

Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL 60450

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Come Worship with us!

Saturday Evenings ...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings ...	8:15 a.m.
	10:45 a.m.
Sunday School	
& Adult Bible Study ...	9:30 a.m.
(Tuesday Bible Study ...	9:00 a.m.)



20-20 A Year for Seeing Clearly

Part 3: Seeing Ourselves in God's Mirror

It's a mirror. It has been called a mirror for centuries. And Lutherans talk about this when they talk about: (1) The Ten Commandments, (2) Law & Gospel; and (3) Confession and Absolution. It is good to have the mirror of God to see ourselves with 20/20 vision. It is good, because after the terrible truth there is the wonderful truth.

What do we see looking in God's mirror? What we were supposed to see was the image of God. Nobility, reason, goodness, and undying love, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are what we supposed to see. That is how He designed us and made us. But Adam and Eve turned away

from the word of God and followed a different word. In fact, they followed words that called God's word a lie. ("You shall not surely die.") They introduced into their souls the "anti-image-of-God." It became a terrible, terrifying thing to look into God's mirror – His Word:

"Have you eaten of the tree of which I told you not to eat?" And so they hid and they covered themselves, so they would not see.

"Dust you are and to dust shall you return." And that became the central reality in their lives.

We call this the "Second Use of the Law." When God tells us what is His perfect will, we see how we have fallen short and how we have broken His Commandments. We study the meaning of the commandments:

"You shall not murder." *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body; but help and befriend him in every physical need. "You shall not

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Save the Date:

MAR 3:	Elder's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
MAR 4:	LWML	10:00 a.m.
	1st Wed. in Lent	7:00 p.m.
MAR 8:	Daylight Savings Time begins	12:00 a.m.
MAR 9:	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
MAR 11:	2nd Wed. in Lent	7:00 p.m.
MAR 15:	Youth Night	5:00 p.m.
MAR 18:	3rd Wed. in Lent	7:00 p.m.
MAR 23:	Park Pointe	10:00 a.m.
MAR 25:	4th Wed. in Lent	7:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

April 1 st	5th Wed. in Lent	7:00 p.m.
April 5 th	Palm Sunday	8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
	Confirmation Day	8:15 a.m.
April 9 th	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 p.m.
April 10 th	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
April 12 th	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.
	Easter Worship Service	8:15 a.m.

(Continued from page 1)

bear false witness against your neighbor.” *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation; but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

We examine ourselves:

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm? (The Small Catechism on Confession)

And so we know ourselves under the Law of God, and certainly have enough to confess.

But God’s Mirror has a sweeter image. He did not abandon us. He, Himself stepped in, standing with us in front of His own mirror. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,” says John (John 1:14) “and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Once again, the word of God comes to us, but it is a word of forgiveness and life. In Jesus Christ the promises of God and the blessings of God are given to us. We are called “children of God” and Paul says we have received “the Spirit of adoption as sons”. We are “fellow heirs with Christ” as God forms and fashions in us once again the image of God. (Romans 8)

But this time it is a particular and very specific image of God. God has in mind that we are to be “conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8) On the day that Jesus returns we will be amazed. “... but we know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)

So, God’s Mirror is Jesus? Yes, as amazing as that is! In the end, He is.

How did that happen!? It’s called the Great Exchange. Jesus took my image that I might have His. I was His mirror, filled with sin and rebellion, when He took my image and carried it to the cross. He did so to break and destroy that mirror; and put His mirror in its place. “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our place, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

But this is no ordinary mirror. Normal mirrors only show you what is. Like it or not when you wake up in the morning your mirror will tell you what is. This Mirror of God forms you into the image it (or rather He) has designed you to be. Astounding!

But that is exactly what the Bible says. Paul says it quite dramatically, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, ...” (2 Corinthians 3:18) And that’s part of what Jesus was talking about in the Sermon on the Mount, “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) It is not something we are able to do, but what He is doing and will complete at the end.

What does this Image look like? There are a lot of details! The different points of God’s Commandments, starting with having no other gods and working out into all parts of life, are part of it. So are things like love, peace, kindness, and self-control that Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit.

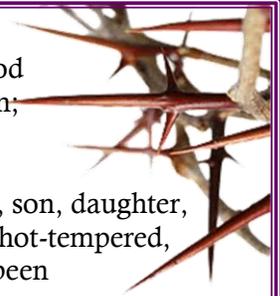
Right at the center of everything in our relationship with God is the word of God. What forms our connectedness to God is His words and promises – that is the heart of it and the sum total of everything. Those words and promises bring the grace, mercy and blessings of God. They guide us in what we do and guard us in what we face. And every part of these promises are bound up together in Jesus.

It is faith, believing the words and promises of God. That is the heart and core of the image of God in which we are being formed. Which brings us back to Jesus and the wonderful verse in Hebrews 12, “keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

That is in part why we begin our worship with confessing. We come to stand before the mirror of God, because we know that in that mirror of God, we will find our Savior standing there with us, giving His grace and speaking His blessings. And that *is* sweet.

Pastor Mark

(Next Month: 20-20 Seeing the Great Hidden Truth)



Pastor Willig keeps the kids' attention during a Sunday morning children's sermon on 2/23/20 . . .



Heads up!
Just some friendly reminders...

Our Sunday morning worship schedule returns to normal beginning on Sunday, March 1st:
8:15 a.m.
&
10:45 a.m.

Also: On Saturday, March 7th, remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour before going to bed!

Lent 20/20 – A Gathering of Sinners

+ + +
+ + +

Lenten Midweek Services are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

- March 4 – Lent Midweek # 1** 7:00 p.m. + Worship +
Gathering the Immoral (Hosea 11:1-4, 7-11 & other Scripture)
- March 11 – Lent Midweek # 2** 7:00 p.m. + Worship +
Gathering the Violent (Obadiah 1-4, 8-18 & other Scripture)
- March 18 – Lent Midweek # 3** 7:00 p.m. + Worship +
Gathering the “Truth-Deficient” (Genesis 3:4-12 & other Scripture)
- March 25 – Lent Midweek # 4** 7:00 p.m. + Worship +
Gathering the Self-Righteous (Matthew 23 & other Scripture)
- April 1 – Lent Midweek # 5** 7:00 p.m. + Worship +
Gathering the Apostate (2 Chronicles 33:1-16 & other Scripture)
- April 5 – Palm Sunday** 8:15 a.m. + Worship +
- Thursday April 9 – Maundy Thursday** 7:00 p.m. + Worship with Communion +
- Friday April 10 – Good Friday** 7:00 p.m. + Worship Service of Tenebrae +
- April 12 – EASTER!** 6:30 a.m. + Worship + (*Sunrise Service*)
8:15 a.m. + Worship +

-Pastor Mark



Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday - March 4th - 10:00 a.m.
Servers: Bonnie Nelson & Bonnie Sanders

Upcoming Events:

A LENTEN INSPIRATION – *“Led by the Spirit”*

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2020. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

WHERE: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1910 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60435

COST: \$15 (which includes lunch)

FEATURED SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President Northern Illinois District, LCMS

INGATHERING: Walcamp (Quart & gallon sized Ziplock freezer bags, dinner sized paper plates, Menard's gift cards.)

Registration is technically closed but it's not too late! Call Bonnie Rydell-Nelson if you would still like to attend. (Cost is \$15, which includes lunch.)

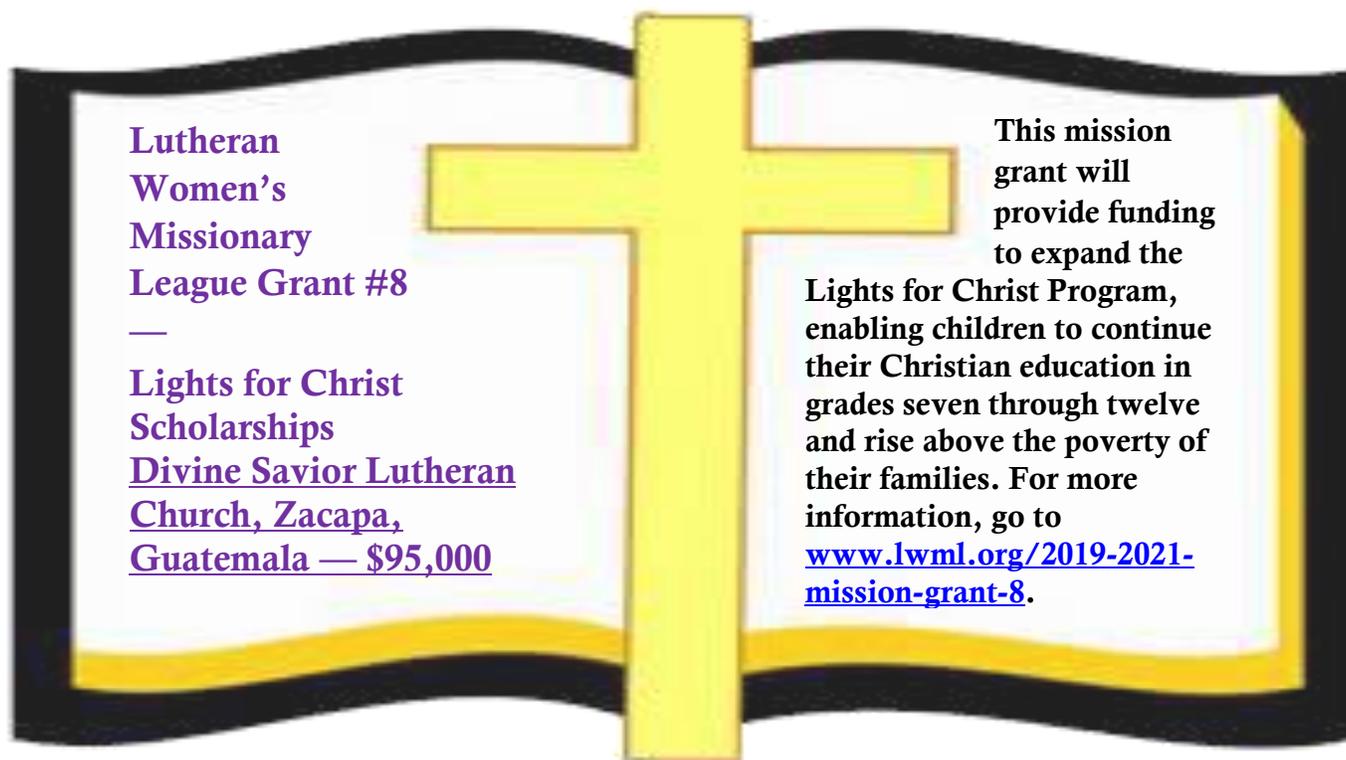
2020 SPRING RALLY

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Registration & Continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.)

WHERE: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 63 Fernwood Road, Montgomery, IL 60538

COST: None (Freewill offering)

FEATURED SPEAKER: Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry (Freewill donation)



YOUTH HAPPENINGS:

YOUTH NIGHT



In February we visited CLUTTER; a video arcade and 2nd hand shop in Downtown Morris. Some of the kids have never seen an arcade and had so much fun! We adults – especially those of us who were teens in the 80’s – REALLY thought it was a cool “blast from the past”! Best part was we paid a one-time fee for unlimited play! (No quarters needed!)

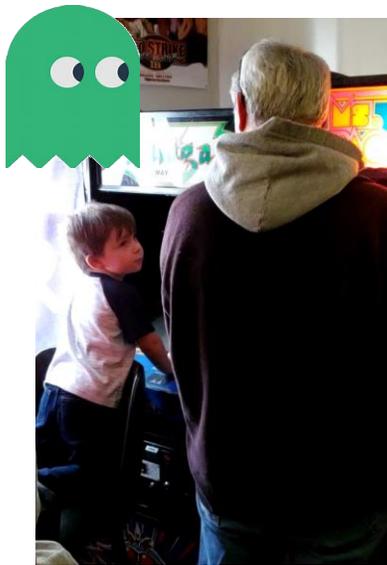
Our next Youth Night will be on **Sunday, March 15th**. (Stay tuned for details...)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget you can “hang out” EVERY week with us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School! See you then! Need a ride? No problem! Call the church office at 815/941-1255.



(Above left) Can you guess who donned the ‘Sleepy the Dwarf’ mask? (Above right) Tristan Willig tries on a pair of Harry Potter glasses in the resale shop. Tristan and his brother, Liam, are Pastor Mark and Paula’s grandsons who were visiting from Bloomington.



(counterclockwise from Left)

Terry Carter and his 3-yr old grandson, Joey, play side by side. Paula takes on Pacman. Teddy Ruedin pauses for a picture while Tristan and Liam are too busy winning! Cathy and Teddy go head-to-head on Pacman. Jamie Ruedin tries his luck at Pacman while Lily Thompson plays Donkey Kong Jr. Olivia Collins predetermines where all the gear shifts and pedals are before beginning the race. Jamie is determined to beat his own high score.



Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers and example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

~ 1 Timothy 4:12



Senior Service

Weather permitting, we will resume having Senior Services the second Monday of each month beginning on

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Need a ride? Call the church office at
(815) 941-1255

Jesus was (and IS) enough:

Jesus:

- ...was angry enough to purge the temple;
- ...distracted enough to weep in public;
- ...fun-loving enough to be called a drunkard;
- ...winsome enough to attract kids;
- ...poor enough to borrow a coin for a sermon illustration;
- ...radical enough to get kicked out of town;
- ...responsible enough to care for His mother;
- ...tempted enough to know the smell of Satan;
- ...and anxious enough to sweat blood.

(by Max Lucado)

March Birthdays

- 1st Laurie Applebee
Greg Carlson
- 4th Bonnie Rydell Nelson
- 5th Alora Carlson
- 8th Deb Carter
- 9th Pat Schultz
- 11th Greg Johnson
- 12th Teddy Ruedin
- 15th Susan Seidler
Paula Willig
- 16th Aaron Applebee
- 19th Dick Enervold
- 23rd Austin Applebee
Georgette Walker
- 30th Scott Halkyard
Amanda Krugler
Amelia Sarto

March Anniversaries

- 2nd Gary and Terri Gillette 14 years
Pat & Ann Oslakovich 24 years
- 19th Mitchell & Mary Kinzie 1 Year

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

~ Ephesians 3:14-19

Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 8,517.25					\$ 8,517.25	\$ 13,548.00
Expenses	\$ 10,319.36					\$ 10,319.36	\$ 13,603.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,802.11)					\$ (1,802.11)	\$ -

Prayer Calendar

MARCH 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Missionaries all over the world. Deaf Ministries, Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig in this Lenten season. May the good Lord give Pastor strength, wisdom, and a God like heart as he leads us closer to You. Also to give Pastor a peaceful rest when he is not working. Thank You Lord for blessing us with Pastor Willig.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>God, fill us with the fruits of the Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. Gal. 5:22-23</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lord, strengthen my faith. Neh. 8:10</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, thank You for the children in our church. Bless them with a heart for You.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Lord, we pray that we will put on the full armor of God to be alert to satan's strategies.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>God, we pray for parents who struggle to keep their children safe and warm.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Lord, guide us to mission projects that both play to our strengths and meet real needs of people. Luke 3:11</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Let all that I am wait quietly before You, for my hope is in You Oh Lord.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lord, teach my church to support the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of our members and community. James 5:16</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lord, open my eyes to those around me so that I might be a friend to someone who is feeling alone. Eph. 4:32</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lord, help me to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lord, thank You for being our refuge and strength. Thank You for being a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord, be with our church family and help us to step up and be a part of the Body of Christ together. Thank You for blessing us with such wonderful people to worship with.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Lord help us to keep You as our focus when we pray and not to get distracted.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>God, thank You for loving us.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lord, please teach me to develop habits that protect my spiritual health. Matt 6:13</p>	<p>18</p> <p>God, please forgive us for our sins and help us to start over each day in You.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lord, You gave us choices in our lives. Please be there to guide us and lead us to You and help us not to stray from the path.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>God, give me the strength to continue when I feel like giving up. Isaiah 40:31</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lord cleanse me of anything that breaks your heart.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Thank You for our families and friends. Help us to treasure them as You treasure us. Luke 1:67-80</p>	<p>23</p> <p>God please grant peace to those who experience the pain of depression. Isaiah 35:10</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Lord, please teach me to develop habits that protect my spiritual health. Matt. 6:13</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lord, show me what is truly valuable to You. Matt 10:31</p>	<p>26</p> <p>God, may all we do be rooted and grounded in Your love. Psalm 108:1-5 Phil. 2:1</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lord, may people who visit our church feel accepted, welcome, and respected. Psalm 139:23</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Lord, please give us courage and boldness to follow Your leadership. Rom. 1:17</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Thank You Lord for the opportunity to worship together. Psalm 95:6-7</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Thank You for our seasons Lord, Help it to remind us of Jesus coming back from the grave.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Lord, we pray for the farmers to get the weather they need to put their crops in the ground.</p>				

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 COMMUNION 1st Sunday in Lent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	2	3 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	4 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek # 1	5	6	7 5:30 PM – Worship
8 2nd Sunday in Lent Time Change: Move Clocks Forward 1 Hour 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	9 1:00 PM – Senior Service	10 9:00 AM – Bible Study	11 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek # 2	12	13	14 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
15 COMMUNION 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	16	17 9:00 AM – Bible Study	18 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek # 3	19	20	21 5:30 PM – Worship
22 4th Sunday in Lent 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	23 10:00 AM – Park Pointe	24 9:00 AM – Bible Study	25 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek # 4	26 7:00 PM – Church Council	27	28 5:30 PM – Worship
29 5th Sunday in Lent 8:15 AM – Worship’ 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	30	31 9:00 AM – Bible Study	April Dates: April 5 – Palm Sunday and Confirmation April 9 – Maundy Thursday: 7:00 PM Worship with Communion April 10 – Good Friday: 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service April 12 – Easter: 6:30 AM Sunrise Service with Communion 8:15 AM Morning Service with Communion			