

J U N E 2 0 2 0

Friends bringing friends to Christ

Friends in Christ News

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



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WORSHIP WITH US:

Come worship with us
from home!

We will be streaming live at
<http://facebook.com/ficl>



(During Shelter at Home mandate)
Sunday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

20-20 A Year for Seeing Clearly

Part 6: The Relationship Part of the Image of God

June is a month for weddings & June is when we recite the Athanasian Creed.

Understanding ourselves starts with understanding our beginnings.

We were created in the image of God. “We” means not just Adam. It means Adam & Eve, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created **them**.” (Genesis 1:27) There are relationships within the Trinity and God created us right from the first day of the human race to be in relationships. “We” also means more than simply Adam & Eve, because it was God’s plan to have the whole human race, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it ...’” (Genesis 1:28)

The beginning of the relationship part of the image of God is held within the relationship of Adam & Eve. It is the first joining in marriage. Within that relationship God planned a closeness and intimacy that reflected the relationships between the persons of the Trinity.

There is an exclusiveness. Husband and wife are bound together in a way that is different from any other relationship. (We know this in one way because of all the quirky couples we see around us, and scratch our heads, and are amazed at how they ever found each other.) Good marriages grow in their distinct and individual patterns, and we have heard stories of older couples sitting together and not having to say anything. All of the conversations have already been had. A glance, a smile, a touch of the hand is enough. That is a small glimpse of the image of God in their relationship.

Verses About Relationships Within the Trinity:

I did a read-through of the Bible looking for all the verses where one person of the

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Trinity speaks about or to another person of the Trinity. I wanted to know the patterns in the relationships. There are verses where Jesus talks about his Father. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son ..." (John 3:16) "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, ..." (Matthew 11:25) There are many others. There are verses where God the Father speaks about His Son. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17) "Behold, My Servant shall act wisely; ..." (Isaiah 52:13) There are many more.

What is the language within the Trinity, between the Persons of the Godhead like? It is the language of Love, Adoration, and Praise. "Love" is the deep-down affection for the other. "Adoration" is when you ponder the specifics, what you admire and what you love about the other. "Praise" is putting in words and speaking of what you love and adore. It comes out when you speak **to** the one you love and admire; and when you speak **about** them to others.

This is a matter of discipleship. We are called to follow Jesus, to walk as His disciples. We have received forgiveness through the love of Jesus on the cross. "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) That is the "**saved from.**" Discipleship is the "**saved to.**" It does not mean simply following Jesus in this life. It is about having the image of God formed in us. When Paul talked about pressing on to the goal (Philippians 3:14), that is discipleship. When Paul talks about the Father's plan that at the end we will be "conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29) that is discipleship. And, in fact, when Jesus said, "whatever the Father does, that the Son does ... For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing" (John 5:19-20) that is discipleship. There are numerous verses where Jesus adopts the language and the attitude of the disciple in His relationship with His Father. You can find them scattered all the way through the Gospel of John as well as in Isaiah 50:4-5.

As disciples we learn from God and follow in the pattern of relationships.

Husbands and wives: Love one another. We focus on the things we admire and adore in one another. And we are called to speak our praise about and to each other. That is the pattern of the image of God.

In our families: Parents, brothers and sisters love and care for each other. We are to find the things in each other that we admire. And we are called to speak our praise about and to each other.

In our neighborhoods, and in our nation: God calls us to love and care for our neighbors. And God calls us to find those things we can admire in one other. And God calls us to speak our admiration to and about each other as we are able. Build one another up in the Lord.

This, then, is part of the image of God. "**Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**" (Philippians 4:8) Pursue these things, because God has promised and He Himself will bring us to the completion of what He has designed and planned for us to be. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

Pastor Mark

If it's not big enough to be a prayer, it's too small to be a burden!

-Tim Hetzner



Anniversaries

5th Mark & Cathy Thompson 16 years
 16th Curtis & Jana Johnson 63 years
 20th Larry & Joanne Heck 33 years
 24th Jerald & Connie Van Heiden 44 years
 29th Bill & Amy Smith 30 years

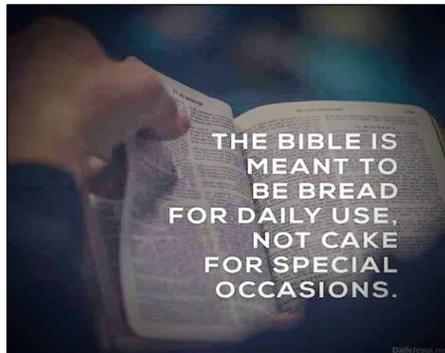


Birthdays

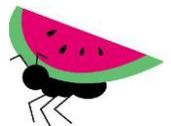
4th Deb Krugler
 5th Kayla Oslakovich
 6th Jean Struck
 10th Don Johnson
 15th Byron Thorson
 16th Duane Heren
 18th Maddelyn Pool
 19th Breenah Carlson
 20th Joseph Van Heiden
 22nd Elicia Kirk
 23rd Owen Duvick
 Cynthia Jelm
 24th Jennifer McComb
 25th Shellie Halkyard
 28th Kevin Lear
 30th Marilee Kane

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

-Romans 12:10



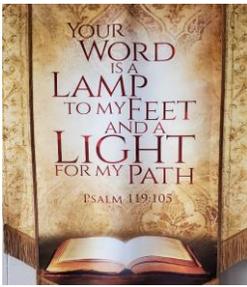
Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

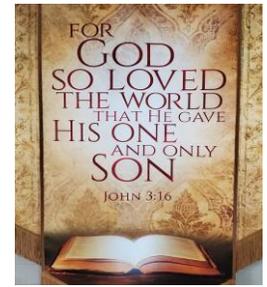
General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 8,517.25	\$ 10,347.23	\$ 12,785.00	\$ 16,611.00		\$ 48,260.48	\$ 54,192.00
Expenses	\$ 10,319.36	\$ 13,545.51	\$ 12,899.32	\$ 10,817.38		\$ 47,581.57	\$ 54,412.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,802.11)	\$ (3,198.28)	\$ (114.32)	\$ 5,793.62		\$ 678.91	\$ -





So...

When are we going to open OUR doors? . . .



As other businesses slowly begin to re-open their doors after the state-mandated shutdown, it naturally begs the question about our own. We eagerly look forward to seeing our friends every Saturday night and Sunday morning like we used to. To be honest, we aren't sure when that will happen. We will continue to Live-Stream our worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. while we wait. We would like to continue to do so even after we re-open for new guests who have regularly joined us online week after week.

The LCMS and Northern Illinois District are continuing to prepare official guidelines for re-opening our churches for worship, but haven't been given a precise 're-open date' by the state yet. Ever-changing recent events make it hard to determine [or even guess at] a definite re-opening date at this point.

Pastor Mark met with our Elders & Church Council online via ZOOM in the last week of May. Below are the written guidelines they have drawn up concerning "Communion by Appointment". Stay tuned as we will notify everyone as soon as possible about the procedures we will follow to fully re-open.

Members of Friends in Christ Lutheran Church:

We are Preparing to Resume our Congregational Worship Activities Small Group Communion by Appointment.

What is Happening:

We have actually been preparing for this for a while. I have been watching and monitoring how congregations have done this with the approval of the State of Illinois Governor and other authorities. I have also researched the different documents providing guidelines.

A Summary:

On Sunday we will begin to have time slots for "Communion by Appointment."

1. We will do so outside the front door, under the awning. (One of the big recommendations is to do exactly this.)
2. The normal brief service will include: Invocation; Confession & Absolution; Apostles' Creed; Lord's Prayer; Communion; Prayer; and Benediction.
3. We will limit the number in each group as follows: 1 larger family (or) 2 families totaling no more than 6 persons (or) 3 individuals. The reason for this is to be able to "maintain social distance. (Whether you agree with that whole idea or not we are called as Christians to honor the civil authorities as much as we are able to do so without directly going against the Word of God.)
4. The time slots set for Sunday are (after the live-streamed service): 10:45; 11:00; 11:15; 11:30; and 11:45.

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...when are we re-opening ...continued from page 4.

5. (I need to limit the numbers the first day to see how things work and figure out if anything needs to be smoothed out before the next series of times.)
6. I am assuming that those who attend will first have joined in the live-streamed service, and that has been a part of your preparation. If that is not possible let me know so I can plan a little extra time.
7. After Sunday, I will be ready to do the same scheduling on Monday, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and continuing with 11:20; 11:40; 12:00; 12:20; 12:40; 1:00; 1:20.
8. I want to sign people up first come first served, instead of trying to juggle schedules and plan specific groupings.
9. **Please sign up by calling my cell phone # (618)615-1819.) I will have my scheduling book with me constantly. (But please, except for tonight, not before 8:00 a.m., or after 7:00 p.m.)**

Detailed Precautions:

There are two basic considerations:

1. Limiting the number of distinct households in each small group limits the possibilities of communicating the virus.
2. Making the movement of elements and materials to entirely one way limits the possibility of me receiving and then passing on contamination to everybody who comes later.

These are the detailed precautions I will observe:

1. I will be the only one to handle the communion elements, from set up to clean up. That restricts the multiplication of contacts.
2. We will use disposable small plates for the bread. When each group is done, we will dispose of the plate and reset with a new one.
3. We will use a glass or metal bowl for the used cups. After all groups are done for that session, I will carry that bowl to the Altar Guild Room; rinse and dispose of the cups; and then wash the bowl with soap and water and sanitize my hands.
4. I will sanitize hands (1) before setting out the elements for each group (2) After the lead in liturgy before consecrating (3) after distribution (4) after each group is finished, and at any additional time as necessary.
5. If you receive a printed worship sheet do not return, hand it back, or leave it. Instead either fold it in half and put it in the wastebasket set out for that purpose or take it with you.
6. If you need a chair to sit on, you should bring your own (folding chair, or walker seat). Otherwise assume that we will be standing for the 7 to 10 minutes of the service.
7. We will observe the government guidelines by: (1) If there is more than one "family unit" maintain "social distance" between; and (2) wearing masks as appropriate. Remember, we are called to honor the secular authorities as much as possible.

*“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.”*

Psalm 46:1, 7





A Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots . . .

*From Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil. It is folly, which can produce only anger and hatred. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” America’s original sin of legal racism, the denial of human rights based on race, has reaped the whirlwind.

God’s Word rejects racism. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “No one is righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). All are equally created by God. All are equally accountable to God. The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ. All are equally precious to God. Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin in itself. Racism is not acceptable in the church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (cf. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37).

Unity in the church according to the Augsburg Confession is defined by Article VII: “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached . . . and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.” Christ and His gifts bring unity and equity in the church. Racial discrimination in or by the church is sin. Racial conflict in our nation calls every Christian to introspection. “It is time for judgment to begin at the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). “Righteous indignation” without self-reflection and repentance is meaningless, or worse, hypocrisy.

The one who grievously and unjustly took the sacred gift of life from George Floyd — resulting in a charge of 3rd-degree murder — will, ironically, be given the very thing he denied his victim, due process of the law. Justice must be meted out according to the law. Others may be charged.

We weep for George Floyd, for his family and loved ones because he was robbed of life. We weep for our nation. We weep for those across our nation who believe their only recourse is destruction. We weep for police officers everywhere, who carry out their honorable vocations with courage and goodwill but find their task infinitely more challenging and dangerous in the wake of the sad events in Minneapolis. We pray for the safety of all and the welfare of those who have lost property and livelihood. We pray for the police who must stand against mayhem. We support the First Amendment rights of the peaceful protestors.

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We deplore injustice. We deplore destruction, robbery and doing physical harm to others. That, too, is injustice. We plead to citizens and governments of this nation for communities beset by poverty, crime and injustice. We plead for rational and unifying policies that will end injustices and address social breakdown, lack of economic access, and other factors that fuel anger, hatred and dissension.

We shall pray, but we shall do even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

And we shall proclaim Christ, “in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7–8).

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:1–17 ESV).



Prayer Calendar

JUNE 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Pray for those developing treatments for the Corona Virus. Help them to come up with a treatment that works.</p>	<p>1 Please pray daily for Pastor Willing, Deb Carter, and Kris Farmer and their families. Missionaries, Dear ministry, Doctors, Nurses, anyone working in the hospital, Police, Fire and EMTs, Essential workers in grocery stores, Restaurant store workers, Restaurant workers.</p>	<p>2 We Thank You Lord for our Pastor and the blessings He brings in Your name. Guide him, lead him and give him strength every day.</p>	<p>3 We pray for our church as we make ways to open up to the public again. Give us discernment in the decisions being made and to keep people safe.</p>	<p>4 Help us to pray for those we have a conflict with. Matt. 5:43-44</p>	<p>5 Lord help us to realize that when we pray to You we can talk to You just like we talk to our friends.</p>	<p>6 We pray that Morris and the surrounding communities would be open to the Gospel.</p>
<p>7 We pray for those developing treatments for the Corona Virus. Help them to come up with a treatment that works.</p>	<p>8 We pray for states reopening help those that are going out to be safe and help us to have respect for one another in these trying times.</p>	<p>9 We pray for those suffering from the Corona Virus.</p>	<p>10 We pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary.</p>	<p>11 We pray that God would grant us spirits of extreme gratitude for all He has entrusted to Us.</p>	<p>12 We pray for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach.</p>	<p>13 Bless those who attend the Church services that Pastor has been having. Bring these people to know You as their personal Savior.</p>
<p>14 Pray that we will develop a praying heart, worshipping, praising, and thanking God as we see His hand of blessing extended to us. Psalm 103:1-2 1 Thes. 5:17-18</p>	<p>15 We pray for our Governors and Mayors</p>	<p>16 Thank You Lord for providing a way to do Bible Study by Zoom every week. If you need help to get this Bible Study on line call the church office.</p>	<p>17 We pray that we will be a bold witness for Christ in Word and actions. 2 Cor. 5:17-20</p>	<p>18 We pray for those doing missionary work in closed countries.</p>	<p>19 Lord protect our loved ones and friends that are in the service as they protect our freedom to worship You.</p>	<p>20 Pray that we will put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies. Eph. 6:10-18</p>
<p>21 God, Thank You for walking daily with us.</p>	<p>22 Lord, be with parents this summer as they guide their children through the challenges of growing up. Psalm 127:3</p>	<p>23 We pray for Max Del Cid at San Pablo Lutheran Church.</p>	<p>24 We pray for the Leaders of the Nations around the World.</p>	<p>25 Lord, shore up those that are taking care of loved ones. Help give them strength to be a light for You in a busy world when they feel like they can't make it by themselves.</p>	<p>26 May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33:22</p>	<p>27 God, do not let our hearts be troubled. Do not let us be afraid. John 14:27</p>
<p>28 God, we give thanks, for You are good; Your love endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34</p>	<p>29 God we thank You for the children in our congregation. Bless them and help them to get closer to You.</p>	<p>30 Help us to remember Lord that we don't take a vacation from You this summer.</p>				

Important Note: Saturday & Sunday Events on This Calendar Are Suspended Until Further Notice

June, 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<p>Until Further Notice: Services are Live Streamed at 9:30 a.m. Sundays Communion is by appointment at set times Sundays & Mondays</p>	1	<p>2 Bible Study is a Zoom Bible Study 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders</p>	3	4	5	<p>6 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>7 COMMUNION Trinity Sunday 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship</p>	8	<p>9 9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	10	<p>11 St. Vincent's Table</p>	12	<p>13 5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>14 2nd Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship</p>	15	<p>16 9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	17	18	19	<p>20 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>21 COMMUNION 3rd Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship</p>	22	<p>23 9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	24	25	26	<p>27 5:30 PM – Worship</p>
<p>28 4th Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study Hour 10:45 AM – Worship</p>	29	<p>30 9:00 AM – Bible Study</p>	<p>In July: Yellowstone Super Volcano! (maybe, just sayin')</p>			