

AUGUST 2019

# Friends in Christ News

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

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## Come & Worship

Saturday Evenings	...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings	...	8:15 a.m.
	...	10:45 a.m.
<u>Family</u> Bible Study	...	9:30 a.m.
(Tuesday Bible Study	...	9:00 a.m.)

## THE GATHERING and THE GATHERING ...

(One is a Noun and the Other is a Verb)



Up in Minneapolis (Minnesota, that is) a couple weeks ago 22,000 young people came together to worship, to study the Bible, to pray for, and to be a friend to each other. They called it “**The Gathering**” and it helped many to understand what we are looking forward to.

Half-way around the world by the side of a road in southern Africa there stood a little oblong metal shed where about 8 people could fit. They gathered week after week. Their pastor was in his 80’s and also served 7 other congregations. And this tiny little building by the side of the road has everything to do with what happened in Minneapolis. There in Africa, they called it their congregation (which means “**Gathering**”).

In Mequon a week later another group **Gathered** called “Higher Things.” They came together to dig deeply into God’s Word, to strengthen their ability to speak of Jesus and then to go out into the world to bring a Gospel of Salvation to a world that is dying.

Down in Florida, our LCMS is right now meeting in convention with the question: How do we bring a life-saving word from God to a world that does not know God.

Out in the Kalahari some years ago I sat across the fire from Dauwe and his family (5) plus their neighbor Galebotse and listened to the missionary (Sue Hasselbring) tell about Jesus. I have prayed for Dauwe and his family and for Galebotse ever since. I learned some time later that Dauwe and his family had become Christian. *Lord Jesus, watch over Dauwe and his family for all time. Keep them strong in faith and trusting in You.*

This is where the word “**Gathering**” turns from a noun into a verb. Because, you see **Gathering** can describe an event (a noun) where there are a lot of people together; and **Gathering** can also

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## Save the Date:

AUG 1:	K.Y.K.S. Shoe Fitting	9:00 a.m.
	Event St. Vincent’s Table	4:00 p.m.
AUG 11:	Voter’s Assembly	9:00 a.m.
AUG 12:	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
AUG 13:	Friendly Seniors	11:30 am
AUG 18	Youth Day - Swimming	2:00 p.m.
SEPT 1	Sunday School Rally Day	9:45 am

## Looking Ahead...

September 4:	LWML Meeting	10:00 a.m.
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*(Continued from page 1)*

mean going out and bringing people together (a verb). The noun is about the event of all being there at the same time. But in order to have a **Gathering** (noun) there has to be the inviting and **Gathering** together (verb). The noun **Gathering** may have a few or may be numbered in many thousands. The verb **Gathering** always happens one soul at a time as the King Jesus individually brings us into His Gospel, His Kingdom and His life. But the verb **Gathering** involves Jesus sending His people into all parts of the world; and often it is alone or just a few at a time. But we are sent to find and bring the message of life to individual people who are wandering far from God.

And then the **Gathering** also happens in very simple and quiet ways. Night after night by children's beds all over the world mothers and fathers take the time to pray with their children and tell them about Jesus with words that come from God Himself; reading Bible stories and sharing verses from the Bible. This also is part of Jesus' work **Gathering** one soul at a time into the family of God to know Jesus and live forever with Him.

Here is a quote from a **Gathering** in Topeka this last week. A hundred or more people (including the children) **Gathered** to work together for Deaf Missions – there was the International Lutheran Deaf Association; the Interpreted Ministry Conference; and the Ephphatha Conference for Pastors of the Deaf. Anyway, during one of the workshops one of the pastors gave the rest of us this fantastic quote.

Here it is: *"My plan is to go to heaven and to drag as many of you along with me as I can."*

Jesus sent out His disciples to **Gather**. "Go, make disciples of every nation ..."

The sending echoes words from the parable of the wedding banquet (Luke 14): "Go out ... to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame" and then, "Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that My house may be filled."

This is the **Gathering** and it is happening everywhere, bringing us ..., and then bringing more of us ..., and then bringing still more of us into the family of God.

The Disciples were sent to tell the Good News about forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus came into the world to win, to bring, and to make it ours. God will have His house filled, ...

... and that is when the verb will turn back into a noun. The Old Testament called it the "Great Congregation" or the "Great Assembly." It is the "Great **Gathering**" when all who belong to Jesus, who are His friends, will be "**Gathered**" together. We are looking forward to that day when "a multitude that no one could number" will be **Gathered** "before the throne and in front of the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands" (Revelation 7:9). And then the singing begins (Zephaniah 3:17) "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing!"

Now THAT is a "**Gathering**"! The greatest of all time! Be there!

Pastor Mark

**(Artwork from the Pews)**

*"Jesus Gathers Us Together"*

*Illustrated by Teddy Ruedin*





# REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

## National Youth Gathering Minneapolis, Minnesota July 11 – 15, 2019

Hello, everyone! As I (Cathy Thompson) am writing this on July 17th, we are now home from the 2019 National Youth Gathering. We are all still recuperating. Who knew praising Jesus could be so tiring!!! We all had a remarkable time worshipping and learning more about our REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

We are so very thankful for the congregation's support in sending our little group of 6 to Minneapolis. You helped us all grow in our faith!

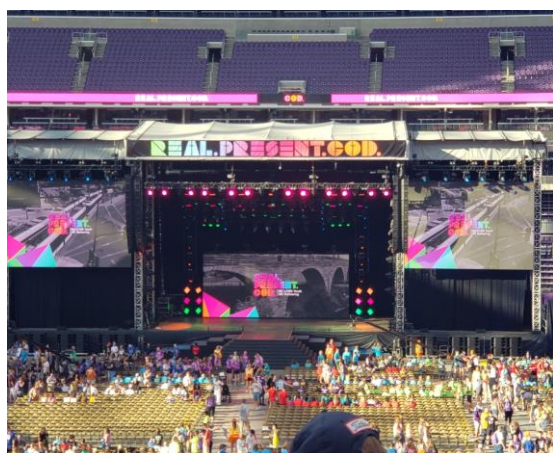
We are saving the "good pictures" for the NYG Share Night. The date is yet to be determined, but we will give you plenty of notice. We pray you can attend and listen to us share about our experience. In the meantime, enjoy these sneak-peak photos...



We left bright and early on July 10<sup>th</sup> at around 6:45 a.m.  
(L to R) Emma Oslakovich, Terry Carter, Shaye Carter, Elicia Kirk, Elizabeth Kirk, Cathy Thompson



(Above) One of our daily, morning bible studies.



(Above) People beginning to file in for the Mass Event held at Minneapolis' US Bank stadium.



(Below) Holy Communion with 28,000 of our closest friends! (Approximately 23,000 youth and 5000 adult leaders)



(Far L) Everyone received a backpack on the first day. 23,000 packs create quite a mountain of purple to behold!  
(Near L) A group shot of us just before the first night's Mass Event.

**K.Y.K.S.**  
 ("Keeping Your Kids [in] Shoes")  
**BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOE FITTING DAY**

**Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:00 a.m. – Noon**

(Volunteer helpers please be at the church at 8:30 a.m.)

This is always a busy and exciting day! We look forward to seeing everyone there!  
 Questions? Talk to Vicki Kahn or call the church office.



**Lutheran Women Missionary League**

**ATTENTION!**

**We will NOT be meeting in August!**

Our next meeting will be on

**WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**

**Servers: Deb Carter & Paula Willig**

Our meetings are always interesting, informative and fun! Be sure to mark your calendar and make a point to join us in September. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Below are a few funny church bulletin announcements that were shared at our last meeting that were too hilarious not to share again:

- A BEAN SUPPER WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING IN THE CHURCH HALL. MUSIC WILL FOLLOW.
- DON'T LET WORRY KILL YOU OFF – LET THE CHURCH HELP!
- MISS CHARLINE MASON SANG "I WILL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN" GIVING OBVIOUS PLEASURE TO THE CONGREGATION.
- POT LUCK SUPPER AT 5 P.M. PRAYER AND MEDICATION TO FOLLOW.
- WEIGHT WATCHERS WILL MEET AT 7 P.M. PLEASE USE THE LARGE DOUBLE DOORS AT THE SIDE ENTRANCE.
- THE SERMON THIS MORNING IS "JESUS WALKS ON WATER". THE SERMON TONIGHT WILL BE "SEARCHING FOR JESUS".
- THIS EVENING AT 7 P.M. THERE WILL BE HYMN SING IN THE PARK ACROSS FROM THE CHURCH. BRING A BLANKET AND COME PREPARED TO SIN.
- A BIBLE STUDY WILL BE HELD THURSDAY AT 10 A.M. ALL ARE INVITED TO A LUNCHEON AFTER THE B.S. IS DONE.
- THE PASTOR WOULD APPRECIATE IF THE LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION WOULD LEND HIM THEIR ELECTRIC GIRDLES FOR THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY.



## YOUTH EVENTS

*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*



### YOUTH DAY

It's time for the annual Back-to-School

## SWIM PARTY!

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Come meet us on August 18<sup>th</sup> at church at 2 pm. This month we will go to the Morris Pool and have a fun time together swimming! We will swim for a few hours, and then come back to the church have a meal together. See you there!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Rally Day and Labor Day Celebration!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 9:30 A.M.**

Okay, kids! It's time to reconnect and get together again!  
Come on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> as we kick off the new Sunday School year  
with a Rally Day Celebration party! Bring a friend!

### FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Yay! It's summer! All the more reason to DIVE into God's Word! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. all summer long. We are exploring Lutheran patterns of spirituality. What does that mean? How does it set us apart from the way scientists think? Come and find out! (The kids are loving it and you)



**SENIOR SERVICE**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 12**  
**1:00 P.M.**

*(A light lunch will be served  
immediately following)*

**FRIENDLY SENIORS**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13**  
**11:30 A.M.**

We will be meeting at  
**Al's Family Restaurant**  
*(306 Liberty Street, Morris, IL)*

Call Jerald & Connie Van Heiden  
at **815/941-1139** if  
you plan on attending.  
(Please leave a message,  
if necessary.)



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

2<sup>nd</sup> John Nelson  
4<sup>th</sup> Shirley Seidler  
10<sup>th</sup> JoAnne Heck  
11<sup>th</sup> Curtis Johnson  
13<sup>th</sup> Liam Willig  
18<sup>th</sup> Linda Hanson  
19<sup>th</sup> Doug Halkyard  
25<sup>th</sup> Jamie Ruedin  
28<sup>th</sup> Jim Krugler  
Art Turner  
30<sup>th</sup> Nicole Horrigan  
Phil Gruenbaum  
31<sup>st</sup> Marcia Gjerde

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall  
exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the  
garments of salvation; he has covered me with the  
robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks  
himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*Isaiah 61:10*

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

NONE

*(If we've missed yours, please contact the church  
office at 815/941-1255 and let us know!)*

**Financial Report**  
**Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019**

7/19/2019



General Fund	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 12,030.32	\$ 13,407.62	\$ 20,081.37	\$ 11,667.16	\$ 12,109.75	\$ 81,877.33	\$ 81,990.00
Expenses	\$ 13,678.43	\$ 14,175.60	\$ 13,055.19	\$ 13,029.02	\$ 12,034.95	\$ 81,268.62	\$ 81,918.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,648.11)	\$ (767.98)	\$ 7,026.18	\$ (1,361.86)	\$ 74.80	\$ 608.71	\$ 72.00

# Prayer Calendar

# AUGUST 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Lord, thank You for the opportunity to give shoes to children who need them. Thank You for the wonderful volunteers. Bless the workers and bless those who come in for shoes.	<b>2</b> Thank You for Shaye, Emma, Elizabeth, Elicia, and all who attended the National Youth Gathering. Lord, continue to guide their hearts and minds.	<b>3</b> Lord, comfort the Thompson family as we remember Darrel.
<b>4</b> Prepare our hearts as we attend church and worship You Lord.	<b>5</b> Pray for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, and their families, and for Missionaries around the world especially Kathy & Sue.	<b>6</b> Lord, we thank You for giving Your protection to many Christians who are in troubled places around the world.	<b>7</b> Help our congregation to grow! Lead us to those who need to know You.	<b>8</b> Lord, teach us as a church to support the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our members and community. James 5:16	<b>9</b> Lord, you put people in our path. Continue to open their hearts to Your Gospel. Give us opportunities to witness to Your love in Jesus	<b>10</b> Thank You Lord for the opportunity to worship openly with others at Friends in Christ Lutheran Church.
<b>11</b> Lord, help me to be strong and courageous when I am talking to others about You. Joshua 1:9	<b>12</b> Lord, raise up and guide those who You are calling to serve and lead in our congregation.	<b>13</b> 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.	<b>14</b> Lord, help parents to realize they are not alone in raising their children. You are always by their side and You love them.	<b>15</b> 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.	<b>16</b> Lord, bless the children of our congregation. Help them to grow in their spiritual life and in prayer.	<b>17</b> Lord, teach me to develop habits that will protect my spiritual health. Matthew 6:13
<b>18</b> Lord, my prayer is simple. Make my faith in You greater. Luke 17:5	<b>19</b> Lord, help us to hear Your voice as we try to discern Your call in our lives. Proverbs 3:5	<b>20</b> Lord, bring strength and renewal to those who feel weary and weak. Isaiah 40:29	<b>21</b> Forgive me my sins. Help me to start over each day with You. Help me to pray for those who need my forgiveness.	<b>22</b> Lord, when I am feeling sorry for myself, remind me that with You I have abundant life. John 10:10	<b>23</b> Lord, give me the strength to make difficult decisions and the wisdom to make good decisions. Psalm 32:8-9	<b>24</b> Lord, thank You for being our refuge and strength. Thank You for being a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1
<b>25</b> We thank You for all our blessings. Help us to start and end each day with You. Thank You for loving us.	<b>26</b> Lord, lead us in the path that You would have us to go.	<b>27</b> Lord God, comfort those who are going through times of trial. Strengthen their faith and assure them of Your presence. Matthew 28:20	<b>28</b> Lord, when we feel that we are wandering in the wilderness, be with us and help us to hear Your promises.	<b>29</b> Lord, help us to see Your blessings all around us, quiet blessings for each and every day. Isaiah 55:12	<b>30</b> Lord, thank You for this month, and for Your Word that has been my blessing and strength all through it. Isaiah 55:10-11	<b>31</b> Lord, Thank You for Sunday School Teachers. Bless them as they help our children grow spiritually and learn of You. Philippians 1:6

# August, 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dates in September: 9/1 Sunday School Rally Day				1 <b>9-12 KYKS Shoe Fitting</b> <b>4:00 St. Vincent's Table</b>	2	3 <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>5:30 PM –Worship</b>
4 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost <b>8:15 AM – Worship</b> <b>9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour</b> <b>10:45 AM – Worship</b>	5	6 <b>9:00 AM – Bible Study</b> <b>10:00 AM – Nominations Committee</b> <b>1:00 PM – Euchre Club</b> <b>7:00 PM – Elders</b>	7	8	9	10 <b>5:30 PM –Worship</b>
11 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost <b>8:15 AM – Worship</b> <b>9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly</b> <b>10:45 AM – Worship</b>	12 <b>1:00 PM – Senior Service</b>	13 <b>9:00 AM – Bible Study</b> <b>11:30 AM – Friendly Seniors @ Al's Family Restaurant</b>	14	15	16	17 <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>5:30 PM –Worship</b>
18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost <b>8:15 AM – Worship</b> <b>9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour</b> <b>10:45 AM – Worship</b> <b>2:30 PM – Youth Night</b>	19	20 <b>9:00 AM – Bible Study</b>	21	22	23	24 <b>5:30 PM –Worship</b>
25 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <b>8:15 AM – Worship</b> <b>9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour</b> <b>10:45 AM – Worship</b>	26 <b>10:00 AM – Park Pointe</b>	27 <b>9:00 AM – Bible Study</b>	28	29	30	31 <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>5:30 PM –Worship</b>