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PASTOR'S PAGE...

October is here! Fall is officially underway, and the weather, for once, seems to agree. Crisp nights and mornings have brought changes to the leaf colors and cooler breezes. Out come sweaters and apple cider. Fall has a mood; an ambiance all its own: thanksgiving celebrations, playing in piles of leaves, Halloween costumes, beautiful trees.... and gratitude.

Walking through stores it has been clear for a least a month that Halloween is coming, as candy and costumes sprang up amidst the school supplies. But when the fall decorations come out, there are always cute signs that say things like: "Give Thanks", "Grateful", "Blessed", and so forth. Indeed, as we move toward Thanksgiving, the idea of gratitude has its day, and people begin talking about what they are thankful for.

How does that factor into our lives of faith?

We have a service on Thanksgiving Eve in November focused around the idea of giving thanks to God. But, presumably we are thankful for things more of the time than that. How do we give thanks to God? In prayer? In worship? In acts of service? In expressions of love? Is there a right way or a wrong way to express our thanks?

October also happens to be the time of year when congregations seek "giving pledges" or have "stewardship campaigns". I'm not sure what that brings to mind for you, but for a lot of folks it invokes the idea that the church is asking for more money. And we don't like that. It's uncomfortable. We don't like talking about money much at all... unless we have a great excess of it and want everyone to admire that.

Stewardship, though, is about much more than money. In fact, financial stewardship is only a very small piece of the whole idea. Unfortunately, it has become the one that people think of first, and the one that they dread, so stewardship becomes a topic to avoid altogether. But stewardship is really about love. It is about how we express our love of God and our love of neighbor. It even involves how we love and respect ourselves. Stewardship is about how we manage the resources that we have been given. That might be financial resources, but it's also time, relationships, skills, joy, faith, imagination, the stories of faith, and so much more!

Upcoming dates...

- October 11 — Council Meeting
- November 4 — All Saints Day
- November 8 — Council Meeting
- December 9 — German Service
- December 13 — Council Meeting
- December 16 — Children's Service
- December 24 — Christmas Eve Service



So, when we think about stewardship, what if we think about love and stories of faith? How do we steward the love that we know from God? We know that it is not a finite resource; there is enough of God's love to spill over all creation and then some. How do our lives, actions, and words make that known to others? Do we care for our lives and the lives of others as though they are precious gifts from God? Do we care for ourselves and others as one would care for a precious child?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” MATTHEW 22:37b-39

Jesus reminds us in Matthew's gospel that it's all about love. Thinking of stewardship in terms of love instead of specifically money has been very helpful to me: I may not always have a lot of money, but there is always an abundance of love. And that love of God and others helps to inform my words, my actions, and, yes, my spending.

Another important way that we are stewards is that the church is a place where God's stories are told. We read them, discuss them, dive into them and search through them. They are our stories, and stories that we have been given to share. These stories are great gifts of ours to steward: to care for and to share.

So, as we enter a season when we are aware of our gratitude, how do you steward love and the stories of faith? How does that impact your choices and the living of your life?

In the coming weeks and months, I hope that we can explore those ideas more deeply together as we seek to follow Jesus ever more faithfully.

School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

We have completed our period of requesting donations of items for our School Kits. But, please, if you have items that you have not dropped off at church, please bring them. We will either make more kits, save them for next year or give them to a neighborhood elementary school!

We have had several individuals express interest in helping assemble the kits. We will need to have this done by early November so that our kits can be loaded on the truck that will be through Nebraska, with other kits or quilts, to be taken to the distribution center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Kathy Holland at 402-310-9153 or by email at rh30222@windstream.net.



Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry...Recent Updates:

If you have some expired non-perishable food items you may include these in your donations to the Food Pantry. The Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry (LLFP) will sort out what they can and can not use.

Save Best Choice Labels – these will be taken to the Lutheran Food Pantry. The LLFP gives these labels to Food Net who, in turn, uses these to buy food for the Food Net program.

PRAYER CHAIN...



The Prayer Chain at

Friedens a vital part of the ministry we do. Caring for others in general, but especially for those in our church family, is what we are called to do. You are needed. Please call Maxine Pfrimmer (402-464-3024) and tell her you would love to be part of the prayer chain.

Adult Choir...

Will be starting in October and we are always looking for new members. If you like to sing, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Karen Scribner at 402-499-8365.



Youth Choir...

If you are 5 or older, we would love to have you in our Youth Choir. We will also be starting in October. If you know children in that age group please invite them to come.

Pantry Needs...

Lutheran Food Pantry's "wish list" includes:

Canned fruit, Canned peas, Cereal, Peanut butter, Pork and beans, Saltine crackers, Any shelf stable food items.

Manual can openers (gently used or new)

Personal care items (toilet paper, shampoo, bath/bar soap, lotion - even the sample size items) Money donations are always appreciated.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP

2018 LEADERS

Altar Guild

Nancy Borrell & Jane Cosier

Head Usher

Gary Hardt

Communion Assistant

4 — Becky Roberts

18 — Peggy Russell

21 — Maxine Pfrimmer

25 — Fran Zessin

Lectors

4 — TBA

11 — TBA

18 — TBA

21 — TBA

25— TBA

Greeters

4 — Alma Wilson & Judy Trampe

11 — Maxine Pfrimmer & Deb Marr

18 — Chuck & Lori Schwahn

21 — Steve & Peggy Russell

25— Amy Rezny & Joyce Boerger



Has your Email changed? If so, please let the office know by sending an email to ...

Office@friedens.org



OCTOBER Birthdays and Anniversaries

- (3) Tina Strong
- (4) Julie & Matthew Hauschild (15 Yrs)
- (5) Shawn Johanson
- (6) Jewel Hardt
- (7) David Cosier
- (7) Linda Dreith
- (10) Sunny Detty
- (12) Brad Magnuson
- (13) Brian Husa
- (14) Richard & Susan Busker (29 Yrs)
- (14) Bev Wilson
- (16) Amy Rezny
- (20) Dwayne Greenwalt
- (20) Kent Vollenweider
- (22) Jeremy Cosier
- (25) Kayle Hardt
- (27) Brad King
- (30) Rich Anderson
- (30) Myles Hardt

Celebrate!

OCTOBER WORSHIP

LEADERS

Altar Guild

Linda Vollenweider & Deb Marr

Head Usher

Kent Vollenweider

Communion Assistant

7 — Carolyn Hogg

21 — Sue Busker

28 — Karen Scribner

Lectors

7 — Peggy Russell

14— Kathy Holland

21 — Steven Russell

28 — Maxine Pfrimmer

Greeters

7 — Rempe Family

14— Deb Marr & Neoma Jones

21 — Linda Dreith & Carol Boellstorff

28 — Bob & Carolyn Hogg



OCTOBER Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Women of the ELCA Bible Study — 4:30 — 5:30 at Van Dorn Villa, the first Tue. of each Month.

The adult forum Sunday @ 9:30 continues to have lively discussion about other Christian traditions.

Come join us!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...Please let the church office know if there has been a birth, baptism, 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. You can also call the Pastor @ (316)371-0803, in case of an emergency.



Prayers....

Jane Swann
 Gary Overfiled
 Megan McNamara
 Verlene Owens
 Greg Zessin
 Kimberly Render
 Donna Splichal
 Kevin Hansen
 Robin Michael

Gerri Miller
 Tim Bukoski
 Dick Busker
 Halley Hansen
 Bud Bergen
 Julie Erickson
 Lisa & Regen Zessin
 Nancy Carpenter (Cindy Worster's sister)
 Dean & Angie Dreith (Scott Dreith's Brother)



New Director of Music at Friedens...

We are very excited to
Welcome Janet Malone
 to our Friedens Family.
 She will be joining us on
 November 1, 2018.

She will bring lots of musical talent to our congregation.



Congratulations...

To James Plucknett for being named 2018 Nebraska Retail Champion for the 1st Congressional District by the Nebraska Retail Federation. He and his wife, Kris, contribute to the community in many ways. His award was presented by Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler and State Sen. Kate Bolz.

When we give freely.....

We are able to be a part of God's Kingdom 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.

Year To Date Report: August 30, 2018

Receipts \$

Disbursements \$

We had another successful Church Picnic/Neighborhood Block Party thanks to great weather and to all who volunteered! The turn out from the neighborhood was excellent! We estimate there were at least 100 who enjoyed the meal. In addition to this, others stopped by to play games, play on the inflatables, climb the rock-climbing wall and to have face painting done.

We would like to thank these individuals for their hard work the day of the event:

Set-up: James Ripenburg, Malachi Detty; Games: Marissa Schild, Erin Schild, Taylor Andrews & Jakob, Karen Scribner, K.C. Melang-Thoren, Stacey Schild, Jodi Urban, Julie Erickson, Kathy Holland; Bounce House: Amy Rezny; Prize Table: Linda Dreith, Lou Skrdlant, Anne Melang-Thoren; Concessions: Kayle Hardt, Alex Culler; Face Painting: Tiana Dorsey, Pastor Kate; Food Prep & Serving: Maxine Pfrimmer, Neoma Jones, Peggy Russell, Kathy Rempe; Grill Masters: Scott Dreith, Steve Russell; Bingo Caller: Nick Hardt. Thanks also to Rick Lutz for his donation of Bingo prizes. Thank you to the following for donations of game prizes: Kathy Rempe, Stacey Schild, Kathy Holland, Linda Dreith, Lou Skrdlant.

We also want to acknowledge the gift from Sandy Everett /Runza Restaurants that makes it possible for us to rent the inflatables & rock climbing wall and to Gary Hardt whose commitment to this event provides the momentum to continue this tradition!

Again, thanks to everyone for participating, helping, and enjoying the day!

With Gratitude,
Your Church Council



We continue to collect the following items to benefit our mission partners and local service organizations.

Food for Food Pantry (see needed items in another article in this newsletter)

Plastic bags that are made into mats for the Homeless, a project led by GracePointe residents (Tabitha Assisted Living Community)

Teddy bears and personal care items for the People's City Mission

Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Omaha

Box Tops for Education for Mosaic in Axtell

Coupon Flyers for Tabitha---residents clip these as a service project. The coupons are given to a local Lion's Club who send them overseas to Military families in Germany

All items may be left in the entryway to the sanctuary. Thank you!

Social Ministry Team

