

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church
540 D Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1054

Office Phone: 402-476-3888
Fax Number: 402-438-5669

Website:

Friedens.org

Church email:

office@friedens.org

Forwarding Service Requested

Pastor Katherine (Kate) Woolf
pastorkate@friedens.org

Billie Hansen, Secretary

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PASTOR'S PAGE...

Happy New Year!

As we begin the new year, I would like to take a moment to thank all the folks who have served on the Council in the past two years as we have navigated matters of call and financial uncertainty. With long meetings and, at times, difficult conversations, they have served you well. Special thanks to our two outgoing Council members: Peggy Russell and Kathy Holland. Your work is much appreciated!

This new year will bring changes for all of us at Friedens.

As you are probably aware, I will begin serving at Friedens part time (40% = 20 hours) on 2 January. This is due to the financial position of the congregation. We discerned together that in light of the large budget deficit each year, the best course of action was to move to part-time ministry. This allows the congregation to remain open and to continue ministry in their current location while balancing their budget, as long as the current level of giving continues. The hope is that this giving may increase over time such that it will be possible to increase the pastoral hours again.

Since I will only be at Friedens part time, I am pleased to announce that I will be the new chaplain at Clark Jeary, a nursing home in the south part of Lincoln. I will serve there 28 hours a week and look forward to the new connections, ministry, and learning that will happen there!

To give you an idea of what can be accomplished in 20 hours a week, here are a few scenarios:

Sunday worship prep and leadership + funeral prep, service, committal and pastoral care= 20 hours

Sunday worship prep and leadership + Council + Senior lunch (communion) + Lancaster Manor + confirmation > 20 hours

Sunday worship prep and leadership + Lancaster Manor + Confirmation + 4 hours meetings/pastoral care = 20 hours

Sunday worship prep and leadership + music/liturgy planning + Lincoln area clergy text study + confirmation + Lancaster Manor > 20 hours

In working out those numbers (above) I myself was surprised at how quickly the time was absorbed into the minimum weekly tasks, leaving little room for outreach and other activities in which I often take part.

The changes in pastoral staffing will mean other changes in the congregation. While we have been talking about change for a while as part of the transformational ministry process, this is where the rubber hits the road.

We continue to collect the following items to benefit our mission partners and local service organizations.

Food for Food Pantry (see needed items in another article in this newsletter)

Plastic bags that are made into mats for the Homeless, a project led by GracePointe residents (Tabitha Assisted Living Community)

Teddy bears and personal care items for the People's City Mission

Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Omaha

Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education for Mosaic in Beatrice

Coupon Flyers for Tabitha---residents clip these as a service project. The coupons are given to a local Lion's Club who send them overseas to Military families in Germany

All items may be left in the entryway to the sanctuary.

Thank you!

Social Ministry Team



This change presents us with the opportunity to look at each activity that's part of our ministry and to say, why do we do this? And, do we still want to do this? These questions help us to discern where we want to put limited time and resources; what are the most important ministry priorities of the congregation? What do we have a passion about? What do we feel God is calling us to?

Sometimes with ministry changes it is necessary to examine what we're doing as a congregation and to say, "thing X or Y had a wonderful history and was great for the congregation in the past, but it no longer serves the purpose it once did. So, we're going to retire it with honor and see where else we can put that energy that we feel better serves our current context."

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)

In addition to that reflection, some of the tasks that have fallen to the pastor in the past, notably visitation of those who are unable to join us in worship, will largely have to be accomplished by lay members of the congregation. This has a good biblical precedent (those who visited in the Acts church were not those who led worship, etc.) and we think will actually result in people being visited more often, which is good for everyone! If you are interested in visiting someone, please let us know! We will also train a group of folks to take Holy Communion from our communion services during Sunday worship to folks who are homebound, etc. These Eucharistic Ministers will essentially allow those who receive the communion to "join" in with the rest of the assembly, just at a different time. These visits will typically be on a Sunday or a Monday. We hope that people will embrace these changes as ways to strengthen the relationships within our congregation, rather than more tasks to do or "lesser" visits since they aren't made by the pastor.

There will be a binder or two of sign-up sheets in the church and the office starting in January. We would like everyone to look at it and sign up for the things that you are willing to help with either once, or on an ongoing basis. If you sign up to do it, you will not be stuck doing it forever. We will have new sheets each year. This allows people to change from one task to another easily and also helps us to see what ministries are important to us as a whole congregation. If there are some that no one signs up for, and they are not critical aspects of worship, pastoral care, administration, etc. then we will know that we aren't excited about those ministries anymore. Maybe there are then new things that we are excited to do. Or maybe we just had too many things going on. It's okay if there are things that don't happen for lack of people. We can always bring them back the next year, if we decide that we miss doing them.

This way of organizing teams of folks is an attempt to improve communication about tasks and to make sure that we don't have a few people who get stuck doing most of the things. There is something for everyone to do. Even if you are homebound, there are some tasks you can help with! For example, you could pray for folks on the prayer chain, or volunteer to send cards to people on birthdays. If there's a ministry you have been leading or doing for a long time and you want to continue to do that, this is not an attempt to change that. You can certainly continue to do those things you have done. It simply provides a way for us to understand who is doing what, and to make sure that nothing accidentally falls between the cracks with changes in pastoral time.

I look forward to serving together with you all as we find our way together into this new ministry configuration!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers... Please let the church office know if there has been a birth, baptism, marriage or death in your family that you would like to share. Let us know if someone is hospitalized or needs our prayers. With your permission, this request will be added to the list of Prayer Concerns in the Sunday bulletin. If you would like immediate prayers for the individual, the office will initiate the Prayer Chain.

HIPPA regulations do not allow a hospital to notify the church if someone in our congregation is hospitalized. Please call the church office with this information at 402-476-3888 or email at office@friedens.org. You can also call the Pastor @ (316)371-0803, in case of an emergency.



Prayers....

Jane Swann
 Gary Overfiled
 Megan McNamara
 Dwayne Greenwalt
 Verlene Owens
 Greg Zessin
 Kimberly Render

Marty, Becky, Julia, Meg, & Sam Melang
 Nick Busker (grandson of Sue & Dick Busker)
 Bill Kammerer (Uncle of KC Melang-Thoren)
 Zach Miller (friend of Pastor Kate's)
 Nancy Carpenter (Cindy Worster's sister)
 Dean & Angie (Scott Dreith's Brother)
 Joel Scholz (Pastor Kate's Uncle)



FRIEDENS CHRISTMAS PROJECT

We have quite an array of winter mittens/gloves, hats and scarves hanging on the Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your donations! We will continue to accept these winter items until the "unhanging" of the greens January 13th. Items will be taken to Everett Elementary School and the People's City Mission the week of January 15th. Please leave your donations on the mitten tree in the sanctuary or drop them off at the church office.

Thank you!
 Social Ministry Team



There are greeting cards in the back of the church ...

If you would like to fill one out for someone who might be having a birthday, anniversary, or you are just thinking of them. Please fill out the card with the person's first and last name and put it back in the basket. We will stamp and mail it or deliver it to that person.

P.S. If you have extra greeting cards please place them in the back of the church and they will be sorted for others to use.

Any questions ask Fran Zessin

No greater way to show God's love than to be in touch with others.



An Open Letter To All Members of Friedens Lutheran Church:

On July 9th, 2017, we celebrated the 110 year anniversary of Friedens Lutheran Church. As a 3rd generation member of this congregation, and with grandchildren who are 5th generation member of Friedens, I am very interested in doing what I can to insure that Friedens Lutheran Church will be around for generations to come. Having grown up in this church, and watching my grandson in the Youth Choir, I would like to see all of our current members help Friedens get through this particular point in our history. There are a lot of challenges for us, but I believe that if all of you want Friedens Lutheran Church to continue in its ministry, it will. To do that will require help from all of you, every member, to get Friedens through the difficulties that we are facing right now. Here are a few ideas of how you can help:

- (1) Come to Worship Service. Come regularly.
- (2) Invite a friend or co-worker to come. Most people join because of personal invitation.
- (3) Invite a former member back to Worship Service.
- (4) If you do come regularly, call a member that you haven't seen in church for a while and invite them to start coming again.
- (5) Call an older member of Friedens that you haven't seen in church for a while and ask them if they need a ride.
- (6) Give more, if you are able to.
- (7) Offer to volunteer where needed. The more volunteers we have, the more we can get done and the easier it is for everyone.
- (8) Be active in the church.
- (9) Come to Worship Service. Come regularly.

There are things that we can all do, to help Friedens Lutheran Church through this time of challenge. If you want Friedens Lutheran Church to be around for future generations, it will take your help. But with your help, with everyone's help, Friedens Lutheran Church can make it through these challenges and continue in ministry for generations to come. Please help.

Gary Hardt

110th Commemorative items...

We only have a few items left from our 110th Anniversary celebration. We would like to offer these commemorative items to you at half price at the beginning of 2018. This is only while supplies last.

See order form in this newsletter.

When we give freely.....

We are able to be a part of God's Kingdom work at Friedens, in Lincoln and around the world. We serve an incredibly generous God and count it a privilege to give back to God what has been generously given to us.

Year To Date Report: November 2017

Receipts \$ 99,768.49

Disbursements \$ 123,227.41

PRAYER CHAIN...

The Prayer Chain at



Friedens a vital part of the ministry we do. Caring for others in general, but especially for those in our church family, is what we are called to do. You are needed. Please call Maxine Pfrimmer (402-464-3024) and tell her you would love to be part of the prayer chain.

WELCA...

There will be no WELCA for the months of January, February and March. We will see you in April.

Material for pillow cases...

Do you have extra material you don't know what to do with? Please consider donating it to Friedens Church. A member of the congregation is busy making pillow cases for many outreach programs. You can call the church office at 402-476-3888 to schedule a time to drop it off.



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2018

Following worship

Starting at 11:00

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Maxine Pfrimmer & Carolyn Hogg

Head Usher

Kent Vollenweider

Communion Assistant

4 — Peggy Russell

11 — Maxine Pfrimmer

14 — Fran Zessin

18 — Carolyn Hogg

Lectors

4 — Kevin Melang-Thoren

11 — Abby Newhouse

18 — Kathy Holland

25 — Maxine Pfrimmer

Greeters

4 — Nancy Borrell & Jane Cosier

11 — JoAnne Ninneman & Jimmy Oltmer

14 — Rempe Family

18 — Deb Marr & Neoma Jones

25 — Linda Dreith & Carol Boellstorff



Has your Email changed? If so, please let the office know by sending an email to ...

Office@friedens.org



JANUARY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- (3) Rick Lutz
- (3) Karen Michael
- (4) Chrystal Anderson
- (4) Wilder Owens
- (5) Bob Hogg
- (5) Randy Koch
- (9) Maxine Pfrimmer
- (13) Aaron Vollenweider
- (17) Hannah Ledford
- (17) Lynn Wedland
- (17) Kirk & Jessica Beute 8 Years
- (17) Robert Sinn
- (20) Dora Sorensen
- (21) Jeff Harrington
- (21) Juan & Ashlie Uribe 4 Years
- (20) Charlie Hardt
- (24) Dave Allen
- (25) Alma Wilson
- (29) Norman Chrastil
- (31) Jimmy Oltmer



JANUARY WORSHIP

2018 LEADERS

Altar Guild

Nancy Borrell & Neoma Jones

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Communion Assistant

7 — Karen Scribner

21 — Becky Roberts

Lectors

7 — Kathy Holland

14 — Irene Newhouse

21 — Karen Rempe

28 — Kevin Melang-Thoren

Greeters

7 — Chuck & Lori Schwahn

14 — Rempe Family

21 — Steve & Peggy Russell

28 — Amy Rezny & Joyce Boerger



JANUARY Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Thursday morning Bible Study — 10:00 — 11:00 at Friedens (Annex)

The adult forum Sunday @ 9:30 continues to have lively discussion around Luther's small catechism. **Come join us!**

Friedens 110th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING

Friedens celebrated its 110th Year Anniversary on July 9th, We had a special service that day, followed by a lunch.

As part of our anniversary, we're doing several things to help raise funds and to celebrate! As you may be aware, Friedens is in the midst of financial challenges and any money we can raise will help to meet those challenges.

We will continue these efforts for the rest of 2017.

- (1) 110 Year Anniversary Commemorative items (order sheet is attached).
- (2) Confirmation class pictures going back to 1907 are available to order, at just \$7.50 per picture. If you would like a picture of your confirmation class, your parents class, your grandparents' class or any other class photo they are available to order. Contact the church office. (see below)
- (3) Donate toward our anniversary goal of retiring the debt from the 100th Year renovation loan. Progress has been good. The building renovation was nearly \$300,000 and 10 years later we have it paid down to a little under \$20,000. If we can get that paid off, it would eliminate \$400 a month in bills. If you donate \$100 towards the pay off of the renovation fund debt, we will have a plaque made with the name of your choice, in memory or honor of a person or family. All plaques will be erected together, depending upon the number, somewhere inside or outside of the church building. (see enclosed order form to donate)

Thanks to all who have contributed so far!

If you have any questions please contact the church office at 402-476-3888 or office@friedens.org, or e-mail Gary Hardt at ghardt7@yahoo.com.

The Scrip program's motto is "turn everyday shopping into fundraising".

Purchasing gift cards through Friedens' Scrip program is a painless way to raise dollars that come back to **The Scrip program's motto is "turn everyday shopping into fundraising"**.

Purchasing gift cards through Friedens' Scrip program is a painless way to raise dollars that come back to Friedens! This is how it works, you purchase gift cards for use when you buy groceries, eat out, or shop at department or "big box" stores. You pay face value for the card, just as you would if you were buying the card at the store, but with Scrip, the business donates 3 – 18% back to the purchasing organization (Friedens). Currently, funds raised through this program are designated to debt retirement of our renovation loan. The most popular cards that are purchased regularly by Friedens members are cards for Super Saver, HyVee, Don & Millies, Amigos, Runza and Amazon.com.

If you are not familiar with the Scrip program talk to Kathy Holland, Maxine Pfrimmer, Kathy Rempe or Fran Zessin. Pick up an order form, found in the entry way of the church, to see the long list of cards available. Orders are taken the second Sunday of the month and you will receive your cards on the third Sunday.

Once you've decided on your order, turn it in to Kathy Holland along with payment for cards ordered. (Check made payable to Friedens Lutheran Church.)

South Salt Creek Neighborhood Organization

The South Salt Creek neighborhood is in the initial stages of becoming an active neighborhood organization again. Friedens sits in the center of the South Salt Creek area, which is the area between 9th street and South Salt Creek, O Street and Van Dorn. NeighborWorks of Lincoln is providing support for this reorganization. Initial projects, supported by NeighborWorks, have included the development of Cooper Commons (off of 9th street, between D and E streets), an in depth survey and study of a portion of this area, the South Bottoms Historic District, by UNL graduate students enrolled in the Community & Regional Planning Program, and renovations & improvements to Cooper Park.

As a part of our outreach, Pastor Kate & Kathy Holland have attended meetings related to these projects over the past year and a half. Neighborhood concerns are our concerns. The next meeting of the South Salt Creek Neighborhood Organization (SSCNO) will be held at Friedens, January 9th at 7 pm. All neighbors within the South Salt Creek area are invited to attend. Agenda items that evening will include an update on Cooper Park renovations and discussion of potential first events (party/social event, potluck, neighborhood clean-up). If you would like to be in the communication link of this organization, please contact Kathy Holland or the church office and your name and email will be forwarded to the communication volunteer for the SSCNO.

The final report about the South Bottoms Historic District completed by UNL Graduate students is available for you to read. This report examines the topics of neighborhood history, crime, safety, transportation, floodplain concerns, neighborhood gardens, green space, as well as housing conditions and affordability. If you would like to review this document, please contact the church office.

Upcoming dates...

Un-hanging of the Greens — Jan. 6, 2017

Church Council meeting — Jan. 11, 2017

Annual Meeting — Jan. 28, 2017

Ash Wednesday — Feb. 14, 2017



Poinsettias 2017

IN HONOR OF:

Our mothers, Nellie and Berneta by Steve and Peggy Russell
Delores Kaufman by David and Nicole Kaufman
The entire Keriakedes family by Alex Keriakedes

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The members of Friedens by Kathy Rempe
Friedens 110th Anniversary by Kathie Svoboda
Pastor Kate's Ministry at Friedens by Bill and Amy Woolf



IN MEMORY OF:

Andrew and Elizabeth Beltz by Melvin and Deloris Bellinger and Steven and Catherine Beltz
My husband, Donald Brunken by Barbara Brunken
My beloved parents, Mr and Mrs. R.S. Adams, Dr. and Mrs. H.M. Goede, Gerald H Goede by Carolea Adams
My husband, Jack Pfrimmer, by Maxine Pfrimmer
My husband, LeRoy Uglow by Angie Chesnut
My parents, Owen and Nelva Beethe, by Kathy Rempe
David L Kaufman, George and Katherine Kaufman by David and Nicole Kaufman
Bill Svoboda, Molly and John Schreiber and Mary Joyce Schoening by Kathie Svoboda
Stan Trampe by Judy Trampe
Kenneth Hardt and Edwin and Leura Lind by Julie Erickson
Pete and Mollie Harris, Willard and Gerald Harris by David and Jane Cosier
Jim Nothnagel, Jack Pfrimmer and Bill Svoboda by Jude Nothnagel
LeRoy Butherus, Jacob Butherus and Emilie Butherus By Sandra Butherus