

## Friends in Christ June Newsletter



## We are Still Celebrating!

As you read this article feel free to respond out loud at the appropriate times. You already know what the response is! It may have an interesting effect on those who hear you.

It is now about a month since and we are still celebrating. Why? Because Christ is Risen; " . . .  
.. "

Actually that's not quite right! It is almost 2,000 years since and we are still celebrating. Why? Because Christ is Risen; " . . . . " ((Hmmm . . . I wonder if someday we will sing something like ♪ "We've now been here ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun. We ce-le brate that Christ is Ris'n! Yes He is Ris'n In-deed!" [underlined sung to 2 notes] )) This truth endures forever!

It is an interesting thing about truth. And this is so about every day truths as well. We are able to deny them; argue that they are not so; come up with all kinds of excuses why not to listen to them; hire lawyers and PR experts to prove that they are wrong; (and so on); but if it they are truths they seem to just hang around. How old is the saying, "Truth will out." After all our arguments have held the day and persuaded most everybody; after we have listened to every other explanation and made every excuse to do what we wanted to anyway; after we have wandered through every other way of thinking; and after we have exhausted and spent ourselves denying them - truths just keep on being true.

We have the most amazing, comforting and hope-filled truth ever, and we carry it in our hearts and on our lips.

And so the story is told:

It was during the time of the Soviet Union. People were not supposed to believe in God anymore. The state was going to give them everything they needed for every part of life - education, jobs, housing, medical care. They were supposed to be content. But

something was wrong. People continued to believe to God. What to do?

A commissar was dispatched to one to those troubling towns. He was to go and make the case for atheism. And so he did. The whole town was gathered (you did not dare to refuse in those days). And then he started in, profoundly and eloquently. Point by point, he "disproved" God. He ridiculed Christianity (and all other religions). He mocked the scriptures. He heaped scorn on such things as the miracles of Jesus (the feeding of the 5,000, the healing of the blind man, the changing water into wine, and so on). He mocked the teachings of Jesus (the opiate of the people that caused the masses to accept their shackles and look forward to some - how they say it in English is - "pie in the sky by and by"). He verbally abused the Church and anyone who would be a part of joining in worship. And so it went for a long time. Finally when everyone looked properly beaten down he asked if there were any questions. One humble looking local priest raised his hand. With scorn he said: And what do you have to say?

The priest simply and quietly said three words: Christ is Risen. And the whole crowd thundered the response,

**"He is risen indeed!"**

And so it goes. Truth is a stubborn thing. The truth we carry is gloriously and wonderfully stubborn!

No matter what the whole rest of the world says or does, this truth remains sure and certain, more solid than anything else in the whole world. It is true on the best days of our lives and in the darkest moments. No matter what happens - in doubt, poverty, sickness and suffering it is true: Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

It is true for you when you are struggling against temptation; when you are in doubt and confusion; when you don't know how or what to pray, when you face the uncertainties of the future. Neither death nor life, nor principalities, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, because, Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

It is true when you look at times in your life that disappoint and sadden you; or when you look deeply inside your soul and see those things you do not want to see. Jesus really does bring the new beginning, the new life, the new me. He is the only one who can do it because, Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

I suspect that the priest in the story would not have escaped unharmed. In the Soviet Union those who boldly professed their faith were imprisoned and executed. But if he did go to his death he went with the same confession, Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

Around the world Christians face hardships and persecution. There is a tee-shirt that has a cross on the front and says, "This shirt is illegal in 51 countries." But this truth cannot be stopped or kept silent. As Jesus said to the Pharisees, "If these were silent the very stones would cry out." The whole universe resonates with this truth. In fact the whole universe is being reformed and built on this truth so that in the end all creation will sing the praises of Jesus because, Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

In fact we have been told the story of one non-Christian caught up in the persecution, on the

beach in Lybia. He watched his fellow Egyptians being put to death, each given an opportunity to deny Christ and live; each confessing the truth that Jesus is the risen Lord. And then it was his turn. What would he say? We are told that his answer was: "Their God is my God." This is such a powerful truth that it can change eternity even in the final moments of life, this truth that Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

We speak the truth: on Easter morning and throughout the Easter season when we share the greeting Christ is Risen; " . . . . . " We use this response at baptisms, because the little children are being brought through death and into eternal life. They share in the truth and the reality and it becomes the most profound truth of their lives that Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

And then at funerals, out at the cemetery where we lay the bodies of our loved ones to rest, once again we speak the truth that Christ is Risen; " . . . . . " That place and that time is not a happy one. We are surrounded by death and filled with sorrow. But there and then we speak this truth and we fling it into the face of sin, death and the devil. Do what they want, they cannot change it - Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

We live in Easter. We are the people of the resurrection. We know that when everything is finished we will share in the glory of Easter. We live in confidence. The whole world is changed and we walk in hope. So go with joy. Christ is Risen; " . . . . . "

Pastor Mark

## Our Newest Member: Sonya Marie Mason

On May 24th 2015 Sonya became the newest member of Friends in Christ Lutheran Church. She had begun worshiping with us this spring and hearing about the freedom of salvation in Jesus. After church one Sunday she came up to Pastor Willig and said, "I want to be baptized."

Sonya was born on November 24, 1997. So she was baptized on her half-birthday. What a wonderful way to celebrate!

We welcome you Sonya. You are a part of the family of God here at Friends in Christ.

## Summer Bible Study on Sunday Morning is Catechism & Confirmation Review

**During the Summer months for our 9:30 Bible Study we will be going through Luther's Small catechism. This is an opportunity:**

- 1) To revisit what many of us learned when we were younger and look at it with more experience;**
- 2) For our youth in High School who missed out on regular confirmation classes;**
- 3) A chance for adults who are curious about or want to know more about what we believe and proclaim in the Lutheran Church.**

**We will go pretty quickly through things; but there will be a lot of opportunity to ask questions.**

**This Class Starts Right Away --  
Sunday, June 7 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

**and continues through August.**

## **Senior Service -- June 8 at 1:00 p.m.**

**We are starting a monthly Senior Service.**

**It will be an abbreviated service with 1 or 2 songs; a Meditation, and Communion.**

**It is for:**

- 1) Those who are homebound or have limited mobility;**
- 2) Those who are from Nursing Homes who are able to come;**
- 3) Those who would like to worship with their friends who have a hard time getting out;  
&**
- 4) Any of our Members who would like to be there.**

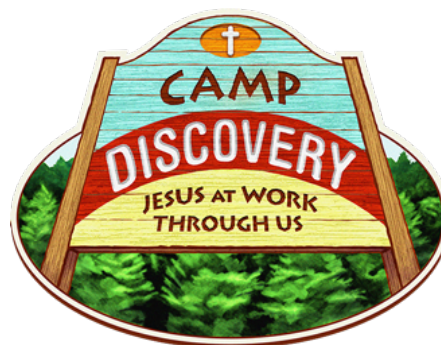
**There will be rides available  
help getting into and out of the Church  
Refreshments.**

**Because:  
Fellowship as Christians is:  
With God  
&  
With Each Other**

**Visit Our Website**

## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School will be July 6 - 10 with a closing service on the 11th. We can use all helpers and teachers we can get. If you are interested please contact Paula Willig or Cathy Thompson. We will have a VBS Planning Meeting on June 8 at 4 p.m.





[See more information about VBS](#)

## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Sixteen ladies enjoyed May's LWML meeting. We learned about Cinco de Mayo, enjoyed wonderful treats and had time in fellowship together. June's meeting will be **June 3rd at 10:00 am.**

## THE YOUTH GROUP

**There will be a National Youth Gathering meeting** for both parents and NYG attendees at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 17th. If your child plans to attend, please try to make it to this meeting or contact Cathy for information.

## Calendars for June

### BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE

4th	Deb Krugler Sherman Stangland
6th	Jean Struck
7th	Danielle Kahn Bob Lund
9th	Elizabeth Deloian
10th	Don Johnson
11th	Linda Young
15th	Byron Thorson
16th	Duane Heren
18th	Maddelyn Pool
19th	Breenah Carlson
23rd	Cynthia Jelms
24th	Jennifer McComb
25th	Shellie Halkyard
29th	Cody Brandt
30th	Marilee Kane

**Happy Birthday to All!**

ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE

1st	Del & Dee Linn	63 years
5th	Mark & Cathy Thompson	11 years
16th	Curtis & Jana Johnson	58 years
22nd	Bill & Caryl Lavezzi	52 years
24th	Jerald & Connie VanHeiden	39 years
26th	Bob & Phyllis Lund	67 years

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