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Newsletter MAY 2016

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Small Things

We are in the middle of the "great and momentous" political season and so much is about the "great and momentous," about world moving events. And yes, that is a part of how the world seems to look at things. But let's us look at the opposite for a moment. (Even in Christian writing, a lot has to do with the "great and momentous." I have book after book exploring the "Grand Scope" of doctrine and looking at "great and momentous" events and what has a big impact. Because if you do write a book you want it to be "great and momentous." Right? But, again, let's look at the other part . . .)

Con't...



- **Pastor-** Mark Willig
- **Secretary-** Deb Carter
- **Music-** Bonnie Nelson
- **Organist-** Kris Farber
- **Chair-** Kim Breyman
- **Vice Chair-** Bonnie Nelson
- **Treasurer-** Bob Hunt
- **Assist. Treasurer-** Carol Hansen
- **Elders-** Dick Enervold
- **Missions-** Vicki Kahn
- **Youth-** Cathy Thompson
- **Hospitality-** Earlene Enervold

SAVE THE DATES:

- ♥ May 1– Voters' meeting
- ♥ May 4 – LWML
VBS Planning
- ♥ May 9 – Senior Service
- ♥ May 10-Friendly Seniors
- ♥ May 15- Youth Night



God is the God of the small, the tiny, and all that the world counts as insignificant. (1 Corinthians 1:27-28) These things have God's equal attention. This is a part of who God is and we should not forget how important they are. (Here is a tip of the hat to the medieval teachers who explored how God pays attention to the small and tiny; and are sometimes laughed at for supposedly asking how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. What they were asking is: How intimate is God's care? How closely does He watch over us? "His eye is on the sparrow; and I know He watches me.")

To say it again, God watches over, and He hears, and He answers the prayers of even the smallest, weakest, and unseen of His children. The prayer of one of God's little ones about a tiny worry or a little thing that happened reaches His ears just the same as the prayer of a great leader of nations. ("But even the hairs of your head are all numbered." – Jesus, just after talking about sparrows (Matthew 10:30))

And again, part of the wonder of Christian teaching is that you do not have to do great and momentous things for your life and days to be important. The kingdom of God is there in the family time, in the quiet moments, and in even the smallest act of faith or love lived out in kindness. It is there in the prayers we pray with our children. (And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, "... Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, ..." (Matthew 18:2-6)) It is there in meals prepared (1 Kings 19:5-7), a listening ear, and time together (John 21:12-14). All through the Bible there are places that talk about God's relationship with the little ones, from the servant girl that God used to bring General Naaman to faith (2 Kings 5); to John the Baptist responding with faith in Jesus and leaping within his mother's womb (Luke 1); and it is a part of worship life of the people of God (Psalm 131).

It is how God builds His kingdom; one soul, one person at a time. As Jesus is going about the business of calling people from every nation and language into His kingdom, into the great multitude that no one could count – He does this one person at a time. Each one is called by Jesus personally. That is how He calls you – personally, individually, alone in His relationship with you. (Read through the Gospel of John and watch how Jesus did this one person at a time. It is amazing and beautiful!) And that is why so often the words of Jesus come home to us the way they do, as if I am the only one there and Jesus is talking to me – just to me. For almost 2,000 years one Christian after another has described their encounter with Jesus this way.

In our daily life every moment is "in the presence of God." Working, cleaning, caring for children, spending time in school, doing homework, playing video games even – it is all part of the life of faith, lived in relationship with God. ("I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 18:20)) This is part of the kingdom of God – our God who cares about the small things in the universe; in our lives; and in our souls. In Psalm 139:1-18 King David named and listed and meditated on these things point by point.

Included in this Newsletter you will find an article on "The Spark of the Beginning of Life." And on our Prayer Pages you will hear about the little prayers Luther wrote for the beginning and end of the day.

This is part of what amazes me about Christianity, about Jesus. Jesus is the one who stooped down to wash feet, who took the children in His arms and blessed them, whose first work of evangelism happened when He, still within Mary's womb, called John the Baptist still within Elizabeth's womb to respond in faith and leap for joy. He is the one (this humble Savior, this God of the small, the tiny, and the unknown) – He is the one who has redeemed us by His blood; who calls us to faith and invites us to walk with Him for all eternity.

"How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I were to count them they would outnumber the sand."

Pastor Mark



FRIENDLY SENIORS

Come join us for dinner and friendship
at

HANK'S FARM RESTAURANT
2973 N. RT. 71, OTTAWA
TUESDAY, MAY 10TH
5:30 PM

SENIOR SERVICE

MONDAY

MAY 9th

At 1:00 pm.

See you there!



IN THE FAMILY OF GOD



Happy 95th Birthday,
Marge Anderson!!!
(April 19th)

Welcome to the World!

JILLIAN TAYLOR

4-24-16

*Born to Alora & Josh Runchey
Granddaughter of Greg and
Deidre Carlson
Great-Granddaughter of
Harold and Norma Carlson*

IONE DIANA

4-27-16

*Granddaughter of Jim &
Diana Ruedin*

MAY BIRTHDAYS

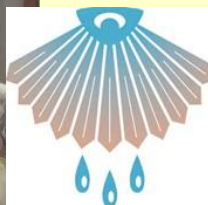
1st Dan Ryan
Heidi Rudy
3rd Gary Gamauf
4th Eileen Tondini
14th Ken Wiegand
17th Jody Cupp
19th Blake Breyman
Jeannine Halkyard
20th Colbie Foehringer
29th Lily Thompson
30th Stephen Wills

ANNIVERSARIES

12th Sharon & Adolf Wendling 54 Yrs
14th Byron & Lynn Thorson 38 Yrs

*(If we missed YOUR birthday or
anniversary, please call the church office
and we'll have you added to the list!)*

Baptism – Owen Russel Duvick



MISSIONS

K.Y.K.S. SHOE MINISTRY

K.Y.K.S. is gearing up for our back to school shoe giveaway in the fall. If the Lord puts it on your heart to give a monetary donation, we would be happy to purchase shoes with it for the children that most need them. Please keep the KYKS ministry in your prayers.



Dear Friends in Christ,

The Mission Team, with approval from the Board of Trustees, has started a "food cabinet". Families don't just need food during the holidays. For many it's an ongoing issue.

The food in this cabinet will be distributed to members and friends of congregation members who have been identified as needing assistance. If you know of someone who needs a little help to get them by until the next payday or for a different reason, please contact Cathy Thompson, Vicki Kahn, or Paula Willig. They will give you a bag of food to give to the person in need.

This program is not for the general public. It is not our intention to supply food to someone who hears about it and just stops by for food. This program is meant for members and for us to help those we know. Anyone who comes to the church asking for food will be referred to "We Care" as has been the past practice.

The initial stocking of the cabinet was done through a grant for Seed Money through Thrivent. If you would like to get involved in this project, you can do so by donating any of the following:

- Canned meats
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned soups
- Canned stews or chili
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Granola bars
- Oatmeal

- Jarred pasta sauce
- Dried pasta

You can also make a cash/check donation designated for the "food cabinet". If you would prefer to purchase Aldi gift certificates, the Mission Team will use it to purchase more food as needed. When bringing in food donations, we ask that you clearly mark it for the FICLC food cabinet or take it directly to the first classroom on the left in the education wing and leave it on the table there.

Thank you for your support of this mission project!



LWML

The LWML will meet on Wednesday, May 4, at 10 a.m. at the church. We are continuing to collect items for our mission project, Operation Christmas Child.

We will have wonderful treats and a devotion.

LWML Zone 23 Elections took place, and two of our own were elected to office. Sue Seidler is our new Zone President, and Jody Cupp is our new Zone Vice President. Congratulations Sue and Jody! We know you will be a blessing to the Zone and to our society.

The June meeting will be in the evening next month, June 1 at 7 p.m. A special program is being planned.

Youth in the News...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our theme this year is BARNYARD ROUNDUP...JESUS GATHERS US TOGETHER!

JUNE 6-10, 2016
REGISTRATION ONLINE AT:
www.ficlc.org

Please prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry for the youth of both our congregation and our community.



YOUTH NIGHT

SUNDAY
MAY 15, 2016
5:00pm. - 8:00pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will meet until May 22nd, and then we will be off for the summer.

Sunday School will meet on May 1st at the same time as Voter's Meeting. We have some special fun planned.

THE SPARK OF THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

Human life begins in bright flash of light, scientists have shown for the first time, after capturing the astonishing 'fireworks' on film.

An explosion of tiny sparks erupts at the exact moment of conception. Scientists had seen the phenomenon occur in other animals but it is the first time it has been also shown to happen in humans.

To read the article and see the video of the flash go to:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/04/26/bright-flash-of-light-marks-incredible-moment-life-begins-when-s/>



JULY 16TH - 20TH
2016

Please pray for the youth attending.



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

May 2016 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	2	3 1pm - Euchre Club	4 10am - LWML 11:15am - VBS Meeting 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	5 Ascension Day	6	7 5:30pm - Worship
8 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	9 1pm - Senior Service	10 9am - Bible Study 4pm - Elders Meeting 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	11 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	12	13	14 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
15 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	16	17 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	18 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	19	20	21 5:30pm - Worship
22 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	23	24 9am - Bible Study	25 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	26 6pm - Trustees Meeting	27	28 5:30pm - Worship
29 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	30	31 9am - Bible Study	1 10am - LWML	2	3	4 Communion 5:30pm - Worship

Prayer Calendar

MAY 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Pray daily for Pastor Willig, our church staff and their families. Kathy Schwan, Nicole Decker, Sue Hasselbring and all missionaries all over the world. San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted.	Be with Pastor Willig as he is the Chairman of the Pastors conference for the week. Walk with him, guide him and give him that special peace only you can give Lord. Bless all who attend the conference.	Be with those in our congregation who can't attend church regularly. Help them to keep faith in You. Bless them Lord for they are going through tough times.	Lord People of the Book Lutheran Outreach are trying so hard to reach the ISIS community. Open hearts to hear your word so ISIS can believe and bring others to You. Please keep those who are doing the preaching of You safe from harm and danger.	We have so many things at church that we need to be done. Raise up a new group of people to do one thing in our church to help with something that needs doing.	Help us to accept what you have planned for us Lord. Jeremiah 29:11	Lord, as we get ready to attend church please prepare our hearts to hear Your Word and to worship You with all we have.
Lord, thank you for blessing us with spiritual gifts, which may be joyfully used to serve you. Rom. 12:6-8	Lord be with Christian Refugees in the Mideast. Help them to be strong and stand with you. Watch over their health and well being. Lead them to a safe place to raise their families where they can worship you without being persecuted.	Lord, bless Pastor and the Elders as they meet and spend time with You.	God, help us approach difficulty with hope. Col.3:15	Lord, be with those who are deaf help to heighten their other senses. It is difficult to sit in church and not be able to hear the Pastor speak but try to read their lips. Help this area to have a deaf ministry in a church so those that need signing for the service can be fed through signing like the rest of us as we hear the sermon.	Lord, give me the wisdom to be thankful for the gifts I do have, and not bitter about the things I don't have.	Father, we pray for strength and endurance. Col 1:11 Eph 3:16
Lord, Youth are very important to You and to our congregation. Help us to connect to the youth and help them to open their hearts to be accepting of You in their lives. Growing up can be so frustrating at times. Help them to find a safe place in our youth nights to relax and get to know you better while having fun.	Lord, prepare our youth that are going to the youth gathering in New Orleans. Put a hunger in their hearts to attend. Bless them and get them ready in their hearts, minds and souls to enjoy learning about You and give them a passion to bless others they will help along the way.	Lord, You ask for us to open the Bible and study. Bless those who attend Bible Study and help to grow their knowledge and faith in You. Grow this class so others can worship You by studying Your Word.	Especially Lord watch over the missionaries in Africa and the Mideast keep them safe and out of harms way. Help to open hearts and ears to hear Your word that the missionaries bring to share with others and help those who do not know You come to know You as their Savior.	Thank You Lord, for all You have done for us.	Lord be with all the children that get Samaritan's Purse boxes for Christmas. Bless all the children and help them to come to know You as their personal Savior.	Lord, in the midst of our life's frustrations, remind us to look to You for wholeness, comfort, love and peace that passes all understanding. Phil. 4:6-7
Lord, as we worship You and hear your Word help us to put into action what we hear.	Help us to shore each other up in church. We have so many who are hurting. Bless the wonderful people in our congregation.	Lord, many in our congregation have lost loved ones in the past year. Be with them and bring a peace that only you can bring. They hurt as they have lost their loved ones here on earth. Help them to realize being with You in heaven is the sweetest yet.	Help is needed for VBS. Lord put upon hearts of those that can help in our congregation. No matter what they think they can do we know with You Lord they can do anything.	Lord, be with Pastor and the Trustees as they make decisions for our church. Please give them discernment and listening skills to do things as You would have them done. To Your glory O Lord.	Lord, we pray for all our youth in the church. Help them as they walk in this world that is not as accepting as we would like it to be. Be with them each day and remind them that You love them and are always there for them. Bless our youth Lord.	Lord, as we see the need of others help open our hearts to help those who are in need.
Father, we pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Luke 11:13 Ph 3:19	Lord, You alone know who will attend VBS. Be with the children and adults who help and attend. Bless all who walk in the doors of the Church and help them to get to know You.	Lord, we pray that You will be glorified when we minister to people in need. Romans 15:6				

Luther's Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

*In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*I thank you, my heavenly
Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You
have kept me this night from
all harm and danger; and I
pray that You would keep
me this day also from sin
and every evil, that all my
doings and life may please
You. For into Your hands I
commend myself, my body
and soul, and all things. Let
Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no
power over me. Amen.*



Lily Praying with Kitty

*Martin Luther wrote two short
prayers for individuals and families
to use in the morning after waking
and in the evening before going to
sleep. These lovely prayers, taken
from Dr. Luther's Small Catechism,
can help you begin and end each day
with the Lord.*

Luther's Evening Prayer

*In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*I thank you, my heavenly
Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that
You have graciously kept
me this day; and I pray that
You would forgive me all
my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep
me this night. For into Your
hands, I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all
things. Let Your holy angel
be with me, that the evil foe
may have no power over
me. Amen.*