

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church
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Pastor Bud Christenson

Forwarding Service Requested

Dr. Mai Butler, Director of Music

Bev Mittan, Office Manager

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Friedens MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 12—December 2020

PASTOR'S PAGE...

Dear Friedens and Family,

As we prepared for Thanksgiving Day this year, we discovered that we have much to be thankful for, even during a pandemic. Our Native American friends, who invited the Pilgrims to a Thanksgiving feast have a deep appreciation for the basics: soil, water, sunshine, and seeds.

We are all tired of hearing things like, “Did you know that Aunt Martha has tested positive for Covid -19 and is in the hospital?” We are all ready to stop counting our losses and to start looking with some hope (vaccines) for victories in our families, in our communities, in our state, in our nation and in the world.

Advent is the time for hope. My grandson texted, “Why is it called *Advent*?” It’s called *Advent* because it is the start of something new—a new start in the church year. The Advent wreath is waiting for us to light the first candle. The stable is set up in front of the altar. The manger is in place to provide food for the animals. The animals are waiting there with us. They will be happy to let Mary and Joseph convert the manger to a nursery bed for Jesus. We are all expecting! We’re expecting a baby!

Four monologues will be presented by members of Friedens during our worship on the four Sundays before Christmas. The theme will be “Angel Visits.” We will recall the visits the angel Gabriel made:

to Zechariah in the temple to announce that two very old people, he and his wife Elizabeth, would be having a baby which he must name John;

to Mary to let her know that she would have a baby who would be God’s Son and become the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; and,

to Joseph to help him adjust to the idea that his betrothed was pregnant with God’s son and that they should go ahead with their marriage and name the baby Jesus.

That’s a lot of good news!

I hope you and your loved ones are able to stay safe, stay well and stay positive as we enter this new year with hope and great expectations because of what God has done and is doing.

Pastor Bud



Upcoming dates...

December 1— Giving Tuesday (Bridges To Hope/Thrivent)

December 10 — Council Meeting

December 13 — Virtual German/English Christmas Service— 2:00pm

December 24 — Live Stream/Sanctuary Christmas Eve Service—6:00pm



Message from our Council President

This year, December will look quite different here at Friedens. Due to COVID 19, we will not be able to go out caroling to our shut ins. That is a first for us here at Friedens, as far as I can remember. And while we won't be able to have our annual German Christmas program either, it does give us the opportunity to try something different and unique. We will combine our new technology of Facebook live streaming, and our vast VHS collection of past German Christmas programs, (thank you Jack Pfrimmer), and we will live stream on our Facebook page, our German Christmas program from 2002. This live streaming will take place on December 13th at 2:00PM. It will have Pastor Klover and Pastor Walter Rowaldt during the German part. So if you like to sing Christmas carols in German, join us on that day and time, and sing along with all of the Christmas carols that were sung on that day in 2002. There are a number of grown up Friedens girls who were part of a German singing youth choir at that time also. And since there is no Sunday School going on right now, we may see if we can find a VHS tape of a Sunday School Christmas program from the past also. Stay tuned for that.

Worship attendance continues to be good since we started worship services back in our sanctuary. This past month we had both in service and live streaming of our 'Bridges to Hope' fund raising virtual concert and our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. We follow all State, City, and County health department guidelines of 6 feet between families, not passing anything between people, having plenty of hand sanitizer available, wiping down and sanitizing pews between services and providing free face masks. Even with these regulations, we have plenty of room for people to come and worship. We continue to try to make worshiping at Friedens, part of your life, even during these challenging times. We will have our Christmas Eve service this year, just as we do every year. If you can make it please do. Either in person or live streaming on our Facebook page.

While we would love to see you at Friedens for worship service each Sunday, if you are not able to we invite you to worship with us via our Facebook live streaming of our Worship Service on Sunday mornings. The live streaming numbers have been good, and we love seeing your comments during and after worship. It's nice to see people from all over the country worship with us through our Facebook live streaming. Sharing each service will help introduce more people to Friedens Lutheran Church.

I want to continue to let you know that we appreciate everyone's financial support during this challenging time in our lives. Through your continued financial support, we have been able to keep our bills paid and keep Friedens Lutheran Church alive and well. As we approach the end of 2020, any giving that you are able to do, will help us reach our budget for the year, and hopefully end the year in the black. While it has been challenging for everyone, we appreciate you all, and what you are doing to keep Friedens here and serving the community. We ask for your continued support, so that we can see these challenging times through, and come out even stronger on the other side. If you would like to become a member of Friedens Lutheran Church, or know someone who would like to become a member, please contact the church office or myself. We would love to become their church home.

If you have any questions, you can call me or e mail me, or the church. We hope that you continue to worship with us, either in person or through our live streaming on Facebook. We thank you for being part of Friedens Lutheran Church.

Gary Hardt-Council President
402-314-5484

ghardt7@yahoo.com

DECEMBER Birthdays and Anniversaries

(02) Reuben Worster

(06) Scott Dreith

(06) Kim Neemann

(08) Charles Schwahn

(08) Stacey Schild

(11) John Stavick

(13) Bev Mittan

(14) LeAnna Koch

(15) Julie Erickson

(16) Linda Westlake

(19) Pastor Bud Christenson

(25) Natalia Ledford

(27) Kayla Johanson

(29) Larrie Schmidt

(31) John Worster

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Kathy Holland and Jodi Urban

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Lectors

12-6 — Mark Grimes

12-13—Megan Grimes

12-20— Irene Newhouse

12-24— Amy Rezny

12-27— Anna Fullerton



Live Streaming Worship on Facebook and in
Friedens Sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30am

Thank you

Bev Mittan would like to thank Kathy Holland and Irene Newhouse for doing a wonderful job in keeping the office functioning during my recuperation of my fractured knee cap. Words cannot express my gratitude. God bless.

Bev Mittan



A “to do” list for us (Followers of Christ)

Note: Pastor Bud shared these “guideposts” with us during his sermon August 30th. They are based on one of the scripture readings that morning, **Romans 12:9-21.**

Put love into action....

- Hate what is evil; cling to what is good
- Be devoted to others
- Honor others above self
- Don’t lack in zeal; keep your spiritual fervor
- Be joyful in hope
- Be patient in afflictions
- Be faithful in Prayer
- Share with people in need
- Practice hospitality
- Bless those who persecute you
- Rejoice with those who rejoice
- Mourn with those who are mourning
- Live at peace with everyone
- Do not take revenge
- Love your enemies

The following Daily Devotionals are available in the entryway to the Sanctuary for the current quarter (October, November, December). Please help yourself to a copy.

Portals of Prayer (Concordia)

Christ in Our Home (Augsburg)



Worship by E-mail

If you or someone that you know does not do Facebook, but would still like to be able to watch each Sunday’s worship service, we can now record each Sunday’s Worship Service and send out via e-mail to watch after the service. Just let us know the name and e-mail address and we will e-mail them the video recording of the worship service.



Friedens Lutheran Church Staff Christmas cards/gifts

We are fortunate to have the best staff in the world, here at Friedens Lutheran Church. They have hung in there through this challenging time that COVID-19 has created, and given us the best service possible. We all appreciate their dedication and care, to help keep Friedens Lutheran Church serving it’s congregation and community. If you would like to send in a Christmas card or monetary gift for any of our staff, please mail it to the church office. We will be giving the cards and the gifts to them before Christmas. Please include in the envelope, who it is for: Pastor Bud, Bev Mittan (office manager), and Dr. Mai Butler (Director of Music Ministry).

Thank you.

Gary Hardt—Council President



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

Prayers....

Donna Splichal	Verlene Owens	Kimberly Render	Eric DuSchene
Larrie Schmidt	Lee Alexander	Molly Lyons	Sharon Trout
Reece Nelsen	Bob Wessels	Dorothy Loos	Eric DuSchene
Crystal Anderson	Maxine Pfrimmer	Pastor Del Klover	



Ron Shoup (Jodi Urban’s brother)
Friends and family of Bill Koelzer (Fran Zessin’s brother)
Friends and family of Lori Schwahn’s brother, Tim

When we give freely.....

We are able to be a part of God’s 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 been give to us.

Monthly Report: November 2020

Receipts: \$8,444.00

Disbursements: \$9,528.22



December Calendar

There will not be an December calendar inserted in this month’s Messenger. However, worship in our sanctuary, as well as live streaming worship are both at 10:30am. As more activities resume we will start inserting a calendar.



CONGRATULATIONS

Bonnie Zweerink was blessed with a baby girl, Haylee Rose, on November 2, 2020. Grandparents are Chris and Amanda Zweerink. Great Grandmother is Marian Ripenburg. God's blessings to the whole family.

Daniel Russell and Taylor Lord were married on October 16, 2020 in a ceremony at the Sheldon Museum of Art. They are at home in Lincoln where Taylor is the Events Coordinator at Sheldon Museum of Art and Daniel is Deputy Executive Director for Stand For Schools. God's blessings



SCRIP PROGRAM



The Scrip Program – a great way to prepare for the holiday & support the ministry of Friedens.

As you make plans for Christmas gifts, consider buying gift cards through our Scrip program. A wide variety of restaurants, fast food places, local and chain stores are available. Many of us who use Scrip cards regularly purchase grocery store gift cards. During December Scrip orders will be taken Sunday, December 13th and delivered December 18th – 20th. Arrangements can be made to have the cards delivered to your door.

If you are interested in purchasing SCRIP cards and need an order form, please contact the church office. Orders will be taken over the phone by Kathy Holland (402-310-9153) beginning Wednesday, December 9th through the evening of Sunday, December 13th. Payment can be made for your order by mailing your check to the church or by using Paypal through our website. Or you can turn in your order and payment at Sunday worship on the 13th. Checks should be written to Friedens, specifying Scrip on the memo line.

Earnings through the Scrip program are designated for the general fund. If you have questions about Scrip please talk to Kathy Rempe, Fran Zessin, Maxine Pfrimmer or Kathy Holland.

Mitten Tree 2020

Again this year we will be gathering mittens/gloves, hats and scarves for both youth and adults. Elementary age mittens/gloves, hats & scarves will be donated to a neighborhood elementary school. Teen and adult sizes will be given to the Peoples City Mission. Collection period: December 6th to January 3rd. Please leave your donations on the mitten tree in the back of the sanctuary or drop them off at the church office. Thank you!!

Social Ministry Team



Giving Tuesday and our Celebration of Hope

December 1 was an unforgettable day! Partly because we raised over \$30,000 with a good number of posts yet uncounted. With the matching funds, that is over \$45,000! I am so proud of Friedens, both for hosting Bill Chrastil's concert to help tell the story of Bridges to Hope, for raising about \$3500 for Giving Tuesday, and for sending the concert out again for people to enjoy.

We raised money, but more importantly we planted seeds of **HOPE** and those seeds will grow into a bountiful harvest. Many people posted very encouraging notes during the program on Tuesday. I believe this one says it all:

*If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be **hope**. Let it be **hope** that better things are always ahead. Let it be **hope** that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be **hope** that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be **hope** that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be. Because during these times, **hope** will be the very thing that carries you through.*

Nikki Banas/Walk the Earth

Pastor Bud



BRIDGES TO HOPE

Second Chances...It's what we do

THRIVENT

Christmas German service

Because we are not allowed to sing Hymns and Christmas Carols due to COVID-19, this years Christmas German Service will be a virtual service, live streamed on our Facebook page. It will be one of our past Christmas German Services from 2002.

Don't miss this special event!

Gary Hardt

Council President



Joy to the World!