

Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL 60450

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Come Worship with us!

Saturday Evenings	...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings	...	8:15 a.m.
	...	10:45 a.m.
Sunday School		
& Adult Bible Study	...	9:30 a.m.
(Tuesday Bible Study	...	9:00 a.m.)



What is the Purpose of Love?

"The **Purpose** of Love"? What does that mean?

Before reading on take a few moments to ponder and think about it.

You might be thinking some of the following: "Exactly what definition of love is this about?" "What does he mean – purpose?" "Does everything have to have a purpose?"

Take a few more minutes to ponder.

"What is the purpose of love?"

Is love simply an emotion – a feeling; and when we follow our heart we find fulfillment? Is the purpose of love simply personal and emotional? That seems to be a common idea. If so, then the purpose of love is to steer my life and I will be happiest when I follow my passion, whatever that is. It might be books and learning; adventure; family above all; spirituality; or romance. And when a new thing comes along that fills my heart with joy, or kindles my passion anew should I pursue that new thing? We hear a lot about people being carried along by their feelings. "What could possibly go wrong?" What happens when the feelings shift? Do we abandon one thing and turn to another? Do we abandon one person and turn to another? What if our feelings are disordered, and are leading us into things that everyone around us says, "This is going to end badly."? Is the purpose of love to ensure that we listen to our feelings instead of anything else?

Is love all about relationships and commitment? Then the purpose of love would be to deepen the relationships in our lives. Family, friendships, and marriage would be at the center of everything. . And certainly that is better than love just being about feelings.

If love is relationships and commitment then

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Save the Date:

FEB 5:	Elder's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
FEB 6:	LWML Evening Meeting	7:00 p.m.
FEB 10:	Voter's Meeting	9:00 a.m.
	Confirmation Class	12 (noon)
FEB 17:	Youth Night	5:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

March 6 th	Ash Wednesday-Lent Begins	7:00 p.m.
March 10 th	Daylight Savings Time begins	12:00 a.m.
April 21 st	Easter Sunday	(TBA)

(Continued from page 1)

the purpose of love is in part to give us stable families and relationships. Is that what it's all about?

The Purpose of Love?

We learn what love is when we see it connected with God and learn about His purposes.

Paul said "But now abide faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13) As God invites us to be part of His eternal plan we learn about "the purpose of love."

That is why He blessed Adam and Eve. They were supposed to join in His joy in creation and life. That is why He planted the Garden of Eden. They were invited to enjoy the beautiful new world together with God. So He came to them walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

That is why He told them to be fruitful and multiply. They were blessed with life to also give life. And so God bound them together as husband and wife to form the first family.

The first part of the purpose of love comes from creation. God invites us to join in caring for the world, for all of created life in the world, and for our fellow human beings. Love is acted out when parents watch over and raise their children, and when we teach our children about God. Love happens when the farmer goes out to feed the chickens and what he does echoes the verse about God, "You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing"; and then when the farmer brings in the harvest and joins with God in feeding his neighbor. Love happens when a husband and a wife join their lives together to raise a family. So God builds His world and invites us to live out His purposes of love. These things are only a few examples of living our calling as men and women created in the image of God.

But then, even more powerfully, there is **a second part** of God building His world around love. Jesus said, "greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends ..." In the act of salvation Jesus reveals to us the full measure of the love of God. From the time of the cross and empty tomb God forms the entire renewed creation built on the foundation and having the image of Jesus' love filling every part of what He is building. Paul says, "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ..." (Philippians 2:9-10 NIV)

This is why it is from among those who prayerfully devote themselves to following Jesus there come to us the most striking examples of love for their neighbors. History is filled with these examples.

The purpose of love, as God has it planned, is that the entire new creation (all of His people and everything that God is going to do into all eternity) will be built on and grow more and more into the pattern of Jesus His Son.

So then: How do we live out God's Purpose of Love in our lives.

Remember the two parts. God gives His blessings in this world so that we may care for one another and join in where He invites us to be a part of His work.

And God has called us to new life in Christ so that we may care for one another in sharing forgiveness, and new life in Jesus.

He puts us in families; He gives us friends and neighbors; and He leads us to those who need His care and His word of life.

Realize that the entire span of our lives as Christians is simply learning the art of how to apply God's purpose of love in our lives. Do not neglect God's Word, forget your Baptism, or absent yourself from His Supper. Through these things God does His work in our heart and soul and gives us Himself.

Pastor Mark (1 Corinthians 2:2)



Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday - February 6th - 7:00 p.m.
Servers: Susanne Gorey & Sharon Wendling

Our meeting time in February will be devoted to working on preparations for the Spring Rally happening on May 4, 2019.



The FICLC LWML
will be hosting the

**LWML ZONE 7
SPRING RALLY**

**Saturday
May 4, 2019**

Special Emphasis on
Young Women in LWML

Presenting at the Rally this year will be Nicole Boeder.

Nicole is the great, great granddaughter of the founding president of the LWML, Clara Schmitt. Nicole has been a missionary teacher in South Africa for two years. She has also been on several short-term missions including a mission to Poland, and several to Guatemala. She has also gone on a medical mission to Kenya in 2016 with her husband Daniel who is studying to become a physician. Nicole is currently teaching second grade at Concordia University, Springfield, Illinois. She is a graduate of Concordia University, St. Paul. Nicole will be talking about Young Women in Mission.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Youth Night will be on **Sunday, February 17th at 5:00 p.m.** at the church. We hope to see everyone there for a night of food, games and "hangin' out" with friends!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget you can "hang out" EVERY week with us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School! See you then! Need a ride? Call the church office at 815/941-1255.



Please meet our newest FICLC members!

Kevin & Patti Lear



We extend our warmest welcome to Kevin and Patti Lear! After regularly visiting us for a while, they joined our congregation, by affirmation of Faith, on January 20, 2019 at the 10:45 Sunday Service. Please take a moment to introduce yourself as you run into them. They are currently attending the 10:45 service but also worship at the 5:30 pm. (Saturday evening) as their schedules change from time to time. We are so happy to have you join us, Kevin and Patti!



Life Issues from a Very Different Perspective

By Stan Sinberg (Date and publication unknown)

I recently found out the “secret story” of my birth.

I was attending a wedding of a relative up in Canada, and I was sitting next to my mother when I expressed surprise that a cousin of mine, who’d been married just a year, already had a baby boy.

This was an innocent remark on my part; made without forethought. Something to say to pass the time. But not to my mother. For some reason, this remark spurred her – a woman who could go years without talking about her past – to divulge an important detail about my existence. She sipped a spoonful of cream of carrot soup, and said, “I tried to have an abortion.”

The entire banquet could hear the clunk of my soup spoon.

“WHAT?!”

“Your father said he would ask around to see if anyone did them.” My mother said this as casually as if she had just bought a new pair of shoes at Macy’s.

As you can imagine, I was agog. “So, ah, so – what happened?” I sputtered.

My mother shook her head. “I didn’t have one.”

“Mom, I know you didn’t have one. But why?”

“Your father said he couldn’t find anyone. But I don’t think he really tried.” She put her napkin to her mouth. “Now don’t ask me any more questions.”

I was stunned. Me – an unwanted love child. It was a little hard to go back to sipping my soup and making small talk about the bride’s wedding gown. And then it occurred to me: I owed my existence to repressive social legislation.

Here I was – a pro-choice advocate – alive today because my mother was deprived of hers.

There were even striking parallels: Several years earlier my then-girlfriend decided to have an abortion, and I favored having the child. Since abortion was legal, I wasn’t sent out, like my father, to find someone who could perform the procedure. If I had been, who knows – maybe I wouldn’t have been able to “find” someone either, and we would have had the child.

Anyway, the metaphysical implications were mind-boggling. Was I even entitled to have an opinion about this subject anymore? I mean, if my pro-choice position had been law in my mother’s day, I wouldn’t be around today to advocate it. If my father had blindly followed some homily about a “woman’s right to choose”, I wouldn’t be here typing these words, either.

Don’t misunderstand me. I’m not for overturning Roe vs. Wade, or anything like that. I wouldn’t want to go back to the days of hangers and back alleys.

It’s just that it’s pretty hard to not sound a little hypocritical when the most ringing endorsement you can honestly muster is:

“Sure. I’m pro-choice.”

“Now.”

Senior Service
and
Friendly Seniors



We're going to take a break from meeting during the winter months and we'll pick up where we left off in the spring!

Stay tuned to upcoming FICLC Newsletters and Bulletin insert announcements for times and locations.



February Birthdays

3rd Terri Gillette
6th Kim Mann
8th Dan Hanson
10th Hannah Jelms
13th William Kirk
14th Karen Thompson
16th Lucas Collins
17th Lois Sampson
18th Kathy Wills
19th Jim Ruedin
22nd Jerry Farber
Stephen Wills
24th Will Knapp
27th Mike Collins
Stephanie Willig

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

February Anniversaries

13 th	Bonnie & Kenneth Sanders	49 years
15 th	Kevin & Patti Lear	27 years
19 th	Mark & Paula Willig	42 years



Financial Report

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2018



General Fund	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 13,910.33	\$ 11,101.09	\$ 15,229.85	\$ 12,657.25	\$ 17,862.08	\$ 165,442.90	\$ 163,860.00
Expenses	\$ 11,661.18	\$ 13,400.99	\$ 13,520.78	\$ 12,769.65	\$ 14,125.20	\$ 156,029.57	\$ 163,860.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 2,249.15	\$ (2,299.90)	\$ 1,709.07	\$ (112.40)	\$ 3,736.88	\$ 9,413.33	\$ -

Prayer Calendar

FEBRUARY 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Missionaries all over the world, Deaf ministries, Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Father, we thank you for your Spirit who gives us guidance and strength to be Your children. Eph. 3:20</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Father, there are many missionaries throughout the world. We pray that you keep them safe from danger and spiritual warfare. Help them to bring others to You. Rom. 15: 30-31</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lord, help me to lighten my neighbors burdens and in doing so strengthen them. Gal. 6:2</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, we are grateful that You continually intercede for us because You know our hearts innermost needs. Heb. 7:26</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Father, open our hearts so we know when to offer a shoulder to lean on, a hand to hold or a listening ear. Gal. 6:2</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lord, empower us for the work of Your ministry. Acts 6:4</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Jesus Christ our Lord, we bow in worship before You confessing that You are Lord. Philippians 2:10-11</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lord, each of us has been a stranger and has been invited in and embraced by You and Your church. Help me to go and do likewise. Matt. 25:35</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Lord, in December we gave boxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Please be with those who received the boxes. Help them to come to know You and be able to bring others to You. Bless them abundantly Lord.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>God, help us to reach out to others in our congregation. Those that are new to us and those we have been in church with for years. Bless our congregation with love for each other.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Father, we allow our busyness to tune out Your call. Make us like Samuel instead who answered, "Speak for your servant is listening" 1 Sam. 3:10</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lord, help us to encourage one another in our every day lives. 1 Thes. 3:10</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord, thank You for Your forgiveness and its cleansing power. 1 John 1:9</p>	<p>15</p> <p>We thank You Lord and praise You for all You have done for us.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord, to You is the glory because with Your blood You saved us and have given us eternal life. Amen 1 Cor.2:2</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Father, we pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Luke 11:13 Phil. 3:19</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lord, our hearts are full of grateful praise for Your gift of life. May we use our lives to Your honor and glory. John 10:10</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Father, bless those we helped at Christmas time with food. We pray that the food would nourish them.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Dear Father, Thank You for the gift of grace. May I honor Your will through joyful service. 1 Peter 4:10</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lord sometimes we get so low we forget You made us and love us. Help us to love ourselves so we can love others.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Lord, we pray that You would bring unbelievers to You and help them to believe and be saved. Rom. 10:1</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lord, our faith often is weak because we are weak, strengthen our faith so we may encourage others. Luke 22:31-32</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Father, we pray to You and ask that You be gracious to us and help our faith to never be destroyed. Luke 22:32 Luke 21:36</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Father, forgive us when we color our words to our advantage or excuse our actions; when we should be saying, "I am sorry" or "I was wrong" Prov. 11:3</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lord, help us to see You in each person we see or meet today. Luke 18:37</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Father, we pray for strength and endurance. Col. 1:11 Eph. 3:16</p>	<p>28</p> <p>God, we pray for the knowledge of Your will in our lives. Col. 1:9</p>		

February 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
February Reminders: February 2 is the Day of the Presentation of our Lord Voters' Assembly meets on February 10 at 9:00 a.m.					1	2 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
3 COMMUNION 4 th Sunday After Epiphany 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	4	5 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	6 7:00 PM – Lutheran Women's Missionary League	7	8	9 5:30 PM – Worship
10 5 th Sunday After Epiphany 8:15 AM – Worship 9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly 9:30 AM – Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation	11 10:00 AM – Park Pointe	12 9:00 AM – Bible Study	13	14 9:00 AM – Circuit Pastors @ New Song, Aurora	15	16 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
17 COMMUNION 6 th Sunday After Epiphany 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 5:00 PM – Youth Night	18	19	20	21	22	23 5:30 PM – Worship
24 7 th Sunday After Epiphany 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	25	26 9:00 AM – Bible Study	27	28	March Notes: Lent Begins March 6 with Ash Wednesday (Easter is April 21) Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday March 10	