

Friends Bringing Friends to Christ

Friends in Christ News

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

Give
thanks
to the
LORD
for He is good
His love endures
f o r e v e r

Join us at our
Thanksgiving
Worship Service:

Wednesday, November 22
7:00 p.m.

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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

Counting the Years

Three – It will soon be 3 years since we moved to our current location.

Forty Three – It was 43 years ago (1974) that the architect wrote “Altar Alcove” on the blueprints; bringing, 40 years before ever we prayed, a part God’s answer to our prayers of a little over 3 years ago asking where we were going to put our altar and where we were going to have a place to worship.

One Hundred Eight – Those are the number of years that Cubs fans counted waiting for the next World Series championship.

Two Hundred Forty One – That is how long it has been since 1776 when our nation became a nation; declaring that “all men are created equal” and “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights”.

(Continued on p.2)

Save the Date!

NOV 2:	St. Vincent's Table	4:00 p.m.
NOV 7:	Euchre Club	1:00 p.m.
NOV 13:	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
NOV 14:	Friendly Seniors	11:00 a.m.
NOV 19:	Youth Day	(TBA)
	<i>(Looking ahead)</i>	
DEC 6:	LWML	6:00 p.m.



Office Hours
10:00 a.m. –
1:00 p.m.

Contact us:
office@ficle.org
815/941-1255

...Counting the Years *(Continued from p. 1)*

One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Seven – That is how long it has been since 30 AD, a likely date for the first Easter. “Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed!” and we live in the age of the resurrection. It has already started. It began with Jesus. It continues with the souls in heaven. And it will continue until Jesus returns, raises and transforms the bodies of all who are His and we share completely in the resurrection.

? – How many years has it been since God made the first promise to Adam and Eve that He would come into this world, to carry our sins, and to conquer sin, death and the devil. How many generations waited to see what we have grown up knowing? Like the verse in Isaiah 25 says, “This is our God, we have waited for Him that He might save us.

?? – How long has it been since the first forming of the plan of salvation; back in the days of eternity before the first dust of the world was made; when God knew that we would fall into sin and the Father gave His Son the charge of coming to be born, to die and to rise for us? “Go forth, My Son,” the Father said, “And free My children from their dread Of guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear, But by Your passion they will share The fruit of Your salvation.” (LSB # 438 “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”, verse 2)

??? – How long will it be until Jesus returns and He gathers us to sing and celebrate?

This Sunday we celebrate All Saints Day as we look forward to being part of the “great multitude that no one could count from every nation and tribe and people and language.”

Later this month we will celebrate Christ the King, the last Sunday in the Church year. We are looking forward to the Great Celebration and the Great Reunion.

???? – And how long will we have after that? How long is eternity? “When we’ve been there 10,000 years, Bright shining as the sun, We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.” (Amazing Grace)

Later this month we will take time for a Thanksgiving Service. We will remember God’s blessings and sing about them. We will remember that He has been with us through difficult times and we will sing our hymns of praise. We will remember that Jesus promised to be with us to the end of the age and we will sing and pray our thanks to Him.

Counting the Years is a good exercise. Our days and years are measured out as our time of living in God’s grace. And that is the pattern for our whole existence now and in eternity.

Live Boldly in the Grace of God

Pastor Mark Willig

1 Corinthians 2:2



Senior Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:00 p.m.

Join us for worship and a fellowship luncheon immediately following. All are welcome!

Friendly Seniors

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 11:30 p.m.

ROMINE'S RESTAURANT

(1990 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL)

November Birthdays

- 1st Mary Heren
- 2nd Donna Carlson
Carol Hansen
- 3rd Barbara Jenkins
- 6th Lynn Thorson
- 8th Earlene Enervold
- 9th Alexander Applebee
Jeffrey VanHeiden
- 12th Dennis Gjerde
- 13th Delores Herman
Morgan Wills
Andrew Applebee
- 18th Judy Johnson
- 24th Kevin Olson
- 25th Dennie Thompson



Celebrations

- 11th Harry & Sharon Benner 55 years
- 24th Terry & Deb Carter 22 years
- Jerry & Kris Farber 28 years
- Gene & Carol Hansen 39 years
- 30th Gary & Pat Schultz 49 years



Financial Report

Friends in Church Lutheran Church 2017

General Fund	1ST QTR	2nd QTR	3RD QTR	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 30,188.51	\$ 37,705.61	\$ 38,104.01	\$ 105,998.13	\$ 106,335.00
Expenses	\$ 37,874.52	\$ 37,148.99	\$ 46,303.35	\$ 121,326.86	\$ 119,373.01
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (7,686.01)	\$ 556.62	\$ (8,199.34)	\$ (15,328.73)	\$ (13,038.01)

Building Maintenance Fund	YTD ACTUAL
Grundy County Bank	\$ 11,236.38
LCEF	\$ 40,978.83
Total	\$ 52,215.21



LWML will meet next on
Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 pm.

We will be hosting a potluck for the congregation before the Advent Service.
 We are asking all LWML members to bring a dish to pass

Below, please enjoy this LWML Mustard Seed Devotion

In the Word

Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, ... Proverbs 17:6a

Of the Word

Someone once joked, “Grandchildren are the reward for outlasting your children.” It has a grain of truth. Parents want to provide the best for their child just as God in Christ Jesus has provided the best for His children. Even though for earthly parents that desire often turns into a self-imposed obligation to be a “perfect” parent – which may create stress, mistakes and guilt – this is never the case for our perfect Heavenly Father.

Grandchildren are an entirely different story. A grandparent knows how quickly childhood passed and that perfection is impossible. A grandparent has learned that no chore is more important than playing; no book should remain unread; no paycheck can equal a welcome-home smile. A grandparent just wants to live in the present with this treasured “present” from God, our Gather.

When grandchildren run across a room for a hug, when you receive a kiss that tastes like jelly, when they cradle your face in their hands and include you in their prayers, you feel like royalty!

Walking with my Lord

Lord, thank You for the gift of grandchildren with whom I can share Your unconditional love. In Your joy-giving name I pray. Amen

(Below)

At our November meeting, our LWML ladies worked on fleece hats to go with hat/scarf/mitten sets for kids of local schools.





Having fun with FLAT MARTY! (Just WHERE in the world has he been??)



(Above) Watching a Martin Luther movie at Pastor's & Paula's Reformation Party

(Above and at right) Hanging out with a "Real" Marty and standing next to a Luther plaque at Concordia University of Chicago.

(At right) Attending an LWML District meeting in Belvidere, IL



(Above) At Al's Steakhouse, Joliet, IL

(Above) In Hermann, Missouri

(Above) Overlooking Casablanca

(Below) At a wedding in Yorkville, IL

(Below) At Freddie's restaurant, Mattoon, IL

(Below) In Paris with Sue Seidler



(Below) Having a snack at the Youth Benefit



THANKSGIVING DAY - 1942
By The President of The United States of America
A Proclamation

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." Across the uncertain ways of space and time our hearts echo those words, for the days are with us again when, at the gathering of the harvest, we solemnly express our dependence upon Almighty God. The final months of this year, now almost spent, find our Republic and the nations joined with it waging a battle on many fronts for the preservation of liberty. In giving thanks for the greatest harvest in the history of our nation, we who plant and reap can well resolve that in the year to come we will do all in our power to pass that milestone; for by our labors in the fields we can share some part of the sacrifice with our brothers and sons who wear the uniform of the United States. It is fitting that we recall now the reverent words of George Washington, "Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection," and that every American in his own way lift his voice to Heaven. I recommend that all of us bear in mind this great Psalm:

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. [Psalm 23]

Inspired with faith and courage by these words, let us turn again to the work that confronts us in this time of national emergency: in the armed services and the merchant marine; in factories and offices; on farms and in the mines; on highways, railways and airways; in other places of public service to the Nation; and in our homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, do hereby invite the attention of the people to the joint resolution of Congress approved December 26, 1941, which designates the fourth Thursday in November of each year as Thanksgiving Day' and I request that both Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1942, and New Year's Day, January 1, 1943, be observed in prayer, publicly and privately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

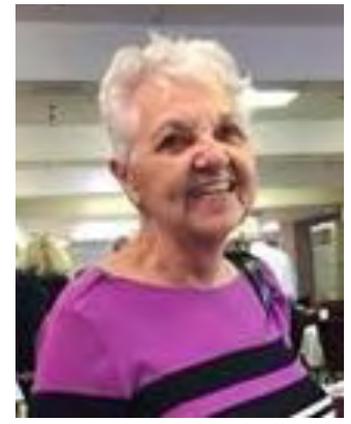
DONE at the City of Washington this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-seventh.



Franklin D. Roosevelt

YOUTH NIGHT

(Our Next Youth Night will be Sunday, November 19)



Serving for Stephanie

The kids served a delicious Chili dinner to help Chris and Stephanie pay for medical bills from her Cancer treatments. We had a wonderful turn out of people who were "hungry to help" alleviate the financial burden for this sweet family.



Pictionary Play

(Below)

Due to stormy weather, the bonfire itself was cancelled and the fun was moved indoors...





Advent & Christmas Season 2017

As we draw near to Christmas I pray that this time may be for you: A season of reflection on the amazing love of God; A time of renewal in your life; and a season of peace within your soul. We know the pull and draw of the manger. This is where everything can come together and just for a little while the turmoil and frantic pace of life slows down and we catch a glimpse of something eternal.

This is the real reason why this is an amazing time of year. We know deep down that God has changed everything. Jesus was born to be one of us. God walked with us, shared food with us, prayed for and with us, and opened heaven for us. He calls us back and what we find in Jesus is a grace that continues to amaze.

Pastor Mark Willig



Wednesday	11/22	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday	11/26	Christ the King Sunday: Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8:15 & 10:45	
Sunday	12/3	<i>(Advent Begins)</i>	

Midweek Services – “Waiting for the Son: Interviews with Old Testament Saints”

Wednesday	12/6	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek # 1 – Interview with Abraham
Sunday	12/10	<i>(Christmas Hymn Sing)</i>	
Wednesday	12/13	7:00 p.m.	Advent Midweek # 2 – Interview with Rahab of Jericho
Wednesday	12/20	7:00 p.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program
Saturday	12/23	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	12/24	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday	12/24	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service with Communion
Monday	12/25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Morning Service with Communion
Saturday	12/30	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	12/31	8:30 & 10:45 a.m.	New Years Eve Worship with Communion



Prayer Calendar

NOVEMBER 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries Iglesia San Pablo Church, everywhere, Deaf Ministry, People of the Book Outreach, Salam Christian Fellowship and Christians being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lord, You are showing us so many places we can do mission work. We thank You for these opportunities and ask for You to bless all those involved in doing Your work. Thank You for blessing our congregation as we help others.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Lord, thank You for Your constant presence, even when we fail to recognize it. Mark 6:50</p>	<p>4</p> <p>God, thank You for the simple things in our lives.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Lord, lead us to a deeper sense of joy during communion as we recall Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. Luke 22:19</p>	<p>6</p> <p>God fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel and are thankful for Your majesty. Psalm 126</p>	<p>7</p> <p>God, we Thank You for giving us Your Word as a guide through our lives. Help us to take time to study and use what we have learned to bring others to You. 1 Chronicles 22:13</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lord, thank you for giving me direction even when I struggle to make decisions. Help me to stay on the path that leads me to You.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lord, Thank You for the gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29:12-13</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lord, we pray that Friends in Christ be a warm and welcoming environment to all who enter God's place of worship.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lord, be with the missionaries with Salaam Christian Fellowship as they share Your Word to Muslims and others from the Middle East, North Africa and here in America. Keep them safe and give them the words to use to open hearts and bring many to know You.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Lord, be with us as we prepare our hearts to worship You. Thank You for giving us the opportunity to worship You openly.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Thank You for giving us a place to worship You. Help us not to take it for granted. Psalm 132:7</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord, I thank You for the hope of the resurrection. May I delight in Your Word and serve the needs of others. Romans 12:13</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lord, POBLO International Ministries is working to transform the way missions are approached in the USA. We ask Lord for you to enlighten them to come up with new ways to bring others to know You.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord, help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened to us the salvation of eternal life. Thank You Lord.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lord, we give You thanks, for You are good; Your love endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34</p>
<p>19</p> <p>We thank You Lord for our youth that get together for Christian fellowship. Help them to be hungry to know You better. Job 22:25 Deut. 30:2</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Lord, Thank You for the marvelous joy that comes from walking in the light of Your presence. Psalm 89:15</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lord be with those who have lost loved ones. Holiday times are tough for many. Have mercy on those who need you more at this time of year. Give them a special peace only you can give.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Thank You Lord for our families and friends.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lord, as we celebrate Thanksgiving today help us to remember to thank You for each other and all the blessings You have given us.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Lord, today starts what we know as the Holiday shopping season. Help us to stand back and realize what Christmas is really about. Jesus is the reason for the season.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Thank You Lord, for the missionaries that are going into North Korea to bring others to know You. Guide and guard them. Give them the words to teach Your Word and open hearts so others will believe. Keep them safe and protect their faith in You.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Father, as we celebrate Christ the King Sunday we are so thankful You sent Jesus to be our Savior. John 18:37</p>	<p>27</p> <p>God, I want Your Word to be deeply implanted in me so that I not only know the truth but also express it in the way I live. 1 Timothy 1:17 1 Peter 5:10-11</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Lord, I pray that my heart may sing to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give You thanks forever. Psalm 30:12</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lord, Thank You for the love that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Rom.5:5</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lord be with Pastor Willig, as we are celebrating Christmas. This season is especially taxing on a Pastor. Strengthen him and give him a special refreshing rest when he takes time for himself. Bless him Lord.</p>		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 4pm - Ref Serv, Aurora	30 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	31 Reformation Day 9am - Bible Study	1 10am - LWML	2 4pm - St Vincnts Table	3	4 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
5 Time Change All Saints Sunday Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	6 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	7 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	8	9	10	11 5:30pm - Worship
12 8:15am - Worship 9am - Voters' Assembly 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	13 1pm - Senior Service 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	14 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	15	16	17	18 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
19 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	20 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	21 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	22 Thanksgiving Eve 7pm - Worship	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 5:30pm - Worship
26 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	27 4:30pm - 8th Gd Conf	28 9am - Bible Study	29	30 7pm - Trustees Meeting	1	2 Advent Begins Communion 5:30pm - Worship