

NOVEMBER 2020

# Friends in Christ News

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

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*Praise  
God from  
Whom all  
blessings flow!*



## Come worship with us!

Saturday Evenings	...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings	...	8:15 a.m.
<i>(live-streamed at facebook.com/ficlc)</i>		
Recorded service posted online...	9:30 a.m.	
	...	10:45 a.m.

## Come study God's Word with us!

### On Tuesdays...

Adult Bible Study	...	9:00 a.m.
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## 20-20 A Year for Seeing Clearly Part 11: "And at the End – Praise and Worship"

### So, I saw a thing on the internet. . .

It was a picture of a guy at the end of the year looking at his clock (11:59 p.m. – 12/31/2020) with a hopeful face, full of anticipation. The next picture shows him confused and afraid, as the clock reads (12:00 a.m. – 1/1/2020). So, there is suddenly a 13<sup>th</sup> month? 2020 *doesn't* end!? Oh, no! It has been a wild year and all over on the internet are the jokes and memes about people wanting the year to just end already.

**But guess what? We as Christians get to end the year early!** (*"For the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."* Matthew 24:22) The Church Year ends this year on November 22. It is a Sunday called "Christ the King" where we celebrate that Jesus is coming back! (Have I mentioned that I read the end of the book, the last 2 chapters of our book. We win. Actually, Jesus wins and we get to share it.) There is no 13<sup>th</sup> month of "what more could happen?" And we celebrate!

Jesus is coming back! There is a plan, set up by Jesus who is very good at being King of kings and Lord of all things. He is moving everything forward, gathering His kingdom. And when every other kingdom and power is finished and gone His will continue on eternal and glorious.

**Since we are talking about the end,** there is a verse. Matthew 24 is the chapter where Jesus talks about the end, and it is important to listen closely; to learn how to see the things that are happening and how to feel about what we experience in this life. After listing all kinds of troubles, and after dismissing each one of not the end, Jesus said, *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14)

**This is the action plan.** Jesus is gathering His Kingdom until there is a multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language to celebrate and sing the song of salvation.

**And then what?** After the end of the church

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Save the Date:

	Church Christmas Decorating	<b>TBA</b>
NOV 8:	Voters' Meeting	9:15 a.m.
NOV 10:	Elder's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
NOV 25:	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	7:00 p.m.
NOV 26:	-----THANKSGIVING DAY-----	

### Looking ahead:

**Dec 13: Installation of Officers & Board Members**

*(Continued from page 1)*

year we have an in-between service.

**We call it Thanksgiving** or Thanksgiving Eve. It really is a little picture of “and then what?” What will it be like after Jesus returns; after Judgment Day / the Day of Resurrection; after eternal life begins? It is praise and thanksgiving; worship of our amazing God and Savior.

We will look back on everything and we will say, “This is our God; we have waited for Him ... This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice ...” (Isaiah 25:9) That will be the theme as we enjoy the fulfillment.

Personally, I keep thinking that at the end I will look back and say, “I took the scenic route.” When you know the end and the destination, traveling with a good friend like Jesus is a good journey, no matter what.

**Jesus will lead our worship; and Jesus will lead us in praise.** I have become fascinated with those verses that teach about Jesus leading our worship.

Here are some of them:

- “I will tell of Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.” (Psalm 22:22 – Jesus from the cross looking forward to praising His Father on the last day.)
- “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17 – the prophecy that we will hear Jesus on Judgment Day singing loudly and celebrating that we are living forever.)
- “And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying ...” (Revelation 15:3 – that on that day we will learn a song from Jesus, and will sing it with Jesus. See also Revelation 14:1-3 about standing with Jesus and singing together.)

**It was Zephaniah 3:17** that really did change how I picture Judgment Day. I had seen it before, read the lesson in church, and everything else. But then, one year looking at verses 14-17 it hit home. Jesus the Savior is “the King of Israel, the Lord, ... in your midst” (v. 15). It will be “On that day” (v. 16), and that phrase points forward to the fulfillment, to the Last Day. And then it dawned on me, that sometime during all the things that happen on Judgment Day Jesus Himself will break out into singing, and not just singing but “loud singing.” When God is singing over you that will be amazing. How do I picture, how do I imagine this? I imagine that He will have “perfect pitch.” Will He move as He sings (like my friend Buka in Botswana who can’t stand still as he preaches or sings)? What other parts of celebrating and exulting will we see?

It does change the whole mood of what that day will be all about. It changes the whole way I think about it as I look forward to it.

**And that will be the beginning of Forever.**

Remember these things as you go about your days. And remember these things as you get ready for Thanksgiving.

*(And so ends this eleven-part series.)*

Pastor Mark



**Next Meeting:** We will NOT be meeting in November.



**December Luncheon Postponement:** Although we were planning a special luncheon for our LWML members for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the current increase of Covid-related shut-downs, we will have to reschedule. Watch for future emails with more details.

**Mite Collection:** Through the month of November, we will have the large LWML Mite box out on the bulletin table for the congregation to be able to donate. Because of the pandemic, LWML mite collections this year are way down. Please consider giving any loose “mites” you may have laying around the house to help soften the deficit. Thank you!

### LWML Grant #4

#### God's Grace for This Generation LAMP Ministry Inc. — \$100,000

Nearly one million indigenous people live in isolated areas of northern Canada; half of whom are under the age of 14. Statistics show that over 15 percent of the youth in these areas will take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness. LAMP Ministry Inc. goes into these communities with vacation Bible school, Bible studies, and one-on-one testimonies of the hope provided through faith in Jesus. This grant will allow LAMP to hire more missionary pilots and train more volunteers so that these communities will receive Christian education and the witness of the Gospel.

### FICLC Missions and Outreach

The Missions Team has placed a clear, locked box on the bulletin table for collecting money for Aldi gift cards. Or, if you prefer, you may purchase \$25 Gift Card(s) and turn those in as well. Thank you for remembering and helping others during these difficult times!



This is a great way to reach young children and their families with the oh-so-sweet Gospel of Jesus – but time is running out!

**Shoeboxes MUST be turned in no later than:**

**Sunday, November 15**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## 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 Van Heiden
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Gjerde
13 <sup>th</sup>	Delores Herman Andrew Applebee
17 <sup>th</sup>	Grayson Crawford
18 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Johnson Stephen White
24 <sup>th</sup>	Steven Jelm
25 <sup>th</sup>	Dennie Thompson
28 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Banks

*And whatever you do,  
whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name  
of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks  
to God the Father  
through him.*

*Colossians 3:17*

## November Anniversaries

11 <sup>th</sup>	Harry & Sharon Benner	58 years
24 <sup>th</sup>	Terry & Deb Carter Jerry & Kris Farber	25 years 31 years
30 <sup>th</sup>	Gary & Pat Schultz	52 years

## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2020



THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS

**\$9,601 OF TOTAL INCOME ARE MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

General Fund	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	AUGUST PPP **	SEPTEMBER	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 15,990.00	\$ 12,128.00	\$ 9,853.00	\$ 16,656.00	\$ 11,942.00	\$ 125,082.63	\$ 121,932.00
Expenses	\$ 11,580.91	\$ 10,132.00	\$ 10,570.59	\$ -	\$ 11,415.62	\$ 103,555.16	\$ 122,427.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 4,409.09	\$ 1,996.00	\$ (717.59)	\$ -	\$ 526.38	\$ 21,527.47	\$ 495.00



# Prayer Calendar

# NOVEMBER 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Deaf Ministry, Health care workers, Police, Fire and EMTs. Those working anywhere.	<b>2</b> As You know Lord many of us have family and friends that need to be brought to faith in You. Open the heart and minds of these people so they can listen and come to faith in You.	<b>3</b> Lord, please be with us when we are sad or lonely. Psalm 34:18	<b>4</b> Lord, we ask You to help us put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies as he tries to deter us from Your mission work.	<b>5</b> We pray for those suffering from the Corona Virus.	<b>6</b> Lord we thank you for harvest time and that you provide for our needs. Help us to share what we have with others, and to care for those who are hungry.	<b>7</b> We pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary. Pray for Governors and Mayors.
<b>8</b> 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.	<b>9</b> We pray for those working on developing treatments for the Corona Virus.	<b>10</b> We thank You Lord for giving us the opportunity to serve others in our community and outside of our community.	<b>11</b> We thank You for our blessings Lord. Matt 5:3-11	<b>12</b> Lord we thank You for our trials and tribulations as they bring us closer to You. 2 Cor. 4:17	<b>13</b> We pray that the Lord would bless our friends and loved ones in the military and keep them out of harms way.	<b>14</b> Lord we thank You for allowing us to carry out Your Word. Eph. 2:10
<b>15</b> Lord as You teach us that friendship is a gift from You, let us use that knowledge to inspire others in our lives.	<b>16</b> Lord help us to turn our troubles over to You. Romans 8:28	<b>17</b> Thank You Father for giving us Your Word to guide us. Help us to study Your word each day. Psalm 119:105	<b>18</b> We pray for Leaders of the Nations around the world.	<b>19</b> Bless our comfirmand as he learns more about you. Help him to put into practice what he learns.	<b>20</b> Thank You Lord for letting us worship in person and on line during this difficult time.	<b>21</b> We pray Lord that You would help us individually to see what our passion is for the Lord and help us to act on that passion and volunteer some of the time we have been given.
<b>22</b> We pray dear Lord that we will develop a praying heart worshipping, praising, and thanking God as we see His hand of blessing extended to us. Psalm 103:1-2 1 Thes. 5:17-18	<b>23</b> Father, bless the children receiving Operation Christmas Child boxes. Open their hearts and minds to hear Your Word about Jesus. Help them to come to faith and believe in You.	<b>24</b> Open our hearts to support LWML missions. So many groups are not meeting so mite box contributions are down.	<b>25</b> We thank You for the staff at Friends In Christ Lutheran Church. Bless them Lord.	<b>26</b> Lord, we are so thankful for all You have done for us and all that You do for us. Thank You for our families and friends. Bless them this Thanksgiving.	<b>27</b> Father, thank You for giving us the Bible as a path. Help us to take time to study and use the Bible to bring others to You.	<b>28</b> Lord help us to see You in our every day lives.
<b>29</b> We pray that joy...no matter what our circumstances...will live in our hearts.	<b>30</b> Lord as this holiday season starts help us to remember what Christmas is really about. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us.					



# November 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris,

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1 COMMUNION</b> All Saints Day 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	2	3 9:00 AM – Bible Study <b>7:00 PM – Elders</b>	4	5	6	7 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>8 Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church</b> 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (Time of Posting On Line to be Determined) <b>9:15 AM – Voters' Meeting</b> 10:45 AM – Worship	9	10 9:00 AM – Bible Study	11	12	13	<b>14 COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>15 COMMUNION</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Last Sunday of the Church Year 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	16	17 9:00 AM – Bible Study	18	19	20	21 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>22 Christ the King</b> 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	23	24 9:00 AM – Bible Study	<b>25 COMMUNION</b> Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 PM Worship	26	27	28 5:30 PM – Worship
<b>29 1st Sunday in Advent</b> 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	30	December Dates: <b>12/2 LWML Banquet</b> <b>To Be Scheduled: Church Decorating</b> <b>12/13 Installation of Officers and Board Members</b>				