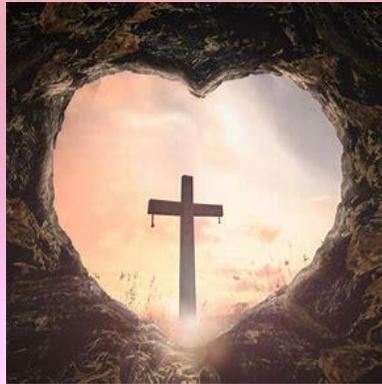


Friends in Christ News

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 ... 9:30 a.m.
 (Tuesday Bible Study ... 9:00 a.m.)
 (February 17th – March 24th)
 Wednesday Evenings ... 7:00 p.m.

God IS Love

(1 John 4:8 & 4:16)

We love
 BECAUSE
 He first
 LOVED US

The Apostle John says, “**God is love**” and that is his theme over and over again in 1st John. “... God is love. ... God is love, ...” (1 John 4:8, 16) Along with these verses, John says it in different ways. “See what kind of love the Father has lavished on us ...” (3:1); “By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us” (3:16); “love is from God” (4:7); “whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” (4:7); “the love of God was ... that God sent His only Son” (4:9); “He loved us and sent His Son” (4:10); “... if God so loved us ...” (4:11); and “We love because He first loved us.” (4:19)

Notice that this is **not a sentimental kind** of love. **It is a tough love**, willing to do and to bear some very difficult things for the sake of those that are loved. I am reminded of a verse in Isaiah. In one of the Servant Songs, written for the coming Messiah it says, “therefore I have set My face like a flint, ...” (Isaiah 50:7)

This is a good place to be heading into February. **We stand midway between the 2 great festivals of the Church.** We have celebrated the birth of Jesus and His light of life coming into our world. We are the nations and the peoples of the world being gathered like the wise men to worship Him. Soon (Feb. 14) is St. Valentine’s Day, followed almost immediately by Ash Wednesday. Up on the Mount of Transfiguration, seeing the vision of glory to come; and then on to Jerusalem.

Very quickly Jesus brings the whole thing into sharp focus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus said to the disciples, “Tell no one the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” (Matthew 17:9) Jesus had “set His face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51) He pointed them and us to the cross and the empty tomb.

This is the uncomfortable part of Christianity – the part we would want to hang back from or

Save the Date:

FEB 2:	Elder’s Meeting	7:00 p.m.
FEB 7:	Stewardship/Christian Life Meeting	10:30 a.m.
FEB 14:	Voter’s Meeting	10:30 a.m.
FEB 17:	Ash Wednesday-Lent Begins	7:00 p.m.
FEB 24:	1 st Wednesday in Lent	7:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

March 14 th	Daylight Savings Time begins	12:00 a.m.
April 1 st	Maundy Thursday	
April 2 nd	Good Friday	
April 4 th	Easter Sunday	

(Continued from page 1)

turn away from. But if we turn away, we do not see the full reality of God's love. We have to look to the cross. There's no other way.

There was no other way. Think how it was for Jesus who knew He was heading to a cross; but that was where salvation for us had to be done. So, "He set His face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51) One person's mother, another's sister, another's father, another's best friend were in need. Jesus was on His way to help. But He had to help in a way the world did not expect or understand. Many still do not.

The story still goes on. It's a drama, an epic, a story too big for TV. We need to see it through a different medium. It's got to be by the Word of God speaking into our ears and into our souls. It plays out in our lives as we are captured by it and set down right in the middle of it and the work of salvation is going on all around us. Jesus is doing His work right now, and His kingdom will keep on intruding into the world. No matter whether leaders of nations or fantastically powerful tycoons want it or not – His kingdom becomes very real all around us.

By the way, Jesus was offered all those kingdoms once before (Matthew 4:8-9); and He said (loosely translated), "Pfft! No way!! Begone Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:10) And then Jesus went on to create His kingdom by gathering us to know His love and forgiveness and live forever.

But we've heard the story so many times. Often the parts that should surprise and astonish us do not either surprise or astonish quite as much anymore. It would do us well to pull out our Bibles and read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) once again.

So here are **some things to think about during Lent**, as you prepare to celebrate the love of Jesus and His victory over sin, death and the devil.

From the moment He was born, and even before, Jesus intended to be crucified. He grew up with that plan. It was also hard for God the Father to pronounce the sentence of death on Him, and forsake "His son, His only son whom He loved." But "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son . . ."

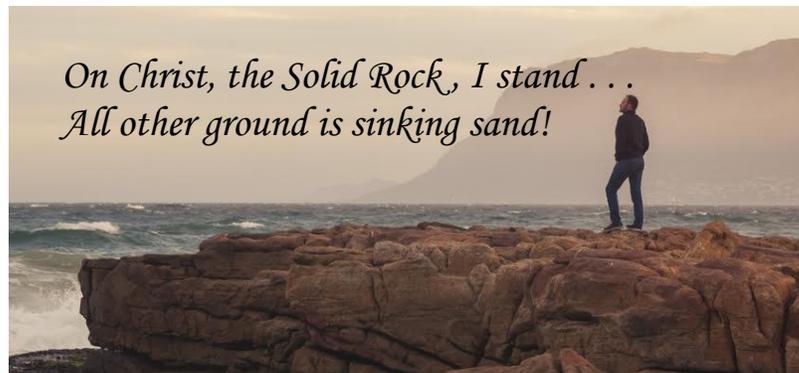
Try to find another religion in the world where the god they worship allows (even plans to have) Himself put to death for his worshipers (who are a rebellious bunch and not very good worshipers to begin with). Our faith and our relationship with God is unique.

The whole reason He did it all was to give, not to get. It was not to "rule over" us but to make us His children and friends. God is not "in need" of our worship. We are in need of Him. In worship He gives blessings: forgiveness, Joy, eternal life and much more.

With the great plan of salvation it's still a very personal thing. You as an individual are the focus of all Jesus did and experienced. Because He is God, He does not lose you in the shuffle. You are not a faceless part of a "countless multitude." He says to you personally, "This is for you," as He carries His cross and as He rises from the dead.

Indeed, "God is love."

Pastor Mark



The Eternal Name



אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה
Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh

ΕΓΩ ΕΙΜΙ

“I AM”

Our Eternal Constant Amid the Changes and Chances of Life

Because right about now I could use something eternal in my life.

We are living in times of constantly shifting patterns and norms. A lot of new things come along but they are only temporary.

We look in the Bible and find God introducing Himself as “I Am that I Am,” the Eternal One who is unchanging age to age. Jesus repeatedly used the words, “I Am” to reveal who He is, and there were times when those around understood that He was using and claiming the Name of God.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AT 7:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) - Before Abraham was εγω ειμι ... (John 8:56-59)

Midweek 1 (Wednesday, Feb. 24) - εγω ειμι the Light of the World (John 8:12)

Midweek 2 (Wednesday, March 3) - εγω ειμι the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

Midweek 3 (Wednesday, March 10) - εγω ειμι the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:1-7)

Midweek 4 (Wednesday, March 17) - εγω ειμι He (John 18:5-8)

Midweek 5 (Wednesday, March 24) - εγω ειμι and you will see the Son of Man coming within the clouds of heaven (Mark 14:60-65)†

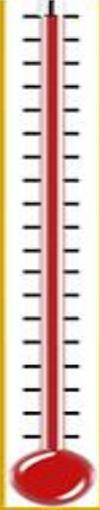
Maundy Thursday (April 1) - εγω ειμι the Bread of Life ... the Bread that Came Down from Heaven ... the Living Bread (John 6:33-51)



2019-2021 Biennium

Mission Goal:
\$2,100,000

\$2,100,000
\$1,955,388.73



Mission Goal Progress
\$117,888.73

Total Mites Received
\$1,955,388.73

Total Mites Still Needed
\$144,611.27

Mites Needed Per Month
(3 months remaining)
\$48,203.76

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

PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be meeting in February



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

- Held by God's Word
- Inspired to share HIS Gospel
- Surrounded by HIS Grace



2019-2021 Mission Grant #19 - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — \$100,000

Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities



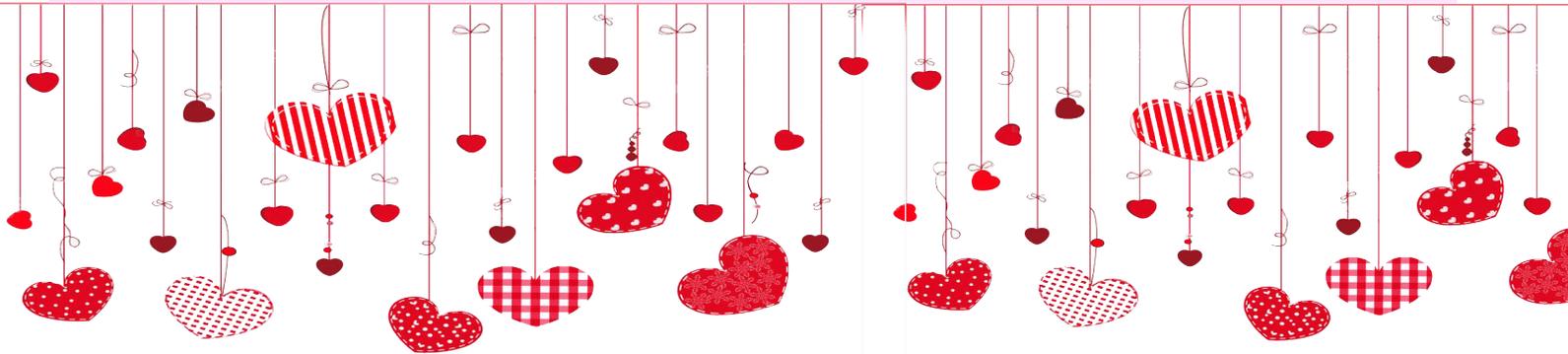
Soe Moe is an EIIT student who serves at Southwest Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. His parents, who are from Burma, fled that country during its long period of military rule and considerable unrest. He was born in a refugee camp in Thailand, where his family lived for 11 years before coming to the U.S. At Southwest Lutheran, which is increasing its numbers of Korean and Burmese congregants, he serves as a youth leader and youth pastor. He also assists with leading Bible studies and is part of a church outreach group that tutors youth in academic subjects and in English as a Second Language. As a teenager, Moe's devotion to the Lord increased considerably when he attended a Lutheran summer camp three years in a row. "I realized how amazing God is, and that He's always there for us," he says. He adds that he also realized then that his calling was to become a youth pastor. "I very much want to continue bringing the Good News to young people and giving them hope," he says.



Bennego Kangar is an Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) student and a native of Liberia. He serves at LINC (Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition) Ministries International - Twin Cities, in St. Paul, Minn. and at the Alley Church in Cottage Grove, Minn. He came to the U.S. from Liberia in 1992, first serving in Florida and later in Alabama, Texas and New Mexico before moving to Minnesota. Also, during that 26-year period, he was called to service positions in Malawi and Brazil. His service with LINC includes church planting and outreach, mostly to members of large Liberian and Ethiopian communities in the St. Paul area. "My EIIT studies and my later ordination as a pastor will help enable me to share the Word from a stronger biblical foundation," he says. "I feel that God has called me to this service, and it's a passion of mine to bring people to Christ, to help them grow in their understanding of the Lord, and to help them to walk with Jesus Christ."

Throughout the country, there are many devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry, reaching out to their ethnic communities and sharing the Gospel. Many of these church workers are enrolled in either of two Concordia Seminary programs – the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). Both share the mission to make Christ known in their respective ethnic communities. CHS has a four-year program taught in Spanish and includes students from many Hispanic-Latino cultures. The EIIT program already has students that have been working in Word and Sacrament ministry as part of their culture. These students often have strained financial circumstances that are making it difficult to pay for this necessary education. Most hold two and three jobs to make ends meet but are willing to go to great lengths in the service of Christ and His Gospel. It is vital that they have the Biblical foundation to go with their passion for ministry. This grant will go towards funding the education costs of these devoted students and church workers.





February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

13 th	Bonnie & Kenneth Sanders	51 years
15 th	David & Alexis Castleberry	2 years
	Kevin & Patti Lear	29 years
19 th	Mark & Paula Willig	44 years

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
Mark 10:27*



Don't just speak to God about your mountain – speak to your mountain using God's Word!

When you make *God's Word your word*, your mountain will begin to move.

- Tim Hetzner

Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020 1/28/2021



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

General Fund	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 9,853.00	\$ 11,942.00	\$ 9,287.00	\$ 17,214.69	\$ 16,975.44	\$ 148,433.76	\$ 163,275.00
Expenses	\$ 10,570.59	\$ 11,415.62	\$ 13,055.00	\$ 10,507.16	\$ 13,872.51	\$ 140,899.86	\$ 163,239.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (717.59)	\$ 526.38	\$ (3,768.00)	\$ 6,707.53	\$ 3,102.93	\$ 7,533.90	\$ 36.00

Prayer Calendar

FEBRUARY 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Dear Ministry, Doctors, Nurses and anyone working in the medical field. Police, Fire and EMT's. Those working everywhere.</p>	<p>Help us Lord, to be a bold witness for Christ in Word and actions. 1 Cor. 5:17-20</p>	<p>God, Thank You for sending us the Holy Spirit, who empowers, comforts, counsels, and teaches us all things. John 14:26</p>	<p>We pray for those in the congregation that need healing.</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>Lord, Thank You for giving us the opportunity to worship and praise You during our church services.</p>
<p>We pray for those working on developing treatments for the Corona Virus.</p>	<p>Lord, open our eyes to opportunities to be a friend and supporter of youth in church and community. Rom 12:9</p>	<p>God, remind us that expressing the joy that You bring into our lives shows others that we are Christians. Phil. 4:4</p>	<p>Lord, as You know our Grundy Co. community needs some place for children and adults to go to learn and have fun. Please bless our community with a YMCA for all to enjoy.</p>	<p>God, may the new year bring strength and renewal to those who feel tired and weak. Isaiah 40:29</p>	<p>God, thank You for blessing us with friends and family who love, encourage, comfort, and rejoice with us. Luke 1:58</p>	<p>We pray for those suffering from the Corona Virus.</p>
<p>Lord, as we celebrate Valentines Day help us to remember You are the best gift ever. Help us to love others as you love us.</p>	<p>God, I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know this with all my heart. Psalm 139:14</p>	<p>We pray for Governors and Mayors.</p>	<p>Lord, be a source of encouragement and hope to people seeking work. Josh 1:9</p>	<p>Lord, we pray for the youth in our congregation. Fill them with Your Holy Spirit and guide them closer to You. Help others to know they are Christians by how they live each day.</p>	<p>We pray for leaders of nations around the world.</p>	<p>God hear the prayers of parents who want a better life for their children. 1 Cor. 13:4</p>
<p>Lord, Thank You for giving rest to people who are weary and burdened. Matt. 11:28</p>	<p>Lord, let all who take refuge in You rejoice and sing for joy. Spread Your protection over us. Psalm 5:11</p>	<p>God, when I struggle to make decisions and the path isn't clear lead me in the way I should go. Psalm 32:8</p>	<p>We pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary.</p>	<p>God, Thank You for enabling us to trust in You and lean not on our own understanding. Pro. 3:5</p>	<p>Lord, remove my anxiety and fear so that I can be at peace with myself. Luke 12:32</p>	<p>May your unfailing love rest upon us. O Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33:22</p>
<p>Lord, Thank You for forgiving our sins, in accordance with the richness of Your grace. Eph. 1:7</p>						

February, 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 Presentation of Our Lord (40 Days After Christmas) 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	3	4	5	6 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
7 COMMUNION 5 th Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:45 AM – Posted On-Line	8	9 9:00 AM – Bible Study	10	11	12	13 5:30 PM – Worship
14 Transfiguration Sunday St. Valentine's Day 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Voters' Assembly	15	16 9:00 AM – Bible Study	17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM – Worship with COMMUNION	18	19	20 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
21 COMMUNION 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:45 AM – Posted On-Line	22	23 9:00 AM – Bible Study	24 1 st Wednesday in Lent 7:00 PM – Worship	25	26	27 5:30 PM – Worship
28 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:45 AM – Posted On-Line	Notes for March: March 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins – Move clocks forward 1 hour. Notes for April: April 1 is Maundy Thursday April 2 is Good Friday April 4 is Easter					