

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

July 2016



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- **Pastor**- Mark Willig
- **Secretary**- Deb Carter
- **Music**-Bonnie Nelson
- **Organist**-Kris Farber
- **Chair**-Kim Breyman
- **Vice Chair**- Bonnie Nelson
- **Treasurer**- Bob Hunt
- **Assist. Treasurer**- Carol Hansen
- **Elders**-Dick Enervold
- **Missions**- Vicki Kahn
- **Youth**-Cathy Thompson
- **Hospitality**- Earlene Enervold

A Few Thoughts on **FREEDOM**

-Rev. Mark Willig



1. The Yearning

Around the world and through the centuries both people and nations aspire to and seek out freedom. From the Israelites in Egypt, to the yearnings of the Declaration of Independence, to the movie "Braveheart" the desire to be free spans human history.

Nations and people pursue freedom from want and freedom from danger. We talk about the cost of freedom and say, "freedom is not free." We honor and remember those who have defended us and preserved our freedoms.

Cont...

Hiking at
Matthiassen
State Park...

See **YOUTH
NEWS** for
more
pictures
from our
field trip!



SAVE THE DATES:

- JULY 5:** Euchre Club (1pm)
6: LWML (10am)
11: Senior service (1pm)
12: Friendly Seniors (5:30pm)
17: Youth Night (5 – 8pm)
21: Worship at Regency Care (10am)
25: KYKS (9am – 12pm)
28: KYKS (4 – 7pm)

(LOOKING AHEAD)

- AUG 1:** Worship at Park Pointe (10am)
2: Euchre Club (1pm)
3: LWML (10am)



A Few Thoughts on **FREEDOM**

(...continued from page 1)

Some change the meaning and take the word “freedom” to be freedom from consequences, freedom to do whatever they want, and freedom from any idea of right or wrong – still the yearning for freedom is part of how God has made us.

Last Sunday we heard from Galatians (chapter 5) as Paul took up the theme of freedom. *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”* (Galatians 5:1. Yes, that is King James language – I still like it for this verse.)

But then Paul shares the warning, *“you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* (Galatians 5:13) If I indulge in the things of the flesh; if I entangle myself in them am I free? That’s a simple answer. “No.” (Read what Paul says in Romans 7.) So . . .

2. What is Freedom?

A great place to start is the saying from the book of Judges, *“There was no king in Israel. Every man did what was right in his own eyes.”*

In one way that was absolutely wonderful! Without a king there was no one to tell them what to do, where to live, how much taxes to pay, what to do for a living, what to plant . . . whether their hairdryer or vacuum was too big, or tens of thousands of other things that those who work for rulers like to dictate. Freedom from a human ruler who always seems to believe he knows better connects with us on a very deep level. But . . .

In another way, *“every man did what was right in his own eyes”* was not so good. That is in their relationship with God. If our yearning for freedom becomes a desire to live without right & wrong that is dangerous. Like so many of our fathers would say, *“this is not going to end well.”* And every time the Israelites tried it did not end well.

Way back in the beginning Adam and Eve wanted freedom from the one simple thing God had told them not to do. It did not end well. They forgot the freedoms they already had, freedom from sin, suffering and death. They chased after freedom from God and ended up forging the chains that bound them and all their children – chains of sin they could not break; and chains of death they could not escape. They were caught by the devil and entangled in evil. It was not freedom after all. So then . . .

3. A Lesson

What looks like freedom might not be. And the more we chase after an illusion of freedom the worse things seem to get. When we get freedom wrong we end up chasing after exactly the things that destroy us. And bound up in a fallen nature we don’t even see it. But there is . . .

4. The One Who Is Completely Different

Only one has ever come along who is truly different. The one exception to the long history of seeking for and claiming freedom is Jesus Christ. *“Though He existed in the form of God He did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped.” “He took on the form of a servant.” “He became obedient unto death, . . .”*

What Jesus did is to freely bind Himself to us. He stepped down from heaven; in order to be one of us. He bound Himself to our human nature, and that meant fatigue, hunger and thirst. He became a man of prayer, knew sorrow, shared grief and “Jesus



wept.” (John 11:35) He did not pull away from our sins, but carried them for us as “*the Lamb of God*” (John 1:29) Where we forged our own chains of sin, death and the curse; Jesus accepted them freely. With His power as God, He could not be held by the ropes of the soldiers, the nails of the cross or the stone of the tomb. But He took these things, submitting to the abuse of the soldiers, “*engraving*” us by the nails “*on the palms of [His] hands*” (Isaiah 49:15-16), and having the curse poured out on Him. (Mark 15:34 & Galatians 3:13) He took our chains on Himself entering our slavery to bring us His own freedom. (“*If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed.*”) So . . .

5. Now We Are Free

We have been given the only freedom that transcends the limits of this life and this flesh. The power of evil is broken. The devil is defeated. The body that goes to the grave will rise to eternal life. Even the weaknesses and defects of this flesh will be done away. Freedom from glasses and baldness?? Yes. Freedom from that one particular sin that torments us? That too. Freedom from doubts and inner struggles? Yes and it’s a freedom that comes from Jesus’ victory!

So this July we thank God for the many freedoms we have in this nation. And we thank and praise God that He has set us free – to the only true and complete freedom; because . . .

6. Christ Is Risen!

♪ And we shall arise. . . .

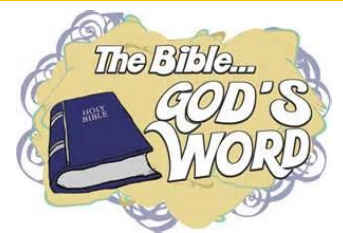
Pastor Mark



Bible Studies

Sunday mornings at 9:30: We are looking at the history of Christianity, The First Three Centuries with Dr. Paul Meier. This has been a very interesting study that looks at the writings of historians about people in the New Testament and the early church.

Tuesday mornings at 9:00: We have been working through books of the Bible. Right now we are in Acts, with a side trip through Galatians and James. You may listen in on past sessions by going to the Members Only section (ficlcmember) of our website: www.ficlc.org.

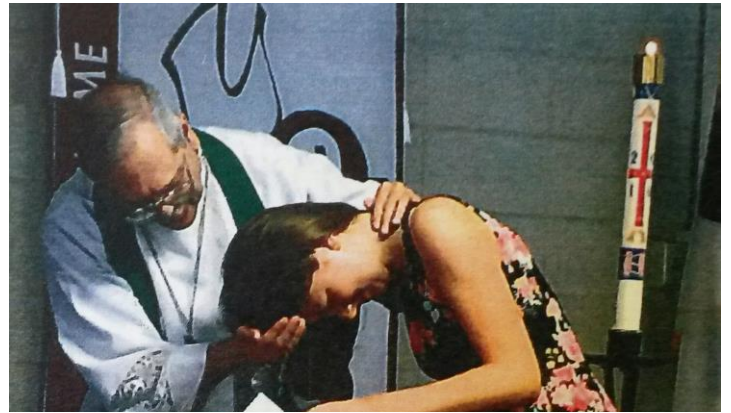




IN THE FAMILY OF GOD



Welcome our
newest member
through
baptism,
**AMBER
BROWN**
June 5, 2016



Anniversaries

1 st	Mike & Brenda Collins	32 years
2 nd	Stephen & Jerri Wills	28 years
3 rd	Ken & Dolores Wiegand	54 years
22 nd	James & Deb Krugler	38 years
30 th	Michael & Vicki Kahn	



Birthdays

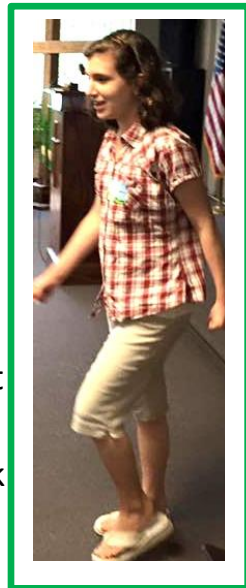


9 th	Alexis Carter
10 th	Bob Hunt
14 th	Gregory Lundy
	Gerald Van Heiden
	Diana Wills
17 th	Ashley Kane
18 th	Ruth Brandt
19 th	Jan Eckert
	Connie Van Heiden
26 th	Bill Lavezzi
28 th	Janet Matteson
29 th	Alice Hunt
30 th	Todd Schultz





SUCCESS! We had 38 children join us this year to learn more 'bout God's Word and grow closer to Jesus! Thank you, once again, to ALL those who helped decorate, set up, teach and lead these little ones! What a blessing to work alongside each other as a "Team in Christ"! (HE IS RISEN, INDEED!)

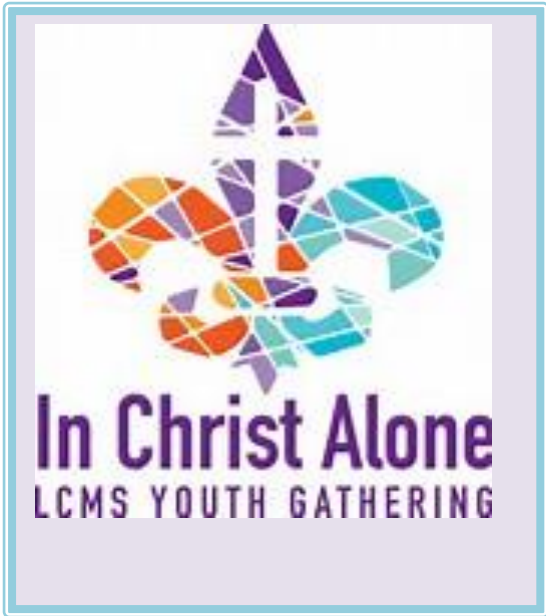




LCMS YOUTH GATHERING JULY 16-20, 2016

The youth and chaperones are in full planning mode for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

Please keep them in your prayers.

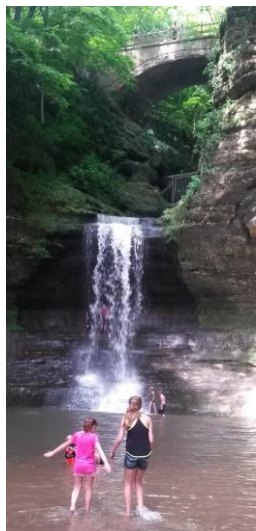


Youth Night

is set for **Sunday, July 17th at 5:00!** Come join us at the Church for a cookout, Bible study and games!

CHECK OUT THE FUN WE HAD the last time we got together!
We took a stroll through **MATTHIESSEN STATE PARK** on June 18TH !!

(For more pictures, look on our Friends In Christ Facebook page!)



FRIENDLY SENIORS

Come take a ride into the country!

Our next Friendly Senior meal will be at:

ROAD RUNNER Family Restaurant

(About 20 minutes south of Dwight)

110 Wabash St. Emington, IL
Phone: 815/934-5500

TUESDAY, JULY 12 at 5:30 pm



OUR NEXT

Senior Service

MONDAY, JULY 11

1:00 PM



Missions

K.Y.K.S. SHOE MINISTRY

K.Y.K.S. is gearing up for our back to school shoe giveaway in the fall
Please watch for announcements regarding how you can soon get involved in the KYKS ministry.



WE CARE Items

We are focusing on item per month but any and all donations are welcome!

JULY

Peanut Butter and Jelly

AUGUST

Toilet Paper

SEPTEMBER

Feminine Hygiene Products

OCTOBER

Light Bulbs

NOVEMBER

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

DECEMBER

Paper Towels

(Thank you for your generosity! Please leave collected items in the kitchen on the black shelving unit by the door to the hallway. There are signs so you know where to leave things.)

FICLC Food Cabinet

If you would like to donate to help keep our own Food Cabinet stocked, please feel free to donate any of the following:

Canned meats

Beans

Canned soups

Canned stews or chili

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Jarred pasta sauce

It is important that the items purchased be in either cans or jars for maximum shelf life.

Monetary donations or Aldi gift certificates will also be happily accepted.

Just a reminder: The food cabinet is for those we know *personally* who might need help. If you would like to give someone food, please contact Cathy Thompson, Paula Willig, or Vicki Kahn and they will get the food to you.



LWML
WEDNESDAY – JULY 6TH
10:00 am



This month our meeting topic will be “A Lutheran Way of Spirituality”, lead by Pastor Willig.

If you wish to bring a donation for a Veteran leaving homelessness you can bring your items to the meeting and Sue Seidler will carry them to the District LWML Board of Directors meeting this month. Here is a link to the list of needed items: <http://militaryoutreachusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Move-In-Essential-Program.pdf>

NID INGATHERING – GIFTS FROM THE HEART

July 16, 2016 – EC & BOD Meeting

St. John's, Schaumburg, IL
Military Outreach USA
Northbrook, IL

Veterans Exiting Homelessness

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Cleaning Supplies

Laundry Detergent

Paper towels

Shower curtain

Bath towels

Garbage bags

Trash can

Buckets, Mops, Brooms

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

Hand Soap

Deodorant

Shampoo

Toothpaste & Tooth Brushes

VETERAN TRANSITCARDS

@\$3.00 each – can make a difference in the life of a homeless veteran, and provides transportation to and from the veteran's hospitals.

MONETARY DONATIONS & CHECKS:

made out to: Military Outreach USA

NOTE: To donate furniture or bedding, and arrange for pick-up call Military Outreach USA

1-877-734-4244

www.militaryoutreachusa.org

For Many The War Goes On

Here's a little information about

Military Outreach USA

3020 Milwaukee Avenue

Northbrook, IL 60062

1-877-734-4244

www.militaryoutreachusa.org

Our Mission is to empower a Military Caring Network to serve those who have served in our nation's military.

We are in partnership with 3 Veteran Facilities:

Jesse Brown VA, Chicago, IL

Hines VA Hospital, Hines, IL

Lovell VA, North Chicago, IL

Faith-Based, our Christian faith compels us to demonstrate God's compassion, love and healing to the Military community.

THE PROBLEM: When a veteran or their family leaves a shelter or transitional housing to move into an affordable living residence they often have nothing but the clothes on their backs and a few personal items. The **Veterans Exiting Homelessness Program** helps address that problem.

THE SOLUTION: Here is a list of Basic-Move-In-Essentials. YOU can make a difference in their lives as they transition to a stable environment.


THANK YOU!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	27	28 9am - Bible Study	29	30	1	2 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
3 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	4 Independence Day	5 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	6 10am - LWML	7	8	9 LC-MS Convention in 5:30pm - Worship
10 LC-MS Convention in Milwaukee 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	11 1pm - Senior Service	12 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	13	14 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans	15	16 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
17 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	18	19	20	21 10am - Regency Care	22	23 5:30pm - Worship
24 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	25 KYKS 9 - 12	26	27	28 KYKS 4 - 7	29	30 5:30pm - Worship
31 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	1 10am - Park Pointe	2 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	3 10am - LWML	4	5	6 Communion 5:30pm - Worship

Prayer Calendar

JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. The Wendling family. Missionaries around the world especially Kathy, Nicole, and Sue. San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted. All the youth in our church and those youth that visit.</p>	<p>Lord be with Adolf and Sharon and their family as two of their children have come home to you. Walk with them as they try to find a way to get up each day with such heavy hearts. Be gracious to them with a comfort only You can give.</p>
<p>Lord, give us words to say to build each other up in the faith. Shore us up as a congregation help each of us to boldly share Your Word.</p>	<p>We thank you Lord, for the many freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States. We ask that You would preserve these freedoms here and around the world.</p>	<p>Lord, open the hearts and minds of people all over the world, so that His grace-filled message can spread far and wide.</p>	<p>Lord, be with those in our Circuit that are working on realignment. Help them to realign the district of church's so that it will be pleasing to You Lord. Give them knowledge and discernment as they work on such a large project.</p>	<p>God, make us bold witnesses to the Good News in our homes and communities.</p>	<p>Many missionaries work for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach by trying to bring Muslims to know You Lord. Open hearts and minds of those needing to hear Your Word. Protect, guide, give an extra measure of safety to those sharing Your Word. Strengthen their hearts, minds, bodies and souls as they bring other so know You.</p>	<p>We Thank You for Pastor Willig Lord. Shore him up physically, mentally and spiritually. Strengthen his faith as he is a light for You to all he comes in contact with.</p>
<p>Lord, seeds have been planted in the children who attended VBS. Grow those seeds and help each child to come to know You as their Savior. Strengthen their faith so they can walk daily with You.</p>	<p>Lord, help LCMS congregations that are struggling in anyway, provide the resources necessary to help these congregations undergo a significant and lasting revitalization.</p>	<p>Lord, so many coming home from war suffer from battlestress and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. We ask that You would bring healing and renewal to them. Strengthen them as well as their families. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p>Lord be with Christians all over the world who are in danger. Protect them from harm and danger, give them strength and faith to face their trails.</p>	<p>Our Youth, Pastor, Paula and Cathy are traveling to the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Lord be with them as they travel keep them safe and guard their hearts so they can grow in faith through the week.</p>	<p>Lord, many pastors and missionaries are being trained through programs at the seminaries of LCMS, help those attending classes to be properly equipped for this diverse and sometimes difficult work they will be doing. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p>Lord, help us to always look compassionately on the least among us.</p>
<p>As we reach out to young people in the youth group we ask that you would have them come to a strong faith in you Lord. Help unchurched young people to the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Lord, LCMS Youth gathering is going on all week. Give the Youth a hunger to learn and strengthen their relationship with You Lord. Great things will happen we thank you ahead of time for being with the youth and bringing them closer to You Lord.</p>	<p>This is the last full day of the youth gathering be with all the youth as they are helping others and being fed by the Lords word. Open hearts and minds so these youth have a life time walking with You Lord.</p>	<p>As our youth and adults travel home from the National LCMS Youth Gathering keep them safe and help them to be bold and bring others to know You with what they have learned. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p>Welcome home to our youth from the National LCMS Youth Gathering. Lord let them come home on fire for You and keep this fire going. Thank You for giving them this opportunity.</p>	<p>As the Kenya mission team is teaching and giving medical attention we ask for their safety. You want us to bring Your Word to all nations. Bless this particular mission field and those missionaries that are working so hard for the glory of You O Lord.</p>	<p>Help us not to become complacent in the work You called us to do in our communities.</p>
<p>There is such a need for deaf ministry all over the world. We ask that You raise up congregations to provide a much needed place to hear Your Word in a little different way.</p>	<p>Lord as children come to get shoes from the KYKS program. Bless these children and parents with a knowledge of You. Help seeds to be planted so they may come to know You.</p>	<p>God strengthen our faith by encouraging us to study and learn Your Word.</p>	<p>We pray Lord that You would continue to use Your people when tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fire or any disaster strikes to reassure in the time of suffering that You are present with them in their time of need.</p>	<p>Lord, be with chaplains in harm's way. We ask that you would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them. Help them to be bold and proclaim Your word to all who can hear. Open hearts and minds to hear and believe.</p>	<p>Lord, we pray for missionaries everywhere that they are protected and strengthen their faith as they plant the seeds of the Gospel. Help the Word they plant to continue to bear much fruit.</p>	<p>Lord, help us to always look compassionately on the least among us.</p>
<p>We pray for all confirmands that they might be inspired to learn about Your Word in confirmation class and throughout their lives. Give them a hunger to continue to learn about You even after they are confirmed.</p>					