

NOVEMBER 2019

Friends in Christ News

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

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From the fullness of His

GRACE

we have all received one

Blessing

after

ANOTHER

~~~~John 1:16 ~~~~

## 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.) |

**WITHOUT GOD, IT WOULD ONLY BE LUCK**

(We begin November remembering the "Great Cloud of Witnesses." Nov. 3 is All Saints Sunday. We end with Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Eve Worship is, Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.)

## Why Thanksgiving?

We are claiming something:

We claim that the blessings we receive are just that -- blessings.

The food on our table is a gift from God who gives good gifts from His good earth. It is personal and not a matter of chance.

Family is a gift from God who brings us together to give and receive care and love for one another. It is not chance or luck that has done it; but God who calls us into relationships.

Your mind and soul are gifts from God so that you can live your life knowing the eternal things of God.

They are blessings -- nothing less than gifts, given to you personally from God who created you and knows even the deepest parts of your soul.

Thanksgiving without God, begs the question of who is being thanked; and would be an empty saying, something like, "Thank your lucky stars." But God is there. He knows you personally and cares for you.

## This Changes Everything About Thanksgiving

When we pause, pray and give thanks to God, what exactly are we doing?

We are claiming a relationship with God. We

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Save the Date:

|         |                                                       |            |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| NOV 3:  | TURN CLOCKS BACK (Before bed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) |            |
| NOV 6:  | LWML Meeting                                          | 10:00 a.m. |
| NOV 10: | Voter's Meeting                                       | 9:00 a.m.  |
| NOV 11: | Senior Service                                        | 1:00 p.m.  |
| NOV 20: | Thanksgiving Worship Service                          | 7:00 p.m.  |
| NOV 21: | -----THANKSGIVING DAY -----                           |            |

## Looking Ahead...

|             |                        |           |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| December 3: | "Giving Tuesday"       |           |
| December 4: | Congregational Potluck | 6:00 p.m. |
| December 8: | Youth Night            | TBA       |

*(Continued from page 1)*

claim that He knows us and watches over our every day and hour, every need and blessing. We claim that the food on our tables is more than consuming calories and enjoying the pleasures of tasting and eating and being filled.

We ponder how many things God has put in place, so that the grain can grow, fruits and berries be cultivated, bread, meat and vegetables be gathered for our nurture and blessing? We claim that all these things are done by a Personal God who knows each one of us individually.

And when there are struggles and we have a time of need, again we claim that God sees our need and watches over us through everything. It is personal, and that makes all the difference.

### **"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"**

About the 4th Petition our Catechism says:

**God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**

It is personal and it is a part of our relationship with the eternal God.

And that opens up into something amazing.

### **Daily Bread & Eternal Life:**

Luther said that hidden in the words "Give us this day our daily bread" there is the promise of eternal life. How did he find the promise hidden in such simple words?

The words of the Lord's Prayer are the words of God and are eternal. They can never wear out or cease. "He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us."

But for the promise of daily bread to be eternal three things have to be in place:

- (1) God, who faithfully gives the daily bread, eternally, without ceasing;
- (2) Daily bread to be given, and the giving has to also be eternal and without ceasing, and;
- (3) You who believe in and know God through Jesus Christ, have to be there and receive your daily bread.

When the eternal word of God promises something to you forever, you have to be there forever.

When we pray "this day" for this day's "daily bread"; we speak one of the claims of faith.

God gives His promises today, and He will be there tomorrow. He will give daily bread tomorrow. And He will be there for all the endless days of eternity. He is my God and He has given eternal promises.

This is why we take time for Thanksgiving. It's a personal thing. As you prepare for Thanksgiving draw close to God and treasure the relationship.

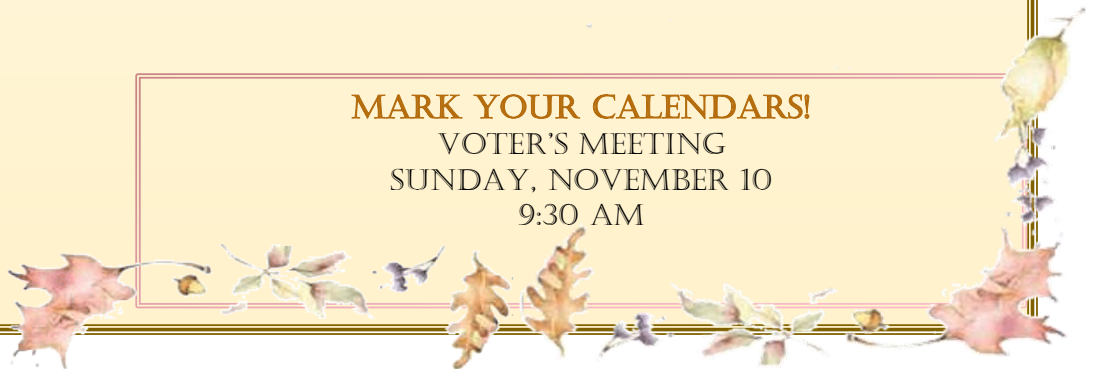
Pastor Mark

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

VOTER'S MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

9:30 AM





Our next meeting will be on  
**Wednesday - November 6<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Servers: Earlene Enervold & Norma Carlson**

This month we will have a special program featuring our Zone president, Gayle Thanepohn, who will present an overview of the 2019 LWML convention. We also will have a devotion presented by Deb Krugler and De Kirchhoff.

**Coming in December:**

On **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**, we will be hosting a congregational potluck dinner to kick off the Advent season. Please watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table in the sanctuary coming very soon.

Also, December 4<sup>th</sup> will be the last day we will be accepting items for New Beginnings Women's Center. (You are welcome to bring them in the evening when you attend the potluck.) They are mostly looking for soap/cleaning items but all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

*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.***







### December 8<sup>th</sup>

Our next youth night will not be until Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for details.

May God bless your time with family this Thanksgiving!



*Our youth night bonfire at the home of the Ruedin family on October 20 was a bonanza of fun! We extend a HUGE thank you to Jim & Diana Ruedin for hosting the party!*





## Senior Service

**Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

A note to those who come to our Senior Services:

Please RSVP in advance, so we know how many are planning to attend. There have been a few times this year when almost nobody responded. Only after cancelling on that morning did we find out that more were planning to attend. In fact, one time we had people show up for the service. We had no idea they were planning to come.

This is a lesson in one of our human foibles. But please do let Pastor or Deb know when you are planning to be there. It is so much easier than guessing.

Thank you  
Pastor Mark Willig

### *The Secret to Long Life:*

Grandpa Jones was celebrating his 100th birthday and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared. "Gentlemen," he said, speaking clearly and proudly, "I will tell you the secret of my success. I have been in the open-air, day after day, for some 75 years now."

His family and friends were impressed and asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime.

"Well, you see, my wife and I have been married for all of those 75 years. On our wedding night, we made a solemn pledge that whenever we had a fight, the one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk."

- From [www.christiansunite.com](http://www.christiansunite.com)

*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> 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> Jeff VanHeiden

12<sup>th</sup> Dennis Gjerde

13<sup>th</sup> Delores Herman

Andrew Applebee

18<sup>th</sup> Judy Johnson

Stephen White

24<sup>th</sup> Stephen Jelms

25<sup>th</sup> Dennie Thompson

28<sup>th</sup> Carol Banks



## November Anniversaries

11<sup>th</sup> Harry & Sharon Benner 57 years

24<sup>th</sup> Terry & Deb Carter 24 years  
Jerry & Kris Farber 30 years

30<sup>th</sup> Gary & Pat Schultz 51 years



## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2019



| General Fund      | MAY           | JUNE         | JULY         | AUGUST        | SEPTEMBER    | YTD Actual    | YTD Budget    |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Income            | \$ 11,667.16  | \$ 12,109.75 | \$ 13,410.97 | \$ 10,435.05  | \$ 11,804.52 | \$ 115,829.87 | \$ 122,985.00 |
| Expenses          | \$ 13,029.02  | \$ 12,034.95 | \$ 13,122.91 | \$ 12,046.31  | \$ 12,633.84 | \$ 115,917.85 | \$ 122,877.00 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ (1,361.86) | \$ 74.80     | \$ 288.06    | \$ (1,611.26) | \$ (829.32)  | \$ (87.98)    | \$ 108.00     |



# Common LISTENING PITFALLS *and How to Avoid Them*

Listening is essential to make any other communication skill work. But there are many things that get in the way. Here are some common stumbling blocks and how they can be avoided.

## TOO MANY INFORMATION-GATHERING QUESTIONS

Several information-gathering questions, one right after another, put the questioner in a position of control and place the impetus of the conversation squarely on the questioner.

**How to Avoid:** Early general questions, such as “Please tell me how you are doing,” are invitations to talk about substantive matters the talker wants or needs to discuss.

## TELLING A PARALLEL STORY

While this kind of response might seem like an empathic one, especially in the early stages of the conversation it turns the attention from the talker to the listener.

**How to Avoid:** Place full attention on the experience and context of the talker and seek to understand the talker’s experience by focusing on how the talker is feeling.

## ADVICE TOO EARLY

Focusing on the first concern and attempting to give advice can stop further exploration into areas that may be more central. Additionally, sometimes people just want to be heard and understood.

**How to Avoid:** Often neither the presenting issue nor the first statements concerning what is happening are really driving the concern. Attention to underlying or seemingly background concerns is critical.

## INATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

An attentive discussion around other people may not be possible. For instance, in a hospital setting, family members may want to speak for the talker or medical personnel may come in.

**How to Avoid:** In order for active listening to occur, there need to be conversation boundaries and minimal distractions. Asking for one-on-one time might solve this.

## INATTENTION TO YOUR OWN EMOTIONAL AVAILABILITY

The listener might not be in an emotional position to be in listening mode. For instance, if the listener has just had a confrontation with someone else, he or she might be agitated.

**How to Avoid:** The listener must be aware of his or her own whole-person health before offering care to another. Consider debriefing with a trusted person before meeting with the talker. †

# Prayer Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2019



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                  | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                                                             | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                       | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                             | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>1</b><br>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and Kris Farber and their families. Pray for missionaries all over the world.                          | <b>2</b><br>Thank You for giving me direction even when I struggle to make decisions. Help me to stay on the right path. Psalm 32:8                                             |
| <b>3</b><br>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 God. | <b>4</b><br>God so many are out of work please help those looking for jobs to find the job You have in mind for them.                                                  | <b>5</b><br>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 | <b>6</b><br>Lord, You have entrusted to us time and money. Help us to generously give back to You both for they are Yours to begin with.                                                        | <b>7</b><br>God, may we trust in You to provide for all our needs. Psalm 37:5                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>8</b><br>Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need you. Psalm 27:1                                                                                | <b>9</b><br>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 |
| <b>10</b><br>Help Christians around the world to stand firm even when being persecuted for believing in You.                                                                            | <b>11</b><br>Lord, please bless disabled veterans with healing. Help them to come closer to You Lord. Give them the coping skills for whatever they are going through. | <b>12</b><br>Lord, we give You thanks, for You are good; Your love endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34                                  | <b>13</b><br>Father, help bring those in our families that don't know You to have faith in You.                                                                                                 | <b>14</b><br>God, help us to be still and listen with open hearts for Your call to serve others. 1 Sam. 3:8                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>15</b><br>God, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel and are thankful for Your majesty. Psalm 126                                                 | <b>16</b><br>Father, we give thanks for Your compassion, faithfulness, grace, holiness, kindness, love, mercy and wisdom. Dan. 9:9                                              |
| <b>17</b><br>God, thank You for the gift of prayer and the opportunity it provides to develop a personal relationship with You. Jer. 29:12-13                                           | <b>18</b><br>God, thank You for Your greatness, Your goodness and Your love; please help me draw closer to You. John 10:28                                             | <b>19</b><br>Thank You for Your love that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Rom. 5:5                         | <b>20</b><br>Father, Thank You for the living Word. You have given us so many gifts and we are thankful. Put in us a fire to want to read and study Your Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Psalm 119: 1-3 | <b>21</b><br>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.                                                                                                                       | <b>22</b><br>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                                       | <b>23</b><br>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 Thank You for giving us confirmation of Christ our King.    |
| <b>24</b><br>God, Thank You for giving us Your Word. Thank You for speaking through the scriptures today. 2 Tim. 3:16                                                                   | <b>25</b><br>Thank You Lord for our family and friends. We especially thank You for our Friends in Christ. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 John 15:12-15                           | <b>26</b><br>Thank You God for giving us a place to worship. Help us not to take it for granted. Psalm 132:7                        | <b>27</b><br>Thank You God for our youth that get together for Christian fellowship. Please bless them. Job 33:25 Deut. 30:2                                                                    | <b>28</b><br>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. | <b>29</b><br>Lord, today starts the Holiday shopping season. Help us to stand back and realize what Christmas is really about. Jesus is the reason for the season. | <b>30</b><br>God, with thankfulness we start the Christmas Season. Help us to keep Christ in Christmas. Let us pass Your love to one another.                                   |



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

| Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mon.                                                                                                    | Tue.                                           | Wed.                                                         | Thu.                                     | Fri.             | Sat.                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November Reminders</b><br><b>Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday November 3. <u>Set Clocks Back 1 Hour.</u></b><br><b>Advent Begins on December 1</b>                                                     | <b>Thanksgiving Eve: November 27 – Worship at 7:00 p.m.</b>                                             |                                                |                                                              |                                          | 1                | 2 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>5:30 PM – Worship                                |
| 3 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>All Saints Sunday<br>8:15 AM – Worship<br>9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School<br>10:45 AM – Worship<br>3:00 PM – Fiesta San Pablo                                                  | 4                                                                                                       | 5<br>9:00 AM – Bible Study<br>7:00 PM – Elders | 6<br>10:00 AM – Lutheran Women's Missionary League           | 7                                        | 8<br><High<br><@ | 9<br>5:30 PM – Worship<br><br>er Things Retreat><br>Zion, McHenry, IL> |
| 10 <b>Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church</b><br>8:15 AM – Worship<br>9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly<br>9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School<br>10:45 AM – Worship<br>3:00 PM – District Mission Festival | 11<br>1:00 PM – Senior Service                                                                          | 12<br>9:00 AM – Bible Study                    | 13                                                           | 14<br>9:00 AM – Circuit Pastors' Meeting | 15               | 16 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>5:30 PM – Worship                               |
| 17 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Last Sunday of the Church Year<br>8:15 AM – Worship<br>9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School<br>10:45 AM – Worship                                                  | 18                                                                                                      | 19<br>9:00 AM – Bible Study                    | 20                                                           | 21                                       | 22               | 23<br>5:30 PM – Worship                                                |
| 24 → Christ the King ←<br>8:15 AM – Worship<br>9:30 AM – Bible Study & Sunday School<br>10:45 AM – Worship                                                                                                 | 25<br>10:00 AM – Park Pointe                                                                            | 26<br>9:00 AM – Bible Study                    | 27 Thanksgiving Eve<br>7:00 PM – Worship<br><b>COMMUNION</b> | 28 Thanksgiving Day                      | 29               | 30 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>5:30 PM – Worship                               |
| December 1 <b>COMMUNION</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent                                                                                                                                            | December Notes – Tuesday 12/3 "Giving Tuesday"<br>Wednesday 12/4 @ 6:00 PM: LWML Congregational Potluck |                                                |                                                              |                                          |                  |                                                                        |