

# FRIEDENS REFORMED CHURCH

P O BOX J

TRIPP, SD 57376

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

Email: [friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com)

Church Phone: 605-935-6758



## GROWING INTO GIVING

"I got you a present!" my two-year-old grandson shouted excitedly as he pressed a box into my hands. "He picked it out all by himself," my wife smiled.

I opened the box to find a Christmas ornament of his favorite cartoon character. "Can I see it?" he asked anxiously. Then he played with "my" present for the rest of the evening and as I watched him, I smiled.

I smiled because I remembered gifts I had given loved ones in the past, like the music album I gave my older brother one Christmas when I was in high school that I really wanted to listen to (and did). And I realized how years later God was still stretching me and teaching me to give more unselfishly.

Giving is something we grow into. Paul wrote, "But since you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Grace fills our giving as we understand that all we have is from God, and He has shown us "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God generously gave us the most unselfish gift of all: His only Son, who would die on a cross for our sins and be raised to life. Any who receive this ultimate gift are rich beyond measure. As our hearts are focused on Him, our hands open in love to others.

James Banks, Author

In what ways do you need to grow in giving? What could you do today?

Let us pray: Thank you, Father, for giving me the best gift of all: Your Son! Help me to share Your generosity with others today.

(The above reading was taken from Our Daily Bread, the new quarterly devotional the Women's Guild will be sponsoring.)

\*\*\*

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:

The search committee has received resumes and sample sermons from twelve applicants. We have interviewed some of the applicants. Three of the interviews have gone very well, where others were not a good fit for our congregation. Continue to pray for our committee that we may find a spiritual leader for our church.

Members of the search committee are: Lennis Mehlhaff, chairman; Eileen Gall, vice-chairman; Amy Brown, secretary; Mary Lou Hoff, Sally Schatz, Conrad Finck, Caleb Finck, David Finck, Tim Mehlhaff, Glen Hartman, Mike Nuss, Keith Stoebner, Vicki Huether, and Lori Dewald.

We will continue to use pulpit supply for Sunday services. A listing will be included in the bulletin weekly.

\*\*\*

## EA NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Friedens belongs to the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. If you are interested in viewing their newsletter, The Networker, printed copies are available in the narthex. You can also sign up on their website to receive their newsletter. Their website address is <http://evangelicalassociation.org/>.

## WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATES (Oct.-Dec.)

The month of October wrapped up the Guild's Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoebox mission project. A total of twenty-six shoeboxes were packed and collected, and then dedicated on November 17 before being delivered to the new collection site at the Calvary Baptist Church in Yankton, SD. We want to thank everyone who provided these gifts to our mission project again this year. Along with Gospel literature, these gift boxes are now being shipped to millions of boys and girls in more than 100 countries. Thank you, God, for allowing us to share the true meaning of Christmas---the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The election of officers resulted in two ladies volunteering for the two vacancies. Diane Stoebner volunteered to resume the office of treasurer for another two-year term, while Geri Saenz volunteered to replace Sandra Stoebner for the office of vice-president.

During our November meeting, the Guild discussed and unanimously voted to contribute monetarily to the Tripp Action Group's "Snack Pack" project, which provides food and snacks once per month to Tripp-Delmont students of our communities.

As has been announced recently, the Women's Guild will be providing a new quarterly devotional entitled "Our Daily Bread". The December-February editions are available for pick up in the church narthex. They will no longer be mailed as has been the practice. And, you're more than welcome to take a copy for your church friend(s).

December concludes the Guild's business year for 2019, and we will resume our new year beginning in March of 2020. Ladies, those of you who may wish to, please consider joining us in 2020! We'd love to have you as we continue in the service of our church and our mission projects!

We pray for God's blessings on all this blessed Christmas season and wish you a healthy and happy new year!

Following is a list of the various missions that our Guild supports:

- \*Feed the Children
- \*Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Project
- \*Children's Care Hospital (Lifescape)
- \*Bible to each newborn
- \*Bibles to our 3rd graders
- \*Palms for children (Palm Sunday service)
- \*Donate to youth Estes Park camperships
- \*Emmaus Homes
- \*Union Gospel Mission
- \*Gifts to graduating seniors
- \*Gifts to confirmands
- \*Snack Pack (TAG) Program
- \*"Our Daily Bread" devotional
- \*Donate to youth Swan Lake camperships

## WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT A POINSETTIA?

The theme for this year's Christmas Eve Candlelight program focused on the poinsettia. Looking at the poinsettia up close, you see a radiant golden star shining from the center of the flower. If you look at the poinsettia from the perspective of a person who donated the flower in memory of someone they love and miss very much, it is a symbol of how grief and beauty, the emptiness of sorrow, and the fullness of love are all at work at the same time.

The young people read the story of the birth of Jesus and the different perspectives of the poinsettia. The youngest Sunday school members played "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" with their bells and dressed up as the members of the nativity. Special music selections were performed by Sunday school members.

All the young people including the bell choir performed the music selection, "I Saw Three Ships". The service ended with singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. The youth and Sunday school teachers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## MISSION FEST HELD

This past summer, Bobbie Friederich made a trip to Zimbabwe to minister to the women and families. Bobbie's story was very interesting. She had many pictures and trinkets that she displayed. Thank you, Bobbie, for sharing with us!

## YOUTH RALLY HELD IN MENNO

Friedens Reformed Youth, along with more than 130 teenagers from Tripp, Delmont, Menno, Armour, Scotland and Freeman, gathered for a supper and fellowship at the Salem Reformed Church in Menno on Sunday November 17.

Casey Comstock, a 2004 graduate of Scotland High School, challenged all who were present to invite Jesus into their boat. His message was based on Luke 5, as Jesus got into Peter's boat and began to teach the people on the shore. The Armour youth band, Heaven's Hitchhikers, sang Christian rock songs and had the audience up on their feet. It was a special experience for the area youth.

## MEMORIALS DEDICATED

Each November, we take time to recognize memorials that were given in honor of past loved ones. This year's memorials are:

1. In Memory of Otto and Lorretta Hoff-the Christmas Tree and Ornaments
2. In Memory of Larry Stoebner-funds given to Youth Group for expenses for their trip to Colorado and to Emily Dewald for camp expenses to attend White Swan Youth Camp.
3. In Memory of Delray Herr-money was not designated for anything specific. Money is being kept in a savings account.
4. In Memory of Marcella Breitreutz-money was not designated for anything specific. Money is being kept in a savings account.

We keep records of these memorials and place name cards on the Memorial Board in the narthex. If you would like to give a memorial for a loved one, please contact Keith Stoebner, Special Funds Treasurer.



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Question #1 in the Heidelberg Catechism asks: "What is your only comfort in life and in death?"

The answer states: "That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him."

Esther Hieb, born July 27, 1917, passed away on November 2, 2019. Pastor Barry Nelson, minister from First American Lutheran Church, performed the service.

Jean Finck, born June 23, 1930, passed away on November 4, 2019. The service was led by Pastor Jim Barsch from Scotland Community Church.

Thomas Konrad passed away on December 4, 2019. He was born on March 27, 1957. No funeral service was held.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families during the first holidays without their loved one.

## NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

Romans 15:7 states. "we are to welcome one another. therefore. iust as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

We want to give a huge welcome to Sheena Peskey for joining our church family.



## ANNUAL MUSIC NIGHT

On Sunday, October 27, area community members performed at the Friedens Reformed Church Music Night. It was an entertaining evening with a variety of music with Name that Tune-Sunday School Edition, piano and vocal solos, and group performances.

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

1. Edna Hoff – Scotland Good Samaritan Center, 130 6th St., Scotland, SD 57059  
Birthday: March 2
2. Ruby Batterman – David M. Dorsett Health Care-Memory Care Center, 1020 N. 10th St., Spearfish, SD 57783  
Birthday: March 13
3. Maydean Dewald – Borman Manor; 501 N. 4th St., Parkston, SD 57366; Birthday: February 13
4. Gideon Schultz – Sister James Health Care Facility, #122 Country, 2111 W. 11th St, Yankton, SD 57078  
Birthday: February 23
5. Betty L. Meyer – Trail Ridge, Ind., 3408 W. Ralph Rogers Rd., Apt. #301, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-2672  
Birthday: August 4
6. Dennis Schnabel – Scotland Good Samaritan Center, 130 6<sup>th</sup> St., Scotland, SD 57059  
Birthday: April 30

### Friedens' Shut-ins

1. Elva Brosz – P.O. Box 367, Tripp, SD 57376
2. Meta Herr – P.O. Box 131, Tripp, SD 57376
3. Janelle Meisenhoelder – 101 S. Carpenter St., Tripp, SD 57376
4. Violet Ehresmann – P.O. Box 127, Tripp, SD 57376
5. Adeline Dewald – P.O. Box 152, Tripp, SD 57376
6. Maynard Dewald – P.O. Box 152, Tripp, SD 57376
7. Leroy Pietz – 41115 284<sup>th</sup> Street, Tripp, SD 57376

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BULLETIN

If you would like to place an announcement in the bulletin, please leave a message for Judy Mehlhaff by Friday of each week.

## OFFERING SCHEDULE

A new offering schedule will be posted after the consistory has approved it for the 2020 fiscal year.

- Starting with the next newsletter, you will have three ways to receive it:
1. View and download from church website.
  2. Sign up to have it emailed to you.
  3. Sign up to have it mailed to you.

To let us know how you would like to receive your newsletters, please sign the notebook in the narthex **OR** send us an email. Our email address is [friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com).



Watch the bulletin and website for more information on the following events:

January:  
❖ Annual Congregational Meeting (Jan. 15)

February:  
❖ Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26)

March  
❖ Wednesday Evening Lenten Services