

OCTOBER 2020

*Friends Bringing Friends to Christ*

# Friends in Christ News

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

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## 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 10: "... Though the Earth Should Change, ..."

(The Psalm of the Reformation – Psalm 46)

**2020 has been troubling, filled with turmoil, and very strange.** ("When everything is weird and nothing is normal.") And we still have 3 more months. "What could possibly happen?" It is fascinating how the Psalm of the Reformation Psalm 46 is so completely fitting.

**"... though the earth should change"** (v.2) It is an uneasy feeling when everything is changing. There is no way to get your feet under you before other things start to shift. During Luther's day there was plague (the bubonic plague); politics; war (against outside invaders, between European nations, etc.); major shifts in society; and more. Psalm 46 is a natural fit for their time and ours.

Verse 2 begins *"Therefore we will not fear ..."* Why? That might be important for us. So, let's back up to verse 1.

**"God is our refuge and strength. A well-proven help in trouble."**

I do like this alternate translation. Have you not seen? Has He not been there? Every time? Even when you

*(Continued on p.2)*

## Serving at Friends in Christ\*

### Pastor

Rev. Mark Willig

### Office Secretary

Deb Carter

### Organist

Kris Farber

### Music

Bonnie Nelson

### Church Council

Carol Hansen

### Recording Secretary

Cathy Thompson

### Christian Education

Sabina Woods

### Elders

Jerald Van Heiden

### Finance

Georgette Walker

### Outreach/Missions

Vicki Kahn

### Properties

Mike Kahn

### Stewardship &

### Christian Life

Eileen Tondini

\*Board Chair Persons only are listed here



*(Continued from front page...)*

did not realize it? In ways you would have never expected? It seems like a constant running theme, that God acts in ways that surprise; knowing the need ahead of time, setting up the answer before the prayer is even prayed. While God says in Psalm 50:15 “Call upon Me in the day of trouble. I will rescue you and you will praise Me.” there is that other verse. Isaiah 65:24 “Before they call I will answer ...” And Jesus said, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

### **The problems we face are not just stuff that randomly happens.**

There are images and language about “the mountains” and “the sea.” (vv. 2-3) In the imagery of the Bible “the mountains” represent the reliable firm footing under the people of God; and “the sea” represents unruly things rising up against the people of God. The psalm is all about what it means to belong to God and walk with God in a world that is in full rebellion; filled with people who do not know and refuse to see; with an actual devil stirring up division and animosity so that he can celebrate human suffering, blood and death. The psalm does not downplay the troubles we face when it says, *“Though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. (Selah) [that is, ponder on that for a while!]”*

**But wait a moment.** If the image of the sea and waters being unruly has to do with rebellion and chaos, what does that say about us who are made of mostly water (about 60%)? Is rebellion and chaos and rising up against what is good and right actually *within* us? That ~~would be~~ is even more troubling!

### **But we have comfort – Part 1**

*“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God. The holy dwelling places of the Most High.”* (v. 4) This is not your normal river. A river does not separate into streams. Streams flow together into a river. But this is different. There is something flowing from God and separating out to ... to where?

To the city of God. The city of God is the people of God. Just like the city of Morris is not the streets and buildings; it is the people of Morris. But there is more.

Very few translations have the next part plural, “The holy dwelling place(s) ...” But that is what the Old Testament Hebrew has. God has dwelling places – plural? I thought there was only one temple. But what is the city? The city is the people of the city, and each one is a dwelling place of God. That’s why the river divides into streams. This is about the place where God called you His own and named you with His name and poured His water over your head and into your soul. God has taken that water (that we are mostly made of) and used it to bring His mercy and grace and life to us.

And Martin Luther held onto the promise, “I am baptized!” He held that out and faced down all the confusion, all the shifting of the earth in His days, and all the troubles and doubts in his soul with the river of God. (Maybe pause now, look up and read Revelation 22:1-2 and Ezekiel 47:1-6, and enjoy the images that come to mind.)

### **But we have comfort – Part 2**

*“God is in the midst of her ...”* (v.5) That is a promise, and it is not just for the Old Testament. Jesus said, *“Where 2 or 3 are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”* (Matthew 18:20) And He said, *“I am with you, all the days, until the fulfillment of the age.”* (Matthew 28:18) So *“God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;”* Why will she not be moved? *“God will help her when morning dawns.”* And there it is! What happened when morning dawned? On an early Sunday morning? After the day when everything seemed lost? And when the disciples were hiding in fear? And the women came early in the morning? And they did not understand? And Mary asked where the body was? This is part of Easter, that it is not abstract, or a general victory over sin and death. It is personal. It is “God will help her when morning dawns.” Helping each one of the people of God – and that means you.

### **Time to finish**

This could go much longer. But let me finish with one more word from God for you.

*“Be still and know that I am God.”* He’s got this. He’s got you. He’s got your 6 (that is, He’s got your back). Read the last chapter of the book. We win because He wins.

Pastor Mark



2	Ray Carlson	16	Barbara Pope
6	Tisha Barnes	18	Ann Anderson
8	Aubree Castleberry	22	Tarahji Taylor
10	Signey Carter	23	Mark Stevens
11	Dani Sarto	25	Lori Stevens
12	Tina Nighsonger	27	Amy Thorson
13	Brandon Miller	28	Erica Duvick
14	Pat Oslakovich	29	Lindsey Collins
15	Scott Thorson	31	Terry Carter
	Dolores Wiegand		

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/18	Chris & Stephanie Willig	11 years
10/28	Mark & Lori Stevens	3 years



Looking for new kind of 'WOW' item for your box? Check these out!



The Shoe That Grows! has 5x the impact of an ordinary shoe because it expands 5 sizes and lasts for years. It's easy to clean and easy to use with an antibacterial synthetic upper, high grade Velcro straps and no mechanical parts or gears to break. The black color adheres to school dress/uniform codes as well!

Visit the website below to find out more!

<https://becauseinternational.org/christmas-shoebox-wow-item>



So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady.  
Keep busy always in your work for the Lord,  
since you know that nothing you do in the  
Lord's service is ever useless.  
– 1 Corinthians 15:58 (GNT)

### Operation Christmas Child

**Packed shoe boxes are due  
back at the church no later than  
Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Samaritan's Purse is running Operation Christmas Child boxes again this year. There are a few different options this year due to Covid:

- (a) Fill your own box like you have been doing over the years.
- (b) Give Money to help ship a box[es]
- (c) Fill a box from home online at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>  
It's very easy and costs \$25.00.
- (d) Give money to FICLC towards filling a box and we can order it for you.

Still have questions?

Call Deb in the office at 815/941-1255



Our next meeting will be held on

**October 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**



Our servers this month are:

**Judy Johnson**  
&  
**Bonnie Nelson**

**Beginning on October 7, 2020, at 10:00 am, we will resume  
our remaining meeting schedule for the year 2020!**

We will meet in the sanctuary practicing social distancing, wearing masks and disinfecting our areas at the end of our meeting time. We are encouraging all who feel comfortable in attending to do so with the assurance that we are mindful of the safety of all our members.

We will be holding to a 1-hour schedule.

Part of our agenda will be the nomination and election of officers for the year 2021.

Come if you are able to fellowship together and join in praise and thanksgiving and hope for a year of blessings ahead. Hope to see you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!



10/1/2020

## 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	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	AUGUST PPP **	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 10,609.15	\$ 15,990.00	\$ 12,128.00	\$ 9,853.00	<b>\$ 16,656.00</b>	\$ 113,140.63	\$ 108,384.00
Expenses	\$ 12,524.37	\$ 11,580.91	\$ 10,132.00	\$ 10,570.59	\$ -	\$ 92,139.54	\$ 108,824.00
Net Income (Loss)	<b>\$ (1,915.22)</b>	\$ 4,409.09	\$ 1,996.00	<b>\$ (717.59)</b>		\$ 21,001.09	\$ 440.00



## Keep Praying and Believing God

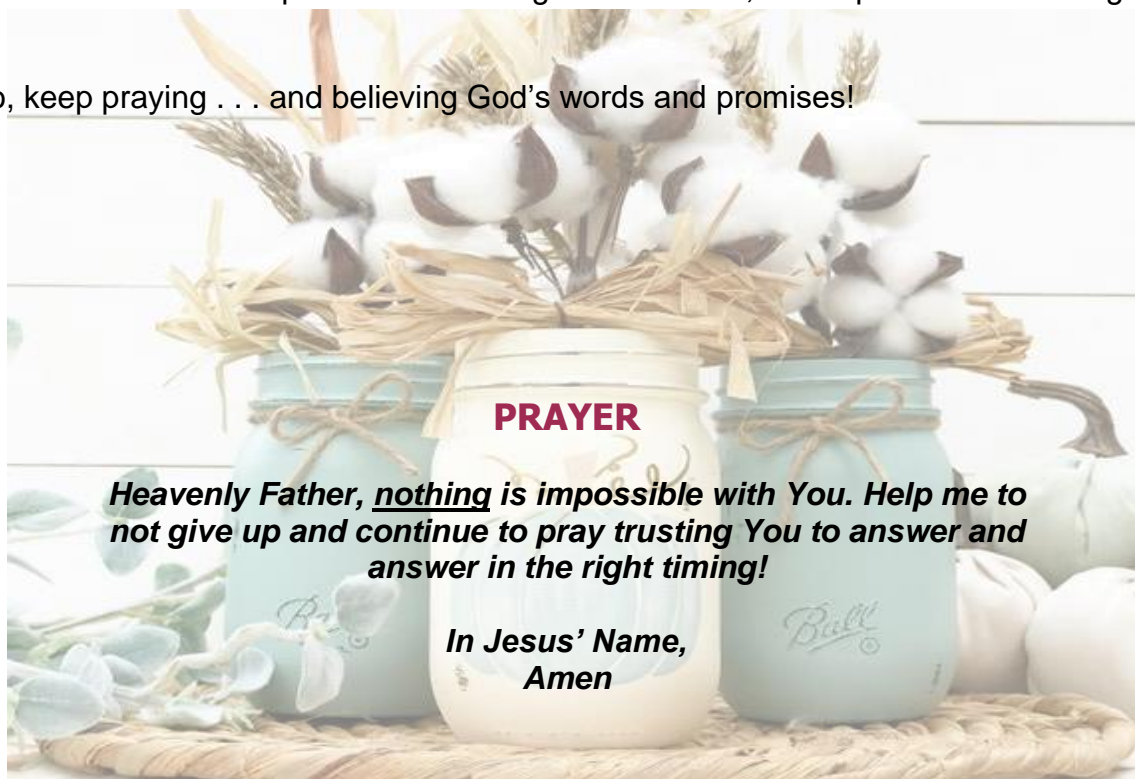
*Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." -Psalms 3:2*

Have you been praying for years that God will save your husband, your wife, your children, or your friends? Does your heart long to see the people you love serving Him? Are you getting discouraged? Has someone told you, 'You're wasting your time they'll never change'? If so, read what the psalmist wrote: *'Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill'* (vv. 2-4).

Pay particular attention to the phrase, *'many are they who say'*. Everybody has an opinion, but until God speaks on the matter, the jury is still out! As long as He's still on the throne and His promises are still true, keep praying and believing God for a miracle.

'But they're so far from God right now!' you say. They may be, but read this and rejoice: *'The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear'* (Isaiah 59:1). Your loved one is not too far gone *for God*. They may be messed up on drugs and alcohol, having an affair, or even be in prison. Wherever they are today, the long arm of God's grace can reach out and save them. Satan knows that and he wants you to get discouraged and give up. Don't do it! Just as power flows through electric wire, God's power flows through your prayers.

So, keep praying . . . and believing God's words and promises!





# Prayer Calendar

# OCTOBER 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1 Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber and their families. Pray for Missionaries, Deaf Ministry, Doctors, Nurses and anyone working in the medical field. Police, Fire and EMT's. Those working everywhere.</p>	<p>2 Dear Lord give me understanding and I will obey Your law, I will put it into practice with all my heart.</p>	<p>3 We pray for those working on developing treatments for the Corona Virus.</p>
<p>4 Lord please bless our ministries we have in and outside the church.</p>	<p>5 We pray that God would bless our friends and loved ones in the military and keep them out of harms way.</p>	<p>6 Thank You for giving us Your Word to guide us. Help us to study Your Word each day! Psalm 119:105</p>	<p>7 Pray that we will be filled with the Holy Spirit! Eph. 5:18-23</p>	<p>8 Lord, as You know many of us are having difficult times or are ill. Please comfort us and help others to have patience with us.</p>	<p>9 Pray that we would 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</p>	<p>10 We pray for those involved with People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. Help them to speak boldly and bring others to You Oh Lord!</p>
<p>11 We Thank You for our blessings Lord. Matt 5:3-11</p>	<p>12 We pray for those who are suffering from the Corona virus.</p>	<p>13 Lord, be with those who have lost their jobs and need help with food and lodging. Help them to find other jobs and a place to live.</p>	<p>14 Thank You for being our refuge and strength for we can't do it alone. Psalm 46:1</p>	<p>15 Pray for our President, Vice President, Congress and Judiciary. Pray for Governors and Mayors.</p>	<p>16 Lord help us to turn our troubles over to You. Romans 8:28</p>	<p>17 Lord be with those that are in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes. Help them to all come to faith in You. Watch over them and keep them in faith in You O Lord. Bless them.</p>
<p>18 Bless those who preach and attend Iglesia San Pablo Church in Aurora, Illinois. Bring them closer to you Lord.</p>	<p>19 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.</p>	<p>20 Lord as we prepare Operation Christmas Child boxes be with the children that will get these boxes. Prepare their hearts to hear and respond to the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p>21 Pray for the Leaders of the Nations around the World.</p>	<p>22 We Thank You Lord for our trials and tribulations as they bring us closer to You. 2 Cor. 4:17</p>	<p>23 Lord, we feel at times that we are wandering in the wilderness. Be with us and help us to know You are with us.</p>	<p>24 Thank You Lord for blessing our congregation!</p>
<p>25 As we partake of Communion we ask that You help us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us through his Grace as He cleanses our sins.</p>	<p>26 God, open our ears to hear Your Words with a fresh perspective. 2 Tim. 3:16</p>	<p>27 Lord, so many people are looking for work. Bless those looking with a job that You choose especially for them.</p>	<p>28 Lord, please wrap Your arms around those who are hurting today, let them feel Your love and be comforted in knowing You are in control.</p>	<p>29 We pray for those involved with Salam Christian Fellowship. Help them to convert those of the Muslim faith to believe in Jesus Christ. Keep those preaching about Jesus safe from harm and danger.</p>	<p>30 God, only You know the exact day Christ will come. Keep us alert and vigilant. Mark 13:24-37</p>	<p>31 Lord bless those who attend church in person. Bless those who listen to Your Word on line. Help those that are listening to open their hearts to hear Your Word and believe in You with all their hearts.</p>

# October, 2020 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Notes for October:</b> →Events Cancelled are Printed with Strikethrough ←		<b>Dates in November:</b> 11/8 9:00 AM – Voters' Assembly 11/25 7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Worship 11/29 is the First Sunday of Advent		1	2	3 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM –Worship
4 <b>COMMUNION</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	5	6 9:00 AM – Bible Study <del>1:00 PM – Euchre Club</del> 7:00 PM – Elders	7 10:00 AM – Lutheran Womens' Missionary League	8	9	10 5:30 PM –Worship
11 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship with <b>Communion</b> Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	12	13 9:00 AM – Bible Study	14	15	16	17 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM –Worship
18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	19	20 9:00 AM – Bible Study	21	22 7:00 PM – Church Council	23	24 5:30 PM –Worship
25 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 AM – Worship with <b>Communion</b> Live-Streamed (9:30 AM – Worship Posted On Line) 10:45 AM – Worship	26	27 9:00 AM – Bible Study	28	29	30	31 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM –Worship

(Daylight Savings Time is Scheduled to end this year on Sunday, November 1 with turning our clocks back 1 hour.)