

NOVEMBER 2018

# Friends in Christ News

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

## In This Issue

PASTOR'S ARTICLE .....	1, 2
LWML .....	3
YOUTH .....	4
SENIOR SERVICE .....	5
FRIENDLY SENIORS .....	5
BIRTHDAYS .....	5
ANNIVERSARIES .....	5
FINANCIAL REPORT .....	5
Mustard Seed DEVOTION	6
PRAYER CALENDAR	7
CHURCH CALENDAR .....	8



## 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.)

## THANKSGIVING!

### Thanksgiving is a Confession of Faith

#### 1. When is Thanksgiving a Confession of Faith?

It happens a lot. It happens when there are problems in life. When the mood and the feeling of thanksgiving just isn't there. When we are troubled and uncertain. When we do not know what the future is going to bring. And when you put those together that is a whole lot of the time of our lives. When we "confess our faith" we are saying this: No matter what happens I believe that God is watching over me. He will guide me through all the things that confuse or trouble me. He will watch over my body and soul. And, finally, He will bring me into His victory and His eternal kingdom.

#### 2. A Confession of Faith is also a Claim. How Does That Work?

It's like I have been teaching about something we do that is so simple — the act of praying before our meals. When we pray before we eat we recognize that the food on our tables is a gift from God. Back in the Old Testament Moses said "when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses ... remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth, ..." (Deuteronomy 8:11-18) So we remember to thank God.

But in this act we are also claiming something. We are saying, "This meal is something special. This is not just pizza; this is pizza from God and it is a gift from Him because He loves us." <or> "This is not just a hamburger; this is a hamburger from God because He loves us." <or> "This is not just a turkey dinner with sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and apple pie; this is a turkey dinner with sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and an apple pie from God because He loves us."

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Save the Date:

NOV 4:	TURN CLOCKS BACK (Before bed on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	
	Fiesta San Pablo	5:00 p.m.
NOV 7:	LWML Meeting	10:00 a.m.
NOV 11:	Voter's Meeting	9:00 a.m.
NOV 12:	Senior Service	1:00 p.m.
NOV 13:	Friendly Seniors	11:30 a.m.
NOV 18:	Youth Day @ Echo Lanes	2:30 p.m.
NOV 21:	Thanksgiving Worship Service	7:00 p.m.
NOV 22:	-----THANKSGIVING DAY -----	

*(Continued from page 1)*

And that is quite a mouthful. (Even the Brussels Sprouts are a gift from God!)  
((P.S. I like Brussels Sprouts.))

And the lesson holds true in a wider sense:

Our prayers are claims — all over the place! They are us saying, “Here I go talking with God and knowing that He hears me because He has told me that He loves me and that is how I am going to do a prayer right now; as a child of God loved by God and destined for eternal life and celebrating with Jesus my Savior forever. Boom! That’s my claim!”

((Time to reign it in and get a little more humble.))

### **3. Thanksgiving is also Worship and Knowing that we are Mortal.**

**(That does not sound like a celebrating kind of thing. But, wait ... think about it.)**

To give our thanksgiving to God is to confess, to agree with God, that we are mortal and that all our blessings must be given to us by Him. We are not sufficient of ourselves. We are not strong enough or good enough - in summary we are created from the dust of the earth with the breath of life breathed into us, and it is a gift of God to be called to walk with God and know Him. In Old Testament language (sometimes the best language) when we give thanks we confess the relationship and the covenant we have with God.

What brought that to mind? It was an article about martyrs in the early history of the Church. It seems that part of what they said in front of kings and emperors was to confess God as their Creator.

I would have thought they would talk about the resurrection of the dead. Why would they talk about creation?

It has to do with the confession that we are mortal and that our life is given by God. He is the one who gives life and takes it away. If we have a personal relationship with the Giver of life then we do not have to worry about what governors or kings can do to us.

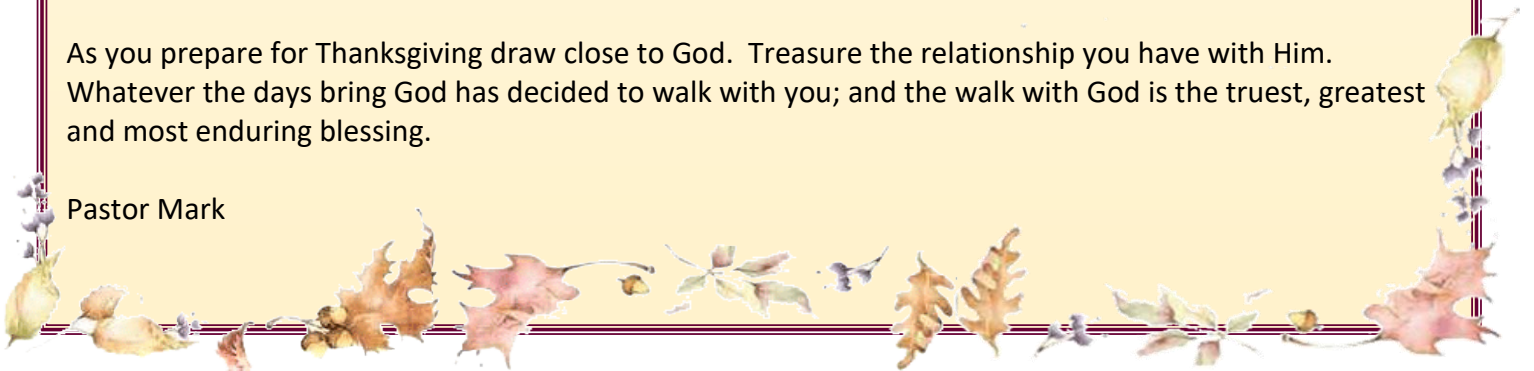
And that makes sense!

It means that our Thanksgiving does not depend on how well things are going right now. It means that God has joined Himself to us, and joined His life to our lives. And there is nothing that He cannot overcome or bring us through to the final celebration. Our Thanksgiving does not come or go with how well our lives are turning out; or whether we are healthy or sick; whether we are happy or struggling with problems; or whether we are safely at home or on a battlefield halfway around the world. Thanksgiving is part of our eternal relationship with God. Thanksgiving is because God has decided that He will continue to be our God and He said that is forever. And that is a powerful thing.

Jesus was getting ready to go to the cross, and He said to His disciples, "In a little while you will see Me no more, and then after a little while you will see Me. . . . I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." (John 16:16-22)

As you prepare for Thanksgiving draw close to God. Treasure the relationship you have with Him. Whatever the days bring God has decided to walk with you; and the walk with God is the truest, greatest and most enduring blessing.

Pastor Mark





Our next meeting will be on  
**Wednesday - November 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**

**Servers: Karen Thompson & Paula Willig**

Our meeting this month will be devoted to finalizing our plans for hosting the Spring Rally, April 27, 2019. Come and enjoy fellowship time together ... and bring your fabric scissors! We are creating something special that will contribute to our worship – something that can be enjoyed by the whole congregation.

**Looking forward** - Annual LWML Potluck - December 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM

## New Beginnings

Women's Help Center

(306 East High Street, Morris, IL 60450)

Baby Items: Lotion, Wash, Wipes, Diaper Cream, Diapers, Pull Ups

Personal Items: Bar Soap, Hand Soap, Body Wash, Denture Cream & Cleaner, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Hair Spray, Mousse, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Feminine Products, Adult Pads

Paper Products: Kleenex, Paper Towels, Paper Plates, Napkins, Toilet Paper

Cleaning Products: Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Dryer Sheets, All Purpose Cleaner, Floor Window & Toilet Cleaner, Disinfectant Wipes, Garbage Bags

Food Items: Canned food only

The focus of the Thrift Store is to support the activities of the Women's Help Center by selling new and gently used items that are donated. These donations of saleable items are tax-deductible. If you have items to donate to the Thrift Store, please deliver them directly to the New Beginnings Thrift Store located at the 306 East High Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 or call 815 513-3964 to arrange pick-up of larger items.

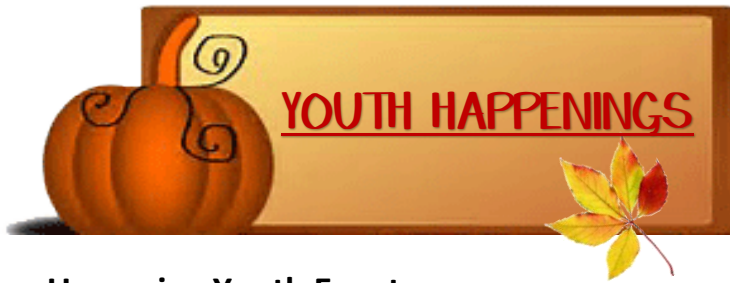
**DO NOT BRING Thrift Store items to the church.**

*(At Right) A thank you note received from Tammy at New Beginnings Women's Center:*

"Friends in Christ Lutheran Church,  
 Thank you so much for your donations to New Beginnings Women's Center. We are so blessed; because of your giving we are able to help those women in our community during difficult times in their lives. Also for your monetary donations. We are so gracious to your giving.  
 God Bless you all New Beginnings Tammy Reyes"







### Upcoming Youth Event:

**November 18<sup>th</sup>:** Bowling, Laser Tag, and Pizza at Echo Lanes in Morris. **Cost will be \$5 per participant and you must sign up ahead of time so we know how many people to make a reservation for.** We ask that you sign up by November 11. The rest of the cost will be covered by the youth account. See you there!



*Our youth night bonfire at the home of the Ruedin family on October 21 was a bonanza of fun! We extend a HUGE thank you to Jim & Diana Ruedin for hosting the party!*





## Senior Service

**Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**  
(Luncheon immediately following)

## Friendly Seniors

**Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

**Turtle's Tap Restaurant**  
(1400 N. Division Street, Morris)

If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin table in the sanctuary or call the church office.



*Jesus said:  
"Whoever finds his life will lose it,  
and whoever loses his life for My sake  
will find it."*

*Matthew 10:39*

## November Birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Heren
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Donna Carlson Carol Hansen
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Jenkins
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn Thorson
8 <sup>th</sup>	Earlene Enervold
9 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Applebee
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jeffrey Van Heiden
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Gjerde
13 <sup>th</sup>	Delores Herman Andrew Applebee
18 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Johnson
25 <sup>th</sup>	Dennie Thompson

## November Anniversaries

11 <sup>th</sup>	Harry & Sharon Benner	56 years
24 <sup>th</sup>	Terry & Deb Carter Jerry & Kris Farber	23 years 29 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Gary & Pat Schultz	50 years



## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2018



General Fund	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 11,628.27	\$ 16,211.19	\$ 15,402.48	\$ 13,910.33	\$ 11,101.09	\$ 119,693.72	\$ 122,895.00
Expenses	\$ 12,049.77	\$ 13,059.89	\$ 13,607.56	\$ 11,661.18	\$ 13,400.99	\$ 115,613.94	\$ 122,895.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (421.50)	\$ 3,151.30	\$ 1,794.92	\$ 2,249.15	\$ (2,299.90)	\$ 4,079.78	\$ -



Mustard Seed

## Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

### The Holy Spirit...my partner in prayer!

#### In the Word

*...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.*

[Ephesians 6:18a](#)

#### Of the Word

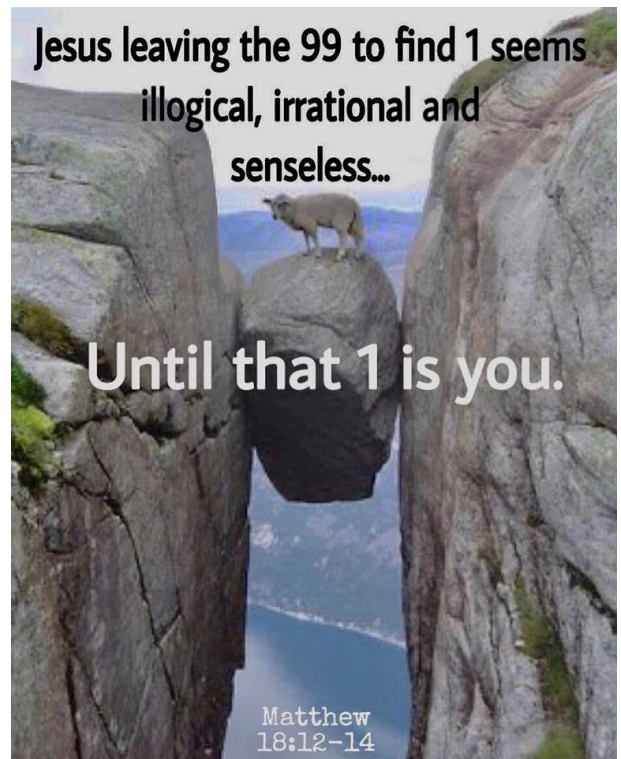
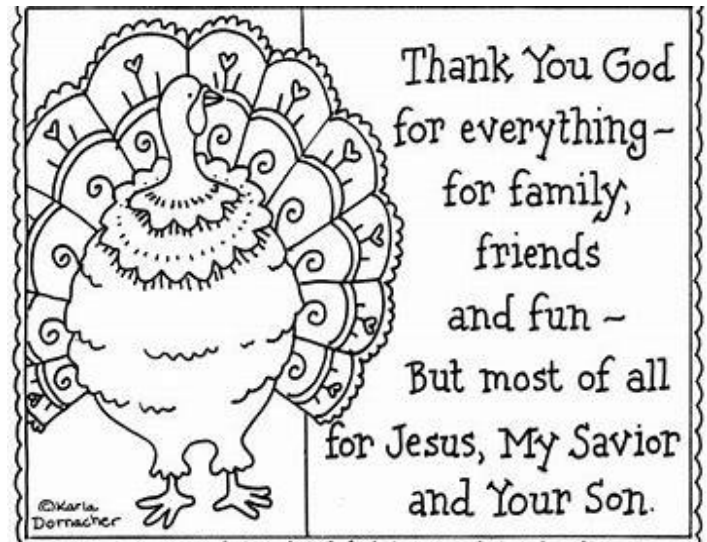
Do you have an active prayer life? Are your prayers long or short? Can you comfortably voice your prayer concerns to God? The Holy Spirit comes to our aid as we pray. He comes with open arms and places them around us to guide us in truth. (John 16:13) The Holy Spirit is our greatest support in prayer.

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).*

What great comfort to know that the Holy Spirit is our guide to truth and that He is within us! He is our prayer partner. If you're having a difficult time praying, remember the Spirit is in you, to support you. You are not alone in prayer!

#### Walking with My Lord


Dear Lord, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit. No longer will I need to worry over the correct words or proper form because I know the Spirit will help guide my thoughts and words to You in prayer. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



# Prayer Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 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.	2 Lord, Thank You for giving me direction even when I struggle to make decisions. Help me to stay on the right path. Psalm 32:8	3 Almighty and everlasting God, through the glorious resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened to us the gate of eternal life. Thank You.
4 God so many are out of work please help those looking for jobs to find the job You have in mind for them.	5 God, 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	6 God, You have entrusted to us time and money. Help us to generously give back to You both for they are Yours to begin with.	7 God, may we trust in You to provide for all our needs. Psalm 37:5	8 Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need You. Psalm 27:1	9 Lord, help us to realize that to some, the step through the doors of a church is an act of courage and a moment of vulnerability. Help us to be welcoming. Col. 4:6	10 Help Christians to stand firm even when being persecuted. Lord put upon the hearts of those persecuting Christians to stop the persecution of Christians.
11 Lord please help bless our disabled veterans with healing. Help them to come closer to You Lord. Put positive people in their paths to help them cope with whatever they are going through.	12 Lord, we give You thanks, for You are good; Your love endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34	13 Father, help bring those in our families that don't know You to have a blossoming faith in You.	14 God, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel and are thankful for Your majesty. Psalm 126	15 Father, we give thanks for Your compassion, faithfulness, grace, holiness, kindness, love, mercy, and wisdom. Dan 9:9	16 God, thank You for the gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29:12-13	17 God, thank You for Your greatness, Your goodness and Your love; please help me draw closer to You. John 10:28
18 Thank You Lord for our youth that get together for Christian fellowship. Job 33:25 Deut. 30:2	19 Father, thank You for the living Word. You have given us so many gifts and we are thankful. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Psalm 119:1-3	20 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.	21 Father thank You for Your Son "Christ the King". Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-34	22 Thank You Father for everything you have given us especially Jesus. You have given us life through Your Son. No greater gift has been given and we are so thankful. Bless us this day as we celebrate Thanksgiving. Help us to put You first in everything we do.	23 We thank You Lord for our family and friends. Please watch over them and keep them safe.	24 God, help us to realize Jesus is Our King. 1 Timothy 6:15 Rev. 19:16 Rev. 17:14 Isaiah 11:10 Isaiah 9:6
25 Thank You for Your love that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Rom. 5:5	26 Thank You for being our refuge and strength for we can't do it alone. Psalm 46:1	27 Lord, watch over our coming and going both now and forever more. Psalm 121:8	28 God, renew my trust in You in the midst of success and times of failure. Psalm 84:12	29 God, help us to hear Your voice as we try to discern Your call in our lives. Prov. 3:5	30 Lord we are thankful for everything you have entrusted to us to use for Your kingdom. We thank You for being there for us.	

# November, 2018 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM –Worship
4 <b>!! Turn Clocks Back One Hour !!</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> All Saints Sunday 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation 5:00 PM – Fiesta San Pablo, Aurora	5	6 9:00 AM – Bible Study 1:00 PM – Euchre Club 7:00 PM – Elders	7 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women's Missionary League	8 9:00 – Noon Circuit Pastors' Meeting @ Lord of Life, La Fox	9	10 5:30 PM –Worship
11 Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 8:15 AM – Worship 9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly 9:30 AM – Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	12 Veterans' Day 1:00 PM – Senior Service	13 9:00 AM – Bible Study 11:30 AM – Friendly Seniors @ Turtle's	14	15	16	17 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM –Worship
18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Last Sunday of the Church Year 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship 12:00 Noon – Confirmation 2:30 PM – Youth Night	19 10:00 AM – Park Pointe	20 9:00 AM – Bible Study	21 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 PM – Worship with <b>COMMUNION</b>	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24 5:30 PM –Worship
25 Christ the King ! 8:15 AM – Worship 9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM – Worship	26	27	28	29	30	Advent Begins