

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2016



- **Pastor-**
Mark Willig
- **Secretary-**
Deb Carter
- **Music-**
Bonnie Nelson
- **Organist-**
Kris Farber
- **Chair-**Kim Breyman
- **Vice Chair-**
Bonnie Nelson
- **Treasurer-**
Bob Hunt
- **Assist. Treasurer-**
Carol Hansen
- **Elders-**Dick Enervold
- **Missions-**
Vicki Kahn
- **Youth-**
Cathy Thompson
- **Hospitality-**
Earlene Enervold

Back to School – Back to Sunday School

PRIORITIES & STEWARDSHIP

This is the time when our children return to school. There are a lot of preparations and a little bit of nervousness.

- Who is the new teacher?
- What are the new things to learn?
- Will everything go well?

And as School starts up there is also Sunday School. At Friends in Christ we are setting up classes and figuring out whether we need to have an additional Sunday School rooms.

And now something to think about:

We fill our lives with all kinds of hobbies and activities and responsibilities. Some of them we could get by without, and others are so important we would never want to miss out on even a single opportunity.

What is more important in your life?

You figure that out by comparing. It's sometimes called playing "Would You Rather. . ." (For example would you rather go to a Bears game or spend a quiet Saturday fishing?) When you play that game you find out what you would skip in order to do the other thing.

Continued on pg. 2...



September Dates to Remember:

- 1st – LWML (7 pm)
- 8th - Handbells (3:30 pm)
Choir (4:45 pm)
- 9th – Work Day (9 am)
- 12th– Senior Service (1 pm)
- 13th – Friendly Seniors (5:30 pm)
- 18th – Youth Night (5:30 pm)

WORK DAY!

Painting will be our main focus – but we also have several projects that need to be done if painting is not your "thing".

FRIDAY
SEPT. 9th
9:00
am



...Continued from pg. 1

Now think through all the activities in your life. How many of those things would lead you to miss worship? Are they a few? Are they a lot? Do they include (I have heard these over the years): Going out to eat on Sunday Morning; Camping in Canada out where there are no churches because there are no buildings at all; Deer Hunting Season; Having Your Family Visit.

Now think through your priorities.

You see, part of "Stewardship" is how we manage the stewardship of our time. And like they say with so many other parts of life we often fall into a pattern without even thinking of it. We sometimes aren't even aware of our priorities – but they are there.

So . . .

In your relationship with God, be deliberate this year. Look over all those things in your life; and then decide that a few more of them will not be as important as God and worship. And next year do the same.

Here is the deepest reason for stewardship.

Out of all the things He had going on: Creating stars and planets; ruling the universe; hearing the angel choirs; and a longer list than any of us – what did He consider more important? The answer is you: Your life; Your blessings; Your eternity.

And how did He carry that out?

Think about Christmas; and in thinking about Jesus' birth how many ways can you think of what this next idea means? "He came to spend time with us." Here are some but these are not all of the meanings: (1) Being one of us; (2) Walking around the holy land with His disciples; (3) The time Jesus spent with all those people in the crowds; (4) Being with us through both our good times and our problem times (5) He said, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."; (6) Jesus also said, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them."; (7) Psalm 139 says, "You have searched me and known me . . . before a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether."; (8) And there is the endless time of eternity ("Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man . . .")

Spending time with us is a huge part of **how** God has done the work of saving us. When you think about it, it's very persuasive. It is His goal and His invitation from the beginning to the end of the Bible. And you – personally and individually – you are invited. Psalm 122, verse 1.

Pastor Mark

FTCLC Bible Studies

SUNDAY MORNING ... 9:30 am – 10:30 am

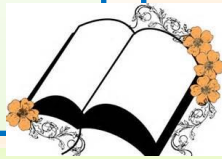
TUESDAY MORNING ... 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Senior Service

Come worship with us and enjoy a light lunch and visiting afterwards!

**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 12
AT 1:00 p.m.**

Please call the church office if you are in need of a ride.
(815)941-1255



FRIENDLY SENIORS

This month Friendly Seniors will be meeting at:

JERRY'S TAP

(119 N. Lincoln Ave – Ransom, IL
815/586-9247)

at 5:30 p.m.

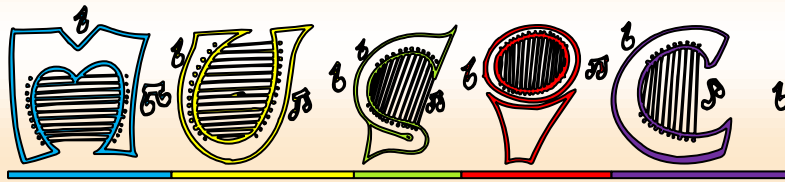
Come join us for a delicious meal and friendly conversation.
Hope to see you there!



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**Wednesday Night
September 7th at 7 p.m.**

Come and enjoy the devotion on God's Workout. We enjoy fellowshiping with each other, feasting on God's Word, and of course, the fine food we have to snack on.
See you there!



Handbells



REHEARSAL

Thursday
September 8
3:30pm – 4:30pm

CHURCH SANCTUARY



**Choir
Practice**

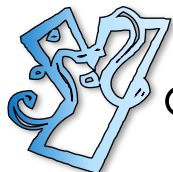
REHEARSAL

Thursday
September 8
4:45pm – 5:45pm

CHURCH SANCTUARY



eeeping



our



ids (in)



hoes

The K.Y.K.S. program is just finishing up for the year! We will have a lot of fun stories to share of our experiences this year and of the wonderful people we've met through this ministry.

The final number of shoes given out is still being tallied as we are wrapping up a few last-minute fittings. Next month we'll give a full report of how God has allowed us to bless so many through your generous gifts and donations to this program!

STAY TUNED!...

Youth NEWS...



SWIM DAY (Aug 21st)



YOUTH NIGHTS!

(Ok, we admit: sometimes they are actually Youth DAYS...)

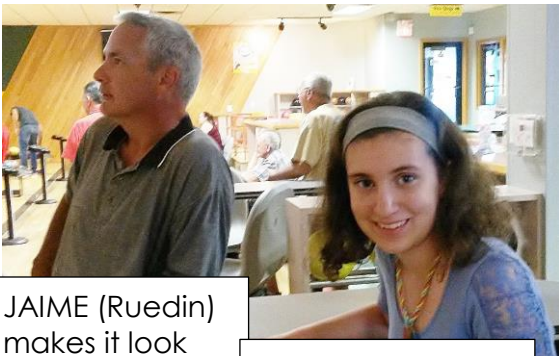
Held every 3rd Sunday of the month, we come together to have dinner, learn about our awesome God, play and basically grow closer to each other.

OUR NEXT YOUTH NIGHT: Sunday, Sept. 18th @ 5:30 pm at the church.

Come see a presentation about HIGHER THINGS!

Their mission is to "assist parents, congregations, and pastors in cultivating, encouraging and promoting a distinctively Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults."

TERRY (Carter) AND LAURA (Ruedin)



JAIME (Ruedin) makes it look easy!



TERRY gives TEDDY (Ruedin) his first lesson...



BOWLING NIGHT!!

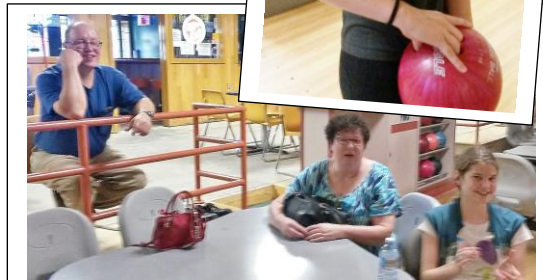
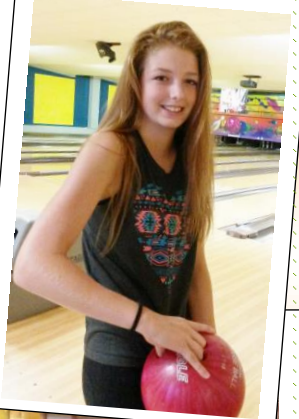
(July 17th)



SIGNEY (Carter) takes a shot...

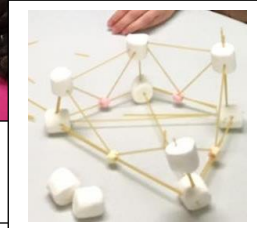


AMBER (Brown) 2 strikes in a row!



MIKE & VICKI (Kahn) and MARY (Ruedin) cheer from the sidelines

RALLY DAY was Sunday, August 28th to kick off the Sunday School season. Welcome back, everyone!!



How tall a tower could YOU build using only dry spaghetti and marshmallows? (FUN!!)



SUNDAY SCHOOL

...is officially back in session!

This fall Sunday School lessons are in the Old Testament. We will spend this fall learning about spies, judges, prophets and kings. The theme of the lessons is God Provides Judges and Kings. Come and learn about God's champions.



National Youth Gathering Recap Night

(August 28th)

A picture is worth a thousand words...



One of actual communion sets used in the Gathering's closing service was purchased and given as a gift to our church by Mark & Cathy Thompson...



All the kids pitched in to help get dinner ready for the shareholders.



Emma Oslakovich with her parents, Pat & Ann



...Cathy Thompson for making all the delicious N'awlins style food!!

Boilin' up the crawdads



Zack Carlson and his parents, Greg & Deidre and Grandparents, (left) Harold & Norma Carlson



Shaye Carter with his parents, Deb & Terry Carter (Terry was in the kitchen making beignets), Grandparents, Curt & Lo-ee Johnson and sister, Signey.



...and a good time was had by all!



In the Family of God

BIRTHDAYS

____For September____



Paige Thorson



Sarah Riordan



David Smolich



David Halkyard



Doris Peterson



Mary Olson



Arik Applebee
Phyllis Lund



Norma Carlson
Gary Schultz



Doris Stangland



Mark Willig



ANNIVERSARIES

____For September____

1st

Greg & Deidre Carlson

25 years

6th

Art & Willene Turner

64 years

17th

Doug & Jeannine Halkyard

39 years





Prayer Shawls

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our prayer shawl ministry is still going strong! We hand-make small, crocheted and knitted shawls (or lap blankets, as they are sometimes called,) to comfort those who are hospitalized, have lost a loved one or are simply going through a rough time.

If you know of someone who needs to feel wrapped in Jesus' love, please contact Tina Nighsonger at 815/942-6737.

Do you love to knit or crochet?

We are always looking for volunteers and we would love to have your help with this ministry! **Please call Tina if you would like to donate your time and creative talents!**

WE CARE Items

We are focusing on item per month but any and all donations are welcome!

SEPTEMBER

Feminine Hygiene Products

OCTOBER

Light Bulbs

NOVEMBER

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

DECEMBER

Paper Towels

(Thank you for your generosity! Please leave collected items in the kitchen on the black shelving unit by the door to the hallway. There are signs so you know where to leave things.)

THE GREAT *Psalm*

A CONTINUING DEVOTION FROM PSALM 119

Come, let's walk together in the ways and testimonies of God's Word....

(ALEPH) – Part 3

- ³ Also they do no wickedness,
but walk in His ways.
- ⁴ Appointed have You, Your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ Ah, that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping Your statutes!
- ⁶ As a result I would not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all Your commandments.
- ⁷ Acclaim You with an upright heart, I will
as I learn Your righteous ordinances.
- ⁸ Attend to Your statutes I will;
do not forsake me beyond enduring!

Verses 3-8 “Where Sinner/Saints Find Hope”

Can our lives fit the words of v. 3 “they do no wickedness”? It is a question we cannot escape. V. 3 sets the mirror of the perfect law before us and we fall short. We are condemned. But God stoops down with His mercy. The second half of v. 3 says “but walk in His ways.” What are God’s ways?

Look closely at the ways of the One who said, “follow Me.” His ways are mercy, grace, forgiveness and so much more. Jesus said, “Come to Me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls . . .” These are the ways and the works that God loves to do.

The ways of God are the way to Jerusalem and the way to Calvary. They are the path He walked to purchase me; and He calls me there to know that I am His. The ways of God include the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-34) and walking with us in eternal life.

Our psalm called to us and invited us to walk in the “Torah” of the LORD – to have our world filled with the things and the acts of God. Now it calls us to walk in His ways. This means to go through life with God’s ways and His doings all around us, and to follow and have our lives molded and shaped in harmony with His words and His ways..

The next 3 verses (4-6) are prayers voicing desire and longing – to be keeping His precepts (God says how I am to live); and to be steadfast in His statutes (God declares what is to be).

THE GREAT

Psalm

...Continued

If I could only be in complete harmony with God's ways, His precepts, and His statutes; why then I would never be put to shame. If only . . .

But again, God stoops down to me. He comes into our lives and into our world. Jesus gives us His words. His words do not tell me what I must do to win eternal life. They point to His mercy. They tell how He has won the victory for me. He has carried the burden, suffered the punishment, won the victory and opened up life. Now I find myself being built on His words; and on His words I am like a house built on the rock. No matter what comes; no matter the wind, the storm, the floods even – we are built on His words, and they are a firm foundation. They are eternal. (Matthew 7:24-25)

He is the One who said about the Law, "until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away" (Matthew 5:18) He says to us, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (Matthew 24:35) The word of the Lord endures forever. But those words are words of life and words of promise to us. He speaks them to me, into my soul; and when the eternal word of God is in my soul – that is eternal life! We thank and praise and celebrate what Jesus has given us! (How can we do anything else?) So we say with the psalm, "I will" "acclaim You;" and "I will" "attend to Your statutes." This Word of God truly is our life and salvation!

God sets His Promises, His words and hopes before us in so many ways. He tenderly invites us. He calls to our hearts. But I am a sinner. I know that I am not worthy to have Him stay in my life. The last prayer in Part "Aleph" is "do not forsake me" – specifically "do not forsake me beyond enduring!" (Verse 8) "Beyond enduring" would mean to be left by God, to have an eternity of being without Him. The sinner cries out with this prayer and yet knows: It is actually what I deserve!

But again God is there with His mercy. Jesus came to take what we have deserved, even taking up the very word "forsaken." If there was ever a thing beyond enduring it was for the sinless Son of God to be forsaken and condemned for others' sins. He was forsaken so I would never have to be. In this way – the most extreme of all acts of salvation – He has taken us sinners brought us in, given us His own holiness and made us His saints. To God alone be the glory!




Prayer:

Lord, Your word calls, Your word restores, and You surround me with Your words and promises. Help me to treasure the "Yes!", the "Amen!", and the promises in Jesus; so the sustaining, strengthening promises I have in Him may fill my hours and moments, my days and nights. Amen.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Sun Sch Rally Day 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	29	30 9am - Bible Study	31	1	2	3 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
4 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	5 Labor Day	6 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	7 7pm - LWML	8 3:30pm - Handbells 4:45pm - Choir	9 9am - Work Day	10 5:30pm - Worship
11 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	12 1pm - Senior Service	13 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	14	15	16	17 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
18 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	19	20 9am - Bible Study 10am - Mission	21	22 6pm - Trustees Meeting	23 Nursing Homes 1pm - Assisted Living 2pm - Park Pointe 3pm - Regency Care	24 5:30pm - Worship
25 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	26	27 9am - Bible Study	28	29	30	1 Communion 5:30pm - Worship

Prayer Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1</p> <p>Please pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter and their families. Missionaries around the world especially Kathy, Nicole, Sue, James, Joseph and Jennie. Christians being persecuted. Our congregation.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Thank You Lord for the youth in our church. Bless them and bring them closer to You.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Lord, Thank You for loving us. Help us in return to love others as You love us.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Lord, may Sunday be a day to rest and reflect on You and all the blessings You have bestowed upon us this week.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lord, give each of our family members a hunger for Your Word. Help give them the ability to hear and obey Your Word.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Lord we ask you to give extra help to care givers. Give them energy, strength, patience, wisdom, laughter, joy, comfort, compassion, and love.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lord we have so many on our list at church or we know those who need ongoing prayers. Be their constant companion in everything they do. Be their guide to get through each day. Help them to know You.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>As we are finishing our KYKS Shoe Ministry for this year. Bless all those who got shoes. Bless their families. Lord help bring them to know you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lord we pray for nations and conflict and for healing in all countries. Rev. 22:2</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Thank You God for.....</p>
<p>11</p> <p>As we attend church and worship You Lord strengthen our desire to develop a dynamic, powerful, and personal living relationship with You. Rom. 16:25-27</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Give us a hunger to pick up our Bibles and to read and study it daily.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lord you have churches all over the world. Be with those who are starting up Deaf Ministries so more can come to know you.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need You. Psalm 27:1</p>	<p>15</p> <p>We know many with personal and medical needs. Be with those and grant them healing mercies. Strengthen them daily. Bless them Lord.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord, help us to be patient with those we go to school with or work with. May we treat others as You would.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>God, fill us with laughter and songs of joy as we marvel at Your majesty. Psalm 126</p>
<p>18</p> <p>God, You are the potter, we are the clay, mold us, make us. This is what we pray. Isaiah 64:8</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Help us to approach difficulty with hope. Col. 3:15</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Thank You Lord for the opportunity to have Bible Study at our church. We ask Lord that You would increase our numbers so more can learn and study Your Word.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>We thank You Lord for all we attend church with. Help us to get to know each other as we share our beliefs in You.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>God, forgive us when we allow stress, pessimism and negativity to extinguish our joy. Psalm 86:5</p>	<p>23</p> <p>As we approach voting on elected officials we ask for discernment in our voting. Guide our country in the path You would have us go.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Be with Christian aid workers Lord. Guide lead and help them to have the knowledge and strength to help others in Your name. Keep them safe from harm.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Lord as many attend church help all churches to center around You and Your Word. Help us to keep Jesus Christ in all churches.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Help us to be strong in Faith Christians for You Lord.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Jesus, You are good and wise I will praise you when I rise. Jesus, hear this prayer I send Bless my family and my friends.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>God, teach me to back my words and beliefs with actions. Deut. 6:67</p>	<p>29</p> <p>God, grant peace to anyone who is struggling to pay their bills this month. Isaiah 35: 10</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Thank you for giving me courage and boldness to follow Your leadership Lord. Help us to be still and listen to You.</p>	