

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church  
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Administrative Assistant

Bev Mittan

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***PASTOR'S PAGE...***

While Pastor Kate is away enjoying a much-deserved vacation, the page normally dedicated to her article will be devoted to the Christmas letter shared with former members and friends of Friedens written by Gary Hardt and Pastor Kate.

— “Merry Christmas to you all. We hope that his holiday season is finding you and your family healthy, happy and wise. This year has been an exceptionally surprising one for us at Friedens. After spending 2017 trying to figure out the path that God has in mind for Friedens, and making the change to a part-time pastor in order to continue our ministry, 2018 has been a blessing to our church. We would like to thank Dan Wacker, his wife, Diane, and his family for the generous gift that Dan provided to Friedens, after his passing this summer. That gift to Friedens’ Endowment Fund, combined with faithfully offered regular offerings from so many, will help ensure that Friedens will be able to continue its mission for years to come.

Friedens has been blessed both last year, and this year, with the opportunity to help other Christian ministries start up in our area to serve immigrant communities, just as Friedens did at the time of its founding. Last year, a small group of Karen immigrants began using our church for their Sunday School and their Worship Service. They start their Sunday School at noon, after our services are done. Then their worship service is from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. They had outgrown the home where they were meeting and approached us about the use of our church for their congregation. Then just this fall, we were approached by a Hispanic Christian mission group that wanted to use our fellowship hall as a meeting place for a new mission in our neighborhood. That mission group is called, “Christo Jesus la resurecsion y la vida” in Spanish, or “Jesus Christ the resurrection and Life” in English. They have recently started meeting at Friedens on Saturday and Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. As with our ancestors, they speak very little English, and it is usually the children that speak English. So Friedens is now nurturing two immigrant congregations as a place to grow their Christian ministries.

On Sunday December 9th, there were worship services in four different languages at Friedens! We had our usual English worship service in the morning. The Karen congregation worshipped directly afterward at 11:30 a.m. We hosted our annual German Christmas service at 2:00 p.m. and the Hispanic mission held their worship service in the evening. After our recent challenges with finances and discerning a mission, it was exciting to see worship services in four different languages that day. It felt like a message from God that we were, in fact, still serving our community and neighborhood.



♦ **Saturday, January 12th, 9:00 a.m. — Taking down of the “greens” (taking down Christmas decorations)**

♦ **Sunday, January 27th, 11:00 a.m. — Annual Meeting**  
**We will meet in the sanctuary. Worship will take place from 10:30—11:00 a.m.**

Continued on next page

In addition to these special events at Friedens this year, we continue to do our regular mission outreach programs to our community. This fall our congregation, led by the Social Ministry Team, assembled 150 Lutheran World Relief School Kits which will be sent overseas. This is a record number and was the result of amazing donations from the congregation. In July we held our Annual Garage Sale. This always attracts a large number of people, as Friedens' garage sale offers unbelievable bargains for all that come to shop. Many of our neighborhood families rely on this event in order to buy their family school clothes for the new school year. This event is a lot of work, and would not be possible without all of the dedication and hard work that the members of Friedens put into this. We thank those volunteers for their dedication year after year.

In September we held our annual Church/Neighborhood Picnic. We open this event to the neighborhood, inviting them to come out for an afternoon of fun, food and bingo. We have inflatable attractions, a rock climbing wall, face painting, games for kids plus snow cones and ice cream. At 5:00 p.m. we invite everyone down to our fellowship hall for hamburgers & hot dogs and conversation. At 6:00 p.m. we have bingo. We had a great turnout again this year. Fun was had by all. This neighborhood picnic would not be possible without the continued financial support of the Don & Sandy Everett family and their "Runza Restaurants".

During this Christmas season, members of our congregation went Christmas Caroling to congregation members who have a limited ability to attend worship. Many who took part in this event commented how much of a blessing it was to them, those doing the singing! The following Sunday, we welcomed over 100 people to our annual German Christmas service. Pastor Kate led the service in German and was joined by the Rt. Rev. Michael Melchizedek, pastor of the Eastern Orthodox church around the corner from Friedens, who gave the message. The turnout for this year's German service was one of the highest that we have had. Everyone enjoyed cookies & coffee and socializing after the service.

We appreciate all of the support from our Friedens family— our current congregation, former members & friends— in years past but especially during this past year as we tried to find our way through some very tough times. Your help in assuring that Friedens stays in the community and continues its work, is greatly appreciated.

All of us here at Friedens wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas! May God bless you and your family in the coming new year!

Sincerely, Gary Hardt, Council President

On behalf of the people of Friedens Lutheran Church"

### New Staff—

We welcome Bev Mittan as our new Administrative Assistant. Bev is a native Nebraskan, having grown up in Plainview. She has lived in Lincoln for 20 years and is a life-long Lutheran. She is a member of Christ Lutheran Church. So don't be surprised if you hear a new voice answering the phone when you call the office. Bev will be working 9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m., Monday—Friday. Bev invites you to stop by the office and say hello!

## JANUARY Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



## JANUARY WORSHIP

### LEADERS

#### Altar Guild

Nancy Borrell & Neoma Jones

#### Head Usher

Gary Hardt

#### Communion Assistant

6 — Karen Scribner

20 — Becky Roberts

#### Lectors

6 — Joyce Boerger

13 — Margaret Vogt

20 — Amy Rezny

27 — Maxine Pfrimmer

#### Greeters

2 — Margaret & Ron Vogt

13 — Steve & Peggy Russell

20 — Amy Rezny & Joyce Boerger

27 — Irene Newhouse & Maria Kildau

### Thank You!

Thanks to your generous donations we were able to assist 5 families with their Christmas meal by providing a ham to 2 families and grocery gift cards to all.

And, all families who were remembered at Thanksgiving and Christmas send a huge thank you to the congregation.

Social Ministry Team