

J U N E 2 0 2 1

# FRIENDS IN CHRIST NEWS

Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

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## WORSHIP TIMES:

Saturday Evenings	...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings	...	9:30 a.m.

*(Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. service is  
live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/ficl](http://www.facebook.com/ficl))*

Sunday Bible Study	...	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study	...	9:00 a.m.

*(Online via ZOOM)*

# FURNITURE

## LESSONS FROM OUR LIVING ROOM:

So! We decided to rebuild our living room. The floor joists above were not adequate. They are now. The path to do all this was not pleasant. It involved taking down a plaster and lathwork ceiling. And on and on. We started mid-November. After a lot of work, I finally got to sand, stain and refinish the floor. Last weekend we moved the furniture back in (from the dining room). We have pictures that show way too many things pushed into that room. Now we no longer have to climb over a rolled-up rug or turn sideways to get past the table.

Furniture is amazing! It can make a room comfortable, and pleasant to be in. It is surprising how a floor that is finished makes the time spent with others in a room so much nicer. And you actually enjoy being with someone a lot more when you are not saying, "Let me climb over that, and work my way through the other stuff so I can bring you a glass of water."

Our physical living room is where we spend a lot of time; and when people visit, we spend time

*Continued . . .*

*("Furniture" Continued from p. 1 . . .)*

together there. It is supposed to be a nice place to be. But there are other living rooms . . .

### THINK ABOUT YOUR "INNER" LIVING ROOM.

This is where you live your inner life. The furniture there is: the thoughts that you entertain and revisit over and over again; the emotions you make use of; and so on. Do you furnish that room with hopes and plans? Do you collect kindness? Do you practice love and self-control? These are some of the things Paul lists that make it a nice place to be. But then again, are there "cluttered piles" of jealousy, fits of anger, or immorality? It is true - way too often we focus on the outward and neglect the inner living room. (Now if we stopped here this meditation would be what we call law-focused; and then we would either feel guilty or be fooling ourselves.)

### WHAT ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP LIVING ROOMS?

For married couples and families these "shared living rooms" are amazingly important and can lift up and exalt, or else can drag us down to an amazing degree. With what do we furnish our relationship living rooms? Do we fill them with compliments and praise or griping and resentment? Many of us have been in personal or work situations where nothing was ever good enough, or everything could be criticized depending on the boss' mood. We know how much a good, kind and encouraging word can motivate.

But it is so easy to allow clutter to build up, just like with our regular living room. In our relationship living rooms it is the things we should have forgiven, or the kindnesses that we could have used to furnish our relationships. And then when the difficult time comes, we might fall into the example of Adam. You remember? He threw his wife Eve "under the bus." And then he tried to blame God. Warning! That is our heritage, and left to ourselves . . . oh, the mess!

But there is one more living room.

### THE SPIRITUAL LIVING ROOM:

This is the place where we live in the presence of God. The furniture is put there partly by you and partly by God. God brings eternal truths that comfort and refresh. God made you, made you well, and made you to have eternity. He sent His Son Jesus not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. The Holy Spirit brings these things into the heart, giving faith. And when we do not know how to pray, He intercedes for us. The furniture includes my baptism, His Word, and the place where He shares His supper with me.

And what about my part? What do I bring? As a human being I am a sinner. As a Christian I am a "sinner / saint". So, I have an old nature that trots in with all kinds of broken and bent up furniture of the soul. My "Old Adam" might have been out "garbage picking" for what it looks like. I know this, and yet my old nature goes out and does it again. And God forgives, and patiently cleans things up – over and over.

But then there is a gift from God, the new me, the one created by God to live in faith. That part hears the promises of God and believes them. For me, the Christian, the spiritual living room is a place where I can rest. I can sink deep into the promises of God like that favorite chair. The visits there are a rest from the hard work of this life. And by His Word God opens up the world in ways I never expected. He shares this living room with me. He takes my little baby steps of faith and makes them part of the

*(Continued on p. 3 . . .)*

(“Furniture” Continued from p. 2 . . .)

furniture of the soul. There are prayers that are prayed; and God makes them part of the memorabilia, decorating the living room of my soul with memories of where we have walked together.

### WHAT HAVE I LEARNED FROM MY LIVING ROOM?

My living room at home still needs a drywall ceiling, trim boards, walls to be patched, and someday soon a nice new coat of paint. But it’s getting there! It is now much more of a comfortable place. My living room of the soul still needs ... well, the list is long! But God is at work, and He seems to have had a lot of experience. With Him at work; it is a nice place to be. It’s good to spend time with Him there.

Pastor Mark

### L.W.M.L.

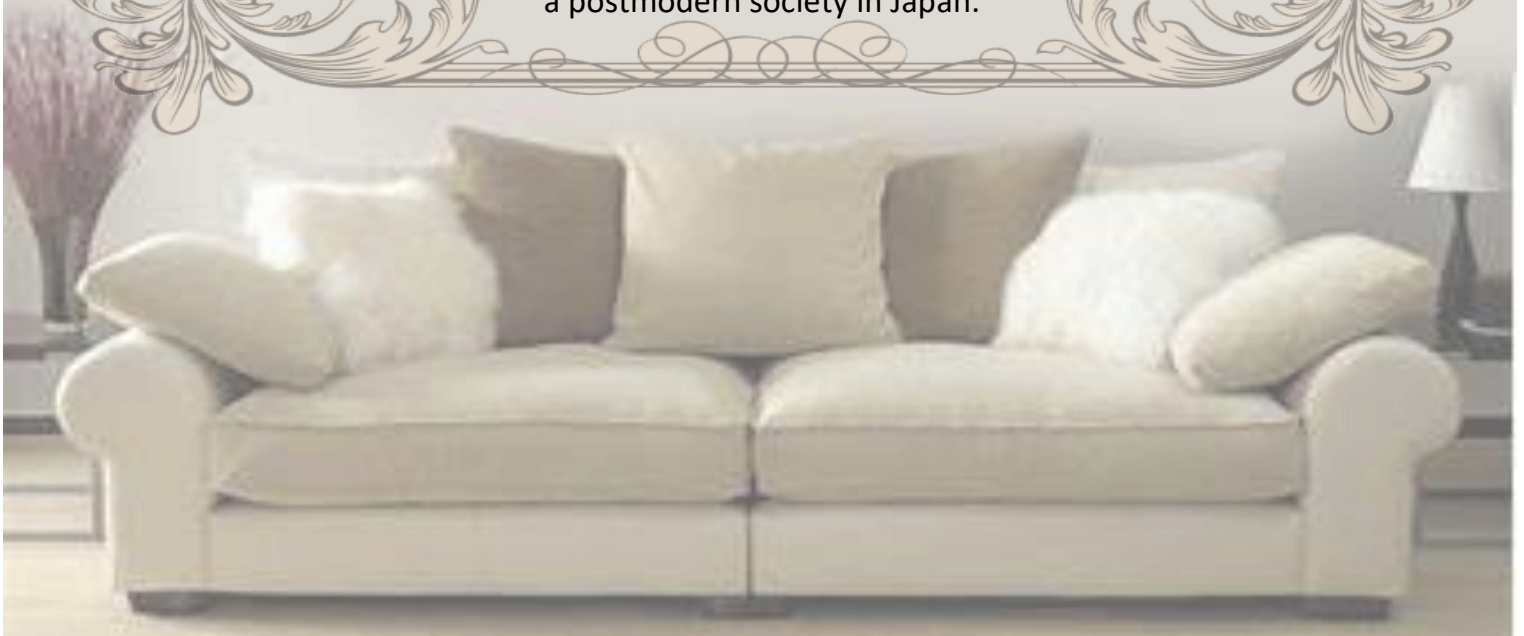
We will NOT be meeting in June

### LWML CONVENTION 2021

Lexington, Kentucky

June 24 -27, 2021

Bonnie Nelson has been selected to as this year’s delegate for NID – Zone 7 and has accepted the invitation to attend the LWML Convention this summer. This year, during the Heart-to-Heart Sister’s Luncheon, Bonnie and other attendees will hear from guest speaker, Chikako Drawbaugh, who overcame many adversities as Jesus drew her close to Himself. In her article in the summer edition of the LWML Quarterly “*My Journey With Jesus*” (included here on pg 4-6) she tells her story of how Jesus sought and found her – an educated woman living in a postmodern society in Japan.



基督

Japanese Kanji for "Jesus Christ"

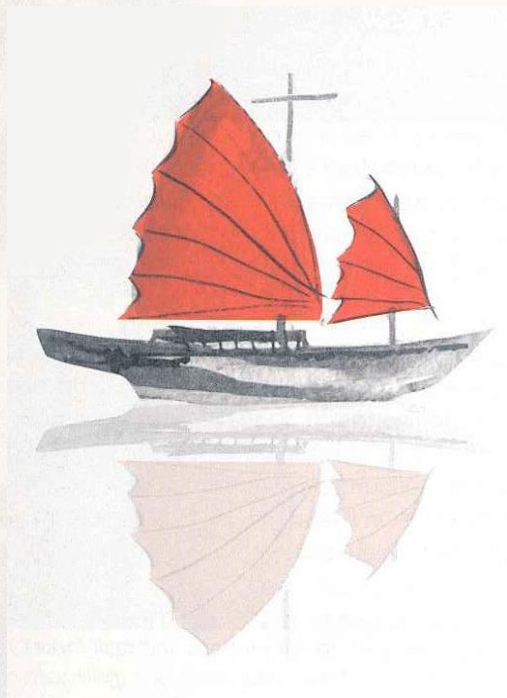


My Journey with Jesus

BY CHIKAKO DRAWBAUGH WITH BECKY WEHRSPANN, FEATURES EDITOR

For much of her life, Chikako Drawbaugh has enjoyed travel. She was born and raised in Japan, worked as a travel agent after graduating from college, and, to improve her English skills, moved to the United States to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). In the past 30 years, her love of travel has served her well as she has moved between cities in the United States and Japan. Chikako shares with us how God has directed her life's journey beyond her wildest traveling dreams.

I came to the United States in October 1987 to study English at UWSP. I soon discovered my English was not sufficient to communicate with others. I was unable to lead my life as independently as I once did, easily buying things or expressing myself. I was disappointed and felt as if my world was turned upside down. Another Japanese student encouraged me to visit Peace Lutheran Campus Center. The pastor was familiar with Japan and understood the Japanese language. I was not a Christian; I grew up in the postmodern society of Japan where Christians are less than one percent of the population. I followed Japanese culture, Buddhist rituals, and Shinto events with my family.



Right: Chikako and Tim with Rev. Carl and Karol Selle at the Peace Lutheran Campus Center in 1988.



Below: International and American students of UWSP with Rev. Carl Selle



Pastor Carl Selle was the first pastor I ever met. Pastor Carl made me feel welcome whenever I visited the campus center. He and his wife, Karol, invited international students to dinner and different activities. Other church members helped me with my English by patiently talking to and listening to me. They welcomed me (and other international students) with open arms. I was amazed and wondered why they cared so much for someone as insignificant as I.

I wondered what kind of God they believed in, but I still couldn't believe in Jesus as my Savior. No one pushed me about Jesus, but they kept sharing His love. I met an American student at Peace, Tim Drawbaugh, and asked him questions about the Bible — things that I could not comprehend. He answered my questions and prayed for me. God had a special plan, and I later married him.

I returned to Japan after graduating from UWSP in 1989. I wondered if I was only interested in Christianity because of the influence of the American culture, but my desire to be baptized did not change. Pastor Carl connected me with a missionary, Pastor James Vehling, in Tokyo, and I studied the catechism with him.

Before our wedding in the United States, I was baptized on June 3, 1990, by my husband's father. Tim's father had known Pastor Vehling at the seminary, and I felt like God was connecting more dots in the picture of my life's journey. When Tim decided to participate in the LCMS Overseas Volunteer Youth Ministry (OVYM) program, I also had a desire to share God's love with others in Japan. The direction of my life was beginning to change.

Shortly after our wedding, my mother was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. We arrived in Japan after her surgery and chemotherapy. My mother hugged me as soon as I opened the door, with a changed, child-like personality. I was thankful and blessed to have another year with her; each day was truly a gift from God, and I cherished every moment. During this hardship, I worked as a part-time secretary at the OVYM office, surrounded by wonderful, supportive Christians.

After four years, our son Joshua was born, and my father was happy to have him nearby. Joshua was baptized by Rev. Chuzo Kitazawa at Takenotsuka Lutheran Church in Tokyo, and my father and sister attended the service. Joshua was the best witness to my father, encouraging him to pray at the table by saying, "Ji-ji (grandpa), amen!" When Joshua was two and a half years-old, we returned to the United States for Tim to enter Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

While in St. Louis, my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. The three of us flew to Japan. After his strength returned, we had to return to the U.S. My father drove us in his car and saw us off at the station. I remember his cheerful look, wearing the new white sweater that I had given him.

I later received a phone call from my father. His lung cancer had spread to his brain, and he would soon lose his cognizant abilities. He was a surgeon, so he knew what would happen to him. I quit my job in St. Louis, and my family flew to Japan again.

Although it was hard to part from my husband, I asked Tim to return to the U.S. and continue his studies at the seminary. As I was facing my father's death, an incident happened. When Joshua and I were on our way home, we were followed by another car. I pulled over and parked to let it pass,





Above: Chikako and Tim with her mother.

Below: Chikako's father and sister attended Joshua's baptism at Takenotsuka Lutheran Church in Tokyo.

Right: Celebrating Tim's installation at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in 2019.

but two young men began kicking and shaking my parked car. Thank God, Joshua and I were unharmed. God was stronger than evil.

After my father's funeral, a thief entered my parents' house and stole some money. We all were terrified, but thank the Lord, we were unharmed. Tim worried about us and flew back to Japan so the three of us could return together to the United States.

With other seminarian's wives,

I started the Master of Arts course at Concordia Seminary's graduate school. I wanted to use the opportunity to learn and equip myself, and it helped form my biblical thinking. It was also helpful when I had conversations with my non-Christian family and friends. In December 2001, Tim was called to be Missionary-At-Large in the New Jersey and Atlantic Districts. After leaving St. Louis, I was able to continue writing my thesis and was thankful for my thesis advisor, Dr. Kolb. I supported Tim's ministry by participating in the Japanese friendship circles where pastors and other Christians worked together to reach out to temporary Japanese residents. God gave me an opportunity to share His love with the Japanese people.

In 2004, Tim received and accepted a call from Holy Hope Lutheran Junior and High School in Japan, so we moved back to my home country again. I taught Japanese to exchange students and I taught in the Religion Department. My Master of Arts degree helped me get these jobs; God had connected more dots in my life's journey. It was a joy for me to teach students who didn't have a Christian background; most opened a Bible for the first time at school. A student told me one day, "I didn't understand what you were saying." The longer we talked, I realized the student meant, "I understand as knowledge, but I cannot accept it as my belief." I remembered when I first heard of Christ and had that same attitude. I also remembered how patient and affectionate Christian people treated me. I trusted that God was the One who gave the "a-ha" moment. I prayed every day before class, asking God to open the students' hearts.

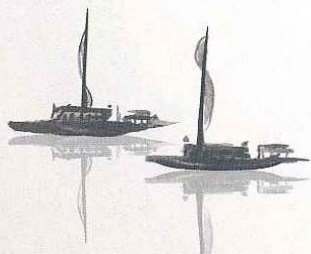
In 2019, Tim received and accepted the call to be pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hackettstown, New Jersey. Now, we are back in the United States. It is a blessing and joy to receive Holy Communion and sing together with other faithful Christians. *"Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia."*

God has worked beyond my thoughts and ability. I thank the Lord, and all the people whom He sent me. He works in every circumstance, and He never changes. May God continue to protect my journey with Jesus, as I share His love with others joyfully. Q



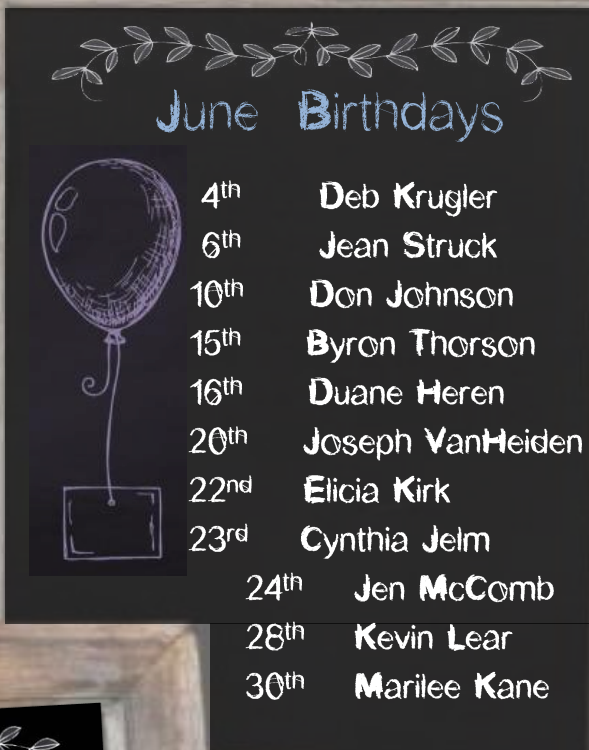
Chikako will be speaking at the Heart to Heart Sister's luncheon at the LWML Convention in Lexington.

基督  
督



Blessed are those  
 who dwell in Your house,  
 ever singing Your praise!  
 For a day in Your courts  
 is better than a thousand  
 elsewhere.

Psalm 84:4, 10a



June Birthdays

4 <sup>th</sup>	Deb Krugler
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Struck
10 <sup>th</sup>	Don Johnson
15 <sup>th</sup>	Byron Thorson
16 <sup>th</sup>	Duane Heren
20 <sup>th</sup>	Joseph VanHeiden
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Elicia Kirk
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cynthia Jelm
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jen McComb
28 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Lear
30 <sup>th</sup>	Marilee Kane



June Anniversaries

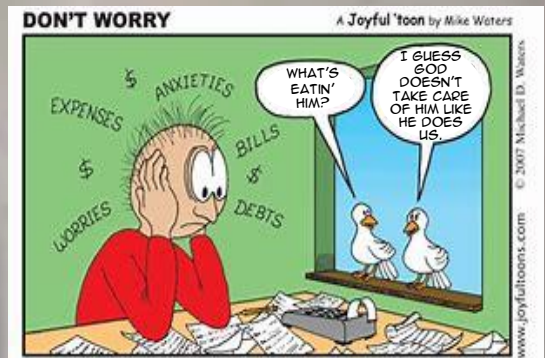
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mark & Cathy Thompson	17 years
		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Curtis & Jana Johnson	64 years
		
20 <sup>th</sup>	Larry & Joanne Heck	34 years
		
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jerald & Connie Van Heiden	45 years
		



Fear NOT, therefore;  
 ...you are of more  
 VALUE  
 than many sparrows.

— Matthew 10:31

*Oh the  
 OVERWHELMING  
 reverencing  
 RECKLESS love  
 of God*



Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Matt. 6:26



FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH. AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD . . . EPH. 2:8

God helps those who can't help themselves



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 9,719.67	\$ 12,137.83	\$ 12,835.12	\$ 17,193.67		\$ 51,886.29	\$ 46,780.00
Expenses	\$ 9,409.76	\$ 9,308.01	\$ 13,064.45	\$ 9,138.28		\$ 40,920.50	\$ 46,764.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 309.91	\$ 2,829.82	\$ (229.33)	\$ 8,055.39	\$ -	\$ 10,965.79	



# Prayer Calendar

## JUNE 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Deaf Ministry, Doctors, Nurses and anyone working in the medical field, Police, Fire and EMT's. Those working everywhere.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Lord, help set us free from any bondage that satan seeks to ensnare us with. 1 Cor. 6:12</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to be faithful to You. Phil 4:5</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lord, grant us bold hope, so that we do not despair, but always remember what awaits us. Titus 1:2</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Lord, grant us a persevering heart so we don't grow weary in well doing. Gal 6:9</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Lord, may all that attend this church come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 2:10</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to have a bold faith so that we can discern Your will and ways more clearly. Phil 4:5</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>God, we praise and bless Your name that is above all names. Phil. 2:9</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>May we find Your word to be "more precious than gold and sweeter than honey" Psalm 19:10</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Lord, just as You rode into Jerusalem to fulfill God's promise for our salvation, so come into our lives to keep us on the path to salvation.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>God, we praise You for Jesus, the Word who became flesh and lived among us full of grace and truth.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Lord, teach me to let go of my worries and be joyful for all that You have given me. Eph. 2:8</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to experience Your love through worship and obedience. Rom. 8:38-39</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Lord, thank You for Your many promises revealed through Scripture that gives us hope. Rom. 5:1-5</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Lord, thank You for giving rest to people who are weary and burdened. Matt. 11:28</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Lord, grant that the Spirit's fruit of peace reign within, independent of any and all circumstances. Gal. 5:22</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Lord, thank You for blessing us with different spiritual gifts, which may be used to joyfully serve You. Rom. 12:6-8</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Lord, help us as we take vacations this summer to not take a vacation from You. Help us to make church a priority in our lives.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Lord, show us a way to break the cycle of poverty. Psalm 72:12-13</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Prepare our hearts Lord before we worship You today. Help us to be a light for others in all we do.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to have compassion towards those who have great needs. Col. 3:12</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>God, thank You for the abundant life and joy we experience in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Lord, grant that the Spirit's fruit of self control pervade over even the most trying of situations. Gala. 5:22</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>God, grant us courage and character to take a stand for what is right. Josh. 1:9</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to respond with forgiveness towards those who may have wronged us. Matt. 6:14</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>May God give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better. Eph. 1:7</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Lord, grant us discernment to know what the wisest choice is when we get into situations where we don't know what to do. James 1:5</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle together.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>God, when I am tired, remind me to come to You, for it is in You that I find rest Matthew 11:28</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Help me Lord to display traits that honor You, knowing I am yours and an example of Your holiness. Colossians 3:12</p>			

# June, 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	2	3	4	5 9:30 AM – Altar Guild <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
6 <b>COMMUNION</b> Pentecost 2 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	7 <b>Flag Day</b>	8 9:00 AM – Bible Study	9	10	11	12 5:30 PM – Worship
13 Pentecost 3 9:30 AM – Worship 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	14	15	16	17	18	19 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
20 <b>COMMUNION</b> Pentecost 4 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	21	22 9:00 AM – Bible Study	23	24 7:00 PM – Church Council  <LWML Convention	25  in	26 5:30 PM – Worship  Lexington,
27 Pentecost 5 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour  Kentucky >	28	29 9:00 AM – Bible Study	30	July Notes: July 22-26: International Lutheran Deaf Assoc. / Ephphatha Pastors of the Deaf / & Church Interpreters' Conferences in Elk Grove		