

# FRIENDS IN CHRIST NEWS


Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris Illinois 60450 Office: (M-F 10:00 – 1:30) 815/941-1255

Saturday Evenings  
5:30 pm

Sunday Mornings  
9:30 am  
(Live-Streamed)

Sunday Bible Study  
10:30 am

Tuesday Bible Study  
9:00 am  
(Via ZOOM)



*All the Days*

## What Jesus Did – and Didn't – Say in the Last Verse of Matthew

From the Closing Devotion of the  
Ephphatha Conference of Pastors of the Deaf (7/26/2021)

*(This is something I began to look into more closely during  
The early months of Covid, and I had the privilege of sharing  
it with the Pastors as they were getting ready to head home.)*

**I open up my Bible (ESV) and read the last half of  
the last verse of the Gospel of Matthew, “*And  
behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”**

This is a wonderful promise to read, except ... this  
isn't exactly what Jesus said. Our English translation  
does not tell us the full measure of the promises.

Let's look at each part.

1) **“*And behold*”** calls us to look, listen, pay attention  
because what He is about to say is very important.  
What is that?

2) **“*I am with you ...*”** These are beautiful words;  
except they aren't exactly what Jesus said.  
In the Greek **“*I am*”** reads **“*ego eimi*”**. This is the  
personal name of God. It is how the Jewish rabbis  
translated the name of God from Exodus 3 where  
God introduced Himself to Moses and said

**“*I AM THAT I AM*”**. And God then called Moses to  
lead the people out of Egypt. So, in the last verse of  
Matthew maybe it should be written **“*I AM*”**. It is  
who Jesus is. He claims the eternal name of God for  
Himself. So, we could read Matthew 28:20 as **“*I AM  
with you ...*”**

But, again, that isn't exactly what Jesus said.  
(It keeps getting better.)

3) Jesus did not say, **“*I AM with you ...*”**

Reading literally, Jesus said, **“*I with you AM ...*”**  
He split apart the two words **“*I AM*”** of the name of  
God and then took the words of His promise **“*with  
you*”** and inserted them right in the middle of the  
name of God. This is quite remarkable! It looks for  
all the world like He wants us to know Him as the  
“with us God.”

- That is the pattern of how the Bible talks. “The  
virgin will conceive and bear a son and will call  
his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)  
(By the way, we are used to saying Immanuel  
means “God-with-us”...but not quite so fast.  
If we follow the order of the syllables more  
exactly it actually comes through as “With-us-  
God.”) And then we could remember the  
words of Moses, “What other nation has a god  
who is so near to them as the Lord our God is  
to us ...?” (Deuteronomy 4:7) And the Gospel of  
John says, “The Word became flesh and

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What Jesus did-and didn't- say... .. continued from front page

dwelt among us ...” (John 1:14)

- If Jesus pulls the promise right into His eternal name, that makes the promise eternal. It can never be broken.
- Jesus keeps the promise, being the Good Shepherd, and being with us where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name.

4) So, Jesus promised, **“I with you AM always”**, except ... that isn't exactly what Jesus said. (It keeps getting better.) What He said was not “always” but rather **“all the days”**. It is 3 words in the Greek, and those three words are so much more detailed and specific than “always.”

All the days means each one of them.

- The day of blessing.
- The day of trials.
- The day of health.
- The day of sickness
- The day when a friend turns on you.
- The day when there are problems at work.
- The day when you are down in the dumps.
- The day when the doctor uses the scalpel or sends you to “the other doctor.”
- The day of joy when you stand before the altar and make vows.
- The day when you wonder how things could have gone wrong.
- (The day when the District Mission Exec. says, “We won't be funding your mission anymore.”)
- The day when the unexpected happens and you know that God heard your prayer.
- The day of doubt when you are questioning and not sure of your faith.
- The day when you fail to live how you believe you should.
- The day when everything is in harmony and life is good.
- The day when death is coming nearer.
- The day when a friend is there for you.
- All of these and so many others ...

**“All the days”** is a promise from a Savior who knows all the details, all the things that can happen; who came into this human flesh to walk with us through every one of them. Jesus knows His way through because He walked them ahead of us. That's why He calls us to follow.

The Bible calls Jesus “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” (Isaiah 53:3); talks about Him rejoicing (Luke 10:21); and blessing little children; and says “He had to be made like His brothers in every respect” (Hebrews 2:17); and says “because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Heb. 2:18).

So ...

Who would you rather follow than –

Or, go through the problems that happen than –

Or, call on in prayer than –

Or, confess your sins to than –

the One who knows His way through because He has been there? He is the “One who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.”

And He even knows the sins. He knows them completely because He had to carry them all (though He was without sin Jesus took on Himself the sins of every human being 2 Corinthians 5:21). So, He knows each one and knows them in detail (even better than I know them). When He says they are forgiven it is not forgiveness in abstract or forgiveness in theory; but forgiveness in detail and completely.

When you call on Him you are **not** calling on “the God who is above it all and doesn't

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know what it is like.” You are calling on God who came into the flesh to know what it is like to be human, and be hungry and thirsty, and pray only to have it seem like heaven is closed (Mark 14:32-42), and have to walk by faith.

There is a rhythm to this. Looking back over each day of our lives, we have the promise of Jesus written over each one of them:

The day of blessing – **“with you”**

The day of trials – **“with you”**

The day of doubts – **“with you”**

The day of knowing your sin – **“with you”**

The day when you know that He has heard your prayer – **“with you”**

The days to come that you do not know what they will bring – **“with you”**

And all the days of eternity – **“with you.”**

This is the rhythm of the Christian life, and it does not depend on me (good thing). It is set by Jesus. It is what He does. It is an unbreakable rhythm, because He has made it a part of His name.

5) The promise cannot be broken, **“I with you AM all the days, to the end of the age.”** except ...

That isn't exactly what Jesus said. (It keeps getting better.)

(Oh No!! I have run out of room! There is going to have to be a “Part 2.”)

Pastor Mark



### International Lutheran Deaf Association Convention, July 2021:

- 1) Lunch together after worship before the church workers' conference;
- 2) Pastor leading worship;
- 3) Paula signing a song;
- 4) Past International Lutheran Deaf Association Officers;
- 5) Paula with Magic Matt Morgan and Liliana, the entertainment for the banquet







**We will not be meeting in August  
but plan to meet in September.**

**...Stay tuned for details.**

## August Birthdays

- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Nelson
- 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
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jim Krugler  
Art Turner
- 30<sup>th</sup> Nicole Horrigan  
Phil Gruenbaum



## Anniversaries

August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Brandon & Kayla Crawford  
9 years



Thank You, **Don Johnson**,  
for being so committed to  
keeping the front of our  
church and entryway so  
beautiful! You are a  
blessing to us all!!



# Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2021



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING THROUGHOUT EVERY SEASON!**

General Fund	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 12,137.83	\$ 12,835.12	\$ 17,193.67	\$ 9,174.76	\$ 14,442.67	\$ 75,503.70	\$ 70,170.00
Expenses	\$ 9,308.01	\$ 13,064.45	\$ 9,138.28	\$ 7,888.97	\$ 12,752.72	\$ 61,562.19	\$ 70,146.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,829.82	\$ (229.33)	\$ 8,055.39	\$ 1,285.79	\$ 1,689.95	\$ 13,941.51	



# Prayer Calendar

## AUGUST 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>We pray for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, and Kris Farber and their families. We pray for our church family. Pray for Missionaries around the world. We pray for Deaf ministry.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Lord, may we find joy in trusting Your promise that You will never leave nor forsake us. Josh. 1:5</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Lord may we experience first hand why it is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>God, empower us to be empty vessels that pass on the joy of Christ to our children, friends and family. 3 John 1:4</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Lord, grant peace to anyone who is struggling to pay their bills this month. Isaiah 35:10</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>God, Thank You for the joy of Christ. Christ in life, Christ in death, and Christ for eternity. Rom. 6:4</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Prepare our hearts as we worship You Lord.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Thank You Lord for giving us the opportunity to worship openly with others.</p>	<p><b>9</b></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><b>10</b></p> <p>Lord, we ask You to raise up a new wave of people strategically serving in our church.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Please Lord forgive us from our sins and help us to start over each day in You.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Lord, give me the strength to continue when I feel like giving up. Isaiah 40:31</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Lord, may You bring strength and renewal to those who feel tired and weak. Isaiah 40:29</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Lord, strengthen my faith! Neh. 8:10</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Lord, Thank You for the compassion, comfort, guidance, and protection You provide. 2 Cor. 1:3</p>	<p><b>16</b></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 them.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Lord, Thank You for the children and young adults in our church. Bless them with a heart for You.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Lord, may we never grow weary in doing good, as You have been faithful to us. Gal. 6:9-10</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Lord, put upon our hearts to do what You want us to do as a congregation. Not what we want but what Your will is for us.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Lord, Thank You for our congregation. Help bring all of us closer to you!</p>	<p><b>21</b></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><b>22</b></p> <p>Lord, give us passion for feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, tending the sick, and visiting prisoners. Matt 25:35-36</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Lord, shore up parents. Help them to realize they are not alone. You are always by their side and You love them.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>God, I sing for joy at the works of Your hands. Psalm 92:4</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Lord, please teach me to develop habits that protect my spiritual health. Matt 6:13</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Lord, help me to be strong and courageous when I am talking to others about You. Josh. 1:9</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Lord, help me to have eyes to see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Lord, give me the strength to make difficult decisions and wisdom to make a good decisions. Psalm 32:8-9</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Lord, teach my church to support the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our members and community. James 5:16</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Lord Thank You for our Firefighters and Police and City workers in Morris.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>We ask You Lord to be with those involved in Deaf Ministry. Help provide Deaf Ministry where it is needed. Bless all those involved in Deaf Ministry.</p>				

# August, 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1 COMMUNION</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	2	3 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	4	5	6	7 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>8 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Voters' Assembly	9	10 9:00 AM – Bible Study	11	12	13	<b>14 COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM -- Worship
<b>15 COMMUNION</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	16	17 9:00 AM – Bible Study	18	19	20	21 5:30 PM -- Worship
<b>22 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	23	24 9:00 AM – Bible Study	25	26	27	28 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>29 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	30	31 9:00 AM – Bible Study				