

# Friends in Christ News

Friends in Christ Lutheran Church – 1338 Clay Street – Morris Illinois 60450 Office: (M-F 10:00 – 1:30) 815/941-1255

## To the Fulfillment . . .

Saturday Evenings  
5:30 pm

Sunday Mornings  
9:30 am  
(Live-Streamed)

Sunday Bible Study  
10:30 am

Tuesday Bible Study  
9:00 am  
(Via ZOOM)

### Part 2: *A*mazing promises in the Last Verse of Matthew

Jesus said, *“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

This is the last half of the last verse of the Gospel of Matthew. It is more than the end of a book. And it is even more than a wrap up and completion of the Gospel with some promises and assurances for the future. In every part, the deeper you look the more amazing this verse is.

The claims and promises that Jesus makes are detailed, specific, reach all the way through our age, and are fulfilled eternally.

This simple verse is Jesus’ telling us the next part of His work as the Savior and Shepherd of our souls.

Last month we began to look closely at Jesus’ words. (Note: If you have a Greek / English interlinear New Testament, or if you can look up an interlinear printing of this verse on-line, check each word, one by one.)

#### To review from last month:

1. Jesus said *“behold”* marking the words that follow as exceptionally special.
2. Jesus said, *“I am”* taking to Himself the personal name of God from the Old Testament. When I read this verse, I see the words as *“I AM”* the name God revealed to Moses on Mt. Sinai.
3. The order of the words is actually, *“I with you AM”*. Jesus put the words “with you” right in the middle of the name of God. He has chosen to be the “with”

God (the meaning of the word Immanuel). And if Jesus has taken “with you” as a part of His name – that is permanent and forever.

4. What we translate as *“always”* is actually 3 Greek words; *“passas tas haymeras”*. It is much more specific; literally *“all the days”*. Every day and every kind of day He is with us. Through days of blessing, sorrow, prayer and waiting, being surprised by unexpectedly wonderful answers to prayer. Days of wealth and poverty, sickness and health, and on and on the list goes. He knows them all and walks with us through them. Even the days of being a sinner, because there was a day when He carried our sins.

But there is so much here that things ran long and I promised a Part 2.

#### Part 2

5. Jesus promised, *“I with you AM all the days, to the end of the age.”* except ... As you look closer at the words it keeps getting better.

If the word “end” was simply “end” that would be the Greek word *“telos”*. Instead, the word is, *“synteleias”*, the same root word but a much more complicated meaning.

It means *“fulfillment”*. (Or, because it begins *“syn”*, an even better translation is *“the fulfillment that happens when every part comes together”*, but that’s really long.)

So: *“ . . . to the fulfillment of the age.”*

**This is a huge promise!** It means that it is not just

(Continued on page 2)

**Amazing promises . . .** *continued from front page*

while time passes by and things happen, some good, some bad, that Jesus will be with us through all of them.” (He will, by the way.) But Jesus promises so much more.

**There is a plan.** It is His plan. It is the plan of salvation and the plan of the Kingdom. Jesus is putting every part in place, and He will bring it all together in the kingdom of God. It will be a perfect fulfillment, every part fitting, every Christian soul brought to perfection, and even our bodies raised from death to be glorious and share in all of the promises too!

**This is also a huge claim!** Jesus claims that He is able to bring everything together in His eternal Kingdom: He is the Shepherd of each Christian soul, leading us through blessing and danger and into full perfection. Jesus can take each one of us and bring us into His Kingdom. And while He is doing that Jesus is working through each one of us to support and strengthen each other.

Now think about this. God does not measure out the success of His plans by how glorious is the throne He sits on; or how far reaching is His authority and power; or even by just tallying up the number of people included. Instead, He measures the greatness of His kingdom by the complete perfection of His work in each one of His people. The transforming of each Christian in body and soul is *“the fulfillment of the age.”* Jesus let us know the plan when He said, *“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* (Matthew 5:48) This is all God’s work in Jesus since we are completely unable to begin any self-perfection at all. Again, this is the plan of God the Father who plans to have us *“conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”* (Romans 8:29) And Paul reminds us that Jesus, *“will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.”* (Philippians 3:21)

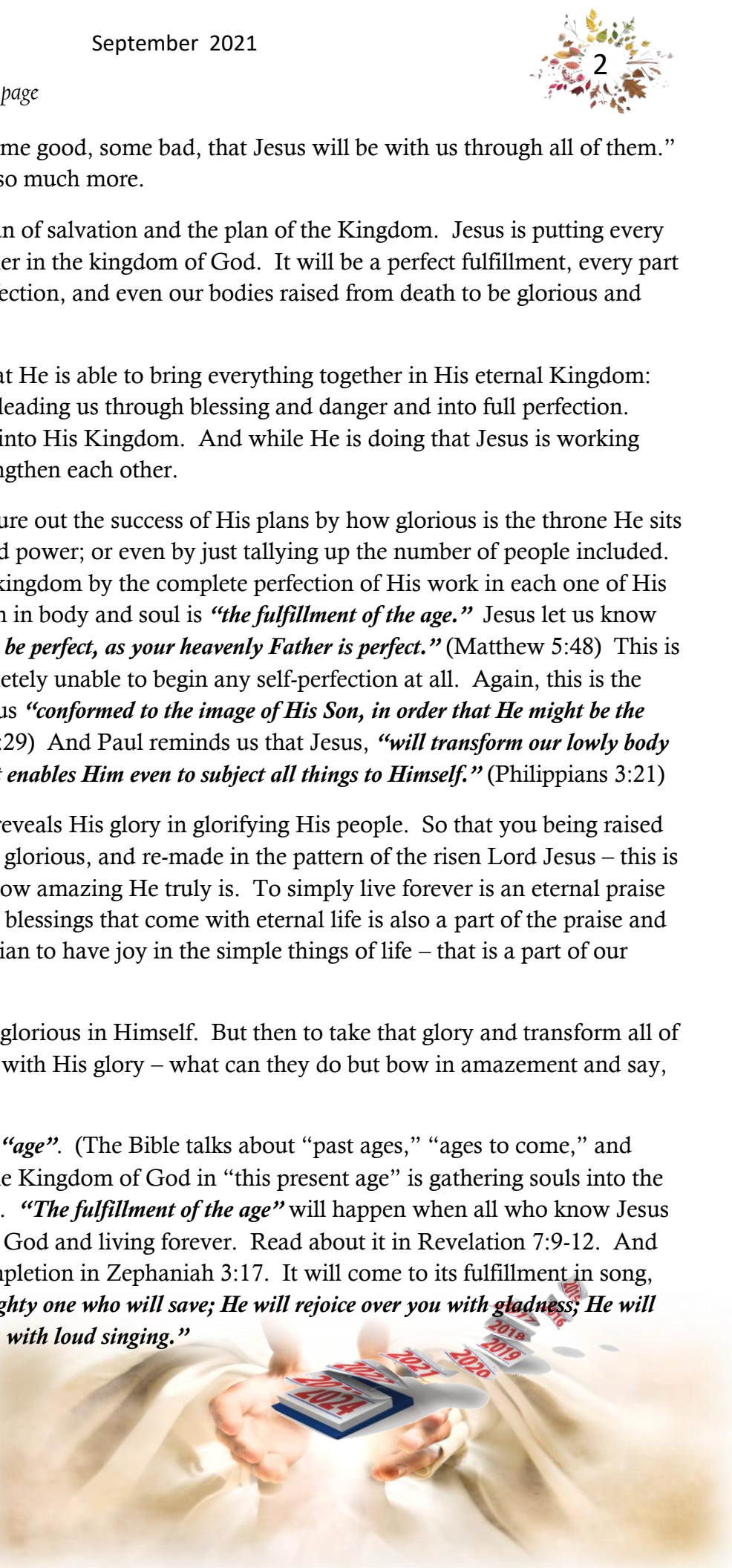
It is a thing I heard in seminary, that God reveals His glory in glorifying His people. So that you being raised from the dead, transformed and amazingly glorious, and re-made in the pattern of the risen Lord Jesus – this is how God declares His victory and shows how amazing He truly is. To simply live forever is an eternal praise of His glory. To have the amazing joy and blessings that come with eternal life is also a part of the praise and glory of God. (And right now, for a Christian to have joy in the simple things of life – that is a part of our praising God.)

To the angels, it is one thing for God to be glorious in Himself. But then to take that glory and transform all of believing humanity so that we are glorious with His glory – what can they do but bow in amazement and say, “Wow! Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord ...”

This then is the plan. It is the plan for this *“age”*. (The Bible talks about “past ages,” “ages to come,” and “this present age.”) The whole focus for the Kingdom of God in “this present age” is gathering souls into the Kingdom through salvation in Jesus Christ. *“The fulfillment of the age”* will happen when all who know Jesus are gathered together singing the praises of God and living forever. Read about it in Revelation 7:9-12. And then read about how this age comes to completion in Zephaniah 3:17. It will come to its fulfillment in song, *“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 rejoice over you with loud singing.”*

Until that day trust in Jesus who is able to bring all things to fulfillment.

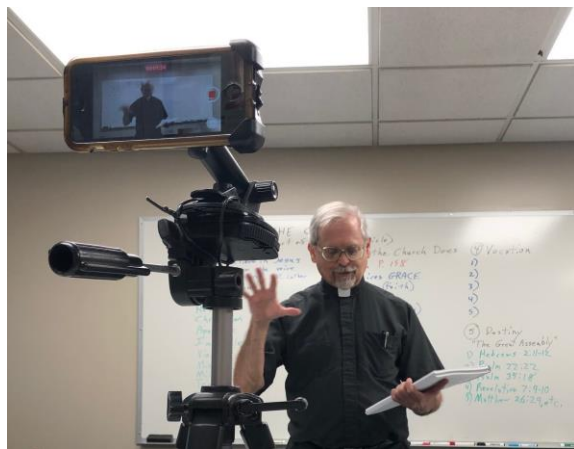
Pastor Mark





**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!**  
 We will be meeting on  
**Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**  
*(Deb Carter and Paula Willig will be serving a light, mid-morning snack.)*

This is the first time we've met since last October, 2020!  
 Respectful social distancing will be observed.  
 We hope to see everyone there!



ABOVE: Pastor Mark records this week's lesson for confirmation class . . .

### Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paige Thorson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Smolich  
Sabina Woods
- 4<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Lund
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sarah Riordan
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ethan Duvick
- 11<sup>th</sup> David Halkyard
- 17<sup>th</sup> Norma Carlson  
Gary Schultz
- 27<sup>th</sup> Amber Brown
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mark Willig

### Anniversaries

- 1<sup>st</sup>  
Greg & Deidre Carlson  
30 years
- 17<sup>th</sup>  
Doug & Jeannine Halkyard  
44 years

## Financial Report Friends in Christ Lutheran Church 2021




**Thank you for your faithful giving throughout every season!**

General Fund	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	YTD Actual	BUDGETED
Income	\$ 12,835.12	\$ 17,193.67	\$ 9,174.76	\$ 14,442.67	\$ 8,977.67	\$ 84,481.36	\$ 81,865.00
Expenses	\$ 13,064.45	\$ 9,138.28	\$ 7,888.97	\$ 12,752.72	\$ 11,199.27	\$ 72,761.46	\$ 81,837.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (229.33)	\$ 8,055.39	\$ 1,285.79	\$ 1,689.95	\$ (2,221.60)	\$ 11,719.90	

# Prayer Calendar

# SEPTEMBER 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p><b>1</b> Lord help us to pray daily for Pastor Willig, Deb Carter, Kris Farber, and Alex Castelberry and their families. Pray for all those who have Covid for healing. We pray for those who need to hear about You so they can come to know You as their Savior.</p>	<p><b>2</b> Lord, we pray that Friends In Christ be a warm and welcoming environment to all who enter God's place of worship.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Lord, help us to put all our trust in You. Prov. 3:5-6</p>	<p><b>4</b> God, bless children who pray. Let prayer time be a wonderful time for us to talk to You like we would a friend.</p>
<p><b>5</b> God, give us the gift to be able to see all the blessings You give to us in each day. Thank You for blessing us with the gift to see You in our every day lives.</p>	<p><b>6</b> Lord, make us hungry to learn and study your word. Help us to put it into practice in our every day lives.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Lord, we thank You so much for listening and answering our prayers.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Help us to sow Your Word Lord like the farmer sows the seed. Mark 4:13-20</p>	<p><b>9</b> We pray that Morris and the surrounding communities would be open to the Gospel.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Lord, many of us have family members that are ill and need Your healing hand. Please be with care takers and give them a renewed strength.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Lord, give us strength and wisdom to help us turn over our stress and busy lives to You. Exodus 15:2</p>
<p><b>12</b> Lord, help us to put You first in all we do.</p>	<p><b>13</b> God, help me to be self-controlled and alert. My enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Open the hearts of those we go to church with to step up and volunteer at church. Many hands make light work.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Thank You for giving us courage and boldness to follow Your leadership Lord.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Lord, shine Your light into the lives of those who need You. Psalm 27:1</p>	<p><b>17</b> Lord help us to pray for those we have conflict with. Matt 5:43-44</p>	<p><b>18</b> Lord, bless us with wisdom, discernment, and a God-like heart to do Your will.</p>
<p><b>19</b> We pray Lord that You would raise up a new wave of people strategically serving at church.</p>	<p><b>20</b> God, Thank You for loving us enough to send Your Son Jesus Christ to die and rise again. By Your grace and our faith we can be with You forever.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Lord, Thank You for Your many promises revealed through scripture that give us hope. Rom. 5:1-5</p>	<p><b>22</b> Lord, help Pastors find quiet times of rest and renewal. Matthew 14:23</p>	<p><b>23</b> Lord, may we find comfort in the knowledge that You will never leave nor forsake us. Heb. 13:5</p>	<p><b>24</b> Lord, Thank You for Pastors that serve with a willing heart, a joyful spirit and continued faithfulness. Genesis 12:2</p>	<p><b>25</b> Lord, help us to be still and listen with open hearts for Your call to serve others. 1 Sam. 3:8</p>
<p><b>26</b> Lord, may we learn through example that Christ did not come to be served, but to serve. Matt. 20:28</p>	<p><b>27</b> Lord, release a spirit of prayer in our families. May we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in everything. 1 Thes. 5: 16-18</p>	<p><b>28</b> God, help me to overcome doubts and accept that I can rely on Your grace. 2 Cor. 12:9</p>	<p><b>29</b> Lord, create in our families a longing to follow Jesus and to faithfully serve in our church and community. Mark 8:34-38</p>	<p><b>30</b> Lord, help us engage in ministry with people who have few (or no) connections to the church. Colossians 4:5</p>		

# September, 2021 – Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Morris, Illinois

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 10:00 AM – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League	2	3	4 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
5 <b>COMMUNION</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	6	7 9:00 AM – Bible Study 7:00 PM – Elders	8	9	10	11 5:30 PM – Worship
12 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:25 AM – Special Voters’ Meeting 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	13	14 9:00 AM – Bible Study	15	16 7:00 PM – Circuit Forum @ Immanuel, Batavia	17	18 <b>COMMUNION</b> 5:30 PM – Worship
19 <b>COMMUNION</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	20	21 9:00 AM – Bible Study	22	23 7:00 PM – Church Council	24	25 5:30 PM – Worship
26 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM – Worship & Live-Streamed 10:30 AM – Bible Study Hour	27	28 9:00 AM – Bible Study	29	30	In October: October 10 – LWML Sunday	