

J U L Y 2 0 1 9

# Friends in Christ News

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

## In This Issue

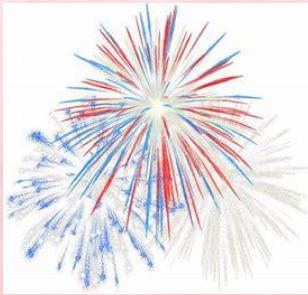
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It is for freedom  
that Christ has set  
us free. Stand  
firm, then, and do  
not let yourselves  
be burdened again  
by a yoke of  
slavery.

- Galatians 5:1

## Come & Worship

Saturday Evenings	...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings	...	8:15 a.m.
	...	10:45 a.m.
<u>Family</u> Bible Study	...	9:30 a.m.
(Tuesday Bible Study	...	9:00 a.m.)



## ON FREEDOM & SLAVERY

*(How the one masquerades under the guise of the other)*

It is a fascinating thing — the relationship between freedom and slavery. Since they are opposites you would expect that it would be an “either / or” relationship. But it is not so simple; and the relationship teaches things about us as human beings and about the human condition. This has been true ever since the time of the judges in early Israel when the people said: We want a king!

**The most striking example in our history** is the arguments around the Civil War. Back in high school we studied this and learned about the basic claim of the confederate states. (Basic claims are important to understand. They are where a group says, “This is truth;” and then we get to analyze it to see where it stands or falls.) “They” [the confederates] said that the United States was a free association of states, so they were free to leave. Their claim, they said, was a claim for freedom. That is why they designed their flag to include the cross of Andrew, because: (1) The cross of Andrew was on the flag of Scotland; and Scotland had fought for freedom from the British for a long time. (2) In addition, parts of the agreement between the British and the Scots were used as a model for the relationship between the American Colonies and the British government. (3) If the Scots were right in seeking their independence then the American Colonies should be free to become an independent nation. Those things are included in the Declaration of Independence. And (4) if the colonies were free to leave, then the southern states were also.

**But:** hidden under that argument was the real reason for seceding. On the surface is a cry for freedom; and hiding under that claim is slavery, the very opposite of freedom. **The one (slavery)**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Save the Date:

<b>JULY 4:</b>	<b>HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!</b>	
<b>JULY 9:</b>	Friendly Seniors	11:30 a.m.
<b>JULY 10:</b>	LWML	10:00 a.m.
<b>JULY 14:</b>	Confirmation	Noon
<b>JULY 11-15:</b>	<i>National Youth Gathering</i>	
<b>JULY 15:</b>	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
<b>JULY 17:</b>	<i>Higher Things Conference</i>	
<b>JULY 28:</b>	Confirmation	Noon
<b>JULY 29:</b>	Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.

## Looking Ahead...

August 1:	K.Y.K.S. Shoe Fitting Event	TBA
August 1:	St. Vincent's Table	4:00 p.m.
August 11:	Voters' Assembly	9:00 a.m.

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### **masquerades under the guise of freedom.**

**But again, not so fast.** Slavery does not masquerade under the guise of freedom in only one way. We are a flawed and sinful race.

What was the argument from the other side, from the Union States? It was not at first that slavery is wrong and we have to straighten out what has been wrong. (That was what everyone knew it was all about; but that was not the first argument of the Union.) Instead, what the Union States said is, “No, you are not free to leave. Once you have become a part of the nation you give up your freedom to secede.”

In response to the argument, “You are not free to leave” many have wondered, “If there is no freedom to leave, can the government then impose all kinds of things on us; and maybe some of them could be really bad things.”

Has that happened? Has the national government imposed things on the people and the states that we would question? It certainly looks like it. And so it happens. Lurking under the surface of the good desire for freedom, human nature begins to sneak in servitude and the loss of freedom. We are a flawed and sinful race all the way through.

**Fast forward to the 1960's.** (I remember growing up in the 60's.)

There was a tremendous cry for freedom. This time it was freedom from rules, freedom from morals, and freedom to put all kinds of chemicals into your body. Have those freedoms actually led to freedom, or was slavery once again masquerading under the guise of freedom? Freedom to use chemicals for recreation has led to the slavery of addictions. Freedom from morals has led to diseases that limit and the breaking up of families with children having their lives harmed and their potential stolen away. Freedom from rules has led to the breakdown of the civil society.

And again it happens. We chase after freedom and find slavery lurking just under the surface.

**So it was when God warned the people of Israel.** A king will take the best of your crops, flocks, and herds. He will come and tax you. He will conscript your sons to serve in his army and take your daughters to serve at the palace. But they wanted the freedom of having a king who would take care of their needs. They chased after freedom from need and freedom from worry, and they turned away from God. And so it happened. Servitude masqueraded under the guise of freedom.

**Back to the beginning, there in the Garden of Eden.** The devil said to our first parents: “Has God indeed said ... ?” And, “You will not surely die.” Break the rules. Go ahead. Claim your freedom! And they ate.

And they became slaves to their own rebellion, separated from God and unsure of right and wrong. How my pastor taught us in confirmation class is like this. Before the fall, Adam & Eve were “Able to not sin.” After the fall they were “Not able to not sin.” Part of our basic reality is that fallen humanity has lost its freedom.

**We are enslaved to our own fallen nature.** Alone we fall short, go wrong, and make bad decisions; together we do all kinds of damage to each other; and Paul says, “Who will free me from this body of death?” Every claim we make on freedom is corrupted and goes wrong.

**But Paul continues, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” He is the only place where there is true freedom.**

There is a freedom unlike any other in being connected to Jesus.

**(1) He is where the curse ends and the blessing begins.** The curse is what bound us to the results of our own rebellion both in the world around us and deep within in our own souls. But Jesus took that curse on Himself, being bound, arrested, beaten and nailed to the cross. He did this in our place so that we could be free – actually and truly free.

**(2) His words bring eternal truth;** and where there is eternal truth there is eternity.

Eternity is in the words of Jesus, so the blessings that come through His words are blessings that are never lost. Christians have said this to rulers and tyrants for almost 2,000 years — to Rome, or the Caliphate, or the Soviets, and many others.

“You did not give me life, or my soul, or freedom, or anything eternal. If you lock me up I am still free in Jesus. Even if you take away my life “Christ is risen;” and He is able to raise me up. And you can’t even pretend to promise that. Jesus is my life and my freedom.”

**(3) Jesus is “the resurrection and the life”** and that life is life connected to the living God. “Neither death

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nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39) And that is true freedom.

And (4) **Jesus promised all of this.** He claimed to be the one who could give freedom. “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

**And there is more:**

A lot of people look at being a Christian, and they think that being a disciple of Jesus Christ means giving up freedom. After all Paul talks about being a servant of Christ, doesn't he?

But that is not how it actually works:

**Polycarp of Smyrna** is a fantastic example (and I do love saying the name “Polycarp of Smyrna”). In the ancient Roman Empire, charged with being a Christian, he stood before the governor; while the governor pleaded with him to deny Jesus (because he really didn't want to put him to death). Polycarp answered, “86 years I have served Him and He never did me any injury; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior.”

**His freedom was hidden within being a servant of Jesus.**

Christians all through the centuries know this truth. **“It is only when we are connected to Jesus Christ that we can finally be truly free”** – set free from all the things that bind, and shackle, and keep me from walking in the fullness of life. Jesus has made me new, and He is changing me from the inside out, so that in Jesus I can I be all of what completely fulfills me.

That is so much the way of it, that when I look forward to the time after Judgment Day this is the image and the phrase that comes into my mind: **“Running free with Jesus, running free for all eternity.”**

On this Independence Day thank God that He has blessed us with our freedoms, and remember where eternal freedom is.

*“And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng, With joy to sing, To heav’n’s high King  
Salvation’s song!”* (LSB # 966) Amen! Lord, may it be!

Pastor Mark

### JUST FOR FUN . . .

Thanks to the huge uptick in technology over the last 30 years, our kids now speak a completely different language to each other; some of which is easy to translate and then there's some that is, well, . . not so much. Below is a humorous example of how you might expect your child or grandchild to share what they've learned in Sunday School. Can you make out the “text speak” below?

How a Kid Would Send the Ten Commandments as a Text Message:

M, pls rite on tabs & giv 2 ppl. Ttyl. (p.s. wwjd?)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. no1 b4 me. srsly. dnt wrshp pix/idols | 6. :-X only w/ m8                               |
| 2. no omg's.                             | 7. dnt steal                                    |
| 3. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)  | 8. dnt lie re: ppl                              |
| 4. pos ok – ur m&d r cool.               | 9. dnt ogle house nd. Dwbh w/urs                |
| 5. don't kill ppl.                       | 10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob. |

Moses, please write on tablets and give to people. Talk to you later. P.S. What would Jesus do? 1-No one before Me. Seriously. Don't worship pictures/idols. (You shall have no other gods before me.) 2-No Oh My God's. (You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God) 3-No work on w/end (Sat. for now; Sun later). (Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy) 4-parents over shoulder ok – your mom and dad are cool. (Honor your father and your mother) 5-Don't kill people. (You shall not murder) 6-sex only with mate. (You shall not commit adultery) 7-Don't steal. (You shall not steal) 8-Don't lie regarding people. (You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor) 9-Don't ogle house donkey. Mind your own business (You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor)

**K.Y.K.S.**

(“*Keeping Your Kids [in] Shoes*”)

Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

8:30 a.m. – Noon

**Calling all volunteers - Please mark this date in your calendar!**

Beginning on July 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table in the back of the church.  
Please sign-up if you are able to help!

## Lutheran Women Missionary League



### ATTENTION!

Our regular meeting time has been changed!

**WEDNESDAY - JULY 10<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**

**Servers: Judy Johnson & Bonnie Nelson**

## In Our Church Family

### Nova Mateo Miller

Baptized June 9, 2019

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church



Nova is baptized,  
held by his father.



Nova with Mom (LaTisha)  
& Dad (Brandon)

### Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Kinzie

Mary Ruedin, daughter of members Jim & Diana Ruedin, married Mitchell Kinzie on June 15 at Zion Lutheran Church in Ottawa, IL.



Mr. & Mrs. Kinzie now reside in Fayetteville, N.C.

## YOUTH EVENTS

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers and example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. -Timothy 4:12

**REAL.PRESENT.GOD.**

**National Youth Gathering  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
July 11 – 15, 2019**



**Youth  
Conference  
Mequon,  
Wisconsin  
July 17, 2019**

There will be a special Sending Service on July 7<sup>th</sup> (10:45 a.m. worship time) for all of our members (young and old) attending these events. Please continue to pray for them – that God would bless their time there, strengthening their faith and grant them all safe travel.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The “One Day – Fun Day” format for our VBS this year was a success! We will tweak a few things for next year but overall, the kids (and volunteers) had a ball! (For more pictures of VBS, visit our Facebook page!)

### YOUTH NIGHT

With so much going on this summer (whew!) we will not be having a Youth Night in July. However, our annual Pool Party is being planned for August before the Morris pool closes for the season. Keep an eye on the Sunday Bulletin Insert for details!



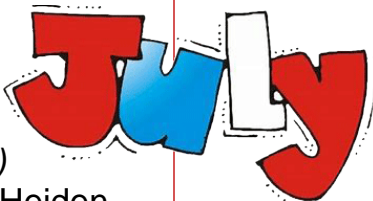
## SENIOR SERVICE MONDAY, JULY 15 1:00 P.M.

*(A light lunch will be served  
immediately following)*

Please note: This is one week later in the month than we usually meet.

## FRIENDLY SENIORS TUESDAY, JULY 9 11:30 A.M.

We will be meeting at the  
**TearDrop Pancake House**  
(410 W. Mondamin, Minooka, IL)  
Please call Jerald & Connie Van Heiden  
at **815/941-1139** if you plan on  
attending. (Please leave a  
message if necessary.)



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 <sup>th</sup>	Kurt Johnson
9 <sup>th</sup>	Alexis Carter Lisa Heren
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jerald Van Heiden
16 <sup>th</sup>	Diana Ruedin
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ashley Kane
19 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Van Heiden
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Oslakovich Emma Oslakovich
26 <sup>th</sup>	Laina Johnson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Hunt
30 <sup>th</sup>	Todd Schultz

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.  
But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;  
rather, serve one another humbly in love.<sup>14</sup> For  
the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one  
command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."  
- Galatians 5:13-14*

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike & Brenda Collins	35 years
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ken & Dolores Wiegand	57 years
22 <sup>nd</sup>	James & Deb Krugler	41 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Michael & Vicki Kahn	37 years

## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019

6/26/2019




General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 10,883.11	\$ 12,030.32	\$ 13,407.62	\$ 20,081.37	\$ 11,667.16	\$ 68,069.58	\$ 68,325.00
Expenses	\$ 12,141.60	\$ 13,678.43	\$ 14,175.60	\$ 13,055.19	\$ 13,029.02	\$ 66,079.84	\$ 68,265.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,258.49)	\$ (1,648.11)	\$ (767.98)	\$ 7,026.18	\$ (1,361.86)	\$ 1,989.74	\$ 60.00

5 WEEKS AND EASTER

# Prayer Calendar

# JULY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Mary, Debbie and their families. Pray for Missionaries all over the world.	<b>2</b> Lord, bless those preparing classes, programs and meetings for the fall and all those that will attend.	<b>3</b> God, my soul is weary with sorrow: strengthen me according to your word. Psalm 119:28	<b>4</b> Pray that we will not love worldly things but set our minds on Christ. 1 John 2:15-17 Phil. 4:8	<b>5</b> God, fill our mouths with laughter and our lips with shouts of joy for all the great things you have done for us. Job 8:21	<b>6</b> Please open our hearts and minds to remain strong in God's love.
<b>7</b> Lord, be with our kids and youth as they are on summer vacation. Help them to keep you in their lives as they grow up.	<b>8</b> God, may the joy of knowing and serving Jesus transform how we live. Give us a servant's heart. Matt. 25:14-30	<b>9</b> God, strengthen my faith. Nehemiah 8:10	<b>10</b> Lord, be with our youth and adults that are going to the LCMS National Youth gathering. Keep them safe as they travel and open their hearts and minds to learn all about You.	<b>11</b> God, remind me that those persons who beg, loiter and are homeless are also your children. Proverbs 22:2	<b>12</b> God, thank you for pastors who answer your call to preach the Gospel of Christ. Eph. 3:8	<b>13</b> Lord we pray our congregation will grow and fulfill your mission. Hebrews 11:1
<b>14</b> Lord help us to realize that weekly worship, daily prayer and daily Bible Study need to be a priority in our lives. Ecc. 4:9-10	<b>15</b> Lord, bless our youth and adults as they drive home from the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Help the adults to not be so tired driving home. Keep them safe in their travels.	<b>16</b> God, send your Holy Spirit to youth feeling overwhelmed, unloved, underappreciated, or worthless. Matthew 6:8	<b>17</b> God please comfort those among us that are ill or going through difficult times.	<b>18</b> God, I pray that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever. Psalm 30:12	<b>19</b> Pray that we seek opportunities to witness and invite people to Friends in Christ, so that people can meet Jesus.	<b>20</b> Lord, we thank you for every person that walks through the doors at church. Help us to welcome them and treat them the way you would treat us.
<b>21</b> God, help me to put on your full armor so that I can take my stand against the devil's schemes. Eph 6:11	<b>22</b> Lord, help instill in us a hunger to study and read your word.	<b>23</b> God, use all of us at Friends In Christ to reach many with the Gospel.	<b>24</b> God, be the source of grace, compassion and patience for the parents of children and teenagers and young adults. Matthew 11:28	<b>25</b> God, thank you for being our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble Ps. 46:1	<b>26</b> God, prevent me from focusing on my shortcomings and weaknesses and instead look toward my strengths. Deut.33:25	<b>27</b> Thank you for being our refuge and strength for we can't do it alone. Psalm 46:1
<b>28</b> Lord thank you for giving us the Bible as a path. Help us to take time to study and use the Bible to bring others to you.	<b>29</b> God, help us grow closer to our goal of eradicating hunger, homelessness and poverty. Mark 6:42	<b>30</b> Pray that we get encouragement, knowledge and support to help us take care of our heart, mind, body and soul so we as individuals can be healthy and work together in the Body of Christ to glorify God.	<b>31</b> Lord help us to realize that weekly worship of you should be a priority in our lives. Psalm 99:5			

# July 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Key: < > = < Conferences, Gatherings, Conventions, etc. >	1	2 9:00 AM – Bible Study 1:00 PM – Euchre Club 4:00 PM – Stewardship 7:00 PM – Elders	3	4 <b>Independence Day</b>	5	6 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
7 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship	8	9 9:00 AM – Bible Study 11:30 AM – Friendly Seniors @ Tear Drop Pancake House, 410 W. Mondamin, Minooka	10 10:00 AM – <b>Lutheran Women's Missionary League</b> (Youth Leave for Youth Gathering in Minneapolis)	11 < 7/11-15 National Youth -----	12 Gather-Ing -----	13 5:30 PM – Worship  in Minneapolis, Minnesota -----
14 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation ----->	15 1:00 PM – Senior Service (Youth Returning from Minneapolis)	16 9:00 AM – Bible Study 10:30 AM – Finance Committee < <b>Lutheran Deaf Mission</b>	17 < <b>Higher Things Conference in Mequon, WI</b> > <b>Society in Topeka, --</b>	18 <b>Kansas &gt;</b> <International -	19 <b>Lutheran</b>	20 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship  <b>Deaf Assoc in Topeka</b> <7/20-25 LCMS -----
21 <b>COMMUNION</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship <b>Kansas &gt;</b> <b>Synod Convention in Tampa, --</b>	22 < <b>Ephphatha Conference of Pastors for the Deaf in Topeka</b> >  <b>Florida -----</b>	23 -----	24 -----	25 ----->	26	27 5:30 PM – Worship
28 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation	29 10:00 AM – Park Pointe 7:00 PM – <b>Church Council</b>	30 9:00 AM – Bible Study	31	In August: 8/1 KYKS Shoe Fitting 8/1 St. Vincent's Table 8/11 Voters' Assembly		