

AUGUST 2017

*Friends bringing friends to Christ*

# Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris Illinois 60450



**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**

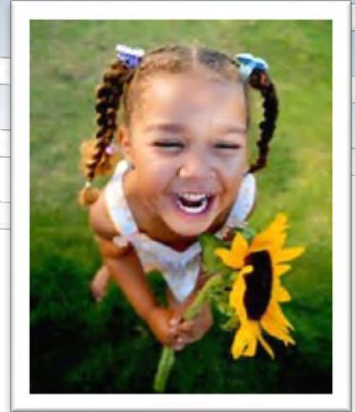
Carol Hansen

**YOUTH**

Cathy Thompson

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## After We Laughed ...

A sign along the highway by a school reads:

“How much did you learn in school last year?

Apparently not enough.

Have to return in August!”

And we laughed and laughed. And then we drove along and laughed some more.

And then (days later) I started thinking:

How much have I learned of the lessons of faith? That is

*Continued...*

## Save the Date!

<b>AUG 1:</b>	K.Y.K.S. Shoe Fittings	8:00 am – 12:00pm
<b>AUG 2:</b>	LWML	10:00 am
<b>AUG 8:</b>	Friendly Seniors	5:30 pm
<b>AUG 14:</b>	Senior Service	1:00 pm
	Sunday School Teacher's meeting	4:30 pm
<b>AUG 20:</b>	Youth Day	1:00 pm

## After We Laughed... *(continued)*

what Jesus teaches – faith (“believing the words and promises of God”).

1. Believing the Words and Promises of God. Those are the promises of life and salvation. It is the call from God to know Him not only as the creator, but also as the Savior who is interested in my soul and my life. So interested was He that He became one of us human beings, and carried our sins and the punishment for them.  
These are the promises that come from the broken tomb and the words of eternity. It all comes together in Jesus.
2. Right now in my life, if I have those words and promises – I have promises from God for today. They make it possible to face the troubles of today. And tomorrow the same God will be there with the same promises for that day. He is my greatest and truest friend.
3. “Believing the words and promises” is called faith. And there’s the big issue!  
It’s easy to know the promises in theory – life is different.  
It’s easy to believe the promises when everything is going well – when I am facing challenges, problems, doubts and temptations is different.  
That’s where I need Jesus’ teaching.  
And I need to see Him living it out.  
The Bible calls Jesus “The author and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)
4. Have I learned the lessons of faith? Have I mastered the practice?  
Let me test myself:  
Do I worry? In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talked about the birds and the grass and said that God cares for them and I should not worry. Do I?  
In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus used the Greek word “oligopistoi” – little-faith-ones.  
He was teaching what faith means; and He continued to teach and encourage as the disciples began to learn their lessons just a little bit.  
And then Matthew 8 happened, when they were out on the lake in a boat and the storm was getting out of hand, and they ran to Jesus in a panic. “Lord, save us!”  
He got up quieted the storm and asked them, “Why were you afraid, little-faith-ones (oligopistoi)?”  
Have I learned that lesson – faith in the face of a storm?
5. The disciples tried really hard to learn; as Jesus did unexpected things and brought them along.  
And then one night in the middle of another storm they saw Jesus walking on the water. “It’s a ghost!” they said. But He talked to them and told them it was Him.  
Peter seems to have seen an opportunity that does not come along very often. “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water!” and Jesus said “Come.” Just one word, but faith is “believing the words and promises of God.”  
Peter got out of the boat and walked . . . on the water . . . until he looked around and got afraid.  
Jesus had to reach out to him and take his hand, and then said, “(“Oligopiste”) Little-faith-one, why did you doubt?”

6. The point is not walking on water. Even if you have a nice new pair of sandals like Jesus used to wear and decide to call them “J.C. Water Walkers,” do not let me hear about you having to be pulled out of the Illinois River because you decided to try them out and see if they work. Don’t do it; and if you are so inclined you have a bathtub at home. We are not called to be silly.

What God calls us to is simply “believing the words and promises of God.” Nothing more, nothing less, no fancy demonstration – just simply believing what God has promised us in Jesus, and then learning to take on each day with faith in those words.

So here’s my sign – for myself:

How much of faith have I learned?  
Apparently I still need to learn from Jesus.  
Maybe I need to go to church!

Fact is, I will be learning this one lesson my whole life. I need to learn from the master, the one who prayed in faith when the sky turned black and the whole universe – and the One who created the universe – turned away and forsook Him. And He still prayed in faith; and earned my salvation.

That’s my teacher; and that’s the teacher I want.

Pastor Mark

## August Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Shirley Seidler  
7<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Willig  
10<sup>th</sup> JoAnne Heck  
11<sup>th</sup> Curtis Johnson  
12<sup>th</sup> Kris Houchin  
16<sup>th</sup> Cliff Nighsonger  
18<sup>th</sup> Linda Hanson  
19<sup>th</sup> Doug Halkyard  
22<sup>nd</sup> Patty Houchin  
25<sup>th</sup> Jaime Ruedin  
28<sup>th</sup> Carley Hood  
James Krugler  
Art Turner  
30<sup>th</sup> Pastor Gruenbaum  
31<sup>st</sup> Marcia Gjerde



## August Anniversaries

11<sup>th</sup> Ray & Donna Carlson 60 years





Above - trip to the Ark, Left Rev. Gerard Bolling & members, Rt. grad school roommates Paula Willig and Carol Seeger



Far left Rev. Mark Willig, left Diaconess intern Diana Rice & Rev. Tyler Walworth, Right church workers with anniversaries Diaconess Pat Hycnar, Rev. Ron Friedrich, Rev. Tim Eckert, Rev. Tom Phillips, Rev. Alan Rork



## INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION & EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE



Left: Deaf Diaconesses and Diaconess Students, Right Carol & Rev. Mark Seeger, Rev. Bud Palmer and Johanna. (New look for the Revs. They are not related.)

## Friendly Seniors

**The Country Mansion**

*(101 W. South Street, Dwight, IL)*

**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 p.m.**



## Senior Service

**Monday, August 14**

**1:00 p.m.**

## Youth Day

**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00pm**

Planning is in the works for a  
Back-to-School bowling party.

Stay tuned for details as the  
date draws near...







## Higher Things

*July 25-2, 2017*

Mary, Diana & Laura Ruedin,  
Tisha Barnes and Paula Willig  
attended the Higher Things  
Youth Retreat in Valparaiso, IN.  
We look forward to hearing  
about their trip!



Timothy P. Schmalz (b. 1969)  
*Homeless Jesus*, 2013 (cast 2015)  
Bronze  
Gift of Ronald '58 and Janet Reimer





## K.Y.K.S. Shoe Ministry



Many schools begin classes on August 17 and so K.Y.K.S. is in full swing!  
Please continue to keep all our volunteers and recipients in your prayers.  
We thank and praise God for all He is doing through this ministry!



**Wednesday, August 2**  
**10:00 am**

Join us this month as we hear from Bonnie and Sue about the LWML Convention they attended in June.!



## Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 13,177.42	\$ 12,854.18	\$ 11,674.01	\$ 67,894.12	\$ 70,890.00
Expenses	\$ 11,176.37	\$ 12,989.15	\$ 12,983.47	\$ 75,023.51	\$ 79,582.60
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,001.05	\$ (134.97)	\$ (1,309.46)	\$ (7,129.39)	\$ (8,692.60)

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 46,236.38
LCEF	\$ 5,945.58
Total	\$ 52,181.96

# Prayer Calendar

# AUGUST 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>6</b> Prepare our hearts and minds as we worship You Lord.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Bless those who attend the Senior Service. Bless those who are home bound and are not able to attend. Lord help them all to keep their faith in You and help them to come closer to You in all they do.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Please pray daily for Pastor Willing, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries everywhere. Dear Ministry, Iglesia San Pablo Church, People of the Book Outreach, Salem Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Lord we thank You for being with Pastor as he rode in Ragbrai. Thank You for bringing him home safe and for the blessings You gave him on his travels.</p>	<p><b>3</b> We Thank You for the gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29 12-13 John 17:1-26</p>	<p><b>4</b> Lord, be with us in our everyday lives.</p>	<p><b>5</b> We Thank You Lord for the opportunity to worship You together as a congregation.</p>
<p><b>8</b> Lord, help us to realize that to some, the step through the doors of a church is an act of courage and a moment of vulnerability. Help us to be welcoming. Col. 4:6</p>	<p><b>14</b> Help us to be bold in witnessing for You Lord. Eph. 6:19</p>	<p><b>8</b> Lord we ask for discernment that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether that is around the world or right in our neighborhoods.</p>	<p><b>9</b> Lord thank You for giving me direction even when I struggle to make decisions. Help me to stay on the right path. Psalm 32:8</p>	<p><b>10</b> God, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel and are thankful for your majesty. Psalm 126</p>	<p><b>11</b> Be with those who are involved in Salaam Christian Fellowship and keep them safe from harm and danger. Open doors of opportunities and open hearts so others can come to know you O Lord.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need You. Psalm 27: 1</p>
<p><b>19</b> Lord, help us to identify our gifts, recognize our strength, and curb our weaknesses. Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p><b>21</b> Lord You give us Your Grace, knowing we are so unworthy. Help us to accept Your Grace as given and not try to earn the gift You gave us freely.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Lord, so many are looking for work. Help those who want to work find a job. Matt. 28:20</p>	<p><b>16</b> Lord, Thank You for loving us the way we are.</p>	<p><b>17</b> Lord we have missionaries all over the world trying to share Your Word. Lead them past barriers to hearts ready to receive Your Word.</p>	<p><b>18</b> Thank You for being our refuge and strength Lord for we can't do it alone. Psalm 46:1</p>	<p><b>19</b> Lord, help us to identify our gifts, recognize our strength, and curb our weaknesses. Isaiah 41:10</p>
<p><b>20</b> 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</p>	<p><b>24</b> Lord You give us Your Grace, knowing we are so unworthy. Help us to accept Your Grace as given and not try to earn the gift You gave us freely.</p>	<p><b>22</b> God, Thank You for the unbreakable promise that You will be with us always, even to the end of the age. Matt. 28:20</p>	<p><b>23</b> Lord we pray that when we serve we are led by the Holy Spirit and recognize open door opportunities.</p>	<p><b>24</b> Father, we give thanks for Your compassion, faithfulness, grace, holiness, kindness, love, mercy, and wisdom. Dan. 9:9</p>	<p><b>25</b> Lord, we pray for parents who struggle to keep their children in Your Word.</p>	<p><b>26</b> God, forgive my failure to show love to those who are different than me. Matt. 6:14</p>
<p><b>27</b> God, please give me the strength to continue when I feel like giving up. Isaiah 40:31</p>	<p><b>28</b> Lord, Thank You for giving us the opportunity to give shoes to those that need them. Help all those who are blessed with shoes that have been given come to know You.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Lord, open my eyes to those around me so that I might be a friend to someone who is feeling alone. Eph. 4:32</p>	<p><b>30</b> Lord, help us to turn our troubles over to You. Romans 8:28</p>	<p><b>31</b> Lord, please bless our new and existing ministries.</p>		



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