

Friedens Reformed Church

Affiliated with: The Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches



Newsletter

April thru June 2019

From Pastor Greg:

“What Is The Motivation of Our Faith?”

I recently had the opportunity to go to a worship service led by someone other than myself. This is quite a rare opportunity for a pastor and can be an uplifting experience or downright scary.

After preparing the proclaiming messages every week from God's Word, going to hear another's message allows a pastor the experience of hearing the Gospel message which others proclaim.

On this particular occurrence, I was greatly distressed by what I had experienced. No, I had no criticism of the pastor's delivery. He was quite a good speaker and held my attention throughout the message. No, the service was not radically different from our own. Even though it was a different denomination, it was closely related to our own. No, I was not feeling unwelcome by the pastor or the congregation. They all knew who I was and where I was from and made me feel quite welcome. The message was obviously well researched and illustrated and was not too long or too short. I have no illusions that I'm such a wonderful preacher or that I alone know how to proclaim God's Word. Why then, was this such a negative experience?

The premise of the message was that the main purpose of Christianity, the main reason to follow Jesus Christ and the foundation of our faith was and is that we shall be saved. Our goal as Christians is eternal life - the salvation of our souls.

This is where I became outraged (**the first sentence of his message**). This is the message, which I have so often heard espoused by Christians who are new to the faith and who do not truly understand what the Gospel message is actually based on.

In Luke 9:23-25, Jesus tells His disciples: "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"

Is salvation a reward for what we've done or who we are? Is it the achievement, which is central to our faith? Is salvation what we as Christians seek? **NO**. We can do nothing to save ourselves. Our good works cannot save us, no matter how good we are or how long we've been good. There is nothing that we can do - through prayer, good works, or any other way - to achieve salvation. If we seek salvation, **we seek a THING**. To stress the goal of salvation, ie...When was I Saved, is no different from seeking to win the Lottery or the Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes.

What is the motive for being a Christian? Are we Christians for what we can get out of it (i.e. salvation)? **Or** are we Christians because we believe in the One True God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Counselor? What truly motivates our faith? A reward of eternal bliss? **Or** the indwelling Spirit of God which moves in us, through us and most often, in spite of us to show the true compassionate presence of Christ among us today?

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."

God Bless

Pastor Greg

From the Financial Secretary:

To give a **contribution** to Friedens Reformed Church, you can put your cash in a **contribution envelope** and place it in the offering plate. Another way to make a **contribution** is to write “**contribution**” in the memo line of your check and simply place it in the offering plate. Contributions may also be mailed directly to the Financial Secretary. Any and all checks placed in the offering plate that **DO NOT** have “**contribution**” written in the memo line will go towards **offering**. On the Sundays that are designated as **Benevolent Sunday or Building Fund Sunday**, any undesignated funds will be placed in these specific funds. If you would like a receipt for your contribution at the end of the year, you **must** use the contribution envelopes. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Stoebner, Financial Secretary, at 605-935-6689.

Future Events:

In April 2019 :

- April 3rd, 2019 Consistory Meeting after Lenten Service
- April 3rd, 10th, 18th, 2019 Wednesday Lenten Worship Services @ 7:30pm
- April 7th, Sunday Worship Service {Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper} @ 10:00am
- April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th 2019 Sunday Worship Services @ 10:00am
- April 10th, Woman’s Guild @ 7:30pm
- April 17th, Friedens Foundation @ 7:30pm
- April 18th, MAUNDAY THURSDAY Service @ 7:30pm**
- April 19th, Good Friday
- April 21st, EASTER SUNDAY Service {Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper} @ 8:00am**

In May 2019:

- May 1st, 2019 Consistory Meeting @ 7:30pm
- May 5th, 2019 Worship Service [Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper] @ 10:00am
- May 5th, 2019 Graduate Recognition Sunday @ 10:00am
- May 5th, 12th, 19th, 25th 2019 Sunday Worship Services @ 10:00am
- May 8th, 2019 Woman’s Guild @ 7:30pm
- May 12th, 2019 Mother’s Day
- May 18th, 2019 Armed Forces Day
- May 27th, 2019 Memorial Day

In June 2019:

- June 2nd, 2019 Worship Service [Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper] @ 10:00am
- June 5th, 2019 Consistory Meeting @ 7:30pm
- June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th , 2019 Sunday Worship Services @ 10:00am
- June 12th, 2019 Friedens Women’s Guild @ 7:30pm
- June 14th, 2019 Flag Day
- June 16th, 2019 Father’s Day