

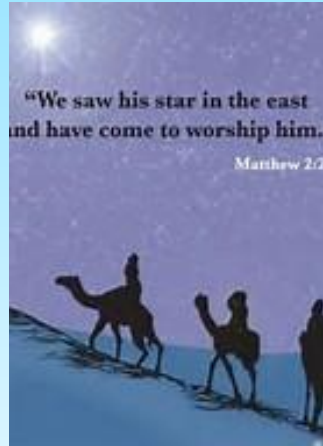
J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 8

Friends in Christ News

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

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| PASTOR'S ARTICLES | 1-2, 3 |
| LWML | 3 |
| YOUTH | 4-5 |
| FRIENDLY SENIORS | 6 |
| SENIOR SERVICE | 6 |
| BIRTHDAYS | 6 |
| ANNIVERSARIES | 6 |
| FINANCIAL REPORT | 6 |
| PRAYER CALENDAR | 7 |
| CHURCH CALENDAR | 8 |



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 to do with 2019: “This Too Shall Pass”



Another year draws to a close. We begin 2019 one year closer to the end of the world, the return of Christ and judgment day. The signs of the times are all around us. There are the “beginnings of birth pangs,” famine, war, the love of many growing cold. But more important than anything else, the Gospel is still spreading to the ends of the earth. Millions in different parts of the world are turning to Christ.

“This too shall pass”

Our days and years are filled with times of trial and times of blessing. The year 2018 was filled with both amazing blessings and incredible trials. Our congregation, our town and our families went through times of joy and laughter and times of sorrow and tears.

- About the sorrow and the tears – it is comforting to know that “this too shall pass.” We are in God's hands, so the sorrows are not eternal. Jesus is our Lord, our Savior and our Friend. So there is comfort and there will be joy.
- About the joy and laughter – it is sobering to know that “this too shall pass.” We are not excused from taking up our cross and following. We are marked by Jesus as His followers, so the cross will find its way into our lives. There will be hardships and suffering.
- You can even look in the mirror and say about yourself, “this too shall pass.” Someone said it this way – “even if Judgment Day does not come during

(Continued on page 2)

Save the Date:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| JAN 7: | Christmas Décor Take-down | 9:00 a.m. |
| JAN 8: | Tuesday Bible Study Resumes | 9:00 a.m. |
| JAN 13: | Confirmation Class | 12 (noon) |
| JAN 20: | Youth Night | 5:00 p.m. |
| JAN 24: | Church Council Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| JAN 27: | Confirmation Class | 12 (noon) |

Upcoming dates

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Feb 10 th | Voter's Meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| Mar 6 th | Lent Begins | 7:00 p.m. |

(Continued from page 1)

your life, Judgment Day will come for you.” Or, “It is appointed to man once to die and then the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

But, in this world where everything will pass:

Each day and each year is a gift from God. Your days and years are given to you from God; and they are given to you for two reasons.

1. The first is because He is a loving God. He blesses us each and every day with all that we need – life and health, family and friends, food and drink ... and all the good things that give us joy and gladness. All that we enjoy is given to us by a God who is rich in grace and mercy, given in part simply so that we can enjoy His love and learn to thank and praise Him.

That is part of the relationship we have with God because of Jesus. We have been bought, purchased, won, rescued from sin and death, delivered from the devil. What we have now is a joy that the world cannot understand or take away. What we have waiting for us in the future are joys and blessings that last forever.

In the beginning of the Bible it talks about God making the world good. He “saw all the He had made and it was very good.” Simply knowing this helps in finding joy in the days and years that God gives.

Remember to thank God through having joy in the good things He has made. And enjoy the good things of this world in a way that praises God.

2. And then second:

God calls us into a relationship with Him so that we can share in His love.
Sharing His love we serve Him by loving our neighbors.

This is a good use of the year 2019. Pray for and look for:
How may I help my neighbor in his time of need?
How may I care for the hungry and the poor?

This is part of our love for God:
Because God created my neighbor in the image of God; and
God loved my neighbor enough that Jesus died and rose for my neighbor.

For 2019 ask, “How may I serve God by caring for my neighbor?” Remember you are sent by Jesus to shine before the world. And there are many in this world who have not heard of or do not know Jesus as their Savior. When Jesus came to His disciples the evening of the first Easter He said, “as the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.” This is for all Christians.

So then, “How do I use 2019?”

Remember that the time is short. 2019 will pass. It's only 365 days long. If you were turning 50 years old this December 31 that means you would have spent 18,262 days in this world.

That's half a century and sounds like a lot. But how many days are there in eternity? It's going to be very, very long.

Eternity is different and there is no “This too shall pass.”

That may be intimidating, so let me remind you of some other things that are eternal. They do not pass.

1. Jesus is Immanuel – God with us. He came to be one of us, permanently.
2. The Bible says about the kingdom of Jesus, “His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:14)
3. This is the best one. Jesus cared for us, loved us, and called us His friends; and that is eternal. He is committed.

In what way and with what measure?

“Heaven and earth may pass away but My words will not pass away.”

“I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

“Because I live, you will live also.”

This is forever. And when Jesus returns we will see Him face to face.

Spend your days of 2019 with joy in knowing the Savior. That's the way we plan to spend eternity.

Pastor Mark (1 Corinthians 2:2)



(Please note: LWML will **NOT** be meeting in January!)

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

Here's Something Unexpected

(Submitted by Pastor Mark Willig)

"We should learn from Christians how to serve humanity" -Dalai Lama

(Tue, Dec 25 2018 08:57:33 PM)

Dharamsala, Dec 25 (IANS): Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Tuesday said the Buddhists should learn from the Christians how to serve the humanity.

Presiding over the second day of his discourse in Bihar's historical city Bodh Gaya, the Dalai Lama urged followers of all religions to form closer contact and learn from each other's traditions.

"The major world religions -- Christianity, Judaism, Islam, different Hindu and Buddhist traditions, Jainism, Daoism, Confucianism, and so on -- each of these has its own unique knowledge that benefits people," he said. "Therefore, through an exchange of knowledge, we can learn new things from each other."

Emphasizing its vital role in the spiritual and inner development, the elderly Buddhist monk said religion has the potential in bringing together people and that "a meaningful exchange could widen and deepen our own spiritual experience".

"Particularly from Christian brothers and sisters, we as Buddhists could learn how to serve the community and engage in social work. I really feel that we should emulate their exemplary social service."

See the article at <https://news360.com/article/482912140>

YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 19th, our Sunday School kids did a *fantastic* job with the Christmas pageant this year! Full of surprises, the congregation even played major roles in the play as carolers, bell ringers and the various animals of the Christmas Story.

The story opens and we find ourselves at a busy mall. Tired, frazzled and grumpy shoppers walk in complaining about the busyness of the season and wondering each other if there's more to Christmas than "all this shopping & dropping".

If you weren't able to be with us that night, you can still see the pageant in it's entirety online at: <https://youtu.be/UI5Ump0miLM>

YOUTH NIGHT

Our next Youth Night will be on **Sunday, January 20th** at the church. We hope to see everyone there for a night of food, games and "hangin' out" with friends!



(above) The Morris Mall set decorations were made by Cathy Thompson. (Thanks, Cathy!!)

(left) Elizabeth & Elicia Kirk and, Mary & [Laura - not pictured] Ruedin: Exhausted and worn out shoppers.
(below) A wonderful (and playful) congregation full of "carolers".



The Stage manager, **Teddy Ruedin**, held a casting call and **Don Johnson & Lori Anderson** helped out by playing a stable cow and donkey.



Lily Thompson
Our littlest angel shares the good news about Jesus' birth with lowly shepherds.



Shepherds **Tarahji Taylor, Sebastian Rodrigues & Mallorie Grogg** watch over their "sheep" by night. (Vicki Rassmanith, Pam Kirk, Carol Hansen and Terry & Shaye Carter.)



Thank you, **Kris Farber**, for accompanying our Christmas program!

(Continued on page 5...)



Olivia Collins (Mary)
Jamie Ruedin (Joseph)



Laura Ruedin sings a solo: "Mary Did You Know?"



Stage Manager, **Teddy Ruedin**, brought the program to a close by throwing out a roll of paper exclaiming "As they say in show business, 'THAT'S A WRAP!'"

Written on the paper: Merry Christmas from the Sunday School Students & Teachers



Tarahji, Signey & Elicia are just happy Christmas is finally here!



Sebastian, Elicia, Olivia & Mallorie celebrate a job well done!



Youth Night Christmas Party

(December 9, 2018)



We had so much fun playing games like LET'S MAKE A DEAL, CHARADES and FAMILY FEUD and exchanging "white elephant" gifts.



Jesus is our
GREATEST
Gift!

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.

January Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 th | Alex McComb |
| 8 th | Si Ruedin |
| 9 th | Vicki Kahn |
| 11 th | Tricia Johnson Patty Lear |
| 12 th | Alyssa Applebee |
| 15 th | Kim Foehringer |
| 16 th | Ethan Thompson |
| 17 th | Mark Thompson |
| 22 nd | Cathy Thompson |
| 24 th | Jared Carlson |
| 29 th | Mary Ruedin |

'... Let us fear the LORD our God, Who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.'
-Jeremiah 5:24b

January Anniversaries

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|----------|
| 5th | Darrel & Judie Thompson | 56 years |
| 15th | Scott & Lisa Heren | 23 years |
| 19th | Jim & Diana Ruedin | 34 years |

Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2018



| General Fund | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income | \$ 15,402.48 | \$ 13,910.33 | \$ 11,101.09 | \$ 15,229.85 | \$ 12,657.25 | \$ 147,580.82 | \$ 150,205.00 |
| Expenses | \$ 13,607.56 | \$ 11,661.18 | \$ 13,400.99 | \$ 13,520.78 | \$ 12,769.65 | \$ 141,904.37 | \$ 150,205.00 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ 1,794.92 | \$ 2,249.15 | \$ (2,299.90) | \$ 1,709.07 | \$ (112.40) | \$ 5,676.45 | \$ - |

Prayer Calendar

JANUARY 2019



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | 1 Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries all over the world. Deaf Ministries, Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted. | 2 Lord as the New Year begins thank you for being there for us and giving us the gift of Jesus. Help strengthen us to do Your will through the year. | 3 God help us to approach difficulty with hope. Col. 3:15 | 4 Lord, thank you for loving us. Help us in return to love others as You love us. | 5 Lord thank you for being with us as we prepare our hearts to worship You. |
| 6 Lord, may Sunday be a day to rest and reflect on You and all the blessings You have bestowed upon us this week. | 7 Lord, we pray for nations and conflict and for healing in all countries. Rev. 22:2 | 8 Lord, forgive us when we allow stress, pessimism and negativity to extinguish our joy. Psalm 86:5 | 9 Lord help us to be Christians of faith. Help me to remember that You are always near and that with You we can overcome any challenge. | 10 Lord help me to pick up the Bible and read and study Your Word. | 11 May the Lord of Peace Himself give us peace at all times and in every way. 2 Thess. 3:16 | 12 Lord, give each of our family members a hunger for Your Word. Help give the ability to hear and obey Your Word. James 1: 21-25 |
| 13 Lord, we praise and bless's Your name that is above all names. Phil. 2:9 | 14 Lord, as we begin the New Year strengthen our desire to develop a dynamic, powerful, and personal living relationship with You. Rom 16: 25-27 | 15 Lord, thank you for the wisdom and compassion of our Doctors, Nurses and Health care providers. 1 Cor. 12:9 | 16 Thank You God for | 17 Lord, encourage and bless us with a servant mind like Jesus. John 13:14-17 | 18 Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need You. Psalm 27:1 | 19 Lord, we thank you for the generosity of our church members helping others with food and clothing during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Help us to remember others less fortunate all year long. |
| 20 Lord, through prayer and Bible study help us to identify and better understand our spiritual gifts. Psalm 119:27 | 21 Lord, so many in our area are unchurched. As we invite people to church please put a hunger in their hearts to want to come, learn and believe in You so they may be saved. | 22 Lord, we give You thanks and praise, for every good and perfect gift comes from You. | 23 Bless all the children and young adults in our congregation. Help keep them steadfast in Your word. Keep them from falling away from You. | 24 Lord, we pray for You to heal every one of us and to make us whole. James 5:16 | 25 Lord, help us to be patient with the people we live with. May we treat others as You would. | 26 Lord, may our congregation encounter Your love, presence, grace, peace and forgiveness as we walk our every day lives. |
| 27 Lord, let me accept what was, let me give thanks for what is, and let me have faith in what surely will be: the promise of eternal life with You. | 28 Lord, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel at Your majesty. Psalm 126 | 29 Lord, grant peace to anyone who is struggling to pay their bills this month. Isaiah 35:10 | 30 Lord, You are the potter, we are the clay, mold us, make us. This is what we pray. Isa. 64:1-9 | 31 Lord, may we trust in You to provide for all of our needs. Psalm 37:5 |  | |

January, 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|---|--|------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 6 COMMUNION Epiphany 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship | 7 9:00 AM – Take Down Christmas Decorations | 8 9:00 AM – Bible Study Genesis 1 Euchre Club Resumes in April 7:00 PM – Elders | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 5:30 PM -- Worship |
| 13 Baptism of our Lord 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation | 14 | 15 9:00 AM – Bible Study | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 20 COMMUNION Epiphany 2 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 5:00 PM – Youth Night | 21 | 22 9:00 AM – Bible Study | 23 | 24 7:00 PM – Church Council | 25 | 26 5:30 PM – Worship |
| 27 Epiphany 3 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12 Noon – Confirmation | 28 | 29 9:00 AM – Bible Study | 30 | 31 | Notes: Voters meet Feb. 10 @ 9:00 AM Lent begins on March 6 this year | |