

March 2016

Friends In Christ News

IN THIS EDITION

- Schedule of Services
- Youth Night Pictures
- In the Family
- LWML
- Friendly Seniors
- Missions

IMPORTANT DATES

- ✠ Monday, March 14 –
1:00 p.m. Senior Service
- ✠ Sunday, March 20 –
Confirmation Sunday
- ✠ Confirmation
Service at 8:15
- ✠ Reception at 9:30
- ✠ Thursday, March 24 –
Maundy Thursday
- ✠ Friday, March 25 –
Good Friday
Nursing Home Services
- ✠ Sunday, March 27 –
Easter: Christ Is Risen!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 20 is Confirmation Sunday

The Confirmation Service is at 8:15

Confirmation Reception is at 9:30

Our confirmands are Laina Johnson and Paige Thorson

Through the month of March remember to keep Laina and Paige in your prayers.

Celebrate with them at their Confirmation and First Communion.

Pastor's Article

? The Two Kingdoms ?

The Kingdom of the Left Hand The Kingdom of the Right Hand
Yes, The Two Kingdoms!

I think that right in the middle of a presidential campaign is a good time to remind ourselves of the "Good Old Lutheran Doctrine" of The Two Kingdoms. Do you remember what that is? Do you remember what they are? (Lutherans are pretty good at coming up with doctrines. We are so good at it we even have a doctrine about what we don't have doctrines about! We have defined what we cannot define – and it's pretty cool when you know how it works! But that's for another time.)

1. What is it? What are they?

First, Jesus rules all things. It's not just us saying it. And it's not just the Bible saying it. Jesus rules all things. The Father has put all things under His control, and all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him.

(Continued on p.2)

Easter Lily Sign-Up

Please sign up to donate an Easter Lily. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin table or feel free to call the church office. Cost is \$15.00 – checks may be made out to FICLC.





2. Is that the two Kingdoms – heaven and earth?

No, that is not. The *Good Old Lutheran Doctrine* (notice what that spells? Pretty clever, huh?) – the G.O.L.D. of the Two Kingdoms is talking about something else entirely. And while Jesus does rule in heaven and on earth those are the kingdoms of the right hand and left hand.

3. So what are they? How long are you going to string this out?

I was having fun. But okay.

The Kingdom of the Right Hand is the spiritual kingdom. It has to do with salvation and with forgiveness of sin. It has to do with the Word of God and the Means of Grace – with everything Jesus has done and is still doing to rule in our hearts so that we can share in eternal life with Him. It is Jesus gathering His Church, all who call on His name and belong to Him.

The Kingdom of the Right Hand is a spiritual kingdom. It has nothing to do with the laws that govern a nation, or the prosperity of a people, or the hundreds of ways we think the laws of our land should be formed, enacted or administered. It is the spiritual kingdom called into being by the Holy Spirit who speaks the Gospel into our souls, and then spreads the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ through the whole world.

So Jesus' Kingdom of the Right Hand is both in heaven and on earth. This is because there are believers in Jesus both in heaven and on earth.

4. OK. What then is the Kingdom of the Left Hand?

We also believe (because the Bible teaches it and because Jesus said it) that God is in charge and rules even over the nations and powers in the world. He does this so we will have order in this world. In addition to being Christians we are also citizens of this nation. We pray that God will raise up rulers who will do what is right and good.

The Kingdom of the Left Hand is there to bring peace and order, the daily blessings and needs of the people of our land. Looking back in our catechism we might notice that the things of the Kingdom of the Left Hand are the same things named under the first article of the Creed – clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle and all my goods. They are the things that have to do with the support and needs of the body.

A lot of those things do not require any sort of spiritual wisdom on the part of our leaders. What they call for is practical wisdom. (And, of course, God gives that wisdom too.)

(Continued on p. 3)

5. Which kingdom are we a part of?

We are citizens of both kingdoms. We have duties to both kingdoms. And that sometimes calls for the Christian to be wise, mature, and patient. God reminds us that we are citizens of the heavenly kingdom. We look for a city made by and founded by God. But we live in this world.

6. Why can't we just work at establishing God's Kingdom and rule in this world?

It was never the plan of God for us to believe that this world is our home; or this nation is the kingdom of God; or that we could impose a spiritual kingdom in this worldly place. Paul says we are to be in the world but not of the world. We look for and wait for the revealing that will happen when Jesus comes back. Until then we are living in a foreign land.

Sometimes we look around and we do not seem all that out of place. But sometimes it is almost painfully clear that we do not fit in. Sometimes everything around us makes sense and other times everything seems like "opposite world." All the way back in the Psalms of the Old Testament, King David and others wondered why the ruthless seem to flourish and the good seem to be cut off. The one flourishes because he fits in; the other has a hard time because he insists on believing that there is a right and a wrong, and seeks to live his life in a relationship with God. That does not fit well with those who live for now, who believe that this life is all that matters, and are indulging in the desires of each day. We see this whole thing happening all around us. We remind ourselves and we encourage others to remember that we are a part of the only kingdom that will never pass away. We, and what we belong to, and the One who watches over us are going to be here long after everything else has fallen apart. So hang on and trust Jesus who has promised you much more than anyone in this world ever could.

All this goes back to the words of Jesus who said, "My kingdom is not of this world." He offers something else and a thing we will never find in this world or this life.

So part of this G.O.L.D. (*Good Old Lutheran Doctrine*) is that Jesus calls us to greater, higher and better things. It is a call and a challenge.

7. But shouldn't we try to elect only Christians?

Through the Kingdom of the Left hand God takes care of the needs for this life and world. We do want the Kingdom of the Left Hand to recognize and encourage the spread of the Gospel and salvation. One of the interesting quotes from Martin Luther is "I would rather be ruled by a wise Turk than a foolish Christian."

They are related but . . . The two kingdoms have very different concerns, wisdoms, and rules. Trying to carry the wisdom and rules of the one into the other can lead to an absolute mess. For example, a policeman is not to turn the other cheek when assaulted by the bank robber; and the Pastor does not jail the member who fails to attend church. Those things would be ridiculous. The matters of the Two Kingdoms have to be kept in balance, with a recognition of what is appropriate to each.

The particular genius of our nation is just this: Recognizing that our freedoms and rights do not come from any ruler, nation, or political system, but from God. To recognize that there is a "greater than . . ." is a surprising thing to see in any nation anywhere in history. That we are privileged to live in such a time a place is truly special – because it is rare; because it is not the normal instinct of the rulers of the kingdoms of this world. And so we pray, diligently.



Pastor's Article (con't)



8. So should we drop out and be separate from the world and everything in it?

Remember what Paul said, "In the world but not of it." Listen to what Jesus prayed just before going to Gethsemane and then to the cross, "[Father] I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." We have been sent. "We're on a mission from God!" (Yes, that was from the Blues Brothers.) Our mission is from Jesus, "You will be My witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

9. So how then do I live as a Citizen of the Kingdom of the Left Hand?

Live as a good citizen of this nation. Obey the laws, only disobeying when they are in direct conflict with the express and clear word of God, and if you must disobey do so how Peter says, "with gentleness and respect" realizing that the greater concern is not for your rights or your comfort but for the souls of the people God has led you to.

Do your civic duty. Vote, because you are called on to do so as a citizen of this nation. Even realize that a non-Christian with wisdom that is proper for the Kingdom of the Left Hand may be used by God better than a Christian who has wisdom that fits better with the Kingdom of the Right Hand than the Kingdom of the Left. Be a part of the life of this nation, and do so with prayer.

And most of all live in this world with faith. Know that Jesus is still King of kings and Lord of lords. He is in control. He is faithful and He will bring us into His everlasting kingdom, glory and life.

Pastor Mark

LENT CONTINUES...

As Jesus was on His way to the cross there were a series of encounters.

These are the "look you in the eye and tell you what is in your soul" kind of encounters.

As Jesus was going to save the world He also reached out individually and called a number of different people to turn, to believe in, to follow, and have life through Him.

Evangelism on the Way to the Cross

March 2 – The Religious Establishment (The Ruling Council)

John 18:19-23; Matthew 26:59-64

March 9 – Pilate the Governor

John 18:33-37; 19:6-11

March 16 – The Soldiers

Mark 15:16-20; Luke 23:33-34, 47

March 24 (Maundy Thursday) – The Disciples
Luke 22:14-27

March 25 (Good Friday) – The Thief, Jesus' Mother, and All Sinners



Evangelism After the Cross

March 27 (Easter):

Sunrise (6:30 a.m.) – Mary Magdalene

Morning (8:15 a.m.) – The Women

April 4 (Easter 2) – Two Disciples on the Road

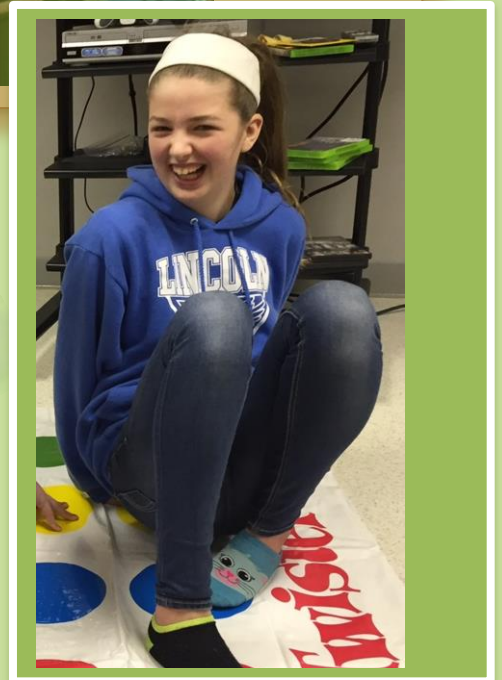
April 11 (Easter 3) – The Disciples in the Upper Room

April 18 (Easter 4) – He is the Good Shepherd who gives eternal life.

Youth in the News...

YOUTH NIGHT!

Friends in Christ held its first monthly Youth Night on February 21st. There were 8 youth in attendance. Youth nights will be held on the third Sunday of every month from 5-8 PM. The evening will consist of a light supper, Bible study, and recreation time. Any members who wish to help out in any capacity with Youth Nights should contact Cathy Thompson or Pastor Willig.



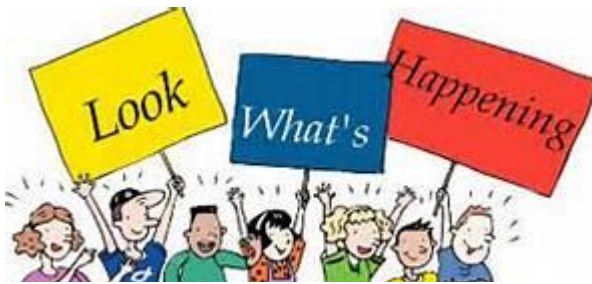
(This space reserved for)
IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

Hi! What's new with YOU?

We are starting a new column!

Do you have some news you'd like to share about events and "happenings" going on in your life? Here are some ideas:

- ✓ New birth?
- ✓ Weddings?
- ✓ Special anniversaries?
- ✓ Special birthdays?
- ✓ Anything else you'd like to share with your Friends in Christ...



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

SAVE THE DATES! JUNE 6-10, 2016

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st Laurie Applebee
 Greg Carlson
 4th Bonnie Rydell Nelson
 5th Alora Carlson
 Keith Larson
 7th Deb Carter
 8th Bob Wills

9th Pat Schultz
 11th Greg Johnson
 15th Susan Seidler
 Paula Willig
 16th Aaron Applebee
 19th Richard Enervold
 20th Mary Alice Peterson

23rd Austin Applebee
 Georgette Walker
 25th Ryan Kennedy
 29th Ella Pool
 30th Scott Halkyard
 Amanda Krugler

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Gary and Terri Gillette
 4th Bob and Alice Hunt

10 years
 55 years

LWML

Meeting March 2 at 10 am

Come and learn a wee bit about St. Patrick, and the Luck O' the Irish from a Christian perspective. We have adopted Operation Christmas Child as an LWML project, so that we can fill more shoe boxes this year. ***Remember to bring a little something for the shoe boxes each month.***



FRIENDLY SENIORS

This month we enjoyed a wonderful meal at R's Place. Next month we will continue to meet for lunch. In April we will switch back to the evening meal. Our next get together will be at Maria's Restaurant at 11:30 on March 8th (the second Tuesday of March). Come join us.



MISSIONS

Easter Gifts:

The Mission Team is collecting money and Aldi's gift certificates to be given to the 14 families we want to bless this Easter. You can leave your donations in the marked collection box in the back of the church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	29	1 9am - Bible Study 1pm - No Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	2 10am - LWML 5pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship 7:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	3	4	5 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
6 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	7	8 9am - Bible Study 11:30am - Friendly Srs.	9 5pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship 7:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	10	11	12 5:30pm - Worship
13 Time Change Forward 1 Hour 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	14 1pm - Senior Service	15 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	16 5pm - 8th Gd Conf 7pm - Worship 7:30pm - 7th Gd Conf	17	18	19 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
20 Palm Sunday Communion 8:15am - Conf. Service 9:30am - Reception 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	21	22 9am - Bible Study	23 7pm - 7th Gd Conf	24 Maundy Thursday Communion 7pm - Worship	25 Good Friday Nursing Homes 1pm - Assisted Living 2pm - Park Pointe 3pm - Regency Care 7pm - Worship	26
27 Easter Communion 6:30am - Worship 7:30am - Easter Bkfst 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Easter Bkfst	28	29 9am - Bible Study	30 7pm - 7th Gd Conf	31 7pm - Trustees Meeting	1	2 Communion 5:30pm - Worship

Prayer Calendar

MARCH 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig and our church staff and their families. Kathy Schwan, Nicole Decker, Sue Hasselbring and all missionaries all over the world. Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lord, be with those in deaf ministry. Help this special ministry grow in all areas so we can all be fed your Word.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>God, help me develop strong self esteem rooted in the realization that I am your workmanship. Eph. 2:10</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lord, may I regard your Word as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey. Psalm 19:10</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, help me to show proper respect to everyone, as your Word commands. 1 Peter 2:17</p>
<p>6</p> <p>God of hope, grant my life that it overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lord, I pray I would be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 2:18</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lord, help me to not be like many others, but to be alert and self-controlled in all I do. 1 Thessalonians 5:6</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in my life. Psalm 51:10</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Father, grant that I will learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who lives in me. Eph. 5:2</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Father, I pray that I would be kind to others. 1 Thess. 5:15</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Father God, help me to make every effort to do what leads to peace. Romans 14:19</p>
<p>13</p> <p>God, help me to love justice as you do and act justly in all I do. Psalm 11:7 Micah 6:8</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Holy Father, I pray that you would clothe me with the virtue of compassion. Colossians 3:12</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lord, may I always be strong and courageous in my character and their actions. Deut. 31:6</p>	<p>16</p> <p>I pray that I may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Heavenly Father, grant me a heart filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thess. 1:6</p>	<p>18</p> <p>God, please cultivate in me the ability to show true humility toward all. Titus 3:2</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lord, teach me to persevere in all I do, and help me run with perseverance, the race set before me. Hebrews 12:1</p>
<p>20</p> <p>I pray that I would fearlessly make known the Gospel of Christ to others. Eph. 6:19</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lord, grant me the ability to learn to be responsible, for each one should carry their own load. Galatians 6:5</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Oh Father, grant that I would be full of mercy and compassion as you are, Lord. James 5:11</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Father, teach me the secret of being content in every situation, through Him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:12-13</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Let faithfulness never leave me, but bind this virtue around my neck. Prov. 3:3</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lord, help me to fight the good fight of faith, taking hold of the eternal life to which I am called. 1 Tim. 6:12</p>	<p>26</p> <p>God, help me to develop a servant's heart, that I may serve wholeheartedly. Eph. 6:7</p>
<p>27</p> <p>He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!</p>	<p>28</p> <p>God, strengthen me with all power, so that I may have great endurance and patience. Galatians 5:22</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lord, I pray my soul would pant for you as a deer pants for streams of water. Psalm 42:1</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Father, I pray that you would generously give wisdom to me as you promised. James 1:5</p>	<p>31</p> <p>I ask that you keep me committed to prayer. Help me to pray first then do. Luke 18:1</p>		<p>Friends to Christ Lutheran Church Marin, Illinois</p>