

March 2017

# NEWSLETTER



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS



**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

## **LENT 2017**

### **OBJECTS OF THE EMPTY TOMB**

*(Our Lenten series this year is titled,  
"Objects of the Empty Tomb.")*

*It is the second in a series we began two years  
ago with "Objects of the Passion:  
Promises Fulfilled.")*

**"Objects of the Empty Tomb".**

Why? Because the Empty Tomb is where Lent is heading after all. It is the goal of the journey, the destination. It is where Jesus is leading us. And as our journey takes us to Holy Week, to Jerusalem, to the hill of Calvary and to the tomb; remember the goal.

It is Easter, Jesus rising from the dead, and eternal life that begins with Jesus and keeps on spreading until all of us who know Him are risen, transformed and glorious, and have all eternity opened up before us.

So this lent we set as a time for somber reflection combined with hope and anticipation.

We will gather objects of the tomb and build a display.

Each week we will have an object, part of the display ready to distribute. As we put the displays together they remind us to the story of Jesus, who is our Life, coming to conquer death and the grave.

Each object is connected with the Tomb and how they laid his body to rest. But they also point forward to the victory and to proclaiming the resurrection and new life that Jesus won and that He shares with us.

### **Our Worship schedule is:**

March 1 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m. – The Tomb

March 8, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – Salt

March 15, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – The Shroud

March 22, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – The Spices

March 29, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – The Stone

April 5, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – The Seal

April 13 is Maundy Thursday with Communion at 7:00 p.m.

April 14 is Good Friday with a Service of Tenebrae at 7:00 p.m.

April 16 is Easter with Sunrise Service and Morning Service with Communion

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **MARCH**

1	...	LWML	10:00 a.m.
		ASH WED. SERVICE	7:00 p.m.
8	...	LENTEN SERVICE	7:00 p.m.
13	...	SENIOR SEVICE	1:00 p.m.
14	...	FRIENDLY SENIORS	12:00 p.m. (at R-Place Restaurant)
15	...	LENTEN SERVICE	7:00 p.m.
19	...	YOUTH NIGHT	5:30 p.m.
22	...	LENTEN SERVICE	7:00 p.m.
28	...	WORSHIP COMMITTEE	10:00 a.m.
29	...	LENTEN SERVICE	7:00 p.m.



## MISSIONS

The Mission Team will be collecting funds to purchase Aldi gift cards for our 12-14 families we support with gifts during holiday times.

## 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!

## We Care's POT OF GOLD



We Care is having their annual, free-will offering fundraiser in March, called POT OF GOLD. Their goal is to raise \$5,000 by St. Patrick's Day!

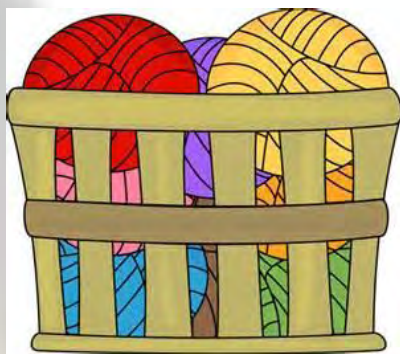


Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

— Romans 12:10



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**



*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*

Join us for lunch!

*Friendly  
Seniors*

Luncheon at  
**R-Place Restaurant**

Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
12:00 P.M.



LWML meets on Wednesday, March 1 (Ash Wednesday) at 10 am. We are working on a card making project. Come and enjoy time with friends, great food and fellowship while we work on this service project. Bring any art supplies you have with you.



**LWML  
Zone Rally:**

**Suicide  
Prevention**

**April 22, 2017  
Lisle, IL**

**Serve the Lord  
With Gladness**

**LWML  
Convention:**

**June 22-25, 2017**

**Albuquerque,  
NM**



# THE GREAT *Psalm*

## GIMMEL (Part 2)

- <sup>21</sup> Cursed, insolent ones You rebuke;  
who wander from Your commandments.
- <sup>22</sup> Contempt and scorn take away from me,  
for Your testimonies I have kept.
- <sup>23</sup> Crowned princes even, conspiring against me,  
still Your servant will meditate on Your statutes.
- <sup>24</sup> Cherished indeed are Your testimonies to me;  
they are my counselors.

## Verses 21-24 “My Hope in a Foreign World”

We are connected again in Christ. We have life. We belong to God. But we still live as strangers in this world. We cannot get away from that. In fact, belonging to God means we are even more strangers here. Around us there are those that the psalm calls “insolent,” and they have things to say, insults to fling, and things to do. We find this out when we dare to talk about right and wrong (God’s commandments, and especially in our day the commandment about morality); or about Jesus as the only way of salvation.

Whether we are new to the faith or have many years as Christians we want to tell about Jesus. But the message about salvation in Jesus is often greeted with contempt and scorn. Sometimes it is outright rejection. Or there is an impatient “we’re tired of hearing about Jesus.” We really are strangers here! The Christian and his faith are mocked. And talked about. And things happen: in school; at work; in our other relationships. I once heard a pastor friend advise someone, “They hate you because of your good character.” What do we do? How do we face this?

God answers with a warning and a promise. (Law and Gospel) God rebukes the insolent, the ones who wander away, who disregard His commandments. There are those who say God’s opinion of right and wrong just does not matter. The Bible talks about those who say, “The Lord does not see.” The Lord does not hear. The Lord will not act. (Psalm 94:7) Their turning away is not even a questioning; but rather a “who cares.” Right and wrong don’t count. So they don’t just leave God; they abandon what they are made to be – moral and spiritual beings. Pride against God turns into something strange, and we hear them teaching that we are nothing but smart animals. It has turned things upside-down. It is surprising to hear the self-degrading. “We are nothing but ...” “We are insignificant.” “In all the vastness ...” But this is the fall and this is the curse, and we are all caught in it. In a certain sense it is a contempt, a scorn and a rebuke we have all deserved. How can we find our way free of this?

*Can't...*

## THE GREAT *Psalm*... (con't)

Thanks be to God through Jesus! The only answer is the one who has taken the scorn and contempt on Himself. He was talked about, ridiculed as out of his mind, plotted against, and for Him it came from the rulers and all who had power. But even more, Jesus was judged and forsaken by God the Father. He presented Himself before His Father with all the sins of the whole human race, and accepted the shame and condemnation that went with it. The verse in the Old Testament says, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" and that verse was prepared for Jesus. So Paul says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." (Galatians 3:13) He has lifted off of us the rebuke, the scorn, the condemnation, and the shame that was hanging over us. He carried it away so we can be free forever. (John 8:36)

Lord, because You have taken this contempt, rebuke and curse away; help me then to bear the contempt and scorn that comes from belonging to You. Even if the high and mighty, the cool and popular in this world conspire to shame; still You call me Your own and it is enough.

With that in mind the psalmist holds to the words and promises of God. He keeps the "testimonies," the story of God's saving work in Christ, because in Jesus we have all the riches of God promised and given. He meditates on God's statutes – how God has set up and put together the world. He turns them over and over in his mind remembering the promise to come, "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5); the promise that even now everything is being made over and recreated, founded on the cross of Jesus and His empty tomb. "God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Philippians 2:9-11) But remember, He is exalted and everything is built around Him because He took the lowest place, because Jesus "became obedient unto death, even death on the cross". (Philippians 2:8)

This is the way Jesus walked, holding to the testimonies, the plan and story of salvation. As the psalmist, and as we treasure the testimonies and meditate on the statutes, we are doing nothing else than hearing His voice calling and saying, "Follow Me," and knowing our Shepherd has called us. His testimonies tell us of salvation. His teachings are our counselors. And we cherish these words of life. In this dark world; in this strange and alien place we are His and He is ours.



### Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, be with me in this world where it is so often hard to follow You and stand for what is right. Give me courage by Your Gospel, by Your walk of faith and by the promise of Your cross and empty tomb.*

*Let Your words take such deep root in my heart that they may guide me in every place and in every situation to live as Your disciple.*

*Amen.*





# Valentine Party

Senior  
Service

Come join us! All are welcome!

Monday, March 13, 2017  
1:00 P.M.

# children and Youth

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## Sunday School

Our Sunday School kids made Valentine's Day cards that were sent to WBGL Christian radio to be given to students in foster care.

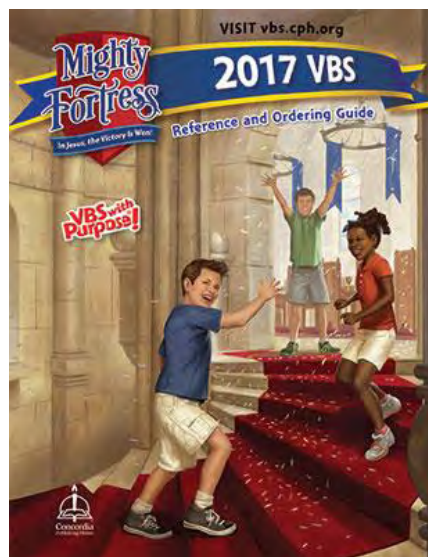
## Youth Night

The youth met on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The group was small due to people being out of town so we went to see a movie and out to dinner afterwards.

**The next youth night will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

## vacation Bible School

We have purchased the VBS starter kit for 2017.  
The theme is **A Mighty Fortress** and based on the kings of the Bible.  
(Dates have not been set yet)





# BIRTHDAY



- 1<sup>st</sup> Laurie Applebee  
Greg Carlson
- 4<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Rydell Nelson
- 5<sup>th</sup> Alora Carlson  
Keith Larson
- 7<sup>th</sup> Deb Carter
- 8<sup>th</sup> Bob Wills
- 9<sup>th</sup> Pat Schultz
- 11<sup>th</sup> Greg Johnson
- 15<sup>th</sup> Susan Seidler  
Paula Willig
- 16<sup>th</sup> Aaron Applebee
- 19<sup>th</sup> Richard Enervold
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Alice Peterson
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Austin Applebee  
Georgette Walker
- 25<sup>th</sup> Ryan Kennedy
- 29<sup>th</sup> Ella Pool
- 30<sup>th</sup> Scott Halkyard  
Amanda Krugler

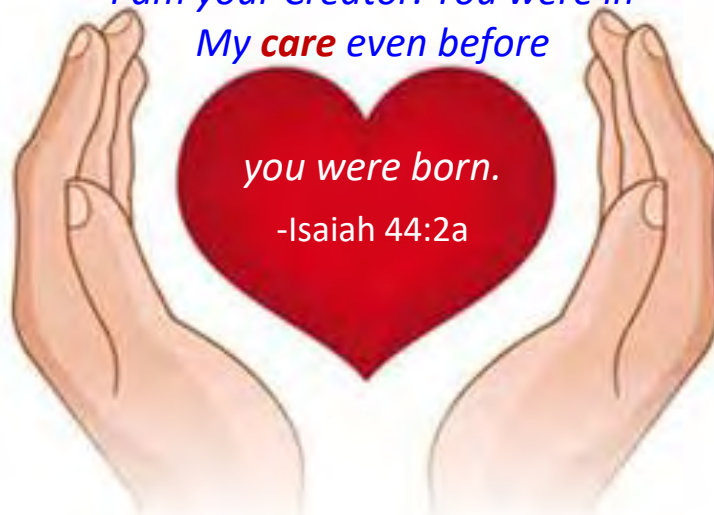
## Happy Anniversary!

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gary and Terri Gillette	11 years
	Pat & Ann Oslakovich	21 years
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bob and Alice Hunt	56 years

*I am your Creator. You were in  
My **care** even before*

*you were born.*

*-Isaiah 44:2a*



# Prayer Calendar

# MARCH 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig and Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries everywhere, Deaf Ministry, Iglesia San Pablo Church. People of the Book Lutheran Outreach and Christians being persecuted.</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to experience and know Your love, joy and peace. Rom. 8:28-39</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>God, let all who take refuge in You rejoice and sing for joy. Spread your protection over us. Psalm. 5:11</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Prepare our heart and minds Lord to come worship You! 2 Sam. 14:22</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Lord, as You are patient and kind to us help us to be patient and kind to others. 1 Corinthians 13:4</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Dear Lord, You are the potter we are the clay. Thank You for molding and making us. Isaiah 64:3</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Lord bless Pastor and the Elders as they meet and pray for those in need and our congregation. Acts 20:28</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>God, grant me the ability to forgive others as you have forgiven me. Jeremiah 29:11</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Lord, please teach me to develop habits that protect my spiritual health. Matthew 6:13</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Lord, You know everything we do touches others in some way. Use us as vessels to glorify Your name. Romans 15:2</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Lord, no matter what I am facing help me to always give thanks for the many blessings I have received. Psalm 100:3</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Lord, help me to trust You with my whole heart and not try to lean on my own understanding. Proverbs 3:5</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Lord, my prayer is simple. Make my faith greater. Luke 17:5</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Lord, restore in us the joy of our salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Psalm 51:12</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Dear Lord, help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to satans strategies.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Lord, remind us that expressing the joy that You bring into our lives shows others that we are Christians. Phil. 4:4</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>God, as You move among us help us to see You at work in our lives. 2 Timothy 1:9</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>God, show us ways to nurture our youth who are trying to follow You in a world full of so many other options. 2 Cor. 5:17</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Lord, we pray that our youth will come closer to You. Bless them as they spend time together and worship You. 1 Timothy 6:12</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Lord, open our eyes to the needs around us and bring a greater awareness to the work that must be done. Help us to act on what You show us. 1 John 3L18</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Lord, we pray for better economic opportunities for people around the world. Proverbs 3:5</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Lord, Thank You for being the lamp onto my feet and the light onto my path. Psalm 119:105</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>God we pray for wisdom and discernment for the Trustees as they make decisions that would be pleasing to You.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Lord, help me to carve out special time with You daily. Bless our time together. Give me a hunger to spend more time with You.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Lord, may each of us feel Your presence in our lives regardless of our circumstances. 2 Corinthians 12:10</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to slow down and spend time with You. We have some kind of technology at us all the time. Help us to set it aside to spend time with You and with our families.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Lord, I pray that You would guard my heart and mind. Phil. 4:6-7</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>God, we thank You for the children and youth in our congregation. Walk with them as they go through each day. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Lord, help each of us identify our gifts, recognize our strengths, and curb our weaknesses. Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to remember that prayer to You is a vital connection for us. John 15:4-7</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>We know many who are suffering, hurting, sick and hopeless. Be with them Lord and help them through each day.</p>	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	9am - Bible Study	Ash Wednesday 10am - LWML 5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship			Communion 5:30pm - Worship
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship			5:30pm - Worship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daylight Sav. Time 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	1pm - Senior Service 4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship			Communion 5:30pm - Worship
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship	7pm - Trustees Meeting	Nursing Homes 1pm - Assisted Living 2pm - Park Pointe 3pm - Regency Care	5:30pm - Worship
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	4:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	9am - Bible Study 10am - Worship Com	5:15pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship			Communion 5:30pm - Worship