

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
MISSIONS	4
BIRTHDAYS	5
ANNIVERSARIES	5
FINANCIAL REPORT	5
PRAYER CALENDAR	7
CHURCH CALENDAR	8

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

*Give thanks to Him;
bless His name!
For the LORD is good;*

His steadfast love
endures forever,
and His faithfulness
to all generations.

(Psalm 100:4-5 ESV)

Come Worship with us!

Saturday Evenings ...	5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mornings ...	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study ...	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Study ...	9:00 a.m. (via online ZOOM)



November marks the end of the Church Year. It features All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and then Thanksgiving. So my thoughts turn to the end of things. Here's a story I read in one of the magazines I read:

THE MIRACLE

A man was driving along the highway and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The driver being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road and got out to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful that he began to cry.

A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong. "I feel terrible," he explained. "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it." The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit. Miraculously, the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans, and hopped down the road. Fifty feet away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved at the two again, hopped down the road another 50 feet, turned, waved, and hopped another 50 feet. The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray!

He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What was in your spray can?! What did you spray onto that rabbit?" The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said:

*"Hair Spray - Restores Life to Dead Hair.
Adds Permanent Wave."*

If you didn't see the end coming that's the idea; the twist at the end. Well executed it is great comedy. The Bible also talks about, and God does seem to enjoy bringing out the completely unexpected. Some of His best work is when He has told His people over and over again what He was going to do and still

(Continued on page 2)

Save the Date:

NOV 2:	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
NOV 3:	LWML Meeting	10:00 a.m.
NOV 7:	TURN CLOCKS BACK <i>(Before bed on the 6th)</i>	
NOV 14:	Voters' Assembly Meeting	10:30 a.m.
NOV 24:	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	7:00 p.m.
NOV 25:	----- THANKSGIVING DAY -----	

Looking ahead:

Dec 1:	Begin Advent midweek worship (Wednesdays)	7:00 p.m.
Dec 24:	Christmas Eve candlelight worship w/communion	7:00 p.m.
Dec 25:	Christmas Day worship w/communion (No Saturday evening Worship)	9:00 a.m.
Dec 26:	Sunday Worship	9:30 a.m.

(Continued from page 1)

catches them flatfooted.

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" (John 20:16)

When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:30-31)

When the time comes, and we stand before God and Jesus welcomes us into eternal life, we will have surprises. Part of the surprise will be the reality of everything sinking in, part will be that the reality will far exceed anything that we could expect or prepare for, and part will be some of the unexpected details and how they actually unfold. During holy week, Jesus told His disciples about things that would happen on Judgment Day and how He would welcome and praise His people:

"The King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed ...'

Then the righteous will answer ..., 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You ...'"

(Matthew 25:34-40) Notice how, even when He has told us, we will be surprised.

And then sometime on that day we will hear Jesus breaking forth into loud singing, exulting over us. (Zephaniah 3:17) I keep telling people about this verse, and yet I fully expect to be completely astonished when it happens.

I Have Begun to Suspect that Dying will be like the End of the TV Show *Newhart*.

You may or may not have watched or remember how it ended. It was about a couple who moved to a small town in Vermont and ran an Inn. It featured an odd cast of characters including a handyman who never got the joke, a young lady who was a millionaire, but for some reason, worked as the Inn's maid, and three backwards brothers: "Hi, I'm Larry. This is my brother Darrel, and this is my other brother Darrel." At one point they ran a restaurant and if you ordered the special "Critter in a Bag", one of the Darrels would head out the back door with a bag to see what he could catch. Nothing was normal anywhere around.

When it came time for the series to end they turned the whole thing into a dream. It never happened. Bob, wakes up in bed next to his wife (from a previous TV series), startles, looks over and says, "Oh, it's you." And then says, "I just had the weirdest dream ..."

I do suspect that dying for the Christian will be like waking up and thinking, "I just had the weirdest dream." "I was in this world where nothing made sense. I was piling up things that I would never use; and my kids would have to sort through. I was trying so hard to simply distract myself. I was getting upset about things that don't really matter. And all around me that's what most everyone was doing."

It is true that God blesses all kinds of pursuits, hobbies, pastimes, and delights. But one day we will wake up in eternity. And when we do it will suddenly be clear what was important and what was not. We will see with a clarity what we only see in a muddled way. It is like Paul says: "now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." (1 Corinthians 13:12)

And when we see, seeing everything clearly, then the praise will come. And the celebration. And the words Isaiah tells us about at the fulfillment, "... this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

On to the celebrations of November!

Pastor Mark
1 Corinthians 2:2



**Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday - November 3rd - 10:00 a.m.**

LWML NID Zone 7 Fall Rally was held on October 16th at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Montgomery, IL. The keynote speaker was Nikki Deacon, *(pictured below, left)* Ministry Director for the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs.

Pastor Mark lead devotions and Bonnie Nelson reported on the LWML Convention that was held in Lexington, KY back in June.

Attendees from Friends In Christ: *(from left)* Rev. Mark & Paula Willig, Jackie Bormet, Norma Carlson, Sue Seidler, De Kirchhoff, Deb Carter and Bonnie Nelson.



LWML SUNDAY (October 10, 2021)

- *De Kirchhoff and Jackie Bormet collect the offerings.
- *Deb Krugler, Judy Johnson, Norma Carlson and Sue Seidler took turns leading the congregation in worship.
- *We met Katharine von Bora, wife of Martin Luther, in a skit put on by (L to R) Deb Carter, Sharon Wendling, Paula Willig, Bonnie Nelson and Judy Johnson



Missions and Outreach

Every year at this time our Missions & Outreach Committee thinks of others that could benefit from an Aldi gift card for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. If the Lord opens your heart to help with donating towards gift cards any amount would be appreciated. You can donate towards gift cards or purchase a gift card in a \$25.00 denomination from Aldi. May the Lord bless you ahead of time for your generosity.



It's that time of year to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child!

If you fill a box, (or boxes,) please bring them to the church any time before - but no later than - Sunday, November 14. The boxes will be picked up the 14th and taken to the drop off site.

There are a few different ways to help with this Mission project:

1. **Pack a box yourself.** Boxes are provided at the back of the church with a list of “DOs” and “DON'Ts” for packing. When you pack your box, please include a check for \$9.00 (for shipping) made out to *Operation Christmas Child*.
2. **Pack your box online.** For \$25.00 (plus \$9.00 for shipping) you can go to the website and create a box to send. Simply visit their website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child> . Click on the BUILD A SHOEBOX green icon (image below) and start building!
3. **Make a donation to Operation Christmas Child** If you include it with Your weekly offering at church, please mark it clearly.
4. **Pray** ...that the little ones and their families come to know Jesus as their one and only Savior through this mission work.

Thank you for working on this special mission!

If you have any questions, contact Vicki Kahn or Deb in the office.



Do you have a young child in your family you'd like to introduce Shoebox Shopping to?

Watch “Lola’s Lion” with them. This fun, stop-motion animated cartoon lays the groundwork to begin talking with your child about selfless giving and just how much their gift means to another child across the world – and how they will hear the story of God’s precious gift to us! You can find it on YouTube by searching “Lola’s Lion”.



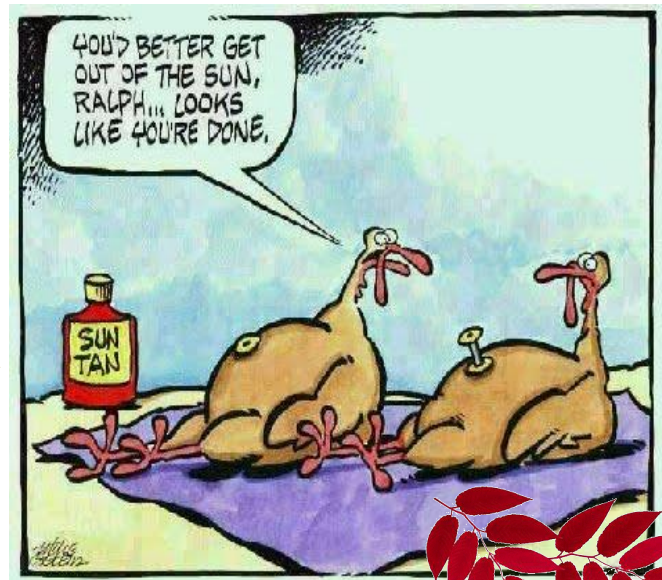
November Birthdays

- 1st Mary Heren
- 2nd Carol Hansen
- 3rd Barbara Jenkins
- 6th Lynn Thorson
- 8th Earlene Enervold
- 12th Dennis Gjerde
- 13th Delores Herman
- 18th Judy Johnson
Stephen White
- 24th Stephen Jelm



November Anniversaries

- 24th Terry & Deb Carter 26 years
Jerry & Kris Farber 32 years
- 30th Gary & Pat Schultz 53 years



Jesus said:

*“Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for My sake
will find it.”*

Matthew 10:39

Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2021




General Fund	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 9,174.76	\$ 14,442.67	\$ 8,977.67	\$ 12,826.26	\$ 8,842.66	\$ 106,150.28	\$ 105,255.00
Expenses	\$ 7,888.97	\$ 12,752.72	\$ 11,199.27	\$ 8,894.46	\$ 10,926.17	\$ 92,577.09	\$ 105,219.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 1,285.79	\$ 1,689.95	\$ (2,221.60)	\$ 3,931.80	\$ (2,083.51)	\$ 13,573.19	

Prayer Calendar

NOVEMBER 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>We pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Pray for those in deaf ministry. Missionaries all over the world. Those in Afghanistan that are being persecuted.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lord we pray that You would fill us with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 5:18 -23</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Lord we thank You for the simple things in life. 1 John 4: 9-10</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Help us to put on the full armor of God and be alert to satan's strategies. Eph. 6: 11-18</p>	<p>5</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>6</p> <p>Help us to put all our trust in You O Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Lord please give us courage and boldness to follow Your leadership. Romans 1:17</p>	<p>8</p> <p>As You know Lord many of us have family and friends that need to be brought to faith in You. Open the hears and minds of these people so they can listen and come to know You.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lord please heal and comfort those among us that are ill or going through difficult times.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lord 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. 1 Chronicles 22:13</p>	<p>11</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>12</p> <p>I praise You, Lord that You are intimately acquainted with my ways and that You always love me and have my best interest at heart. James 1:21</p>	<p>13</p> <p>We pray that our youth would come closer to You Lord. 1 Timothy 6:12</p>
<p>14</p> <p>We pray for those who are infected with Covid or facing quarantine. Lord be with them and help them to recover.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lord, You have invited me to pray for the needs of others; since You desire what is best for them, I take this opportunity to bring these requests to You.....</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord, help me remember the importance of silence. Help me discover quiet moments thru the day so that I can sense Your presence and Your love. Psalm 62:5 Psalm 37:7</p>	<p>17</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>18</p> <p>Lord, as You are patient and kind to us help us to be patient and kind to others. 1 Corinthians 13:4</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lord help us to tell You daily how much we love You.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Lord help me to turn control of my life over to You. Walk with me daily as I try to be more like You. Thank You for loving me. Romans 13:13-14</p>
<p>21</p> <p>We pray that joy... no matter what our circumstances... will live in our hearts.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Thank You Lord for our families and friends.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Help us to come to You Lord when we are feeling stressed. Psalm 94:18</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Lord, I give thanks for Your greatness, Your goodness, and Your love. Please help me to draw closer to You. John 20:28</p>	<p>25</p> <p>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>26</p> <p>Lord, grant us the spirit of extreme gratitude for all You have entrusted to us and help us to use these gifts for Your glory.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>We pray for our President, Vice President, Governors, and Mayors give them discernment in their decision making. Help them to make the best decisions that are pleasing to You O Lord.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Lord, I can do nothing without You. Strengthen me and help me. Uphold me with the right hand of Your righteousness.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lord, You have blessed us with a wonderful congregation. Help us to shore each other up in our times of need.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lord as this holiday season starts help us to remember what Christmas is really about. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us.</p>				

November 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	3 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League	4	5	6 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
7 COMMUNION All Saints Sunday ((TIME CHANGE: Turn Clocks Back 1 hour)) 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	8	9 9:00 AM – Bible Study	10	11	12	13 5:30 PM – Worship
14 Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Voters’ Assembly	15	16 9:00 AM – Bible Study	17	18	19	20 COMMUNION 5:30 PM – Worship
21 COMMUNION Christ the King 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	22	23 9:00 AM – Bible Study	24 COMMUNION Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 PM – Worship	25	26	27 5:30 PM – Worship
28 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	29	30 9:00 AM – Bible Study	In December: Advent Midweek Worship: Wednesdays 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 at 7:00 PM Theme: “Immanuel – the with-us-God” (1) In the Garden, (2) On the Mountain, (3) In the Prophet’s Words Christmas Eve: 12/24 Worship with Communion and Candelights Christmas Saturday 12/25 at 9:00 AM with Communion (No Saturday Evening Worship on 12/25) Sunday 12/26 Worship at 9:30			