

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church
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Friedens MESSENGER

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PASTOR'S PAGE...

February 14th..... What does that date bring to mind for you?

Likely Valentine's Day; red and pink hearts and flowers, chocolate, overpriced greeting cards and little candy hearts spring to mind. It is a day when we celebrate romantic love in the US. For some, it is a wonderful day full of lovely missives and surprises meant to communicate love. For others, it is a painful day; a reminder of not having a partner when one wishes to, or a reminder of a partner one has lost. It is a day when we celebrate a kind of love that sometimes lasts, and other times disappoints.

This year, the calendar brings us another holy-day on February 14th: Ash Wednesday. I have joked, when making this announcement before worship, that "nothing says I love you like ashes on your head and the words 'remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return'." It's meant to be funny because the two things really sound like they should have nothing to do with each other... imagine, if you will, those little candy hearts that normally say "Be Mine" instead saying "Ash 2 Ash"; surely a strange juxtaposition of moods and ideas.

However, looking closer we find that the days are not as dissimilar as they originally appear: they are, in fact, both about love. One, as mentioned above, can be a more fickle love. It is heavily romanticized with expectations of grand gestures and confessions of undying love (at least in the movies). Ash Wednesday, while it's a day of repentance and self-examination, is also a day when we are reminded of God's love for us.

A central practice of Ash Wednesday worship is what's called "the imposition of ashes". That is when people are invited to come forward during the service to have a cross marked on their forehead in a mixture of ashes and oil. The ashes are made from the leftover Palm Sunday palms the previous year. That cross of ashes is marked in the same place and manner as the cross of oil that was marked on your forehead at your baptism. When that cross of oil was drawn, words were spoken that you are a beloved child of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. It is like an invisible, but indelible, mark that each of us carries. We are claimed as children of God. We belong to this family of those who follow Jesus, and we are marked with the sign of that community: a cross. We are marked with a cross like that upon which Jesus died for the sake of all of us sinners; the ultimate act of love.

So, although the mood is somber, Ash Wednesday really is about God's love and our relationship with God. We recognize the moments and ways that we have failed to live up to the expectations of the relationship (something that happens in friendships and marriages as well). We ask for forgiveness, and we receive it. We are marked with a sign of both repentance and love; a sign of our desire to be reconciled to God and a sign of God's promise to forgive and love us. This love will never fail us. No matter how badly we mess up, no matter what the circumstances, God is there waiting to hear our prayers, help us see the ways we have gone awry, and receive us when we seek for-giveness. When you hear the words "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return", it is indeed a reminder of both our sin and mortality, but it is also something else: it is a reminder of God who created us in love out of dust and who accompanies us our whole lives until our bodies return to the dust. It is a reminder of the love of God that never fails us throughout that whole journey, even when we turn away. God is always waiting for us to turn back.

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Upcoming dates...

Senior Potluck — February 13 / 12:00 pm

Ash Wednesday — February 14 / 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday — March 25 / 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday — March 29 / 7:00 pm

Good Friday — March 30 / 7:00 pm

Easter — April 1 / TBA

Mid Week Worship and Soup Supper dates

Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, and 21



Continued from front page

On Ash Wednesday this year I hope that you make some time to remember this story of love, as well as other ones that you might recognize and celebrate on Valentine's Day. As we enter into the season of Lent together, called to self-examination and repentance, remember to carry with you the baptismal promise of God. Ponder the love that sends Jesus to the cross during Holy Week, the love present at the table during the washing of feet and breaking of bread at the last supper, and the love that raises Jesus from the dead on Easter morning.

And remember that whoever and whatever else you are: you are a beloved child of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Pastor Kate

"Clinic With A Heart" free screenings...

Starting sometime in early 2018, Friedens Lutheran Church will participate in a new program being developed by "Clinic With A Heart". Details are still being worked out, but Friedens will be a site, that anyone, regardless of if they have medical insurance or not, can come in for free health screenings. We will make our church available, for needy people in our neighborhood, to come in and get screened for their health. People that show screenings needing additional care, will be referred to "Clinic With A Heart", for future free health services, including free 30 day prescription medications.

This will be an ongoing program, that Friedens will participate in, for the people in our neighborhood who could not otherwise afford these services. This will require some volunteers from Friedens, to help make this service available at our church.

If you are interested in doing this type of volunteer work in our church, please contact Gary Hardt at [402-314-5484](tel:402-314-5484) or ghardt7@yahoo.com. This will be a great outreach program for Friedens and a way to make a difference in the health and the lives of people who may not otherwise be able to get these types of medical services. There will be more information on this program as "Clinic With A Heart" completes the details of this new partnership with area churches.

110 Year Anniversary Building Fund Payoff and Memorial Plaque

We are getting close to the pay off of our building renovation fund. We want to thank everyone who has contributed to that pay off and who continue to contribute to that pay off. Everyone who has donated \$100 for a memorial plaque in a family member or loved ones name, is being accounted for now, and we will be putting the memorial plaque project together.

We hope to have this done and the building renovation loan paid off by around Easter. That is the plan. If you would like to still donate \$100 to the building renovation fund and have a memorial plaque in a family member or loved one's name, you still can. It will help us reach our goal of having this debt paid off by Easter.

You can send your \$100 contribution to the church office with a note about who you want the plaque to be in memorial of. If you would rather use your credit card, contact the church office for information on how to do that through a credit card. We will plan on having a celebration at one of our services, when the building renovation loan is paid off.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the pay off of this loan.

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 February and March. We will see you in April.

Please remember that if you are unable to come to Sunday morning worship service during the winter because of bad weather, our operating expenses still go on. If you are unable to come to church, you can still mail in your offering to the church office or make your offering on line on Friedens website. Either way, it will help us to be able to pay our bills and keep our lights on. Thank you in advance for remembering Friedens even when you are unable to come worship.

Recycle Pop Cans at Friedens...

If you have empty pop cans to recycle you can bring them to Friedens we will recycle them for you. This is one way members could support Friedens. There are container by the doors into the kitchen where they can put them. That is another easy and simply opportunity to give to the church. Everything helps.



MARCH WORSHIP

2018 LEADERS

Altar Guild

Donna Splichal & Deb Marr

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Communion Assistant

4 — Sue Busker

18 — Karen Scribner

25 — Becky Roberts

29 — Peggy Russell

Lectors

4 —

11 —

18 —

25 —

29 —

30 —

Greeters

4 — Bob & Carolyn Hogg

11 — Alma Wilson & Judy Trampe

18 — Maxine Pfrimmer & Deb Marr

25 — Chuck & Lori Schwahn

29 — Steve & Peggy Russell

30 — Amy Rezny & Joyce Boerger

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



FEBRUARY Birthdays
and Anniversaries

- (2) Rachel Johanson
- (5) Jane Cosier
- (6) Amanda Zweerink
- (6) Alexander Schild
- (8) Christin King
- (8) Colton Hauschild
- (11) Kathy Harris
- (11) JoAnn Ninneman
- (12) Abigail Newhouse
- (13) Nancy Svoboda
- (14) Daniel Trout
- (17) Peggy Russell
- (17)Geoffrey Wendland
- (18) Rick Harris
- (19) Anne Melang-Thoren
- (19)Malachi Detty
- (20) Lou Skrdlant
- (20) Breann Anderson
- (21) Nathan Johanson
- (21) Courtney Russell
- (22)Raven Pinkerton
- (24) Miles Melang-Thoren
- (24) Madeleine Melang-Thoren
- (28) Steve Russell
- (29) Nicholas Hardt

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

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
Ron Vogt

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)
Family of Joel Scholz (Pastor Kate's Uncle)
Family of Delores Kaufman



Ash Wednesday



February 14, 2018

Mitten Tree, Christmas 2017

Thank you to all who donated mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for our Christmas Mitten Tree. We collected many items this year! These have been donated to Everett Elementary School and to the People City Mission. Thank you for providing some winter warmth to those in need!



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: December 31, 2017

Receipts \$ 142,023.05

Disbursements \$ 135,853.53

FEBRUARY 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!



Lenten Suppers begin February 21st at 6 pm

There will be a light supper prior to Lenten Worship every Wednesday, starting February 21st. We will begin serving at 6 pm but join us when you can any time prior to our Lenten Service at 7 pm.

If you can volunteer to help with the meal or clean-up, look for the sign-up sheet in the entry way to the sanctuary, beginning February 4th.



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.

Have you ever noticed on the church calendar a group called "Stitch N Prayer" and wondered what it is?

The group originally formed to crochet "prayer shawls" for those in the church who were hurting. They have made baby afghan blankets, afghans for high school seniors, graduates from area colleges and for other special occasions.

The group is open to everyone, just bring any type of project, such as embroidery, quilting, needlepoint, crocheting or knitting. For those who have never learned to crochet or knit there are members who are willing to teach these skills. There are members who will teach you patterns for knitting and crocheting and will help you out when you are stuck on a stitch. When asked about the group, members said "New stitchers are always welcome. We teach as we go." Join us for fun, fellowship and great conversation.

Crocheting and knitting materials have been donated to the church and are available for use. If interested, come see what it's like and bring a friend if you'd like. The group meets on the second Sunday of the month from 2—4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church.

If you have questions call Donna at 402-430-0224.