

FRIEDENS REFORMED CHURCH

P O BOX J TRIPP, SD 57376

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First Quarter 2026



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. - Psalm 91:1

This verse contains a qualification and a privilege. We can see it in the sentence structure: "He that.....shall...." There are three angles from which these two sides of the verse are contrasted.

1 The act of faith

2 The manner of preservation

3 The Person trusted

1. The act of faith: "He that dwells" This is the qualification. The one who will receive the promise is the one who "dwells" The privilege is: "shall abide." In other words, He that dwells will dwell.

2. The manner of preservation: "The secret place of the Most High," is the manner of preservation from the side of the qualification. But in the privilege, it is called "the shadow of the Almighty." The help of God is a secret to carnal man and God's shadow is His refreshing and cooling presence, i.e., His protection.

3. The Person trusted: In the qualification, God is the "Most High." In the privilege, He's the "Almighty."

When we put all these parts together, we see that this verse teaches us that anyone who entrusts himself into God's hands may remain secure under His protection in the midst of all dangers. What a wonderful thought this is! This is merely an overview of the passage.

Let's unpack this idea by asking, and answering, three questions:

1 What it is to trust ourselves into God's hands?

2 How does this passage express and recommend this to us?

3 How necessary a duty is this for Christians?

1. What does it mean to trust ourselves to God? Scripture commonly expresses this idea by the use of two words: (A) consecrating (B) committing.

A. Consecrating is devoting or giving ourselves up to His will. We see this idea in passages such as, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God." (Rom. 12:1) Also, "Present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." (Rom. 6:13) "Here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him." 2 Sam. 15:26

B. Committing is entrusting all to Him and His care. The Psalms exhort us to this when they say, "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He will do it." (Psalm 37:5) The Apostles both exhort us to this and model it for us. Paul tells Timothy, "I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him" (2 Tim. 1:12) Peter reminds us, "Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." (1 Peter 4:19)

Our trust is neither blind faith nor wishful thinking. It is grounded upon the two surest things there are, which are indeed one: God's nature and God's covenant. God is faithful in His very nature. God will never back out of anything that He has promised to do. But beyond that, God has made a covenant of grace with the elect. This covenant is made in Christ and rests upon the covenant of redemption made between the Father and the Son from all eternity. For God to not be trustworthy, He would have to not only betray us, but He would also have to betray Himself.

2. How it is expressed and recommended to us in this passage? The passage shows us

- (a) The person that trusts
- (b) The act of trust itself; and,
- (c) The encouragement to trust

(a) The person that trusts is, "He that dwells." Who is this? It is anyone who dwells.

(b) The act of trust is expressed in the words, "He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High." This person is one who dwells with God. The unregenerate cannot say he trusts God, nor can he be encouraged to "trust God" in the difficulties of his or her life. The promise of Romans 8:28 legitimately applies only to those who are "called according to His purpose." The invitation to entrust ourselves to God is open to everyone, but only the called find refuge in Him.

(c) The encouragements of this passage to entrust ourselves to God are three:

Firstly, there are the titles given to God. He is called the Most High. This ensures us that all our enemies, be they ever so high, are under God's sovereign providence. No one is higher than God. When I trust Him, I am trusting in the Most High. God is then called the Almighty. This reminds us that His power extends to all situations. Nothing is outside the scope of His power. Romans 8:28 says that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who are called according to God's purpose.

Secondly, we're informed of the manner in which this help appears. It is called, "The secret of the Most High." This is special favor of God that the world does not know. It is, "The shadow of the Almighty." This suggests ideas like protection, shade, refreshing – ideas which come to the foreground later in the Psalm.

Thirdly, we are told that it is given as a promise. It is permission to dwell in God. His throne of grace is always open to a penitent believer. "The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." (John 6:37) Moreover, it is an assurance to us of safety. A child of God is not numb to or exempt from cares and troubles. But because he trusts God, he can resign himself to God and rest satisfied in God's providence, however harsh it may seem.

3. How necessary a duty this is for all Christians.

Entrusting ourselves wholly to God is a vital part of our Christian duty, if for no other reason than that we acknowledge God's nature when we do. We only honor Him when we trust Him entirely. This is not servile fear; it's a simple fact. We won't have confidence to seek God's protection if we think He has reason to be displeased with us. Besides, trust quiets our hearts and minds. Scripture says, "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established." (Prov. 16:3) Paul admonishes, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6, 7. If we learn nothing else from this verse, we should learn that all who entrust themselves into God's hands can remain secure under His protection in the midst of all dangers. Pastor Andy

Friedens Reformed Church Celebrates 125 Years!

Friedens Reformed Church is joyfully celebrating 125 years of faith, fellowship, and service, and we would love for you to be part of this special milestone!

Join us on Sunday, July 26, at 10:00 AM for a meaningful anniversary service as we reflect on our rich history and look forward to the future. Following the service, a catered dinner will be held at the Tripp Legion Hall.

We encourage you to share this invitation with family and friends and help us make this a truly memorable day at Friedens!

👉 RSVP by June 26

Email the church at friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com or call/text Lynn Stoeber at 605-770-2074

Additional details will also be shared on Friedens' Facebook page.

Church Directory Photo Sessions

As part of our celebration, we are creating a new church directory! Professional photographer Laura Huether Lee of Laura Ann Photography will be at the church to take family photos.

- Sitting fee + one 8x10 photo: Provided by the church
- Additional photos available for purchase

Photo Dates & Times:

- Friday, May 15: 6:00–9:00 PM
- Saturday, May 16: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM & 1:00–5:00 PM
- Sunday, May 17: 11:30 AM–5:00 PM
- Monday, May 18: 6:00–9:00 PM

Members will be contacted to schedule a time.

 Photo Contacts:

- Shelly Finck: 605-770-2362
- Laura Lee: 605-933-2336

A Message of Gratitude

We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings upon our church as we celebrate this milestone. May we continue to grow in faith, unity, and service to You.

We hope to see you there as we celebrate 125 wonderful years together!

2026 Friedens Reformed Church Committees

Consistory:

Lennis Mehlhaff, President
Marlin Nuss, Vice-President
Tiffany Horstman, General Treas.
Conrad Finck, Asst General Treas.
Lynn Stoeber, Benevolent Treas.
Duane Vahl, Asst Benevolent Treas.
Jason Schnabel, Special Funds Treas.
Chase Stoeber, Asst Special Funds Treas.
Dustin Fischer, Financial Secretary
Wayne Stoeber, Asst Financial Secretary
David Finck, Secretary
Marc Reiner, Asst Secretary

Christian Education Committee:

Gary Schnabel, Superintendent
Amy Brown, Treasurer
Lennis Mehlhaff Jeff Mehlhaff
Becca Mehlhaff Jody Schnabel
Pastor Andy Underhile

Women's Guild:

Eileen Gall Phyllis Dewald
Sandra Stoeber Brenda Stoeber
Geri Saenz Kathy Barton
Robin Stoeber Diane Kuper
Hope Maag Pat Reiner

Foundation Members:

Tim Mehlhaff Leon Reiner
Diane Kuper Toni Finck
Tanner Nuss Laura Lee
Bob Nuss Donald Hauck
Karen Nuss Lennis Mehlhaff
Marlin Nuss Dustin Fischer

Music Committee:

Conrad Finck Lennis Mehlhaff
Laura Lee

Welcome Committee: Lennis and Judy Mehlhaff

Auditing Committee:

Jeff Mehlhaff and Jody Schnabel

Secretary: Judy Mehlhaff

Custodian: Conrad Finck

Historian: Robert Hoff and Lennis Mehlhaff

Building & Grounds Committee:

Conrad Finck Lennis Mehlhaff
Chase Stoeber

Cemetery Committee:

Marvin Frey Marlin Nuss
Terry Maag David Winckler

Christmas Committee:

Laura & Brandon Lee
Chase & Bobbi Stoeber
Dustin & Jen Fischer
Jason and Melissa Schnabel

Groundkeepers: Tim, Jacob, & Dylan Mehlhaff

Technology Coordinators:

Caleb Finck and Amy Brown

A Precious Gift from God

God has blessed Tanner and Shelbee Nuss with a beautiful baby girl, Bristol Fae, born on March 26.

Congratulations to the Nuss family!



WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATE

FYI....summer church camps are soon approaching, so parents, students, and youth group leader, please turn in the following information to any Guild member by the end of May 10 for Guild donation consideration. 1. Name(s) of student(s) attending 2. Location and date of camp 3. Cost per student.



MEMORIALS FOR LOVED ONES

Appreciation Memorial Sunday, held on February 15th, is a day to recognize loved ones who have passed away and to thank the families who have given back to the church in their memory. We humbly thank the families of Mary Fischer, Betty Wormsbecher, and Marlene Nuss for their cash donations to our church. It also provides an opportunity to thank all the people who give their time and effort to support the church's day-to-day operations.

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser. Your generous donations of food, monetary contributions, and overall support made this event a great success. We are truly grateful for your willingness to give and be a part of what we're doing.

Also, thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Brunch and made it special. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, bringing our church family together in such a meaningful way as we celebrated Easter.

Thank you again for your kindness, support, and dedication to our youth group, it means so much to all of us!



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

The Rev. Dr. Richard "Mitch" Behringer quietly passed from this life to eternal life on January 10. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Noma Sayler went to be with our Savior on February 1. A celebration of life was held on February 7.

Melvin Finck graduated to Heavenly Glory on March 13. Funeral services were held on March 20.

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 Stoeber – 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:

♥ Kelley Hartman, daughter-in-law of Glenn and Marilyn Hartman, continues with her health issue battle.

♥ Troy Hartman, son of Glenn and Marilyn Hartman, for hope, courage, and strength.

♥ Rev. Greg Way for enduring each day with faith and fortitude.

♥ Gary Frank for comfort and strength to overcome his health struggles.

♥ Jean (Cornelius) Finck for healing, strength, and the comfort of God's presence each day.

♥ National Minister, James Barnes for prayers that nodules are not malignant or metastasized from his old cancer. And if they are, pray that there is no further spread. Also, pray for peace for Rev. Barnes and his wife, Patti.

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VBS PLANS ARE UNDERWAY!



"THEN I WILL SEND RAIN ON YOUR LAND IN
ITS SEASON, BOTH AUTUMN AND SPRING
RAINS, SO THAT YOU MAY GATHER IN YOUR
GRAIN, NEW WINE AND OLIVE OIL."

Deuteronomy 11:14