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Friedens MESSENGER

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PASTOR'S PAGE...

This past weekend I attended the March for Our Lives here in Lincoln as a way of showing support for the community's youth. That movement has involved many positive aspects of involving youth involved in public life; an active civics lesson of sorts that also seeks to reduce the amount of violence in communities. A common theme that I observed was the message that "thoughts and prayers" are not enough.

My first reaction was to take exception to the statement that thoughts and prayers had little place as a response to mass shootings or other calamities. As people of faith, this is what we do, we pray. However, as I listened and read more from those who were talking about the futility of thoughts and prayers I realized that what they objected to was the idea that expressing "thoughts and prayers" online constituted a positive response to crisis situations. That to say "my thoughts and prayers are with you" and then to do nothing else about the issue (possibly including praying) was a problem because it didn't provide any tangible and needed support.

The issue was, then, that prayer needed to be connected to action and I realized the problem: in my mind they are connected. Our prayer is about talking to and building relationship with God, yes. However, the prayer is also more about changing us than it is about changing God. If you think about praying for one's enemy, the outcome tends to be that one finds it harder to objectively hate them as an enemy, having prayed for them. The Holy Spirit does something in our hearts and changes the way that we see and act in the world. So, when we pray our intercessory prayers on Sunday for the church, community and world, they should push us toward action about the people and situations for which we pray. Otherwise, they are just words. Good, well-meaning, faithful words, but just words.

Pope Francis spoke about the relationship of prayer and action in 2013, another moment when there were many tweets with "thoughts and prayers" and yet little needed action.

In our Christian life too... may prayer and action always be deeply united. A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother ... is a [fruitless] and incomplete prayer. But, in the same way, when ecclesial service is attentive only to doing,... When time is not set aside for dialogue with him in prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother and sister.

Angelus, 21 July 2013

This is to say that we need a balance between prayer and action. In the story of Mary and Martha from Luke's gospel, we need both: Martha who works and Mary who sits at the feet of Jesus.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming dates...

April 1st — Easter Sunday

April 3rd — WELCA 4:30

April 8th — Stitch N Prayer 3:30 to 5:30

April 10th — South Salt Creek Neighborhood Org. 7:00

April 12th — Church Council 6:30

April 22nd — Installation of Council during Worship

Dedication of Memorial Plaque and Luncheon

April 23rd — Newsletter articles due



“Prayer and action can never be seen as contradictory or mutually exclusive. Prayer without action grows into powerless pietism, and action without prayer degenerates into questionable manipulation. If prayer leads us into a deeper unity with the compassionate Christ, it will always give rise to concrete acts of service. And if concrete acts of service do indeed lead us to a deeper solidarity with the... [suffering] they will always give rise to prayer. ... Action with and for those who suffer is the concrete expression of the compassionate life and the final criterion of being a Christian. Such acts do not stand beside the moments of prayer and worship but are themselves such moments.... Precisely when we live in an ongoing conversation with Christ and allow his Spirit to guide our lives, we will recognize him in the poor, the oppressed, and the downtrodden, and will hear his cry and respond to it whenever he reveals himself.”

Henri Nouwen, *COMPASSION: A REFLECTION ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE*

In other words, Henri Nouwen wants his readers to understand that we follow Christ when we pray and spend time with Christ, but also when we do the work that Christ did in the world: healing, feeding, clothing, visiting, caring, etc. Indeed, remembering Christ’s words, that when we do such tasks we serve Christ himself. Thus, our prayers and our action are necessarily interconnected.

So, the next time that you find yourself reading through the newspaper, pray for situations you find there. But don’t stop there. Find a way to support the situation for which you are praying, when possible, guided by your prayer. Send a note, support a charity, donate food, write or call a representative, or whatever is most appropriate. In this way, both our prayers and our work stem from our desire to follow Christ and serve him faithfully. In this way, we can help people to understand that , as Christians, when we say prayers, and mean it, we also mean action and tangible care for the situations and people we lift before God.

Memorial Plaque Dedication during April 22nd Worship Service...

During the April 22nd Worship Service, we will have a dedication for the Memorial Plaque that is being made for all of the memorials associated with the retirement of our Building Renovation Loan, that was recently paid off. These are the plaques that were in Memory of family members, friends and loved ones. Please plan on being at the Worship Service that Sunday, as we will have the new plaque mounted in the church entry way for the first time. Come and see the names of those people who have been remembered, as part of this memorial that helped pay off our Building Renovation Loan. As we celebrate this milestone in our church life, we will follow it by a luncheon after the worship service in the fellowship hall. This will be much like the luncheon that we had this past summer as we celebrated our 110 Year Anniversary. It will be catered by HyVee, and the only charge will be by a free will offering. Just let the office know if you would like to stay for the luncheon, so that we know how much food to have at the luncheon. Paying the \$250,000 building renovation loan in 10 years is something to celebrate. Come celebrate with us on April 22nd as we reveal and dedicate this new Memorial Plaque. Call the church office, 402-476-3888 or Gary Hardt, 402-314-5484 to make reservations for the luncheon. Hope to see you and your family there.

PRAYER CHAIN...



The Prayer Chain at

Friedens is 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.

Thank you...

from the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church.

Friedens donated 723 pounds of food in 2017.



Thank you ...

to my church and those who helped me in my recent move to Mahoney Manor.

Gratefully,
Larrie Schmidt.

Pantry Needs...

Lutheran Food Pantry’s “wish list” include:

Breakfast cereals, Instant oatmeal packets, Breakfast bars, Canned chicken, Canned peas, Macaroni and cheese, Jelly, Peanut butter, Fruit juice, Saltine crackers, Any shelf stable food items, Personal care items (toilet paper, shampoo, bath/bar soap, lotion - even the sample size items) Money donations are always appreciated.



MAY WORSHIP

2018 LEADERS

Altar Guild

Jodi Urban & Deb Marr

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Communion Assistant

- 6 — Becky Roberts
- 20 — Peggy Russell
- 27 — Maxine Pfrimmer

Lectors

- 6 — TBA
- 13 — TBA
- 20 — TBA
- 27 — TBA

Greeters

- 6 — Linda Dreith & Carol Boellstorff
- 13 — Bob & Carolyn Hogg
- 20 — Alma Wilson & Judy Trampe
- 27 — Maxine Pfrimmer & Deb Marr



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

Office@friedens.org



APRIL Birthdays and Anniversaries

- (1) Tiana Dorsey
- (4) Linda Rasmussen
- (4) Norm Newhouse
- (8) Marissa Schild
- (11) Collin Detty
- (14) Jameson Moore
- (15) Judy Trampe
- (16) Julie Hauschild
- (18) William Ledford
- (22) Kimberly Render
- (22) Siobhan Allen-Logewolf
- (23) Danielle Urban
- (27) Dan & Diane Wacker (16 Years)
- (29) Donna Splichal



APRIL WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Maxine Pfrimmer & Carolyn Hogg

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Communion Assistant

- 1 — Maxine Pfrimmer
- 8— Fran Zessin
- 15 — Carolyn Hogg
- 22 — Sue Busker
- 29 — Karen Scribner

Lectors

- 1 — Maxine Pfrimmer
- 8— Carolyn Hogg
- 15 — Sue Busker
- 22 — Kathy Holland
- 29 — Karen Rempe

Greeters

- 1 — Irene Newhouse & Maria Kildau
- 8— Nancy Borrell & Jane Cosier
- 15 — JoAnn Ninneman & Jimmy Oltmer
- 22 — Rempe Family
- 29 — Deb Marr & Neoma Jones

APRIL Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Women of the ELCA Bible Study — 4:30 — 5:30 at Van Dorn Villa, the first Tue. of each Month.

The adult forum Sunday @ 9:30 continues to have lively discussion about other Christian traditions.

Come join us!



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
 Larrie Schmidt

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 & Friends of The Rev. Ben Ahles-Iverson
 Family & Friends of The Rev. Dr. Ralph Quere



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.)

110th Commemorative items...

We only have a few items left from our 110th Anniversary celebration. All remaining items are 1/2 price while they last. These items are in the entry way to the church. Please help yourself to anything you want. You can just leave your check or money in the basket. Thank you!

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: February 28, 2018

Receipts \$ 13,728.64

Disbursements \$ 18,435.82

Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha

Sometimes it's the little things that add up to be big things.....

For the past several years we have been collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha. This has been done fairly quietly with occasional reminders in our newsletter. By my recollection, it was Delores Kaufman who began this collection at Friedens. A recent letter from Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) reminded me of the importance of this program. The letter is posted on one of the bulletin boards in the entryway to the church. Excerpts from this letter are included below:

Thank you for collecting pop tabs to support Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha!

As you know, we recycle tabs for funding to pay our utility bills, and this program is a very important part of the operations of RMHC!

We are expanding, and construction has begun! All staff and families will be moving out of the House this spring and summer to allow renovations on the existing building to take place. (The letter then goes on to describe where pop tabs can be taken in the interim while construction is in progress.)

Currently, 20 families from across the United States are staying in our House for anywhere from a few days to several months as they watch their children develop in the NICU, celebrate their graduation from the feeding clinic, or await a call telling them that they can receive their much-needed transplant. (Note: RMHC in Omaha serves seven hospitals in the Omaha area.) By spring of 2019, we will open an additional 20 rooms for families, and will need your pop tabs more than ever.

We thank you sincerely for your ongoing support of our mission. If you need help or have questions about pop tabs during our time out of the House (April 1 – September 3), please contact staff here at RMHC.

(Contact information is provided.)

THANKS A MILLION

In 2000, RMHC in Omaha started the *Thanks a Million Club* as a way to encourage organizations, businesses, and schools to collect tabs for the House. Those who reach the 1 million mark are welcomed as members of the club, receive a certificate, and have their name included on a plaque that resides at the Ronald McDonald House. Many organizations decide to continue collecting tabs and try for 2 million and beyond. When they reach milestones, they receive another certificate. The RMHC website lists 85 families or groups who have reached the 1 million mark. There are more than 50 groups who have reached the 2 – 12 million mark. These groups are primarily from eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

<https://www.rmhcomaha.org/get-involved/pop-tabs>

At Friedens, we are on our way to attain the 1 million mark. Please bring your pop tabs from home and we will add them to our collection. You may leave your pop tabs in or near the donation box in the entryway to the sanctuary.

New: There is a plastic jug next to all of our aluminum can recycle containers, labeled clearly for pop tabs.

Thank you! Please contact me with suggestions or questions.

Kathy Holland

Senior Potluck Fellowship...

Seniors meet in Friedens Fellowship Hall at noon on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All seniors are welcome, those who drive and those who don't. The more the merrier so come and invite a friend. Bring food item...or not...just come. Plates and drinks are provided. You don't need to sign up– just come. If you need a ride call the Church office at 402-476-3888. Following the meal communion is offered by the Pastor to those who aren't able to attend Church on Sundays.