

J U N E 2 0 1 7

*Friends bringing friends to Christ*

# Friends in Christ News

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

*Come meet our new members!*



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**Serving at  
Friends In  
Christ:**

**PASTOR**  
Mark Willig  
**CARD**  
**MINISTRY**  
Lois Sampson  
**CHAIR**  
Bonnie Nelson  
**VICE CHAIR**  
Cathy Thompson  
**ELDERS**  
Dick Enervold  
**HOSPITALITY**  
Earlene Enervold  
**MISSIONS**  
Vicki Kahn  
**MUSIC**  
Bonnie Nelson  
**ORGANIST**  
Kris Farber  
**PRAYER**  
**SHAWLS**  
Tina Nighsonger  
**SECRETARY**  
Deb Carter  
**TREASURER**  
Georgette  
Walker  
**ASSIST.**  
**TREASURER**  
Carol Hansen  
**YOUTH**  
Cathy Thompson

## What is Good?

The other day the meditation in Portals of Prayer asked, "What is good?" Like the crowds that followed Jesus, we often set our hearts on the goods we see. We call them blessings, and they are. But they are blessings that pass. Food, family, recreation, a good job – all of them come and go. The joys we have; even our days and years – will also one day be gone.

The events of this past week have brought that sharply to our attention once again. The goal of those who practice terrorism is to frighten us that the things we love in this life will be taken away. And as we observe Memorial Day we remember those who were willing to give up all they had in this life in order to preserve our lives and our freedoms.

I have told this story many times; about a man I met years ago. He called me "Preacher" and said he  
(...con't)

## SAVE THE DATES:

### WORSHIP TIMES

*Saturday - 5:30pm*

*Sunday - 8:15am & 10:45am*

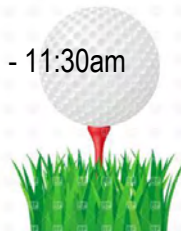
### SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT STUDY

*Sunday – 9:30am*

### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesday 9:00am*

**JUNE 14:** LWML ..... 7:00pm  
**JUNE 3:** VBS Work Day ..... 9:00am  
**JUNE 5-9:** Vacation Bible School ... 9:00am - 11:30am  
**JUNE 12:** Senior Service ..... 1:00pm  
**JUNE 13:** Friendly Seniors ..... 5:30pm  
**JUNE 18:** Youth Day ..... (TBA)



## What is Good? (con't)

wasn't interested in church stuff. I asked him why? And he told me about his time in World War 2. He was on a battleship and it was shot out from under him. There in the water he called out, "God, save me!" And God "sent a boat to pull me out of the water." It happened a second time and again he called out, "God, save me!" And again, God sent a boat. "So," he said, "me and God, we're good, and I don't need anything you're bringing." How could I answer? How would you answer? I thought about that a long time.

The answer I found is in the difference between "first article" and "second article" prayers and blessings. He had called on God for rescue, to preserve his life. That's a "first article" blessing. It has to do with this body and this life. But whenever (again, whenever) God answers a prayer for first article blessings, what God has in mind is something more. He invites us to "second article" blessings – to things like forgiveness, salvation, and a relationship with Him that lasts forever. His plans are to give and keep on giving both first and second article blessings – blessings for the body and for the soul – for all eternity.

Blessings for this world come and go. And if we have only the blessings of this life, one day every one of them will be gone, permanently. There is only one way around this and that is to be connected with God through Jesus.

But do we forget? Do we "act as if" the stuff of right now, and the things of this life are what church is all about? If religion is for this life only there are a lot of other religions, belief systems, political movements, and ways of looking at life that seem to do that better.

Or do we slip into an attitude such as: "I am definitely bound for heaven and eternal life – but I don't want to miss out on any of the fun and pleasure I can have along the way." That would be a good way of living without focus, having a conflict in the soul, and being what the Bible calls "double-minded."

Those are tough questions. But more and more we live in an age where we are called on to either take the claims of Jesus seriously, or go along with the crowd. The challenges are all around. We hear them. Our children are bombarded by them. Going along is easy.

The hard truth is, those who set their hearts on the stuff of this world will be disappointed. There will be a day when it will all be lost. If we have hope in our faith for this world only, we will find emptiness.

But we have a more wonderful truth say:

Know that you are made for better, made for greater, and made for eternity. You are not made to be a thing that passes – an accident of nature soon to be forgotten. You are made to be forever, and you are made to "pal-around" with God; to see amazing things, and share in everything that Jesus is putting together. This is the hope we live by. It's the future we tell our children about. And to our family and friends we say, "Be there. Do not miss out on this!"

And this is exactly that hope that keeps us together. It makes us able to look at events all around the world and things happening in our lives; and face everything with courage. Because we know that God will bring everything together at the end in a victory won by Jesus and shared with us into the endless years of eternity.

(PS. I peeked at the end of the book and read it – we win!)

Pastor Mark

## SENIOR SERVICE

Our next Service  
is set for:



Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00 pm

Need a ride? No Problem! Call the  
church office at 815/941-1255.



*A time for fellowship and fun!*

## Anniversaries

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mark & Cathy Thompson	13 years
16 <sup>th</sup>	Curt & Jana Johnson	60 years
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jerald & Connie VanHeiden	41 years
26 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Phyllis Lund	69 years



## Birthdays

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

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory,  
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!*

*Psalm 115:1(RSV)*

We extend a warm welcome to our  
**NEW MEMBERS!**



**Carol Banks**



**Paul & Sabina Woods (Tisha & Tarahji)**



**Stephen White**

*Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

*Psalm 111:1 (ESV)*



**Chris & Stephanie Willig (Tristen, Liam)**

# YOUTH NEWS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**JUNE 5TH - 9TH**  
**9:00AM - 11:30AM**

**NEVER TOO LATE TO REGISTER!**

**[WWW.FICLC.ORG](http://WWW.FICLC.ORG)**

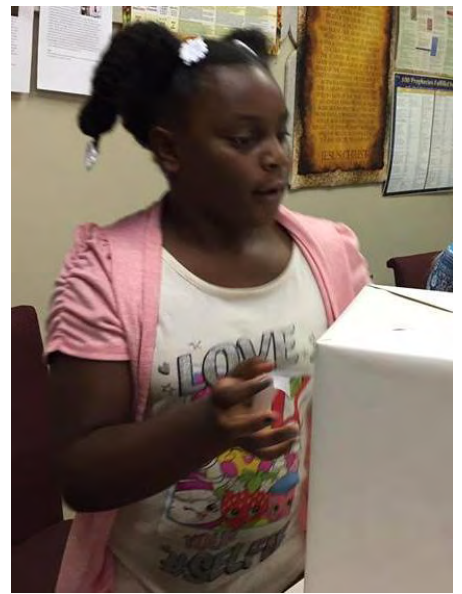
**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

**VBS WORK DAY**

**Saturday JUNE 3th, 9:00 a.m.**

Let's get set up!  
VBS will start the following Monday!

# YOUTH NIGHT



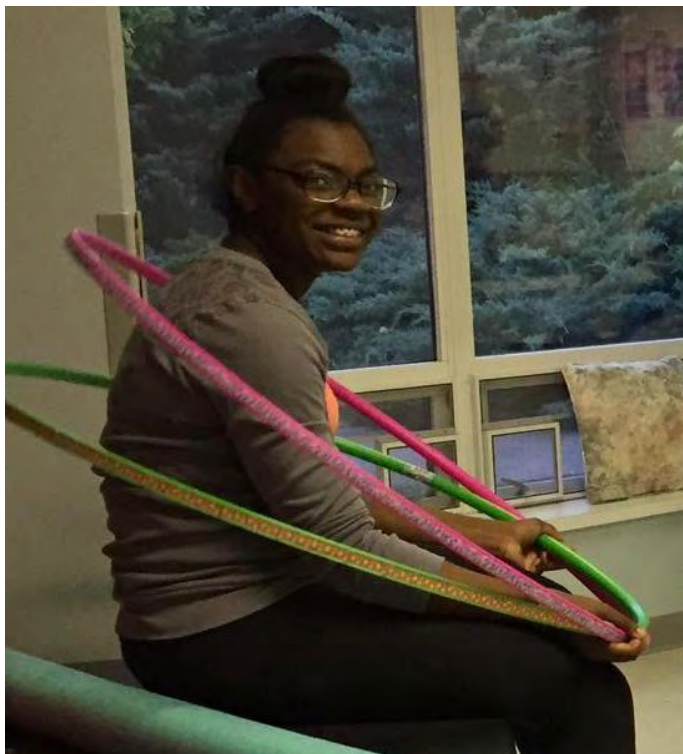
At last month's Youth Night, we put the kids to WORK! They happily rolled up their sleeves and got down to the (messy) business of getting ready for VBS... and we had a ball!

*(A HUGE thank you to all the kids that helped out!)*

**Our next Youth Night  
will be on**

**JUNE 18**

*(Stay tuned for details)*



# SUNDAY SCHOOL



## A Happy Mother's Day at *Park Point !*

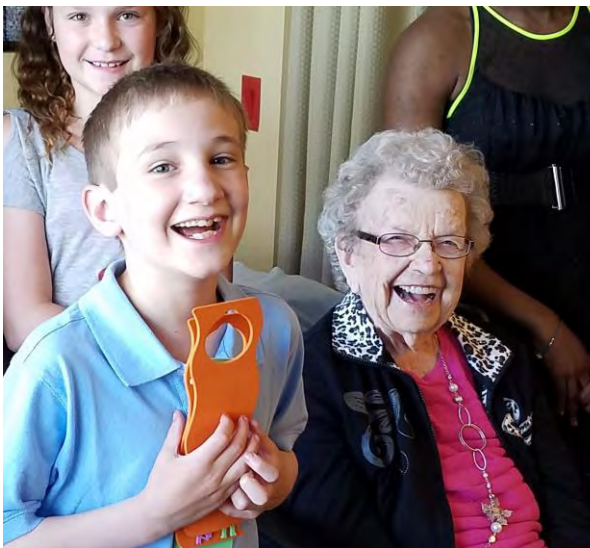
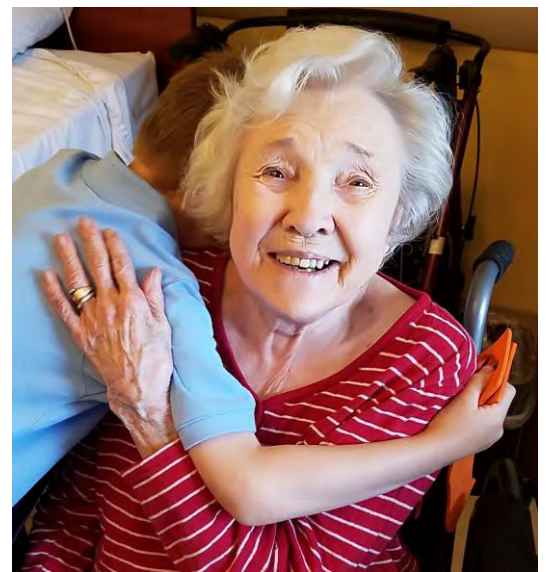
Our Sunday School kids surprised our friends at Park Pointe Living Center with flowers, friendly hugs and Happy Mother's Day wishes on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Those included in the visit were:

Donna Carlson, Harriet Osmundson (*above*)

Janice Thompson (*right*)

Marge Anderson, Ruth Ann Brandt (*below*)





# Lutheran Women in Mission at Friends in Christ

On May 3rd the LWML was treated to a Purple Party by Sue Seidler. Sue also shared information about happenings in the LWML Zone, District and International.

The next LWML meeting ***has been changed*** and will be held

***(the second)*** Wednesday in June:  
JUNE 14 at 7:00 pm

We will be watching a film about Martin Luther and enjoying tasty treats and fellowship. Please make plans to come.

**[www.facebook.com/ficlc](http://www.facebook.com/ficlc)**

# MISSIONS

*Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

*-Romans 12:10*

## WE CARE



Eric Fisher, We Care's current Executive Director, is trying a new approach to donation collecting. Instead of giving out a master list of each month's donation suggestions, he has designed bins with removable, interchangeable tags, (that he has also created,) and is distributing to all of the businesses in town that donate on a regular basis like we do. As different needs arise, he will simply call and have us switch out the tags to meet the needs.

We will post in the weekly bulletin when Eric updates the changing needs. Stayed tuned!

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

*-2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

## PRAYER SHAWLS

*CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!*

Over the years, our prayer shawl gals have comforted 90+ people with their handiwork and caring hands geared towards helping others. Tina sends a huge thank you to all those who have donated to this ministry. Your gifts of supplies and/or your time are so greatly valued and appreciated!

If you would like to share your favorite pastime helping others, please contact Tina Nighsonger for more information:  
**815/942-6737**



# THE GREAT *Psalm*

- <sup>29</sup> Deceitful ways put far from me  
and graciously teach me Your law! <sup>†</sup>
- <sup>30</sup> Discipleship of faithfulness I have chosen;  
Your ordinances I set before me.
- <sup>31</sup> Devotedly I cling to Your testimonies, O LORD;  
let me not be put to shame!
- <sup>32</sup> Discipleship to Your commandments I will pursue,  
when You enlarge my heart!

## d (DALETH) – Part 2

### Verses 29-32 “oligopistoi”

There is a Hebrew word “Derek.” It means “road” or “street” -- the road you walk on, or the path from one place to another. But just like in English (and many other languages) it has a deeper meaning. Derek is “my path in life” or “the way I follow.” It is the path of the soul; the way of the inner life. And remember, before they were called Christians, what the early Christians called themselves all through the book of Acts was “Followers of the Way.”

That’s part of the whole idea of discipleship. Jesus called His disciples to follow. Not only the 12 – every one of us. “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” “Love one another as I have loved you.” “If anyone would come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow Me.” As the disciples followed they learned from Jesus. But as the disciple learns – he learns more than content. The disciple emulates the teacher. He learns attitudes, thoughts, ideas, and whole ways of looking at things. He seeks to follow the teacher in His whole way of living, and the disciple considers it an honor if his life and experience can in some way mirror that of his teacher. “It is enough for the servant to be like his master.”

The early Christians wanted to walk in Jesus’ His way, to follow in His footsteps. After all He said, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.” So they followed and called themselves “followers of the Way.”

The call continues age to age, and Jesus invites us. For the original 12 it was more than following along the dusty roads of Palestine. For them, as for us, it is the path of the soul, the path of discipleship. So the verses in the Psalm talk about the “Way,” the “path;” and this is about discipleship – “Discipleship in Your precepts,” “Discipleship of faithfulness,” and “Discipleship to Your commandments.”

We have learned part of that in our catechism: In the explanations of the Commandments, “Fear love and trust in God above all things.” (1<sup>st</sup>) “Call upon [His name] in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.” (2<sup>nd</sup>) “Help and befriend [our neighbor] in every bodily need.” (5<sup>th</sup>) “Lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and love and honor [our] spouse.” (6<sup>th</sup>) “Defend [our neighbor], speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way.” (7<sup>th</sup>) It is the path of discipleship because it is the walk of faith – holding to the words and promises of God. And it is the path of discipleship because it is the way of faith that Jesus taught. And it is the way of faith that Jesus taught because it is His way and His walk. “Morning by morning ... He awakens My ear to hear as those who are taught,” and “that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.” (Isaiah 50:4)

(Con’t...)

# THE GREAT

## *Psalm...* (Con't)

So one day Pastor Ralph Laufer and I were talking about the place in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life . . ." (Matthew 6:25-34) And we were looking at the Greek word in verse 30 that is usually translated, "oh you of little faith." And he said, "Is this a diminutive?" The question and what he said after that completely changed how I have looked at that verse.

In some languages there are forms of words called diminutives. It is often found in an ending or a special form of an ordinary word. It changes the meaning to "little" or "small" something. They are actually expressions of endearment. For example, in German a child is "kind" (short i) but a "kindlein" is not only a little child but a dear little child. In German when you see "—lein" or "—chen" it might be a diminutive and a word of affection. In Spanish the endings are "-ita" or "-ito."

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, "If God so clothes the grass ... will He not much more clothe you *oligopistoi*?" We usually read it as "oh you of little faith." But what if it actually means "little-faith-ones" and what if it is a term of affection? Does it mean "Will He not much more clothe you oh little-faith-ones?" – and Jesus says it with tenderness and affection.

The same word comes around again in Matthew 8, when the disciples were out on the lake in the boat and the wind and waves were getting to be too much. They went and woke Jesus and said, "Lord save us! We're going to die!" Jesus got up and, before He spoke and stilled the storm, He said to them, "Why are you afraid, little-faith-ones?" Again in Matthew 14 when Peter is coming to Jesus walking on the water and looks around and begins to worry (and sink); Jesus reached out, took him by the hand and said, "Oh little-faith-one, why did you doubt?"

These verses are where the disciples are learning, taking their first little steps in the walk of faith that Jesus is teaching. They are tiny steps (yes, even the walking on water was a tiny step!); and Jesus patiently teaches. He is the One perfect in faith, and He is the Author and Perfector of faith (Hebrews 12:2). There would be a day when He would show them the full measure of faith; praying from the cross and in the darkness of that day, "Father ..." and "My God, My God ..."

Out of that perfect faith comes our salvation. It is not only a salvation from – from condemnation and being lost. It is also a salvation into – into a restored relationship and complete peace with God; into eternal life and sharing in all the blessings and goodness of the things of God.

We find ourselves drawn, attracted and pulled to the walk of faith, and even as we struggle to take our little steps, we have Jesus our teacher to guide us and help us learn how sweet it is to walk in the words and promises of God.

There are times when "the way" or "the path of discipleship" surfaces in popular Christian culture. Some years ago it was very popular to wear bracelets with the initials WWJD. It was good to think about and meditate on the path and the walk following Jesus. And many took their beginning little steps of discipleship; following Jesus and filling their thoughts and hearts with the pattern of learning about His ways, His desires, His way of seeing the world, and His plans for eternity. We struggled in that walk (we always do) and Jesus our teacher continued (He always does) to teach us about faith and the promises of God.

(Con't...)

# THE GREAT

## *Psalm...* (Con't)

“Oligopistoi” – that’s us! And so we treasure His precepts, His works, His word, His testimonies, His commandments, and every place and every part of what He does in our lives. Devotedly we cling to what Jesus gives (v. 31); and anything that distracts, or tricks, or leads us away from Him we want that as far as possible from us (v. 29).

### Prayer:



*Lord Jesus, You call me to follow. Help me each day to learn from You, to fill my thoughts with Your words, to take the little steps in the walk of faith and each day to learn a little more of that walk. Teach me the promises of God, and about all that is waiting for all who know You; so I may begin and grow in walking in Your ways now in this life. Guide my prayers and lead my heart. I ask You for these things because You are my Teacher and You are my friend for all eternity. Amen.*

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*Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.  
I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.”*

*Psalm 16:1 (ESV)*



## Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 8,238.03	\$ 10,621.57	\$ 13,152.42	\$ 43,340.93	\$ 47,260.00
Expenses	\$ 12,948.52	\$ 12,958.17	\$ 11,151.37	\$ 49,025.89	\$ 53,055.07
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,710.49)	\$ (2,336.60)	\$ 2,001.05	\$ (5,684.96)	\$ (5,795.07)

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 46,236.38
LCEF	\$ 5,939.17
Total	\$ 52,175.55

# Prayer Calendar

# JUNE 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries everywhere, Deaf ministry, Iglesia San Pablo Church, People to the Book Outreach, Salam Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lord we pray for all that have been touched in some way by tornadoes this year. Help them find peace in you Lord.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>God, Thank You for forgiving our sins, in accordance with the richness of Your grace. Eph 1:7</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lord, we thank You for the gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29: 12-13</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, bless the teacher and workers at VBS. Bless all the children who attend and help them to get to know you and follow you all the days of their lives.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Help us especially this week to sow God's Word like the farmer sows the seed. Mark 4:13-20</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Open the hearts, souls, and minds of everyone at VBS. Help everyone to learn about you together and grow in faith in You O Lord.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lord, Thank You for parents who bring their children to VBS. Bless all the families of the children who attend. Help them to get to know You better.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lord, today is the last day of VBS help all the children who attend to take You home in their hearts. Be with these children and give them a hunger to learn more about You Lord.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Thank You Lord for a wonderful place to worship You. As You bring new people in the doors of Friends In Christ bless them Lord. Help make our new friends feel welcome to come and worship You.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>God, bless Pastors with a spirit of perseverance when facing difficult times and new challenges. Phil. 4:13</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lord, work within me to accomplish abundantly far more than I could imagine for You. Eph 3:20</p>	<p>13</p> <p>God, we pray for peace for youth and young adults who have difficult times in their lives. John 14:27</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord, strengthen my relationships at church, with my family, with friends, and with my faith community. Help me to be a light for You so others can come to know You.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>We pray Lord that You would help us not to love worldly things but set our minds on Christ. 1 John 2:15-17 Phil. 4:8</p>	<p>16</p> <p>We thank You for our blessings Lord. Matt.5:3-11</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lord help us to put all our trust in You. Prov. 3:5-6</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Lord, as one of your own, please help me to flee from sin and pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 1 Tim. 6:11</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lord, deepen our faith and help us center our lives in You. Col. 1:20</p>	<p>20</p> <p>God, teach me to be a patient and creative problem solver. Prov. 16:9</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lord, lift up your missionaries in this country and overseas. Guide them to do your will and bless those listening with open hearts for Your Word.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>God, help us as we face the storms in our lives at church and at home. Guide us Lord to give our storms to You. Mark 4:28-29</p>	<p>23</p> <p>We pray that God would comfort those among us going through difficult times.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thank You Lord for everything You do for us. Help us to recognize the gifts You give us Lord and to use them to help bring others to get to know You.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies. Eph. 6:10-18</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thank You for giving us the opportunities to serve others.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>We pray that God would instill in us a hunger to study and read the Bible.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Put upon our hearts Lord to do what your will is for us as a congregation.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>As You know Lord many in our congregation have family and friends that need to be brought to You. Open their hearts so they can listen and come to know You at their personal Savior. Acts. 1:8</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lord, show us how to come to You in prayer.</p>	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	29 Memorial Day	30 9am - Bible Study	31	1	2	3 Communion 9am - VBS WORK DAY 5:30pm - Worship
4 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	5 Vacation Bible School -- 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.	6 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	7	8	9	10 5:30pm - Worship
11 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	12 1pm - Senior Service	13 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	14 7pm - LWML	15 7pm - Trustees Meeting	16	17 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
18 Communion Father's Day 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	19	20 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	21	22	23 Nursing Homes 1pm - Assisted Living 2pm - Park Pointe 3pm - Regency Care	24 5:30pm - Worship
25 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 10:45am - Worship	26	27 9am - Bible Study	28	29 4pm - St Vincnts Table	30	1 Communion 5:30pm - Worship