

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 0

FRIENDS IN CHRIST NEWS

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

(OUR FIRST- EVER SUPER HERO ISSUE!)

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COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Saturday Evenings ...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings ...	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study ...	10:40 a.m.
(Tuesday Bible Study ...)	9:00 a.m.)

Jesus is



The original
Superman

20-20 A YEAR FOR SEEING CLEARLY

PART 2: SEEING HEROES

FEBRUARY IS A MONTH FOR HEROES. I know that is not what we usually associate with February. But think about it. We have Presidents' Day, recognizing Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. And on the 14th we have Valentine's Day, that actually is "St. Valentine's Day," recognizing an early Church martyr remembered for His devotion to God and for both showing kindness to and teaching about Jesus to the daughter of one of his jailers. Heroes.

WHAT THEN IS A HERO? A hero is different from a great warrior or a great athlete. When we think of heroes we also think of many ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things; such as the soldier, the firefighter, the doctor, the pilot who preserves the lives of his passengers in an amazing way.

But there is something more. Something distinct in the character of the act of a hero.

That distinct character even runs through the lives of some of the most ordinary people in our lives; parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends.

What a hero does is hold onto lasting and eternal values:

- (1) in the face of so many around them becoming wobbly;
- (2) holding to those values consistently, day after day, year after year; and
- (3) staying with those values and truths even when it is difficult and involves problems and personal sacrifice for them.

THE HEROES WE NOTICE become noticed when they have to stand up in the face of danger, turmoil, or evil. Think about George Washington

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SAVE THE DATE:

FEB 4:	Elder's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
FEB 5:	LWML Meeting	10:00 a.m.
FEB 9:	Voter's Meeting	10:00 a.m.
FEB 16:	Youth Night	(TBA)
FEB 26:	Ash Wednesday-Lent Begins	7:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

March 8 th	Daylight Savings Time begins	12:00 a.m.
April 5 th	Palm Sunday	
April 9 th	Maundy Thursday	
April 10 th	Good Friday	
April 12 th	Easter Sunday	

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holding to the values of liberty in the face of British armies; or Abraham Lincoln facing the many around him who questioned whether freedom was for all, or whether “all men are created equal” truly means “all mankind.” Or think about the pilot, Sully Sullenberger, staying focused and landing the plane in the Hudson River.

In the middle of the month (Feb. 14) think about a Christian many years ago holding to Jesus and the eternal truths of forgiveness, salvation through Jesus’ cross, and the hope of the resurrection so that he could value the soul and the blessing of the jailer and his daughter, and be ready to teaching reading and the Christian faith to the little girl – even when facing death.

UNNOTICED HEROES

The heroes we notice are one thing. But there are so many heroes who go almost completely unnoticed. They go about their daily duty, working, raising families, doing thousands of ordinary things. So very often they do those things quietly, never asking for or expecting any praise or recognition. But they do them with a character that points to eternal values.

One of my personal heroes is my father who would sometimes (not often, but sometimes) say something about “what a man does.” One of them was about Sunday mornings. Here it is, and I can quote it exactly, “A man belongs in the presence of God on a Sunday morning.” Nothing more said after that. Just one sentence. And I can’t even remember if he said it more than once. But it taught me about the enduring and eternal values he held.

AN UNEXPECTED HERO

Last Sunday there was a helicopter crash. Among those who died was a “basketball great” Kobe Bryant, and his daughter. Later that day and the next another detail was revealed. Earlier that Sunday morning, before taking off, Kobe and his daughter went to Church. They went in early in the morning so they could receive communion before heading off to a basketball game. It was quietly done.

But it is an eternal thing – there is eternity in the worship of God, and there is eternity in the Lord’s Supper. And the words of my father echo down through the years, “A man belongs in the presence of God on a Sunday morning.”

One who knew Kobe better than most talked about him as a Christian who had taken on the role of leading his family in spiritual things. He said that earlier in Kobe’s life there were some questionable things. One of those could have been serious trouble. But God got a hold of him and turned him around. “He turned his life around. And since then I have nothing but admiration for him.”

WE NEED HEROES

We need heroes, because there are so many things in life that distract us. There are so many “shiny things” that can turn our attention away from what endures. We need heroes who will turn away from the shiny distractions and focus on what lasts. We need them to remind us about what is important. There are so many things that push us in different directions and invite us to chase the latest exciting thing; and we need heroes to quietly, persistently live with values that teach us how to anchor our lives.

We also need heroes connected to things that are eternal, because all of those “shiny exciting things” will pass away. They will disappear, and if we spend our years chasing them, we will end up very empty.

Finally, we need heroes because we have been created for better and higher things. We have been created for sharing eternity with God. And the best heroes of all the many we can learn from are the ones who have taken hold of the eternal. They know how a man, a woman, and a child has a place “in the presence of God.”

THE GREATEST HERO

At the end of this month, as we head into Lent, realize how much of the profile of a hero is patterned after Jesus. He held to eternal values and eternal truths in the face of turmoil, opposition, and hatred. He was

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constant in faith, holding onto the promises of His Father, even in the face of death (“even death on a cross”). And when the curse that had scattered out, all over the world and over all mankind, came focusing back in, centering on one person alone, Him hanging on a cross in the middle of darkness, He was unwavering, calling out with the prayer of faith, “My God, my God,”

That is the true Hero. The Hero of all time who has given us the gift of having a place “in the presence of God.” Let all heroes, and all who wish to be heroic, then find their heroism in their connection with Him.

Our place is “in the presence of God on a Sunday morning.” – Elroy A. Willig

PASTOR MARK

(Next Month: **20-20 – Seeing Ourselves in God’s Mirror**)



Lent 20/20 – A Gathering of Sinners

+ + +

(Because, after all, that is what the Church is – a Gathering of Sinners.
We are sinners of all kinds, and Jesus is doing the work gathering His Kingdom and building it out of nothing else than sinners, redeemed by Him and being formed and fashioned and prepared for eternal life with God.)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26

We continue on with the next five Wednesdays
hearing about some of our “fellow sinners”
(there are some “notable achievements” in sinning)
and how God gathers them and us into His family.

+ + +

Lenten Midweek Services are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

- February 26 – Ash Wednesday** 7:00 p.m. † Worship with Communion †
Gathering the Godless (2 Samuel 16:5-13 & other Scripture)
- March 4 – Lent Midweek # 1** 7:00 p.m. † Worship †
Gathering the Immoral (Hosea 11:1-4, 7-11 & other Scripture)
- March 11 – Lent Midweek # 2** 7:00 p.m. † Worship †
Gathering the Violent (Obadiah 1-4, 8-18 & other Scripture)
- March 18 – Lent Midweek # 3** 7:00 p.m. † Worship †
Gathering the “Truth-Deficient” (Genesis 3:4-12 & other Scripture)
- March 25 – Lent Midweek # 4** 7:00 p.m. † Worship †
Gathering the Self-Righteous (Matthew 23 & other Scripture)
- April 1 – Lent Midweek # 5** 7:00 p.m. † Worship †
Gathering the Apostate (2 Chronicles 33:1-16 & other Scripture)
- Thursday April 9 – Maundy Thursday** 7:00 p.m. † Worship with Communion †
The Great Gathering of Sinners (Luke 22:14-27 & Other Scriptures)
- Friday April 10 – Good Friday** 7:00 p.m. † Worship Service of Tenebrae †
The Gathering of All Sins (The Seven Words from The Cross)

-Pastor Mark

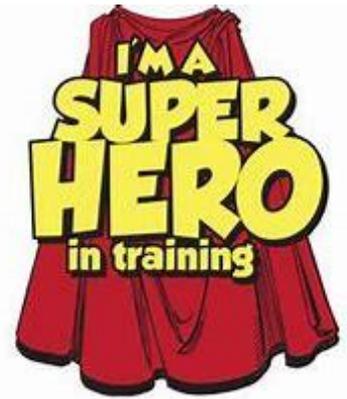
YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Youth Night will be on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH**
Stay tuned for details!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget you can "hang out" EVERY week with us at Sunday School! During the winter, (January & February,) we meet Sunday mornings at 10:40 a.m. then we will return to our regular schedule for the rest of the year at 9:30 a.m. See you then! Need a ride? No problem! Just give Ms. Deb a call in the church office at 815/941-1255.



IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, LET HIM ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT REPROACH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN HIM.

- JAMES 1:5

SENIOR SERVICE



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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd Terri Gillette
- 6th Kim Mann
- 8th Dan Hanson
- 10th Hannah Short
- 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

AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE, THAT THEY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT.

- JOHN 17:3

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13th Bonnie & Kenneth Sanders 50 years
- 15th David & Alexis Castleberry 1 year
- Kevin & Patti Lear 28 years
- 19th Mark & Paula Willig 43 years



Financial Report
Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019



General Fund	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 10,435.05	\$ 11,804.52	\$ 8,503.12	\$ 13,931.94	\$ 19,595.86	\$ 157,435.29	\$ 163,980.00
Expenses	\$ 12,046.31	\$ 12,633.84	\$ 12,997.24	\$ 12,205.53	\$ 16,705.65	\$ 157,826.27	\$ 163,836.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,611.26)	\$ (829.32)	\$ (4,494.12)	\$ 1,726.41	\$ 2,890.21	\$ (390.98)	\$ -



OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 5TH - 10:00 A.M.

SERVING THIS MONTH:



**SUSANNE
 GOREY**

**SHARON
 WENDLING**



LWML GRANT #7:

"CAMP RESTORE DETROIT" - \$100,000

RESTORING HOPE FOR DETROIT'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Camp Restore New Orleans has been a beacon in the city of New Orleans for many years, providing hope, restoration, and care to the people affected by hurricane Katrina. The devastation caused by that hurricane is very similar to what is seen when driving through some of the streets of Detroit today.

It's clear there has also been a disaster there - an economic disaster - with ruins similar to that of New Orleans. Detroit residents call it "a hurricane without water." Families live in areas where adjacent yards, sidewalks, and building foundations sometimes can't be seen due to the overgrowth of weeds and debris. With low population numbers and declining real estate values, it is difficult for the city to provide services that many of us take for granted.

Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) was created as a ministry of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, an LCMS church located in the middle of the disaster-ridden Ninth Precinct. In May 2017, the first "campers" (volunteers) began arriving. They partnered with local community leaders to restore hope to this area, while being fed and housed at Mt. Calvary. The volunteers have cleared hundreds of lots, boarded up countless houses, and served at nursing homes, food banks, and sport centers as they worked with local leaders. Watching God work through these people has been powerful and uplifting. A cooperative relationship has been established among Camp Restore personnel, Mt. Calvary members, and people in the community. With the encouragement of the city of Detroit, CRD purchased, at a minimal cost, lots adjacent to the church which included two abandoned houses.

Camp Restore Detroit has requested funds to help renovate these houses into Christ-centered community outreach centers and community gardens, where lives of children and families can be changed. This mission grant will provide funds to transform these abandoned houses in the community into places where families, children, and other adults can enjoy hearing the Gospel in a safe setting, while engaging in personal growth activities that bring joy, creativity, education, and hope back into their lives.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

Prayer Calendar

FEBRUARY 2020



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 Ministry, 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.</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 teach 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 ever day lives. ! 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 You 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, our faith often is weak because we are weak, strengthen our faith so we may encourage others. Luke 22:31-32</p>
<p>23</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>24</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>25</p> <p>Lord, help us to see You in each person we see or meet today. Luke 18:37</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Father, we pray for strength and endurance. Col. 1:11 Eph. 3:16</p>	<p>27</p> <p>God, we pray for the knowledge of Your will in our lives. Col. 1:9</p>	<p>28</p> <p>We pray that You would bless deaf ministry around the world. May new churches bring deaf ministry to those that need it.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pray that we will put on the full Armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies as he tries to deter us from God's mission for us of "Friends Bringing Friends to Christ."</p>

February 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Important Notes: On March 1 we return to our Regular Worship Schedule Saturday 5:30 PM Sundays 8:15 & 10:45 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 9:30			March 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins Move Clocks Forward 1 Hour			1 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
2 COMMUNION Presentation of Our Lord 9:30 AM – Worship 10:40 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study	3	4 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	5 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League	6	7	8 5:30 PM – Worship
9 5th Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 AM – Worship 10:30 AM – Voters’ Assembly 10:40 AM – Sunday School &	10	11 9:00 AM – Bible Study	12	13	14	15 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
16 COMMUNION 6th Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 AM – Worship 10:40 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study	17	18	19	20	21	22 5:30 PM – Worship
23 Transfiguration Sunday 8:30 AM – Worship 10:40 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study	24 10:00 AM – Park Pointe	25 9:00 AM – Bible Study	26 COMMUNION Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM – Worship	27	28	29 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
March Notes: Lent Begins on February 26 Lent 20-20: A Gathering of Sinners 2/26 Ash Wednesday: Gathering the Godless 3/4 Lent Midweek 1: Gathering the Immoral			3/11 Lent Midweek 2: Gathering the Violent 3/18 Lent Midweek 3: Gathering the “Truth-Deficient” 3/25 Lent Midweek 4: Gathering the Self-Righteous 4/1 Lent Midweek 5: Gathering the Apostate			4/5 Palm Sunday 4/9 Maundy Thursday 4/10 Good Friday 4/12 Easter