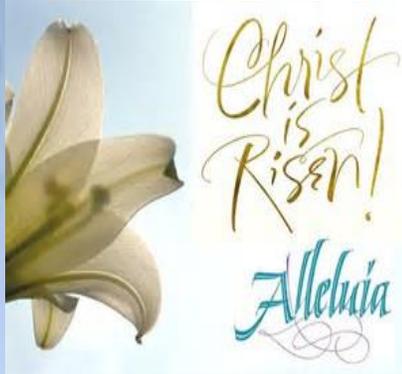


# Friends in Christ News

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

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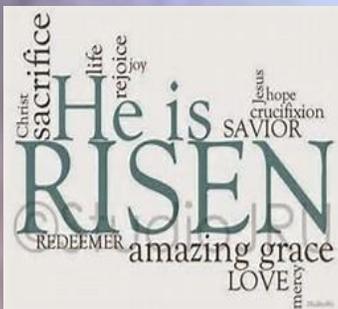
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## Come worship with us

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.)

“Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!” –  
 “Ok, so what does that have to do with me?”



That’s not the Easter Response!

But that is the reaction of many in our day. How come?

It’s not so much a denial – to disagree and say: “It did not happen.”  
 It is more a matter of indifference – a “so what” or an “I’m too busy.”

To Christians deeply committed to our faith that is confusing. How can it not matter in a way that changes and moves the entire earth that Jesus told in advance what He was going to do (up to Jerusalem where He would suffer and die; and on the third day rise from the dead); and then He did it. He died, in fact was executed by professionals in executing people. He was in the tomb from Friday to the beginning of Sunday. And He re-vivified His body; and glorified it besides! How can that be a “Hohum, we know all that. Let’s talk about something interesting”?

It might be that we have lost touch with basic things. Maybe we have lost touch with our “dustness.”

“Dustness” meaning the stuff of the earth. Like when an old farmer goes out in the field and takes some of the soil and rolls it around in his hands; and then says, “This part of the field needs a little more \_\_\_\_\_.” It is being in touch with the stuff that we were made of. Adam made from the dust of the earth (Adamah) and given the name Adam – dust, or earth, or clay, or dirt.

We know it is good for us; being in touch with

(Continued on page 2)

## Save the Date:

<b>MAY 1:</b>	LWML	10:00 a.m.
<b>MAY 4:</b>	LWML Spring Rally	8:30 a.m.
<b>MAY 5:</b>	<b>VOTER’S Assembly</b>	9:00 a.m.
	Confirmation	Noon
<b>MAY 12:</b>	Mother’s Day	---
<b>MAY 13:</b>	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
<b>MAY 14:</b>	Friendly Seniors	11:30 a.m.
	Elder’s Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<b>MAY 16:</b>	St. Vincent’s Table	5:00 p.m.
<b>MAY 19:</b>	Confirmation	Noon
	Laura Ruedin Music Recital	2:00 p.m.
	Youth Night	12:30 p.m.
	<b>Looking Ahead...</b>	
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	NYG Youth Spaghetti Supper	4:30 p.m.
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	VBS – One Day Event	9:00 a.m.

*(Continued from page 1)*

the soil. We know this every time we plant a tree or put in a garden. Our children know this every time a little boy plays in the mud, or a little girl helps grandma plant some flowers. It is “dustness” and it connects us with our roots and with what we are from – and, yes, with our future. “Dust you are and to dust shall you return.”

When we say, “Christ is risen” we are saying first that Jesus has joined us in our “dustness.” God has chosen to share in being dust. (Pause to think about just how amazing that is!)

And then as we say, “Christ is risen!” we are saying: He has broken the pattern, “to dust shall you return.”

It looked unavoidable. No matter how hard we tried to ignore the basic fact, the dust was just biding its time and waiting.

It looked permanent, and we tried even harder to ignore it all. We went to the movie and we sang the song “Circle of Life” and pretended it made something better. We watched the Olympics and maybe even swayed to the lyrics of “Imagine there’s no Heaven,” and so many of us pretended that if we got into it and had the “feel-goods” for a while we wouldn’t have to think about it. But the “dustness” simply waited, and there it was in our quiet moments. And it took more and more to distract ourselves and not think about it. And finally, no amount of distractions and entertainment work anymore. The whole world lived in the shadow of death.

But then Jesus.

Everything that He is breaks the pattern. The eternal comes to be dust – all the way and into death; and then that dust rises!

Everyone around “knew better.” Dust that has died doesn’t do that! Pilate, Caiaphas, all the roman soldiers and every disciple, all to a man testify to that. Dust is dust, and dust returns to dust and stays dust. But then Jesus ...

What does it matter that Jesus is risen?

Christians around the world facing persecution know how much it matters. We heard about Sri Lankan Christians on Easter morning. Christians in many places are close to their “dustness.” They could return to dust any time and any day – but Jesus lives. Christ is risen! And being in touch with their “dustness” keeps them connected with why Jesus came in the first place; to rescue us taking this dust and giving it eternal life. So they face the basic truths, and they hold onto the truth of Jesus rising as even more important than their life in this world, because it is.

But you don’t have to go to the other side of the world to see how much it matters that “Christ is risen.”

Christians all around us know the truth of being dust as they face hardship, turmoil, illness and tragedy. Look in the faces of Christians who have walked the real stuff, the hard days and times; and listen to how they say it on Easter, “He is risen indeed!”

We know deeply how much it matters that our Lord Jesus has broken the back of the final enemy – facing death, going into death, and defeating death.

There is no one else who can make this promise to me, that after this body has died and has long since rotted away, He will come back, raise it to life, put it all back together and I will live. No one else even dares to make such a claim. Jesus is the only one who claims He can raise me to life again. He says this and He showed He could do it – in His own body.

This is the real intruding into the real. The reality of God stepping into our reality.

And as He does, Jesus takes our “dustness” and transforms it into Him sharing our humanity, and us sharing His eternity. And nothing can ever be the same anymore.

Christ is Risen.

Pastor Mark (1 Corinthians 2:2)



**He is not here. He is risen!**



Our next meeting will be on  
**Wednesday - May 1<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**

**Servers: De Kirchhoff & Deb Krugler**

Our meeting time in May will be devoted to working on preparations for the Spring Rally happening on May 4, 2019.



**The FICLC LWML**  
will be hosting the

**LWML ZONE 7  
SPRING RALLY**

**Saturday  
May 4, 2019**

Special Emphasis on  
Young Women in LWML

**LWML Grant # 21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips** – MOST Ministries provides for families to participate in short term missionary trips. More than 5300 short term missionaries have used their gifts in ministry to reach out to the people of the world, sharing the Gospel in almost 50 countries, thus impacting more than 200,000 lives for Christ. The mission of MOST Ministries is to impact the world for Jesus Christ, sharing the Gospel and providing physical aid through short term missions. This grant will provide for half the cost of the trip enabling many more families to participate in sharing the Gospel. For more information about this grant go to [www.lwml.org/2017-2019-mission-grant-21](http://www.lwml.org/2017-2019-mission-grant-21).

## Missions

### **St. Vincent's Table**

**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner is served from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
(Please arrive at 4:00 for set-up)

### **We Care of Grundy County**

(530 Bedford Road, Morris, IL)

### **Open House**

**Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Join us as we celebrate 40 years of caring with our very special guest, Shirley Kiss!

Appetizers and Beverages will be served.

Be sure to wish Shirley a Happy Birthday!

# YOUTH

# HAPPENINGS

*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers and example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.* -Timothy 4:12

## YOUTH NIGHT

We had such a good time swimming last month! Not too many people felt like swimming in the chilly spring weather so we had the [indoor] pool all to ourselves!

Our next Youth Night:  
**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 – 3:00(ish)**

We'll start with a pizza lunch followed by games and a music recital featuring Laura Ruedin.

*Who knew we had so many cute, little mermaids in our congregation?*

*(L to R from top:) Kale Willig, Aiden Willig, Elicia Kirk and Signey Carter*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



### **GONE FISHIN'!**

**THURSDAY JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>  
 9:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m.**

*Don't let this fun event be "the one that got away"!!*

This year we will have a **ONE-DAY ONLY**

VBS Event Extravaganza.

***Fun will be had and lunch will be served!***

Our theme this year is "Gone Fishing." Plan to join us for the VBS one day celebration.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last day of Sunday School will on May 26<sup>th</sup> but that doesn't mean the learning (and fun) will be ending! Kids, along with their families, are encouraged to join Pastor's Bible Study (between the Sunday services) during the summer!

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

**REAL. PRESENT. GOD.**

(July 10 – 15, 2019)

Come join the youth for a Spaghetti Supper! Any free-will donations that are collected will go towards the National Youth Gathering taking place this July in Minneapolis.

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church to give us an idea of how many to prepare for.



**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019**

**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

*(Let us do the cooking for you tonight!)*

**SENIOR SERVICE**

**MONDAY, MAY 13**

**1:00 P.M.**

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

**FRIENDLY SENIORS**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14**

**11:30 A.M.**

We will be meeting at **CHILI'S Restaurant** in Morris. Please call Jerald & Connie Van Heiden by May 6<sup>th</sup> at **815/941-1139** if you plan on attending. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Ryan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wade Tondini
- 4<sup>th</sup> Eileen Tondini
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ruth Johnson  
Ken Wiegand
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jody Cupp
- 19<sup>th</sup> Blake Breyman  
Jeannine Halkyard
- 20<sup>th</sup> Colbie Foehringer
- 29<sup>th</sup> Lily Thompson
- 30<sup>th</sup> Stephen Wills

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

*~ Romans*

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

- |                  |                         |          |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Stephen & Cynthia Jelm  | 34 years |
|                  | Adolf & Sharon Wendling | 56 years |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Byron & Lynn Thorson    | 41 years |



*Spring Music Recital*

**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019**

**2:00 P.M.**

Laura Ruedin is a young lady in our congregation who enjoys singing and playing the piano. Join us on May 19<sup>th</sup> for a beautiful presentation given by Laura, showcasing musical selections that she has been working on over the last couple of years.

*(Answers to Crossword Puzzle on page 6)*

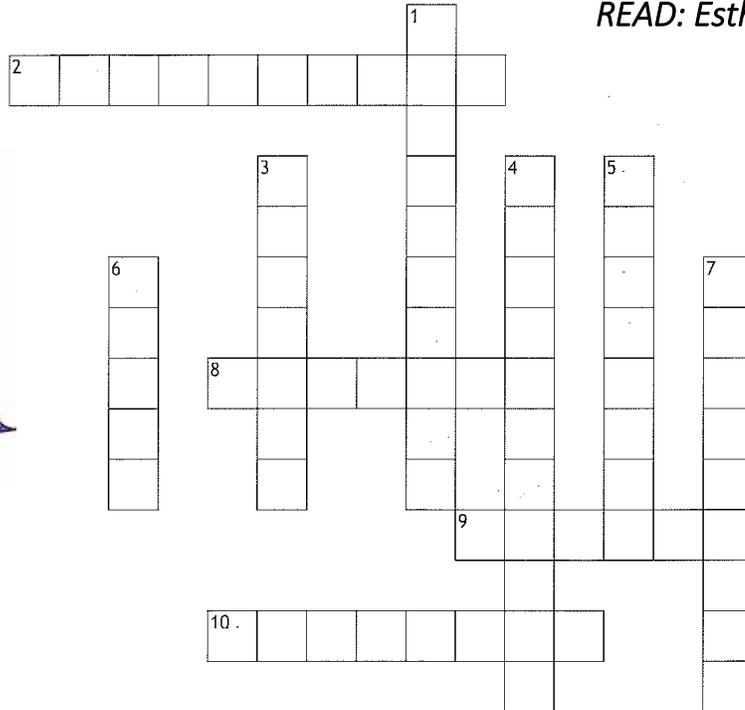
*(ACROSS) 2-Signet Ring, 8-Hommage, 9-Vashti, 10-Mordecai*

*(DOWN) 1-Annihilate, 3-Gallows, 4-Wicked Haman, 5-Hadassah, 6-Feast, 7-Beautiful*

# Just for fun...

## Esther Saves the Jews

READ: Esther 1 - 7



**Across**

- 2. Important, special piece of jewelry (Es. 3:12)
- 8. Something you pay - but Mordecai didn't (Es. 3:2)
- 9. The queen who refused to come (Es. 1:12)
- 10. A Jewish person from Susa (Es. 2:5)

**Down**

- 1. To kill all (Es. 3:13)
- 3. No place you want to hang around (Es. 5:14)
- 4. The bad guy in the story (Es. 7:6)
- 5. Esther's Jewish name (Es. 2:7)
- 6. An extravagant supper (Es. 5:4)
- 7. Lovely to look at (Es. 2:7)

(Answers on page 5)

Puzzle created at wordmint.com

## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019



General Fund	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 10,883.11	\$ 12,030.32	\$ 13,407.62			\$ 36,321.05	\$ 40,995.00
Expenses	\$ 12,165.80	\$ 13,678.43	\$ 14,175.60			\$ 40,019.83	\$ 40,959.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (1,282.69)	\$ (1,648.11)	\$ (767.98)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,698.78)	\$ 36.00

# Prayer Calendar

# MAY 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Debbie, Kris and their families. We pray for all Christians especially those who are persecuted for their faith. Be with us and make us strong in You O Lord.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Lord, Thank You for Your gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29:12-13</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Lord Thank You for Your greatness, Your goodness, and Your Love; please help me draw closer to You. John 10:28</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>We thank you for our gift of time Lord. Please help us to prioritize our time and give more of it where You are concerned.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Put upon our hearts Lord to do what You want us to do as a congregation not what we want but what is Your will.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Pray that we seek opportunities to witness and to invite people to Friends in Christ.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Lord, we thank You for deaf ministry. Bless congregations that provide this service.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>We Thank You for each other and ask You to grow us as a mission congregation. Show us the needs and open our hearts to help us give of time and money to help with Your work Lord.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>We ask You to put upon hearts of those You would have step up and help with Vacation Bible School.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Help us to minister to the youth families especially those that need to be reached.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Pray that individuals and ministries will become increasingly aligned with God's Mission for Friends in Christ.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>We pray that we will put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Pray that God would comfort those among us that are ill or going through difficult times.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Pray that God would grant us spirits of extreme gratitude for all He has entrusted to us.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Pray that the Lord would shore up single parents and their children.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Pray that God will raise up a new wave of people strategically serving.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Pray that weekly worship be a priority for all in the Body of Christ.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>As we partake of Communion we ask that You help us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us and through his grace he cleanses our sins.</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>We pray that the Lord would bless our friends and loved ones. Help them come to know You Lord.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Show us the needs and open our hearts to move us to give of time and money to help with Your mission in the world, Lord.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Lord during our more challenging times on this earth please bring us to trust You more deeply.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Lord, create in us a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Psalm 51:10</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Lord, teach us to rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance, character and hope. Romans 5:1-11</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Father, I pray for forgiveness for my sins and for the ability to accept Your forgiveness.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Lord, when I struggle to make decisions and the path isn't clear, lead me in the way I should go. Psalm 32:8</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Pray that the Lord would give wisdom and guidance to our church and political leaders in this world.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Lord, etch onto our hearts that all things are possible for those who believe. Ezek. 37:1-14</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Thank You for having Jesus come to us in the likeness of men so we can use His examples and lay our sins at the cross.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>As Brothers and Sisters in Christ help us to make decisions that are pleasing in Gods eyes and treat each other as God would. Eph. 4:32</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Pray that we will develop a praying heart, worshiping, praising, and thanking God as we see His hand of blessing extended to us.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>We pray that our youth would come closer to You Lord.</p>	

# May 2019 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Early Notes for June: <b>6/2 (Sunday) 4:30 – 6:30 PM Youth Spaghetti Dinner</b> <b>6/6 Vacation Bible School One Day Event 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM</b>			1 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League	2 11 AM – Bd of Outreach & Missions 4:00 PM Board of Stewardship & Christian Life	3	4 <b>8:30-11 AM LWML Spring Zone Rally</b>  5:30 PM – Worship with <b>COMMUNION</b>
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter 8:15 AM – Worship <b>9:00 AM – Voters’ Assembly</b> 9:30 AM – Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation 5:00 PM – Cinco de Mayo @ San Pablo, Aurora	6	7 9:00 AM – Bible Study 1:00 PM – Euchre Club 7:00 PM – Elders	8	9	10	11 5:30 PM – Worship
12 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter <b>Mothers’ Day</b> 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45 AM – Worship	13 1:00 PM – Senior Service	14 9:00 AM – Bible Study 11:30 AM – Friendly Seniors @ Chili’s	15	16 4:00 PM – St. Vincent’s Table @ First Presbyterian	17	18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
19 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation 2:00 PM – Laura Ruedin Recital 12:30-3:00 (ish) – Youth Night	20 10:00 AM – Park Pointe	21 Northern Illinois District – Spring Pastors’ Conference @ Concordia, River Forest	22	23	24	25 5:30 PM – Worship
26 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45 AM – Worship	27	28 9:00 AM – Bible Study	29	30 <b>Ascension Day</b> 7:00 PM – Worship with <b>COMMUNION</b>	31	