

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church
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Pastor Bud Christenson

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Bev Mittan, Office Manager

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Friedens MESSENGER

Volume 35, Issue 8 — August 2020

PASTOR'S PAGE...

Dear Friedens Family,

It is easy for us to conclude that the large congregations are the fortunate ones. However, in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, we may be the lucky ones. We have enough room in our sanctuary to hold our worshiping congregation and still maintain the required six foot social distancing so we can gather as a family.

At the same time, we have a significant number of people who participate by watching us on Facebook from home. It is a new experience for me to know that several of my family and friends are watching from their homes around the country. This is a special gift for our congregation.

August seems like a very quiet and uneventful month in the church year. But for us, August will be special because we will be receiving ten new members into our Friedens family on the 23rd. That will be a great morning for us!

Because of the pandemic we will not require our new members to be present at the worship service. If they choose, they are welcome to watch on Facebook and simply say, "Yes." I have put together a service for receiving new members that may be a little different from what you are accustomed. Two things to note: we will all Affirm our Baptism with them, and, if present, they will remain in the pew and stand when their name is called. These are accommodations made because of Covid-19.

In these days when we are all encouraged to stay at home and stay safe, there are not too many things for us to do as members of Friedens. However, I would encourage all of us to PRAY. Pray prayers of thanksgiving for all the many people who risk their health and their lives to continue to serve us during this time: hospital workers, EMTs, first responders, store clerks, etc. Pray for those who are working diligently to seek new ways to combat this enemy. Pray that our leaders will make wise decisions to curb the spread of the virus. Pray for school officials and teachers as they search for ways to educate our children and still keep them safe.

God bless and keep you in these difficult times.

Pastor Bud

Join Us Sundays at 10:30 am in Person or

Live Streaming
on
facebook®

On May 31st, we started welcoming people back to Friedens to worship in our sanctuary. We are following the state, city and county health departments guidelines of 6 feet between families. We will also restrict pews, so there is 6 feet between pews. Given the size of our sanctuary, and the additional seating area in our balcony, we have no problem in making these accommodations and having enough room for anyone who wants to come and worship. We also are not passing anything between members. We will be following all state, city and county health guidelines and we will have plenty of hand sanitizer available. The sanctuary will be wiped down and sanitized in between each week's services. If you are comfortable coming back and worshipping with us, we welcome you.

We plan to continue, on a permanent basis, live streaming our worship services each Sunday on our Facebook page as well. We are working on upgrading our equipment so that the visual and audio parts of the live stream are as high quality as possible. If you are not able to come and worship with us at the church, please continue to worship with us through our Facebook live streaming worship services. We enjoy seeing your "likes" and your comments. It's nice to know you are out there.

For the time being, on communion Sundays, we will be using individual communion packages. They consist of a wafer and juice, packaged together. You peel off the 1st layer, and you have the wafer. Then you peel off the 2nd layer and you have the juice. These individually wrapped communion packets will be on the ushers stand each communion Sunday, as you come into the sanctuary. Please take one, as you also pick up a bulletin.

Until you are able to come back and worship with us here, we hope you will remember to continue supporting Friedens by mailing in your offerings, or by going to our church website, friedens.org, and making your offerings electronically through our PayPal option. Your support in helping the church pay its bills will help us weather the current situation.

If you have any questions, you can call or email myself, or the church. We hope you continue to worship with us either in person, or through our live streaming on Facebook.

Gary Hardt-Council President
402-314-5484

New Member Sunday August 23rd

On Sunday August 23rd we will receive new members at our 10:30AM Worship Service. If you would like to become a member of Friedens Lutheran Church, or would like information on becoming a member of Friedens Lutheran Church, please contact our church office by calling 402-476-3888 or emailing office@friedens.org. Even if you are worshipping with us on line, but would like to become a member, we would love to include you in our new member Sunday Worship Service. For those who are able to be at the Worship Service that Sunday, we will have a reception following the Worship Service for our new members. We invite everyone to stay for a short reception.

Gary Hardt-Council President

Note:

We will not be able to hold our Church Neighborhood Picnic this year due to the physical distancing and other restrictions necessary to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. We look forward to the return of this event in 2021!



AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

- (01) Eunice Worster
- (01) Barbara Brunken
- (02) Haylee Rutt
- (02) Timothy & Jan Bukoske (17 Yrs)
- (03) Verlene Owens
- (04) Al Scribner
- (06) Christopher Young
- (06) David & Jane Cosier (54 Yrs)
- (08) Susan Busker
- (09) Callen Hauschild
- (11) Carolyn Hogg
- (12) Shawn & Rachel Johanson (14Yrs)
- (15) Linda Koch
- (17) Wilder & Verlene Owens (29 Yrs)
- (18) Michael Selvage
- (20) Joseph Towns
- (20) Karen Scribner
- (20) Bob & Carolyn Hogg (54 Yrs)
- (22) Jan Bukoske
- (23) Kathie Svoboda
- (26) Jean Wheat
- (26) Rich & Crystal Anderson (31 Yrs)
- (27) Olivia Brown
- (28) Dorothy Loos



AUGUST WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Jodi Urban & Kathy Holland

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Lectors

- 8-2 — Amy Rezny
- 8-9 — Jim Plucknett
- 8-16 — Maxine Pfrimmer
- 8-23 — Irene Newhouse
- 8-30 — Peggy Russell



FRIEDENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

AUGUST CALENDAR

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

Message from Bishop Maas of the Nebraska Synod

In light of the cancellation of the 2020 Nebraska Synod Assembly, Bishop Maas would like to take this opportunity to share more about what it means to be the Nebraska Synod. Bishop Maas will be presenting, in three brief videos, how the synod is Growing Disciples, Walking Together, and Serving God's World. These video's will be available on the synod website (nebraskasynod.org) beginning the final week of July.

As a follow-up to the videos, the Bishop and Synod Staff would also like to invite congregations and individuals to join them on Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30pm or Sunday, August 23 at 7:30pm for a live online discussion of What's Next. We encourage congregations to watch and share the videos, then attend one of the discussion sessions. It is in this time of physical distancing that it is more important than ever for us to connect and find ways to continue to be the church together.



Julie Erickson receives Ruth I. Eickman Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award

This award is presented annually to an Lincoln Public Schools early childhood educator who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to young children and child-centered learning, has been involved with the families of these young children, has shown an appreciation of children's and families' uniqueness, uses developmentally appropriate practices when working with young children, and has demonstrated the use of innovative practices in the field of early childhood. Julie was nominated by a colleague for this award. She received the award last Spring via a Zoom presentation with many of her family present. Congratulations, Julie!!



Below is a list of items that are currently needed by Bridges To Hope. Please bring your donations on Sunday morning or call the church office to arrange a time for drop-off. Thanks for your much needed help!

Men's underwear (Boxers, all sizes)

Men's Shirts (Dress & Casual, all sizes)

Men's Jeans (sizes 38, 40, 42)

Men's T-Shirts (White)

Men's work socks

Kitchen Appliances (small)

Pots and Pans

BRIDGES TO HOPE

Second Chances...It's what we do

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

Dwayne Greenwalt

Larrie Schmidt

Lee Alexander

Molly Lyons

Reece Nelsen

Bob Wessels

Dorothy Loos

Crystal Anderson

Kimberly Render



Avery (great-niece of Bob & Carolyn Hogg)

Jeanette Christofferson (Jean Wheat's Sister)

Nancy Carpenter (Cindy Worster's sister)

Bill Koelzer (Fran Zessin's brother)



Many thanks to dear Friedens members for notes, cards and memorials in memory of my daughter, Sally Svoboda. She loved Friedens as a child when we visited from out of town. Her daughter Kate was baptized here by Pastor Fred Wolff and her grandparents and great grandparents were forever members of Friedens.
~Kathie Svoboda

I would like to thank everyone who said a prayer for my childhood friend, Debbie Anthonisen. At the time she was added to the prayer list, she was in a coma, gravely ill with COVID-19, having been on and off a ventilator since March. I am happy to report that she came out of the coma near the end of June and is recovering! She has a long road ahead due to other health issues but she and her family are so grateful for all their blessings. Saying a prayer seems like such a small thing but it is so powerful. Thank you, ~Sue Busker

Continue to keep Bev Mittan, our Office Manager, in your prayers. She continues to recuperate at home from a broken knee cap due to a fall. Bev sends her thanks for the cards and phone calls she has received from her Friedens family.



Garage Sale 2020

Thank you! - Thank you! - Thank you!

The Garage Sale was changed to a Yard Sale this year due to COVID-19. Despite this, we had another successful sale, all due to the great people of Friedens. The weather was HOT...HOT.... HOT.... But our workers withstood all of this and worked like a well oiled machine! They greeted and helped customers with Friedens hospitality. Many people come to this sale every year due to the items and workers.

We started working on Monday with about five tables of items and it grew to a yard full of items. We used every table we could find in the church. We priced inside and brought the items out on Wednesday. The items were placed on tables on Wednesday, then covered with tarp. For three days we covered tables each night. No one disturbed the tables or their contents for three nights in a row. That says a lot for the neighborhood. They respect us and look out for us!

Thanks to those who donated items, worked so hard at the sale and to those who kept us hydrated and fed. Even without the bake sale and lunch we made \$2,600.00! A generous donor from Friedens pledged to match the dollars raised bringing the total receipts from the Garage Sale to over \$5,000.00!!

AMAZING and so very BLESSED!!

Thank you again! Fran Zessin



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 given to us.

Monthly Report: July 2020

Receipts: \$5,195.00

Disbursements: \$5,403.37



Vacation Bible School offered Remotely

This year, in response to COVID-19, Vacation Bible School was offered remotely. This was done jointly with children from Grace Lutheran Church. Twenty-seven children participated. Kits were developed for five lessons based on the theme God's love helps us stand strong. All supplies were included to make a craft or do an experiment and to prepare a snack based around the Bible story for each lesson. The kits for each day were assembled and these were organized and distributed to each child. Thank you to all who donated supplies and to the children who participated!

Julie Erickson, VBS Coordinator



BUD — My Life As I Recall It From My Canoe

by Bud Christenson



Many of you may not know that Pastor Bud has published a book about his life. Written in his story-telling style, it is an easy and very enjoyable read. Available to the public in early 2020, Pr. Bud will make some books available for us. Pick up an autographed copy at worship Sunday morning or contact the church office to make arrangements to pick one up. (Or delivered, if need be.) After you read it you may want to pass it on to a friend, return it to the church for someone else to read, or you may keep it thanks to the generosity of Pr. Bud.

Look for your autographed copy soon!



Lutheran World Relief School Kits

School Kits are being delivered to children in need around the world. The need is even greater due to the coronavirus pandemic. If you're out shopping and you find school items on sale, below is a list of items that are to be included in each School Kit.

Scissors, blunt (not sharp edge) 70-sheet notebooks

Ballpoint pens, blue or black ink Eraser's, 2 1/2" hank

Crayons, box of 16 or 24 Pencil sharpeners

Pencils, #2, unsharpened 30 centimeter ruler

We will be collecting items through October. We have not set a goal as we want to be cautious encouraging people to shop when we may need to limit our time out shopping because of COVID-19. We will be regularly counting school kit supplies donated. Watch for future announcements as to items most needed.

Thank you! Social Ministry Team



Pantry Needs...

Listed below are items most needed by the Lutheran Food Pantry this month:

Condensed soups (all kinds)

Juice

Canned Fruit (all kinds)

Snacks (individual packages of crackers, cookies, etc.)

Jelly

Red beans (chili, black, kidney, refried, etc.)

Saltine crackers

Tuna

Monetary donations are always appreciated. You may designate a portion of your offering to be forwarded to the Lutheran Food Pantry.

*Save your Best Choice UPC labels. These are shared with the Foodnet program. The label should include the UPC symbol and the words Best Choice right above the UPC.

