

J U L Y 2 0 2 0

# Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris Illinois 60450

**We have re-opened our doors!**

Saturday Evenings – 05:30 pm

Sunday Mornings – 8:15 am & 10:45 am

Family Bible Study – 9:40 am

*(Senior Service postponed until further notice)*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

★ A WORD FROM PASTOR .....	1-2
★ BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES .....	3
★ LWML .....	3
★ GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING FOR WORSHIP ...	4
★ "I DIDN'T PRAY" .....	5
★ NEW LIFE IN THE QUIET – A NOTE FROM DEB ...	6-7
★ FINANCIAL REPORT .....	7
★ PRAYER CALENDAR .....	8
★ CHURCH CALENDAR .....	9

## 20-20 A Year for Seeing Clearly

### Part 7: Seeing Citizenship and “The Two Kingdoms”

**There is a Lutheran “Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms.”**

**The One is the Kingdom of the Right Hand. The Other is the Kingdom of the Left Hand.**

**The One does not work by Laws. The Other does not work by Grace.**

**The One has human armies, guns, and gets its way by force. The other has angels, deals with souls, and gets its way by the power of the Word.**

**The One gains influence by bringing people within its borders and under its rule. The other gains people by giving a new birth, bringing them to faith.**

**As Christians, we are citizens of both. How to live in both calls for wisdom.**

**The Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms:** comes from Martin Luther, sorting out how to live as a citizen in this world as a Christian. He said, there is the Kingdom of the Right Hand and the kingdom of the Left Hand. Jesus rules over both, in very different ways and through different people. We should try not to confuse them.

**The Kingdom of the Right** is the Church. It is ruled in the mercy of God. This Kingdom is where we hear the Gospel that our sins are washed away. Jesus gives forgiveness and we are invited by God and come before Him robed in His own holiness. Christians pray for their enemies and turn the other cheek.

**The Kingdom of the Left** includes every earthly kingdom there has ever been. In this kingdom, when it is a godly

*(continued on page 2)*



kingdom, good is rewarded and evil is punished. God works through this kingdom to give earthly, ‘this world’, blessings. This kingdom is designed to restrain sin and violence. The Apostle Paul says the ruler does not bear the sword in vain. At the end when Jesus returns the Kingdom of the Left will no longer be necessary.

**There is a warning: Do not confuse the two. Things go wrong when we cross them over.**

**In the Kingdom of the Left**, the judge should not “judge as a Christian.” He should not let the murderer go free, “because God forgives all sins.” Everything would fall apart. And secondly, that is not his place. A judge in the Kingdom of the Left should only judge the good or evil of an act, largely as a matter of keeping or breaking the law. He should not take the mercy of the Kingdom of the Right and override his duties as a judge in the Kingdom of the Left.

**In the Kingdom of the Right**, the religious leader should not bring the power of the Kingdom of the Left into his work. He should not seek to make faith in Jesus a law. He should not make attending Church a law either. That is not his place. He is called to bring the Word of God, with the conviction of sins and the forgiveness of sins that comes from the cross of Jesus. But secondly, it is extremely important to keep and treasure the things of the Kingdom of the Right. These are the things that last. This is the Kingdom that is eternal. And the Kingdom of the Right is where we have eternal life.

**In this life we live as Citizens in both Kingdoms.** In this country we are blessed. There are a lot of places in the world where that is not as easy. Part of the genius of the United States is the acknowledgment in our Declaration of Independence that each of us have been created by God and that our basic rights are given by God. Our nation acknowledges that there is a greater kingdom, the Kingdom of God. The framers of our Constitution said they were forming a government for a religious people. What they put together would not work for a people who did not acknowledge God. So, for many generations our leaders knew that good and true religion would be a blessing in all parts of life. The faithful follower of Jesus would be a blessing to their fellow man. They knew that the teachings of Jesus would correct evil human impulses. And where the nation had gone wrong those same teachings of Jesus would bring us back to treating each other with the kindness and respect that is due to those made in the image of God.

**In the world but not of the world.** When Luther talked about the “Two Kingdoms,” he was following Paul, who taught that we are in the world but not of the world. Paul was following Jesus who told us, “You are the salt of the earth,” and then “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:13-14)

**What does it look like to be the salt of the earth?** We bring eternal things into this life because we carry within us the eternal Gospel and eternal life. We bring an eternal kingdom into every earthly kingdoms where we live.

- We pray for our nation, for our leaders to be blessed with wisdom from God.
- When our neighbor is hungry we bring food.
- When our neighbor needs shoes for school we buy them, fit them and give them away.
- When our neighbor is distressed we comfort them and we pray for them. We ask our Friend Jesus to help them.
- When our nation is in turmoil we care, love and bring peace in the name of Jesus.

**Here’s an idea!** The next time you get pulled over when driving, after you get your ticket, ask the policeman’s first name; and right there pray, “Lord Jesus, keep (name) safe today as he goes about his duties. Bless him that he may return home safely to his family at the end of his shift. Amen.”

**This world needs those who are salt and light.** Very badly, this world needs those who are salt and light. Those who are salt and light bring the word of life from Jesus. It is because only in Jesus is there forgiveness; and the only place to find reconciliation is in His words.

Pastor Mark



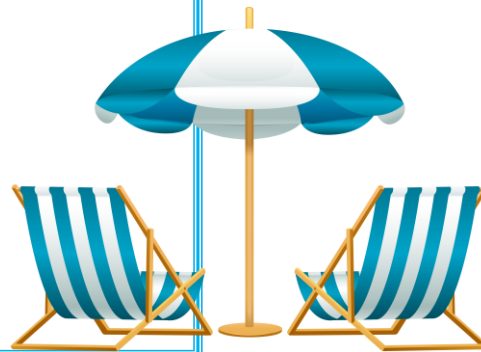
# Anniversaries

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike & Brenda Collins	36 years
22 <sup>nd</sup>	James & Deb Krugler	42 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Michael & Vicki Kahn	38 years



# 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 Emma Oslakovich
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ashley Kane
19 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Van Heiden
24 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Oslakovich
26 <sup>th</sup>	Laina Johnson
29 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Hunt
30 <sup>th</sup>	Todd Schultz Amy Smith



*You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.  
In peace I will both lie down and sleep for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell safely.*  
~ Psalm 4:7-8



Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

It has been such a long time since we have met together and I miss you all. At our last meeting we agreed to cancel the July meeting this year, so even though we have begun in-person services in the church, we will not be having a meeting in July. We will be looking forward to resuming an in-person meeting as shown in our program booklet on August 5th at 6:30 pm.

Continue to pray for the missions that are listed for Mission Grants 2019-21 and remember to put that change in your mite boxes.

See you August 5th,  
Bonnie



# Guidelines for Returning to Worship

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

June 25, 2020

## A: Before Attending:

1. **Please realize that, while we will make every effort that we are reasonably able to do, there cannot be a 100 % guarantee of complete safety from infection. When you decide to enter you do so at your own risk.**

*We pray, "Lord, preserve us from disease as we come to Your House. Preserve us also from spreading illness to one another. Guide us in using every part of our knowledge to protect one another."*

2. **Ill?** – If you are ill in any way please refrain from this public gathering.
3. **Temperature** – In preparing to attend, take your temperature.
4. **Restroom** – Please use the restroom before leaving home. We will try to keep our restrooms clean, but the more people who use them the greater the risk.
5. **Sanitize** – When you enter the building wash or sanitize your hands.
6. **Precautions** – Our efforts to guard against infection will include:
  - a. Having the windows open to provide maximum ventilation. If the day is hot, wear lighter clothes.
  - b. Cleaning the building more thoroughly before the weekend.
  - c. Sanitizing after each service.
  - d. Assigning alternating rows of chairs for each service. (See # 6 in the next section.)

## B: In Our Worship:

1. **Masks** – Wear a mask if you are able. This is not a matter of preference. Exceptions are: Young Children; Those with COPD; etc.
2. **Hymnals** – We will not be using our hymnals. All hymns will be printed in the bulletins.
3. **Offerings** – We will not “gather” Offerings. If you are bringing an offering place it in the offering plate while entering, or when leaving.
4. **Friendship Cards** – We will not be using the “friendship cards.”
  - a. If you have a prayer request please let the Pastor know before the service.
  - b. Someone will take a “temporary picture” of the congregation during the service. We will look at it on Monday to see who was there; and then delete it.
5. **Used Bulletins** – Do NOT return the bulletins to the table. Take them with or put them in the waste receptacle on the way out. The same applies to the Bulletin Insert.
6. **Seating** – We will alternate rows of chairs for each service; and will sanitize after each service. Specifically:

The 5:30 Saturday Service will use 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> rows (24 chairs plus the front row);  
The 8:15 Service will use the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> rows (37 chairs);  
The 10:45 Service will use the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> rows (32 chairs).  
(Rows will be marked “**OPEN**” or “**CLOSED**” for each service.)
7. **Distancing** – Within the rows use Social Distancing. Families can sit together. So, also, can those who came together. Leave 1 or 2 chairs empty between groups or individuals who came separately.
8. **Singing** – Once again, wear a mask. This applies especially when singing.
9. **Communion** – There will be further guidelines regarding communion, sent separately.

## C: After Worship:

1. **Used Bulletins & Inserts** – Remember to dispose of the Bulletins and Inserts or take them with you. We **cannot** reuse them.
2. **Dismissing** – Please exit row by row beginning with the back rows.
3. **Greeting** – We will refrain from shaking hands and will continue to observe Social Distance.
4. **Socializing** – Please socialize outside.
5. **Sanitizing** – We will sanitize after each service.





## "I DIDN'T PRAY!"

Have you had the gut-wrenching experience of suddenly realizing that in the midst of a medical crisis you have neglected to pray? Or, perhaps in discouragement, you have found yourself unable to bring your cares to God in prayer? You are not alone. Many have experienced the same dilemma. But here is a word of encouragement for you.

A doctor on staff at the hospital where I was a chaplain contracted a viral disease, nearly died, was in intensive care for a month, but then recovered rapidly. Later, he realized that at the most critical part of his illness he had stopped praying. This upset him, until he came to two significant realizations.

First, while he was unable to pray, he was being brought to the Lord in prayers for his healing by his family and other loved ones, by the chaplains and his own pastor, and by members of his own congregation. I reminded him of the friends who brought a paralyzed man to be healed by Jesus (*Luke 5:17-26*). They, like those who pray for you, called upon the Lord for healing of both body and soul, through Jesus' healing power.

Second, the doctor also became aware of the fact that his relationship with his Savior was deeper than words. Sometimes, a loved one knows our needs and responds to them without our even asking. I called to mind the words of St. Paul in Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

May you also find comfort in knowing that through God's grace and your faith in Christ Jesus, even when you cannot pray, the Spirit of God Himself prays for you!

*(Written by Rev. Charles A. Weinrich)*

### ***The Last Word ...***

*The Last Word  
is from Martin Luther*

In temptation we must not, on any account, decide this matter on the basis of our feeling or of the cry of the Law, sin, and the devil. If we want to follow our feeling here or to believe those cries, we shall decide that we are bereft of all help from the Holy Spirit and that we have been utterly banished from the presence of God. Should we not rather remember, then, that Paul says that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and cries: "Abba! Father!"? That is, He emits what seems to us to be some sort of sob and sigh of the heart; but in the sight of God this is a loud cry and a sigh too deep for words.

In every temptation and weakness, therefore, just cling to Christ and sigh! He gives you the Holy Spirit, who cries: "Abba! Father!" Then the Father says: "I do not hear anything in the whole world except this single sigh, which is such a loud cry in My ears that it fills heaven and earth and drowns out all the cries of everything else." ...

Paul does not say that the Spirit intercedes for us in temptation with a long prayer, but ... He merely utters the words of a cry and a sigh, which is "Oh, Father!" This is indeed a very short word, but it includes everything. Not the lips, but the feelings are speaking here, as though one were to say: "Even though I am surrounded by anxieties and seem to be deserted and banished from Thy presence, nevertheless I am a child of God on account of Christ; I am beloved on account of the Beloved." ... For this is a matter ... too deep for words.

*AE 26,384-85*

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."*

*Psalms 46:1, 7*





## New Life Amongst the Quiet

*A note from Deb regarding life (still) going on at church...*

Yep. You guessed it. It's pretty quiet around here. When I became secretary of our church, I was surprised at just how often we see our members during the week; bustling in the halls, attending to various things that make us feel like a close-knit church family. But now that Altar guild, LWML, Euchre Club, VBS, KYKS, Card ministry, Youth Night, (just to name a few) as well as in-person worship had all come to a screeching halt, it leaves the building feeling rather, well ... quiet. I hesitate to use the word 'empty' because Pastor and I *always* seem to be here. (Ha!) Then there was the whole army of men that it took to install new lighting in the entire building... but I digress. Even the construction taking place on Lisbon Street is keeping the normal traffic away – making us feel even **more** isolated back here!

But let me tell you about one day in early June. One of our members, Don Johnson, who selflessly cares for our flowerbeds out front year-round, came to tend to it one morning. When I arrived for work, we chatted a for a bit ... and then he pointed out something extraordinary that he had found. There, next to our silent-for-a-while church bell near the front door, under a broad-leaved Hosta, sat a momma duck on her nest – just as sweet as can be. She didn't move. She didn't blink. She didn't even lower her head in fear – even though we were only 2 ½ feet from her. We had no idea how long she had gone un-noticed, but Don said he just wanted us to be aware that she was there.

Every day I carefully checked on her and there she sat; unmoved. When Lumppland's landscapers came to mow and trim along our front yard, I was afraid the deafening buzz of the machines would scare her away. But nope. She sat on that nest as if she were a statue. The machines were just noise to her; she somehow knew they weren't a real threat. All I could think was how beautifully God was watching over this little momma duck and her ducklings-to-be. God kept her calm. She wasn't worried. She knew she was in good Hands. It reminded of how Jesus tells us in His word how much more are we to Him than birds! I was suddenly, acutely aware of just how extensive His care is for me – for each one of us. It brought a wash of unexpected comfort over me as I continued into the building, the heavy front door slamming behind me. (Oops!! I went back out to check: she was fine.)

Sitting in the office a few days later, I realized I had NOT checked on her on the way in and so I'd have to take a peek on the way out. When I did, there was a jumble of activity under that Hosta! Here, in our quiet, closed-off corner of Morris, was brand new life! Momma, stoic yet proud as ever, still sat perfectly motionless while her (5) little ducklings jostled about, each pressing into the other to stay as close as possible. One was nibbling on a nearby clover leaf, while another tried flapping her brand new, fuzzy little wings. One shook his head, sending the sibling next to him tumbling over. One caught a glimpse of something in the dirt and his sister immediately HAD to scramble over another for a bite of it, too. They were so precious! I've seen newborn baby ducks before, but it is always a special sight to see. It made me giggle just watching them.

*continued on page 7...*







The next day they were all gone. All that was left were a few, small downy feathers and some egg shells. Pastor and I figured they had waddled down to the creek behind us. All I could think about is what a special treat it was that God allowed me to witness this [usually] private affair. I miss looking in on Momma every day, but I love the reminder that everything is still 100% in God's hands. He continues to bring and sustain life – even in the turmoil of all that is going on in the world. I know I am in good Hands.

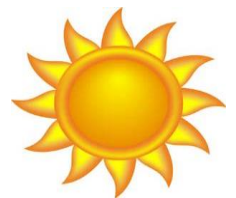
I look forward to seeing everyone again and things returning to normal around here because, let's face it, it's comforting to huddle closely together like those baby ducks. But in the meantime, the stillness doesn't bother me. God is still busy back here. He has moved my attention onto the newest little one finding safety in our quiet: a hummingbird hovering outside my window, just a few inches away, making a nest somewhere above it. The hum of the air conditioner doesn't seem to bother her, either. Hmmm. . .

...pictures of her may be a little more challenging to take...



*(The pictures of the ducklings above are actually just screenshots of the video I had taken to share. Anyone who has ever attempted to take a family photo knows how difficult it is to get little ones to quiet down, hold still and say "cheese!". These little guys aren't any different. You can catch the live version, though! To view the [60-seconds-long] video, please go to [www.ficlc.org](http://www.ficlc.org) and click on the NEWSLETTER tab at the top.)*

## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 8,517.25	\$ 10,347.23	\$ 12,785.00	\$ 16,611.00	\$ 10,609.15	\$ 58,869.63	\$ 67,740.00
Expenses	\$ 10,319.36	\$ 13,545.51	\$ 12,899.32	\$ 10,817.38	\$ 12,524.37	\$ 60,105.94	\$ 68,015.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,802.11)	\$ (3,198.28)	\$ (114.32)	\$ 5,793.62	\$ (1,915.22)	\$ (1,236.31)	\$ -



# Prayer Calendar

# JULY 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Deaf Ministry, Doctors, Nurses, anyone working in the hospital. Police, Fire and EMT's. Those working everywhere.	2 We pray for those suffering from the Corona Virus.	3 Pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary.	4 God Bless America! Lord, we thank You for the opportunity to worship You openly.
5 Pray for the Leaders of the Nations around the World.	6 Pray for our First Responders, Doctors, Nurses and all other Medical Staff.	7 Pray for those working to develop treatments for the Corona Virus.	8 Pray for Peace in our nation and Reconciliation between people.	9 Pray for our Governors and Mayors.	10 Lord, We pray for Deaf Ministry around the world. Help Deaf Ministry to flourish where it is needed.	11 Help us not to judge others but accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. 1 Sam. 16:7 John 5:22
12 God, show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Psalm 143:8	13 God, create in us a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Psalm 51:10	14 Lord, help us to remember that prayer is a vital connection to You. John 15:4-7	15 God, remove my anxiety and fear so that I can be at peace with myself. Luke 12:32	16 God, I pray that everyone I meet will experience Your peaceful presence in my words and actions. Isaiah 64:8	17 God, teach us to not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Matt. 6:34	18 Lord, Help us to love You above everything else and then to pass that love along to others.
19 Lord, thank You for the Pastors who answer Your call to ministry and work so hard for the good of Your kingdom. 1 Thess. 5:12	20 God, when I struggle to make decisions and the path isn't clear, lead me in the way I should go. Psalm 32:8	21 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters. Psalm 23:1-2	22 Help us to meditate on Your Word Lord. Psalm 1:2-3	23 God teach us to worship with our eyes open to the needs and circumstances around our church. Deut. 15:11	24 God, help me to always have a spirit of appreciation and thanksgiving for all that You have entrusted to me. Psalm 16:11	25 Thank You Lord for always loving and forgiving us.
26 Lord, put upon our hearts to be active in some way in our church.	27 God, thank You for the times You turn our mourning into dancing and clothe us with joy. Psalm 30:11	28 God, be present in the lives and work of military chaplains. We ask for Your blessing on their ministry. Bless those they minister to. Romans 8:38-39	29 God, strengthen my weaknesses and guide me to fulfill Your calling on my life. Romans 8:26	30 Lord, watch over our church members and visitors as we get back to worshiping in person. Please give us ideas to help keep us safe from the Corona Virus.	31 Thank You Lord for the many blessings You have given us. Help us to use these blessings to help others.	



# July, 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<p>→ Events Cancelled are Printed with <del>Strikethrough</del> ←</p> <p>In August: 8/9 9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly (If Possible - to be determined)</p> <p>The KYKS Program is on hold until further notice.</p>			<p>1</p> <p><del>7:00 PM –</del></p> <p><del>Lutheran Women's</del></p> <p><del>Missionary League</del></p>	2	3	<p>4 <del>INDEPENDENCE</del> DAY</p> <p>COMMUNION</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>5 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship Live &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – 8:15 Service Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p> <p><del>1:00 PM – Euchre Club</del></p> <p>7:00 PM – Elders (Live or Zoom – to be determined)</p>	8	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>12 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship Live &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – 8:15 Service Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p><del>1:00 PM –</del></p> <p>Senior Service</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	15	16	17	<p>18 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>19 <b>COMMUNION</b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship Live &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – 8:15 Service Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p> <p>Youth Night</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	22	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>26 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:15 AM – Worship Live &amp; Live-Streamed</p> <p>9:30 AM – 8:15 Service Put On-Line</p> <p>10:45 AM – Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p><del>10:00 AM –</del></p> <p>Park Pointe</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	29	30	31	