

Friedens MESSENGER

Volume 37, Issue 12—December 2022

PASTOR'S PAGE...

Dear Friedens Family,

Advent is here! The leftovers from our Thanksgiving Feast are now turkey pot pie. The pumpkin pie is gone. The sanctuary is adorned with the Christmas tree, the greens are hung, the stable is in place, the Advent wreath is ready.

I'm like a child when it comes to experiencing Christmas. I savor every step along the way through Advent. This year step one was to put up a new Christmas tree. I had the foresight to buy a tree for half price at the end of last year's Christmas. It stood with no lights and no trimmings for a while. It reminded me of nature, God's beautiful world that keeps renewing itself year after year.

Step two was to put the lights on the tree. I prefer many colored lights to remind me that God's family is made up of many different people, many different nations, many different languages, all singing praises to our Savior. Then I think, how nice it would be if we could all be singing in harmony. That's a promise repeated often in scripture, but not yet a reality. "Come thou long expected Jesus."

Step three is to put on decorations. That's an exercise in remembering. Our decorations are old. They have hung on many different trees for many years. In my case 86 years. Trimming the tree is not something to be rushed. My neighbor complained to me that his wife was demanding that he get out the Christmas "stuff" and unpack it. He rolled his eyes as he expressed his displeasure. He was very clear. This is an unsavory task that just has to be done every year to get to the good stuff of the Christmas Season, family, food and gifts.

Advent is a season not to be rushed. We wait. We watch. We hope. We anticipate what God has in store for us. We cling to promises with no idea when fulfillment will come. God alone knows. We watch for signs of God's presence and enjoy God's blessings along the way. By the grace of God, we live in peace in a world that is filled with chaos, trusting in God's promises, knowing that the future is in God's hands. The Creator God who designed and established this universe will always be able to restore and renew it.

There's a beautiful old saying that encourages us to "Stop and smell the roses." Advent is a great time to slow down and live in the present. No need to stew about the past, we can't change it. No need to worry about the future, we are in God's hands. Best to live in the present doing the work that God gives us to do, visiting the shut-ins, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and freeing the prisoners. God's work, Our hands.

God bless us as we travel this Advent road together.

Pastor Bud

Message from our Council President

There is lots going on this month. German Christmas program, Children's Christmas program, Christmas Eve Candlelight service, Christmas Day worship service. There are lots of events for you to have the opportunity to come to Friedens and to enjoy. And with a new lift operating, for the first December in many many years, everyone can come and enjoy the season here at Frieden's. Bring your family, invite your friends and bring yourself. The church is decorated for the season and the candlesticks will be up for the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service. I hope you all will have an opportunity to come and partake in worship during the Christmas season here at Frieden's Lutheran Church.

Gary Hardt

Council President

ghardt7@yahoo.com

402-314-5484

Friedens Lutheran Church Staff Christmas cards/gifts

We are fortunate to have the best staff in the world, here at Friedens Lutheran Church. 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



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for **January 15th** It will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. All committee reports are due in the church office by **January 2nd**.

Gary Hardt—Council President

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

Jean Wheat

Molly Lyons

Sharon Trout

Carolyn Hogg

Kathie Svoboda

Barbie Creveling & her Family (Mother-In-Law of Anne Melang-Thoren)

Michael Crawford (Patrick Crawford's brother)

Family and Friends of Maria Kildau

Family and Friends of Bob Hogg

Family and Friends of Timothy Bukoske



Sending Healing Prayers

Bob Hogg

Bob Hogg passed away on October 31, 2022, at the age of 82. Funeral services were held at Friedens on November 12th at 10am and burial at Wyuka Cemetery. Bob was a long time member of Friedens. He was the spouse of Carolyn Hogg.

*IN LOVING
Memory*



Maria Kildau

Maria Kildau passed away on November 17, 2022, at the age of 93. Funeral services were held at Friedens on November 22nd at 2pm. Maria was a long time member of Friedens and was the mother of Irene Newhouse and Liz King.

*IN LOVING
Memory*



Pies Donated to City Mission

Thank you to all who brought a pie or two for our Thanksgiving Eve Service. A total of 35 pies were donated. After members had eaten as much as they wanted, 27 pies were delivered to the Peoples City Mission for their guests to enjoy on Thanksgiving Day.



December 10th—Fellowship Hall— 9:00am

Mitten Tree 2022

Again this year we will be gathering mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for both youth and adults. Elementary age mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, and socks will be donated to a neighborhood elementary school. Teen and adult sizes will be given to the Peoples City Mission. Collection period: December 5th to January 6th. Please leave your donations on the mitten tree in the back of the sanctuary or drop them off at the church office. Thank you!!



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: November 2022

Receipts: \$ 17,106.25

Disbursements: \$8,805.44



Children Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18th at 10:30am

Please join us on Sunday, December 18th for the Christmas story told by our children. We have the stable and the animals in place preparing for Baby Jesus. It's a wonderful story don't miss it.

It will also be live-streamed on Facebook.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th, will be at 5:00pm this year.

Please take note of the time change as in the past it has been 6:00pm



Christmas Day Service

We will be having worship service on **Christmas Day** this year at **10:30am**. This is because Christmas Day is on a Sunday. It will be our traditional Lessons and Carols.



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

(31) John Worster

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Kathy Holland and Jodi Urban

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Lectors

12-4 Maxine Pfrimmer

12-11 Amy Rezny

12-18 Mark Grimes

12-24 Anna Fullerton

12-25 Margaret Vogt

Amy Rezny

Steve Russell

Peggy Russell

Cantors

12-4 Karen Scribner

12-11 Jodi Urban

12-18 Patrick Crawford

12-24 Abby Newhouse

12-25 Steve Russell

Counters

Deb Marr and Naomi Jones





Fröhliche Weihnachten!

German Christmas Service

Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

540 "D" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Free Event – All Are Welcome

The Rt Rev. Michael Melchizedek will provide
the German dialogue.

Pastor Bud Christenson will provide the English dialogue.

This family event welcomes everyone to enjoy a Christmas service of words and songs in English and German. We will also be live streaming the service on
facebook.com/friedenslincoln

· Cookies and drinks will be served following the service.

Please contact Friedens Church with questions 402-476-3888,

or visit our website friedens.org or like us on facebook: facebook.com/friedenslincoln

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Church email:

office@friedens.org

Pastor Bud Christenson

Dr. Mai Butler, Director of Music

Bev Mittan, Office Manager

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& Custom Cycles

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[20% off bikes or accessories with copy of the newsletter!](#)

Paul Wesley Knopp
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