.

Jim & Diana Ruedin

YOUTH "NIGHT"

Get out your swim suit! We're goin' swimming!!

Sunday, August 21

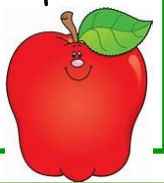
Morris Community Pool

(weather permitting)

We will probably swim first (about 1:00 or so) and then have dinner and a devotion afterwards. Stay tuned in as we work out the details...and get ready to show off your biggest, splashiest cannonball!

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

~Matthew 11:25-26



Sunday School

RALLY DAY

Sunday School will resume once again on
Sunday, August 28th at 9:30 a.m.
Stay tuned for details!

OUR NEXT

Senior Service

MONDAY, AUGUST 8th
at 1:00 PM

I was glad when they
said unto me, Let us go
into the house of the
LORD. (Ps. 122:1)

JUST FOR FUN



THE GREAT *Psalm* Devotions on Psalm 119

BEGINNING THIS MONTH AND CONTINUING ON FOR MANY MONTHS
I WILL SHARE A DEVOTION FROM PSALM 119...

Come, let's walk together in the ways and testimonies of God's Word....

Let's walk together through an amazing Psalm.

Psalm 119, the longest in the Bible, has 8 verses for every letter in the Hebrew alphabet (22 of them, so 176 verses). It is an alphabet poem where each verse begins with a designated letter. As it moves from part to part it takes us on a journey of discipleship; what it means to walk with God through this life – through the blessings and the testing. And the person right in the middle of the psalm is Jesus, the teacher, the Savior, and the Good Shepherd. He does the walk of faith and says, “follow Me.” The blessings and testing, the joys and sorrows are all shared by Him.

Throughout Psalm 119 each verse (with only one exception) has a word that has to do with God's Word. “Commandment”, “Statute”, “Pledge” and “Testimony” are just some of them. They are underlined and become part of the rhythm of the poem. They are explained in the course of the devotions.

One special word included is Torah, translated as Law, but marked with a cross. Throughout the Psalm “Law” is the translation for Torah, the revealed word and will of God in the first 5 books of the Bible. But the meaning is not quite the same as we think of in the word “law.” In fact there are many places where the word Torah finally points to Jesus and the cross. For that reason they are marked not with an asterisk * but with a cross [†].

ALEPH

- ¹ Absolutely blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law[†] of the LORD.
- ² Altogether blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
who seek Him with their whole heart.
- ³ Also they do no wickedness,
but walk in His ways.
- ⁴ Appointed have You, Your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ Ah, that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping Your statutes!
- ⁶ As a result I would not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all Your commandments.
- ⁷ Acclaim You with an upright heart, I will
as I learn Your righteous ordinances.
- ⁸ Attend to Your statutes I will;
do not forsake me beyond enduring!

THE GREAT

Psalm

...Continued from page 14

Verses 1-2 “Walking Among the Ways and Works of God”

Psalm 119 starts with an amazing thought, a remarkable idea. What does it mean to walk in the “Torah” of the LORD? (Torah is the word that is almost always translated in English as “Law.” And once we hear “Law” we immediately think of commandments – the should’s and should-not’s. But what the psalm is talking about is so much more. In fact the Torah is the first 5 books of the Bible and everything that is in them.

It is God revealing Himself, God creating, God blessing Adam and Eve; and through them all of humanity (Genesis 1:26 ff). It is the story of how God, when He found Adam and Eve having wandered off and rebelling, did not sweep them and us away into destruction; but instead promised a Savior, the Seed of the woman. He would be born for us and would conquer sin and death; and He would be wounded in the battle. It is the story of God calling Abraham to go to the mountain of God and act out “the sacrifice”—the sacrifice that only God the Father would actually go through with. So Abraham goes three days, puts the wood on his son, answers Isaac by saying, “God Himself will provide the Lamb,” and then receives his son, his only son whom he loves, back from the dead.

It is the story of God redeeming His people, through the blood of the lamb, bringing them through the waters, and saying to them, “I am the Lord your God who brought you out . . .” At the mountain God tells them who they are and calls them to walk with Him and walk in His ways. We could go on endlessly, but . . .

What does it mean to “walk in the Torah of the Lord?” When we see all the parts of how God has revealed His love, His will, and His plan of salvation; walking in these things is very special. It goes way beyond rules and commandments. It is a much deeper experience. It is at the beginning of everything we are and everything in our lives.

Think of it this way. To walk in the Torah of the Lord is to journey through life, from one day to the next with the things of God all around us. It is, within our souls, to look at the world a certain way – filled with the promises of Eden, the drama of God talking with Abraham, the promise of the lamb “who takes away the sin of the world,” and the word of God as our map through all the questions of right and wrong. It is to live in the relationship that God has given us in our creation and in Jesus Christ.

Only one person has ever truly walked in the Law / the Torah of the Lord. This is the One whose way is blameless. It is Jesus and the Torah is His story. He is “the seed of the woman”, the “Lamb of God”, the Passover, the way through the sea to freedom. He is also the One who takes the curse – though He was blameless and innocent He took our punishment.

By His cross and tomb He takes His story and makes it my story. What is written about Him becomes ours: blessed, blameless and walking in the Torah of the Lord. We are clothed by the holiness of the Son of God and will stand before God innocent and pure. What an amazing gift of grace!

And then we look at the world all around us; and we see the hand of God in so many things that happen in our lives. We go through the day with an awareness of God. He is present with us. And at the end of the day we rest from all the turmoil. We commit ourselves into the hands of God, and trust in His mercy and His goodness.

THE GREAT

Psalm

...Continued from page 15

Walking with God also means that this world is not our home. We have an amazing relationship with God and all the promises of eternity. We look back on our history, our life (thinking again of Abraham) and we say, “My father was a wandering Aramean.” It is both part of our family history and the hope of our future. As Abraham did we also “look forward to a city . . . whose designer and builder is God;” a city, right now being formed and gathered by Jesus Christ.

That is why the first verse, which talks about walking in the Torah of the LORD, leads right into v. 2. “Blessed are those who keep His testimonies.” We keep, treasure and hold these things in our memories.

God has told us about His love and His plan for us. He has witnessed to His Grace and mercy through every act and part of the plan of salvation. And the witnesses and the testimonies are more than we could ever list. Read Hebrews 11. And then remember the “faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead” Jesus Christ. The greatest of His testimonies is the one written in the flesh of His own hands. It is the testimony that we will one day see in the hands of Jesus when He gathers all His people on the Day of Resurrection.



Prayer:

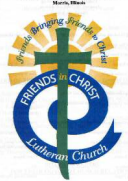
Lord and Savior, You walked with Abraham, showing Your plan of salvation. You walked with Moses and led the people of Israel through the wilderness. And then You walked with Your disciples, feeding, healing, praying, dying and rising. You did all this so I might walk with You forever. As You filled their lives so fill our days with the things of God. Let us understand Your ways and Your purpose in gathering Your kingdom. Lead my heart and mind that they may be filled with Your words and may I see Your hand and Your mercy in every part of life. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	1	2 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	3 10am - LWML	4	5	6 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
7 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	8 1pm - Senior Service	9 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	10	11 9am - 12 KYKS 6pm - Trustees Meeting	12	13 5:30pm - Worship
14 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	15	16 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	17	18	19	20 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
21 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	22	23 9am - Bible Study	24	25 10am - Regency Care	26	27 5:30pm - Worship
28 Sun Sch Rally Day 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	29 10am - Park Pointe	30 9am - Bible Study	31	1	2	3 Communion 5:30pm - Worship

Prayer Calendar

AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries around the world especially Kathy, Nicole, Sue, Joseph and Jennie. Christians being persecuted. Our congregation.</p>	<p>Prayers of thanksgiving for Zack Carlson, Shaye Carter and Emma Oslovovich on having such a great time at NOLA. Prayers that they keep their hearts and minds open to the Lord.</p>	<p>Lord you put people in our path. We pray that the questions the Muslim gentleman was asking about you will make him question more. Open his heart and mind and give him a yearning to learn more about you Lord.</p>	<p>Pray each day: Lord, we ask you to console the Wendling Family. Remind them of Your promises. Strengthen them. Give them a special peace that only You can give.</p>	<p>Lord, we thank you for keeping Joseph and Jennie safe as they were fleeing Turkey during the unrest. Watch over, guard and keep all missionaries safe in Turkey and Bangladesh.</p>	<p>Prepare our hearts as we attend church and worship You Lord.</p>
<p>Thank You Lord for giving us the opportunity to worship openly with others at Friends In Christ Lutheran Church.</p>	<p>Help our congregation to grow!</p>	<p>Lord, as Pastor prepares to start an Adult Instruction / Confirmation class be with those who You want to take the class. Give them a hunger for learning so they step forward and sign up for the class.</p>	<p>Lord, teach us as a church to support the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our members and community. James 5:16</p>	<p>Lord, we thank You for the opportunity to be able to give shoes to children that need them. Lord we especially thank You for the wonderful volunteers we have. Bless the workers and bless those who come in for shoes.</p>	<p>Lord, help me to be strong and courageous when I am talking to others about You. Josh. 1:9</p>	<p>Lord, give me the strength to make difficult decisions and the wisdom to make good decisions. Psalm 32:8-9</p>
<p>Lord, Thank You for being our refuge and strength. Thank You for being a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1</p>	<p>Lord, help parents to realize they are not alone in raising their children. You are always by their side and You love them.</p>	<p>Lord, be with missionaries in Africa and the Mideast. Bless them as they are bringing others to You. Guard and give boldness to them as they are working for You.</p>	<p>Lord, teach me to develop habits that protect my spiritual health. Matt. 6:13</p>	<p>Lord, be with the children and teachers as they go back to school. If they have rough times at school help them to pray to You first for help. Lord bless the children in our congregation.</p>	<p>Lord, may you bring strength and renewal to those who feel tired and weak. Isaiah 40:29</p>	<p>Forgive me from my sins. Help me to start over each day with You.</p>
<p>Lord, when I am feeling sorry for myself, remind me that Your desire is for me to live abundantly. John 10:10</p>	<p>Lord, we ask you to raise up a new wave of people strategically serving in our church.</p>	<p>Lord, my prayer is simple. Make my faith in You greater. Luke 17:5</p>	<p>Lord, help us to hear Your voice as we try to discern your call in our lives. Prov. 3:5</p>	<p>Lord, Thank You for Sunday School teachers. May they help our children grow spiritually as they learn about You. Phil. 1:6</p>	<p>We pray that God would comfort those among us who are going through difficult times.</p>	<p>Lord, forgive us when we fail to see the miraculous signs of your presence in our everyday lives. Dan. 4:2-3</p>
<p>Lord, we feel at times that we are wondering in the wilderness. Be with us and help us through each day.</p>	<p>Lord, lead us in the path that You would have us go.</p>	<p>Lord bless those who are making prayer shawls. This is a wonderful ministry to comfort those who are ill, have lost a loved one, or just need some extra love. Bless the hands that make the prayer shawls and bless those who receive them.</p>	<p>We thank You Lord for all our blessings. Help us to start and end each day with You. Thank You for loving us.</p>			