

FRIEDENS REFORMED CHURCH

P O BOX J, TRIPP, SD 57376

Website: <https://www.friedensreformedchurch.com/>

Email: friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com

Church Phone: 605-935-6758

Fall 2026



A GRATEFUL FAREWELL, PASTOR ANDY

Pastor Andy preached his final service at Friedens Reformed Church on August 23 as he and his family prepared to begin a new chapter in their lives and ministry. On behalf of the congregation, Consistory President Lennis Mehlhaff presented Pastor Andy and his family with a picture of Friedens Reformed Church to remember their time with us.

We thank Pastor Andy and his family for their years of service to Friedens and wish them God's blessings as they begin this new chapter.



Pastor Andy offers the benediction during Friedens Reformed Church's special 125th anniversary celebration service.

Photo Credits: Scott Ehler, Parkston Advance

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF FAITH

Friedens Reformed Church celebrated a special milestone on Sunday, July 26, as our congregation gathered for a worship service and fellowship meal marking 125 years of faith, fellowship, and ministry.

Consistory President Lennis Mehlhaff welcomed attendees and opened the service with prayer. The congregation received video greetings from EA National Minister Rev. Jim Barnes and former pastor Rev. Greg Way. Rev. Ron Nuss-Warren shared a special anniversary message, "Messengers of Comfort," and Rev. Andy Underhile shared the history and significance of the stained glass windows in our sanctuary.

Music was an important part of the celebration. Jacob Mehlhaff, Dylan Mehlhaff, Amelia Mehlhaff, Emily Mehlhaff, Tyler Mehlhaff, Silas Arreola, and Heather Arreola shared piano selections. The Mixed Choir performed, and Caleb Finck shared a solo of "How Great Thou Art."

Following the service, Laura Lee took a group photograph in the sanctuary of those who attended the anniversary celebration. Everyone then gathered at the Legion Hall for a fellowship meal catered by Ron and Jennifer Fischer of Ron's Service. Jen (Mrs. Dustin) Fischer made the anniversary cake and cupcakes.

It was a wonderful day to remember our past, enjoy fellowship together, and give thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout 125 years of Friedens Reformed Church.



The new church directory is still available for purchase for \$10.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Pastoral Search Committee has been formed and includes fourteen members of our congregation. Members of the committee are:

Gary Schnabel, President
Lynn Stoebner
Tim Mehlhaff
Dustin Fischer
Mark Gemar

Amy Brown, Secretary
Brenda Stoebner
Mike Nuss
Chase Stoebner
David Winckler

Lennis Mehlhaff
Marc Reiner
Jason Schnabel
Tanner Nuss

The committee has met a couple of times to begin organizing and preparing for the important work ahead as we search for our next pastor.

Before we move forward in the search process, we would like to hear from you, our congregation members. Included with this newsletter is a Pastoral Search Survey. The survey asks you to consider the qualities and strengths you believe are most important in our next pastor. Your responses will help the Search Committee better understand our congregation's priorities and guide us as we move forward.

We ask each congregation member to complete a survey individually. For example, if both a husband and wife are members, each should complete a separate survey so that both voices are represented.

The survey may be completed on paper or online at <https://forms.gle/Jb97W6dsiPos8s9W9>. A QR code is included on the survey that will take you directly to the online version. Scan the code with your phone or tablet to complete and submit the survey electronically. The online survey also includes an "Unsure" option for qualities you may not feel strongly enough about to mark as either Important or Not Important.

We ask that you complete the survey and return or submit it by October 25. Completed surveys may be returned to the church or mailed to Friedens Reformed Church, PO Box J, Tripp, SD 57376. The Search Committee will meet again on October 28, and we would like to have the survey responses available to review and discuss at that meeting. Your participation is important, and we appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts as we work together through this process.

Most importantly, we ask that you continue to pray for the Search Committee, our congregation, and the pastor God is preparing to serve with us. May we seek His guidance and trust His direction throughout the journey ahead.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." — Proverbs 3:5–6

SUPPORTING ZOE CARE

Friedens Reformed Church recently made a \$1,000 contribution to ZOE Care in Yankton. ZOE Care provides free medical pregnancy services and ongoing support to women facing unplanned pregnancies, offering education, encouragement, and hope as they make decisions for themselves and their unborn babies.

We are thankful for the opportunity to support this ministry and the work it does for women, babies, and families in our area.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

Sally Schatz gained her angel wings on August 26. Her funeral was held on August 31 at Salem Reformed Church in Menno, with lunch served at Friedens.

Marlin Nuss entered the gates of heaven on September 5. A memorial service was held on September 12 with Rev. Ron Nuss-Warren officiating.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Friedens' Nursing Home/Assisted Living
Residents (With Addresses and Birthdays)

1. Curtis Huether – Avera Assisted Living; 400 West Fir St; Parkston, SD 57366 Birthday: Sept. 24
2. Elton Stoebner – Good Samaritan Center, 130 6th St, Scotland, SD 57059 Birthday: Mar. 30
3. Doris Schneider – Salem Mennonite Home, 106 W 7th, Freeman, SD 57029 Birthday: May 7
4. Warren Brown – Menno Olivet Care Center, 402 S Pine St, Menno, SD 57045 Birthday: May 23

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- ♥ Rev. Greg Way for enduring each day with faith and fortitude.
- ♥ Ramsey Horstman for healing and strength as she recovers from surgery.
- ♥ Maynard Hieb for God's strength, comfort, and healing in the days ahead.

The Lord himself goes
before you and will be with
you; he will never leave you
nor forsake you. Do not be
afraid; do not be discouraged.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8-9

REJOICING IN BAPTISM

Bristol Fae, daughter of Tanner and Shelbee Nuss, was baptized at Friedens Reformed Church on September 6. We rejoice with Bristol and her family.

*May Jesus,
who loves all children,
bless your precious little one
with His love and grace
on this special day
and always.*

SPECIAL SERVICES

Mission Fest Service
with potluck
Sunday, October 18
at 10:00

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 25,
at 7:30 with
Travis Fink, Lay Minister

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24,
at 7:30

Watch the bulletin for program practice
dates and times.

Christmas Day Service
Friday, December 25,
at 10:00

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

The Guild's fall season annually begins with our Potato Topper fundraiser event, which was held on September 16, marking our 27th year! We greatly appreciate all those who turned out to enjoy the Topper with multiple choices of potato toppings, as well as a plentiful assortment of desserts, and, of course, the always enjoyable fellowship! We also give thanks for the many donations, including those who stepped up to be part of our TEAM in making this happen, and for faithfully supporting this mission project, as well as others throughout the year! Thanks so much!

Friedens' Guild funeral committees served at the funeral for Sally Schatz on August 31. We extend our sincere sympathy to Sally's family and respectfully honor Sally's sixty-two years of faithful dedication and service to Friedens and other churches over her lifetime.

The Guild-sponsored Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox mission project concludes on October 11, which will then allow us to deliver the shoeboxes to a designated drop-off location in our area during the week of November 16-23. We again extend a sincere **Thank you** for your support. An added note: a \$10 shipping fee may be added but is not required per shoebox. Please place the fee in an envelope inside the shoebox. The Guild will then use it to defray the shipping costs.



WORSHIP CONTINUES AT FRIEDENS

As Friedens begins this time of transition, our regular Sunday worship and Sunday School continue. We are grateful to Heidelberg Theological Seminary in Sioux Falls for providing ministers to lead us in worship each Sunday while we continue the search for our next pastor.

We encourage everyone to continue joining us for Sunday School, worship, and fellowship. Whether you join us every Sunday, haven't been with us for a while, or are visiting for the first time, there is always a place for you at Friedens.

If you can't attend in person, our worship services are broadcast on our YouTube channel and on Santel Channel 915.

We look forward to worshipping together as we continue to grow in faith and support one another during this season in our church's life.

During this time of transition, anyone needing pastoral care or assistance is encouraged to contact Consistory President Lennis Mehlhaff at (605) 935-6335 or (605) 770-8217. He will help connect you with the appropriate pastoral support.



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Qualities We Are Seeking In A Godly Pastor

Mark each quality with a Y if you believe it is important for the candidate to have or an N if you believe it is not important. Then, rank your top 10 qualities from those you marked with a Y. This activity will help the search committee develop a shared understanding of the key strengths and qualities they are looking for in a candidate. **Please return or submit your survey by October 25.**

- _____ 1. Is compassionate, caring, and sensitive to the needs of others
- _____ 2. Reaches out to inactive members
- _____ 3. Has a strong commitment to the Christian educational ministry
- _____ 4. Works well with committees and officers
- _____ 5. Is a person of prayer
- _____ 6. Is an inspired and engaging preacher
- _____ 7. Plans and leads worship effectively
- _____ 8. Maintains confidentiality
- _____ 9. Loves the Lord Jesus Christ
- _____ 10. Grounds decisions and ministry in Biblical perspective
- _____ 11. Effectively manages church records and administrative responsibilities
- _____ 12. Encourages faithful stewardship
- _____ 13. Encourages and equips others to serve in leadership roles
- _____ 14. Makes pastoral calls to hospitals, nursing homes and those confined to their homes
- _____ 15. Inspires confidence in their leadership
- _____ 16. Promotes unity and cooperation among different churches and faiths
- _____ 17. Teaches effectively across all ages and works well with children and youth
- _____ 18. Handles conflict effectively
- _____ 19. Encourages people to apply their faith in daily life
- _____ 20. Works well as part of a team
- _____ 21. Strongly encourages local community outreach
- _____ 22. Continues to grow in knowledge and skill
- _____ 23. Helps people work together to solve problems
- _____ 24. Leads by personal example
- _____ 25. Has an advanced theological degree
- _____ 26. Is Spirit-filled
- _____ 27. Disciples others toward spiritual maturity

- _____ 28. Ministers effectively to people in times of crisis
- _____ 29. Has a vision and passion for global mission
- _____ 30. Is committed to small group ministry
- _____ 31. Provides effective pastoral counseling
- _____ 32. Reaches out to and welcomes new people into the church
- _____ 33. Has an understanding of the Heidelberg Catechism
- _____ 34. _____
- _____ 35. _____

Rank your top 10 by writing the number on the respective lines:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| #1 _____ | #6 _____ |
| #2 _____ | #7 _____ |
| #3 _____ | #8 _____ |
| #4 _____ | #9 _____ |
| #5 _____ | #10 _____ |

What major trends do you envision in our church in the next five years?

Describe the strengths or positive qualities of our church.

Complete the survey online by scanning the QR code, or return your completed paper survey to:

Friedens Reformed Church
PO Box J
Tripp, SD 57376



Please return or submit your survey by October 25.