

# AUGUST 2020

## Friends in Christ News

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

**We have re-opened our doors!**

Saturday Evenings – 05:30 pm      Sunday Mornings – 8:15 am (*Live-Streamed*) & 10:45 am  
(*Senior Service postponed until further notice*)

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### CANCELLATIONS FOR AUGUST:

- ✓ Voter's Meeting
- ✓ LWML Meeting
- ✓ KYKS (Postponed)

### 20-20 A Year for Seeing Clearly

### Part 8: "It's the Third Quarter"



**That's what the article said back in April, "It's the Third Quarter."**

And then the writer went on to explain: It happens in sports. It happens in long projects. It happens in all kinds of things. Well, yes; but what does it *mean*? The writer explained that the third quarter is when things bog down. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter we start in, full of energy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter we continue, with a bit less enthusiasm and focus. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter we are pressing on to finish. But that 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter; is hard! It drags on. We bog down. We have a hard time keeping focus.

This rings so very true. I can't count how many times I have been through it in a longer home repair project. Our kitchen took 16 months. Half-way through I started dreading having to start in on every day off. It was months until I could see the end. Then it was "Press on! Almost there."

I have watched sports teams go through a huge let-down during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the game, or the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the season (yes, I am a Cubs fan). And I have watched some of the great players carry and inspire their teams through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter let-down.

**Back in April the writer said, "We are halfway through the shut-down. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This is when things get weird."** He described how things start to wear on us. We get impatient and

(continued on page 2)



edgy. The time itself makes us ready to act out. And some of the acting out can be odd and emotionally extreme. It looks like he was right about the edgy-ness; and it looks like our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has gone on a lot longer than we thought.

**Jesus told a parable. It was about laborers in the vineyard** (Matthew 20:1-16). Some hired at the beginning of the day; others at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> hours. When all are paid the same, those hired first grumble that they had borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat. They had endured the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter while others got to skip right to the end.

**The book of Revelation** was in the middle of describing the troubles of this world and this life. And then it said, "This is a call for the patient endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus." (Revelation 14:12) Indeed! Patient endurance! And, what is patient endurance? What does it look like?

**Patient Endurance is to continue on persistently; day after day, as many days as it takes.**

- **Abraham** had God's promise. And then he had to wait, year after year until he was 80, 81, 82, 85, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99 ... and then the promise came. Sarah laughed and Abraham named his son Isaac (which means "laughter"). He patiently endured, believing the promise. And yet, in the time of waiting there were a few times Abraham showed how he was struggling with waiting.
- **The people of Israel** waited at the foot of Mt. Sinai for Moses to return. 36 days, 37, 38, and so on; and then they lost their way and had Aaron make a golden calf for them to worship. They did not patiently endure and keep faith with God. They did not persist in believing God's words.
- **God told the prophet Habakkuk**, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets .... The vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end – it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:2-3) It does not matter how something looks right at the moment. God has it sorted out. It will happen.
- There **at the temple** was a man named Simeon, waiting for the "consolation of Israel". He was waiting, and the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would see the Christ. And then the day came. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus into the temple. Simeon rejoiced, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace ... my eyes have seen Your salvation". (Luke 2:25-32) Simeon had waiting, persistently, faithfully until the time came.
- **We continue on**, with masks, social distancing, live-streaming, sanitizing, having communion outdoors on weekdays (and now included within our services; as we distance and sanitize). At the heart of it all, we continue hearing God's Word, receiving God's grace. His Word is eternal; His grace is eternal. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Peter in John 6:68) There is a different kind of enduring, but this truth is absolutely true. Our God is patient, "not wanting any to perish, but that all should reach repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

**We are in a time that calls for patient endurance.** It is a time when we need the promises of Jesus. We need to hear them and remember how sweet they are:

- "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)
- "Where 2 or 3 are gathered in My name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)
- "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:32)

**Press on then.** Remember, not only is Jesus worth every bit of patient endurance. Jesus Himself counted you worth every bit of patient endurance that He had to give; and His patient endurance is absolutely astonishing!

Pastor Mark





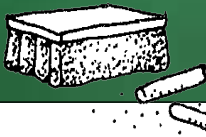
I dreamed death came the other night  
and heaven's gates swung wide.  
With kindly grace a lovely angel  
ushered me inside.  
And there, to my astonishment,  
stood folks I'd known on earth;  
some I had judged and labelled as  
unfit; of little worth.  
Indignant words rose to my lips  
but never were set free;  
for every face showed stunned surprise –  
no one expected *me!*

-author unknown

**We** don't get into heaven based on our  
performance, but on **Christ's** performance  
on the cross.

**We** are all saved by grace, not works.

*He saved us because of His mercy, not  
because of righteous things we had done.  
He did it through the washing of new  
birth and the renewing by the Holy  
Spirit, which God poured out upon us  
generously through Jesus Christ our  
Savior.*



TITUS 3:5-6 (CEB)



## 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

## Anniversaries

18<sup>th</sup> Brandon & Kayla Crawford 8 years



7/31/2020

# Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

**\$8,181 OF TOTAL INCOME ARE MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

General Fund	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 10,347.33	\$ 12,785.00	\$ 16,611.00	\$ 10,609.15	\$ 15,990.00	\$ 74,753.63	\$ 81,288.00
Expenses	\$ 13,545.51	\$ 12,899.32	\$ 10,817.38	\$ 12,524.37	\$ 11,580.91	\$ 71,686.95	\$ 81,618.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (3,198.18)	\$ (114.32)	\$ 5,793.62	\$ (1,915.22)	\$ 4,409.09	\$ 3,066.68	\$



# CANCELLATION:

Due to a slight uptick in local cases of COVID-19, the  
**LWML meeting set for August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm has been cancelled.**

## 2019–2021 LWML MISSION GOAL REPORT

June 30, 2020

2019-2021 Biennium

Mission Goal:  
**\$2,100,000**

**\$2,100,000**

**\$1,290,057.44**

Mission Goal  
 Progress  
**(\$22,442.56)**

Total Mites Received  
**\$1,290,057.44**

Total Mites  
 Still Needed  
**\$809,942.56**

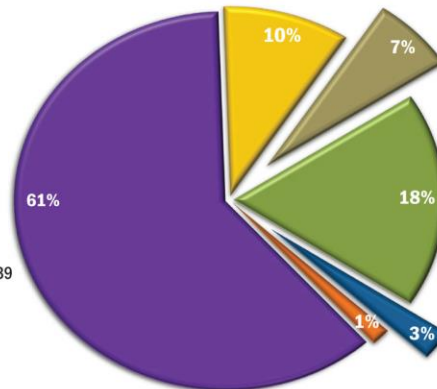
Mites Needed  
 Per Month  
 (9 months remaining)  
**\$89,993.62**

And a poor widow  
 came and put in two  
 small copper coins  
 [mites], which make a  
 penny (Mark 12:42).

## OVERALL MITE SOURCES

### Mite Offerings Through June 2020

- District Mite Offerings \$788,572.43
- Donations Made at Convention \$126,583.37
- Donations from Special Appeals \$84,386.51
- Other Direct Donations \$237,708.30
- Donations Made Through Third Parties \$33,226.39
- Donations from Endowments \$19,580.44



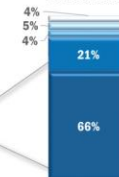
### Donations From Special Appeals

- Giving Tuesday \$59,159.19
- Christmas Appeal \$25,227.32



### Donations Made Through Third Parties

- Round Up for Mites \$1,378.82
- Donate Your Change \$1,570.52
- Amazon Smile \$1,429.05
- Joyful Response \$6,920.00
- Thrivent Choice \$21,928.00



## MONTHLY GIFTS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION GRANTS

REPORTING PERIOD	MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	OVER/(UNDER) MONTHLY BUDGET OF \$87,500	REPORTING PERIOD	MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	OVER/(UNDER) MONTHLY BUDGET OF \$87,500
Apr 2019	\$79,081.86	(\$8,418.14)	Apr 2020	\$99,578.39	\$12,078.39
May 2019	\$71,873.98	(\$15,626.02)	May 2020	\$58,371.37	(29,128.63)
Jun 2019	\$79,200.13	(\$8,299.87)	Jun 2020	\$45,334.07	(42,165.93)
Jul 2019	\$68,367.22	(\$19,132.78)	Jul 2020		
Aug 2019	\$52,689.80	(\$34,810.20)	Aug 2020		
Sep 2019	\$155,347.63	\$67,847.63	Sep 2020		
Oct 2019	\$69,760.42	(\$17,739.58)	Oct 2020		
Nov 2019	\$86,814.33	(\$685.67)	Nov 2020		
Dec 2019	\$133,585.53	\$46,085.53	Dec 2020		
Jan 2020	\$115,508.67	\$28,008.67	Jan 2021		
Feb 2020	\$91,139.07	\$3,639.07	Feb 2021		
Mar 2020	\$83,404.97	(4,095.03)	Mar 2021		
Total				\$1,290,057.44	(22,442.56)

For more questions, or to learn more about us

1-800-252-5965 [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)






# Prayer Calendar

# AUGUST 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Deaf Ministry, Doctors, Nurses, anyone working in the medical field, Police, Fire and EMTs. Those working everywhere.
<b>2</b> Thank you God for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us through everyday life. John 16:13	<b>3</b> God, show us ways to nurture youth who are trying to follow You in a world full of so many other options. 2Corin. 5:17	<b>4</b> Lord, we thank You for the simple things in life. 1 John 4:9-10	<b>5</b> We pray for those suffering from the Corona Virus.	<b>6</b> God, help us to put all our trust in You. Proverbs 3:5-6	<b>7</b> Thank You for being a refuge and strength for we can't do it alone. Psalm 46:1	<b>8</b> We pray that God would inspire us to read our Bibles each day.
<b>9</b> God, help us to remember to come to You first in prayer. John 15:7	<b>10</b> Lord, You are the Good Shepherd help us as Your sheep to hear and know Your voice so we can follow You. John 10:1-18	<b>11</b> God, thank You for giving us Your Word and thank You for speaking through the scriptures today. 2 Tim. 3:16	<b>12</b> God, take away my worries and let me turn my problems over to You. Matt. 10:31	<b>13</b> Pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary.	<b>14</b> Lord, help us to realize that weekly worship, daily prayer and Bible Study need to be a priority in our lives. Ecc. 4:9-10	<b>15</b> Help us to accept what You have planned for us. Jer. 29:11
<b>16</b> God, thank You for giving us Your Word and thank You for speaking through the scriptures today. 2 Tim. 3:16	<b>17</b> Help us not to judge others but accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. 1 Sam. 16:7 John 5:22	<b>18</b> Pray for our Governors and Mayors.	<b>19</b> Lord, be a source of stability to those in transition in their career. Isaiah 43:1-2, 4	<b>20</b> Bless all the students as they begin their school year. May they be filled with the spirit of wonder and learning. Help them to keep You in their hearts.	<b>21</b> We pray for those working on developing treatments for the Corona Virus.	<b>22</b> Lord, help us to love You above everything else and to pass that love along to others.
<b>23</b> We pray for Peace in our nation and reconciliation between people.	<b>24</b> Help us to remember that some of the best gifts we can give are gifts of time.	<b>25</b> God, grant peace to anyone who is struggling to pay their bills this month. So many are hurting at this time. Please help them Isaiah 35:10	<b>26</b> Pray for the Leaders of the Nations around the World.	<b>27</b> God, when I am feeling sorry for myself, remind me that Your desire is for me to live abundantly. John 10:10	<b>28</b> Lord, may You bring strength and renewal to those who feel tired and weak. Isaiah 40:29	<b>29</b> Prepare our hearts as we attend church and worship You Lord.
<b>30</b> We thank You Lord for all the blessings You have given us. Help us to be good stewards of the gifts You have given.	<b>31</b> Lord, help the farmers get the weather they need to make their crops grow as they get ready for the harvest.					

# August, 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<p>→ Events Cancelled are Printed with <del>Strikethrough</del> ←</p> <p>The KYKS Program is on hold until further notice.</p>						<p>1 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>2 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – Worship Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM – Elders</p>	<p>5</p> <p><del>6:30 PM –</del></p> <p><del>Lutheran Women's</del></p> <p><del>Missionary League</del></p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>9 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p><del>9:15 AM – Voters' Assembly</del></p> <p>9:30 AM – Worship Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	12	13	14	<p>15 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>16 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – Worship Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	19	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>23 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – Worship Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	26	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>30 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – Worship Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	31	In September:				