

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

1864 – 2014

*150th
Anniversary*



*Celebrating 150 Years of God's Blessings
With History, Memories & Photographs*



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church 1864 – 2014

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Editor's Acknowledgments:

A thank you goes out to each person who submitted, gathered or created any photos, lists, information, and anything else that contributed to the making of this historical publication.

Most of all, we humbly give thanks to God for His Grace, countless blessings, mercy that endureth forever, and His precious gift of salvation to us through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

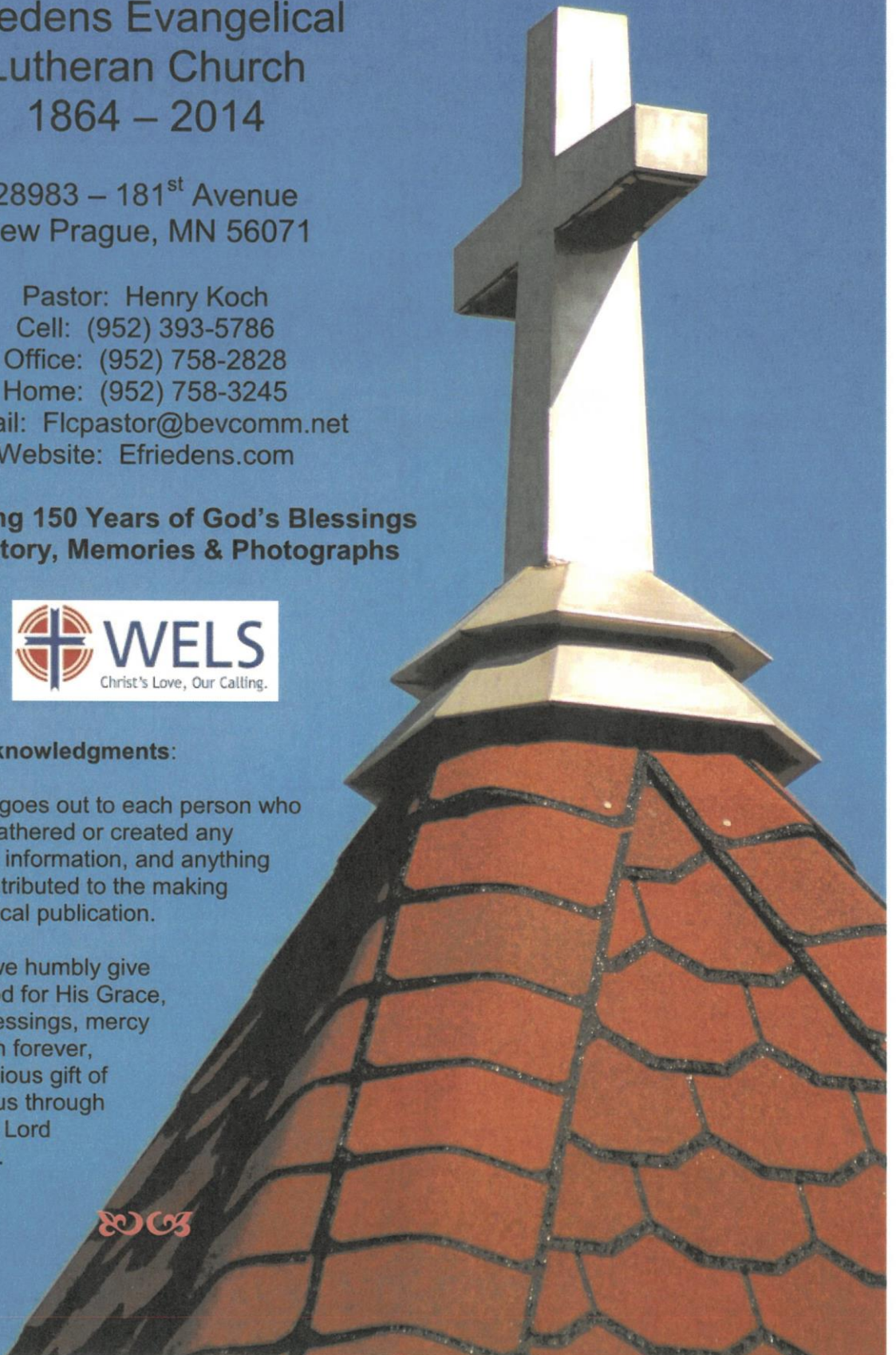




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Foreword

What Do These Stones Mean?



Does God care about anniversaries and remembering the past? We are not commanded, as the Israelites crossing the Jordan were, to heap up stones as “a memorial to the people of Israel forever” (Joshua 4:7). We can see, though, that the LORD wanted future generations to learn about the miraculous entrance into the Promised Land through a dry riverbed. God instructed 1 representative from each of the 12 tribes to pick up a stone from the riverbed, carry it on his shoulder, then heap it with the others as a sign, or memorial. In future years, children would have their curiosity aroused by the pile of 12 stones and ask about them. They would not take their land for granted, but would realize it as a gift from God. God deserves thanks and praise for His faithful love spanning 150 years to our congregation. We benefit when He blesses us *through our remembering!* We can use anniversaries, like our congregation reaching its 150th, and our sanctuary reaching the century mark this past December, to help new generations also learn of God’s blessings.

Some blessings are so big that they continue to give—even decades later. The children of Israel enjoyed a beautiful land for *centuries*, because of the gift God gave when they crossed the Jordan. Eventually, the Savior of the world was born, preached good news, and paid for the world’s sins in that land. Lutheran Christians at Friedens celebrate big blessings, too. We continue to be fed by Word and Sacrament—dating back 150 consecutive years, and in a building dating back 100 years.

God used a dozen out-of-place river stones to help children learn of blessings otherwise forgotten. Friedens has a 100-year-old sanctuary, which now looks very different from modern construction. *What do these old bricks mean?* We can tell children how God blessed people long ago to call pastors, hear the Gospel, and build sanctuaries to receive Word and Sacrament. Pictures from anniversary booklets remind us of blessings dating back 150 years.

What do we see, as we compare looking back? We see God blessing members to reach higher ages in better health; 75 years ago, the oldest member was 85, and at the 100th anniversary, the oldest member was 90. Now, with a smaller total membership, we have multiple members in their 90s (including 96 and 97), and members in their 80s are often more active than in the past. On a down side, people do not participate as much as in the past. The band no longer exists. The choir photo 50 years ago has 29 members; now the volunteers to sing are hard to find. The 1964 Bible Study Club photo shows over 40 members—more than double the current participation. Families are smaller than in the past, but our Sunday School is growing and now offers a special needs “Jesus Cares” class. Our youth group is smaller, but youth who participate now have greater opportunities for hands-on experience winning souls. We see a beautiful fellowship hall and actual Sunday School classrooms. We no longer have German services. We have an excellent organ, and continue to have talented musicians. The church has enjoyed stability with long pastorates.

God encourages us to remember blessings that continue from the past. It was God’s idea to mark every 50 years as a Jubilee celebration among His people (Leviticus 25). We strive to continue in good examples that past generations have left for us. God has blessed us with 150 years of Good News and new life in Jesus. May that blessing be cherished and continue in the coming generations!

Pastor Henry T. Koch



First church after it was converted to a school (front view).

Our congregation first met for services in members' homes, served by circuit pastors.



(back view)

In the summer of 1864, the first church was built on the southeast corner of the present parsonage's front lawn. Henry Eilers donated the land for the first church and parsonage. The church was an 18' by 24' log building. It served the congregation for worship services from 1864 to 1875. After that, it was moved down the road to the west and served as a parochial school and for confirmation classes.

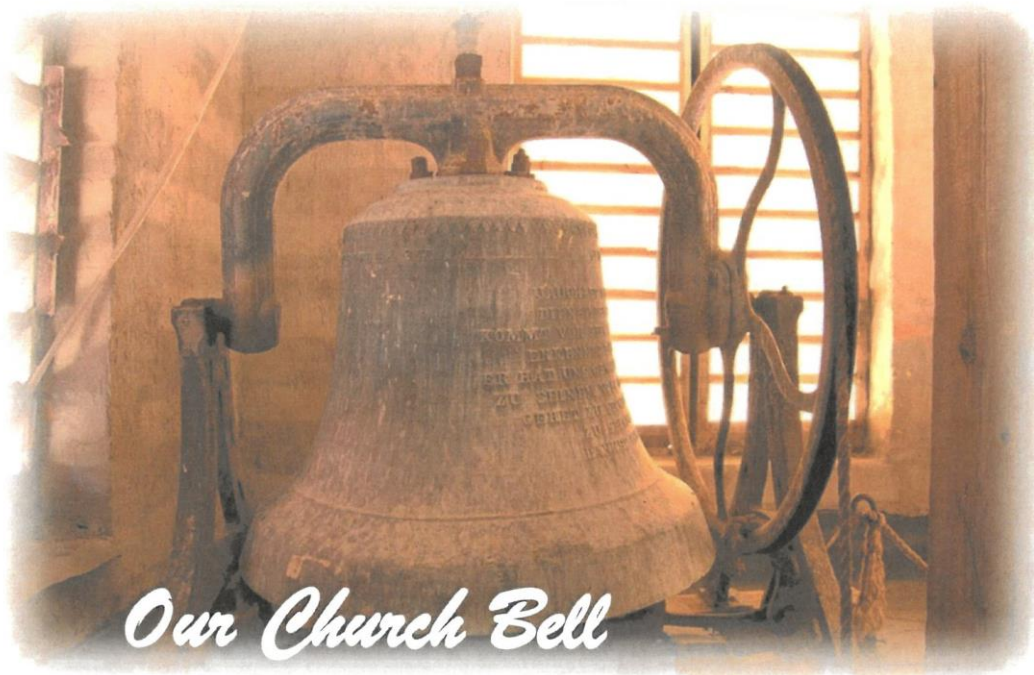


The second church was built in 1875, where the first church had stood. It was a 26' by 40' wood frame building, with a single tower.



Interior of Second Church





The bell was purchased in 1881 for \$323.36. It is still in service at our present church. The entire 100th Psalm is on the church bell. "The words are very fitting for a bell that calls people to worship," said Pastor Koch:

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.





In November 1912, the resolution to build the third, present church was passed. Architect Henry C. Gerlach of Mankato designed our original, third, present church. Other buildings designed by Gerlach include: The Tib House on Bradley Street in Mankato, The William Stewart House on Range Street in North Mankato, The Schumacher House in St. Peter, and The Watonwan County Courthouse in St. James. On January 29, 1913, the contract was let to Vollbrecht & Ahlf for \$11,200 to build the 34' by 60' church. The total cost was \$17,000 and was paid in full, with \$400 leftover in the treasury.

On June 22, 1913, the cornerstone was laid. The cornerstone, and work on it, were donated by Rech and Yackly of New Prague, Minnesota. Inside was placed a copper box, containing the names of the church members, the pastor, the church council, the parochial school teacher, the Governor, the President, the contractors, the architect and the mason foreman. Also included in the copper box were new coins, an album containing all the congregations belonging to the Minnesota Synod, a copy of the Church Constitution, and a copy of the New Prague Times.



The congregation hauled all the materials out from town (including the stained glass windows from Germany, and vitrified Twin City brick, wire cut with a weathered look, and sand from Jordan, Minnesota). Besides members of the congregation, others involved in building the church were also from the local area: Contractors Vollbrecht & Ahlf of Le Sueur, heating system installed by Sachs & Rynda of New Prague, painting by J. W. Komarek of New Prague, and lighting installed by John Huss of Union Hill.

Stained Glass Panels



Back in the summer of 1913, the following was reported:

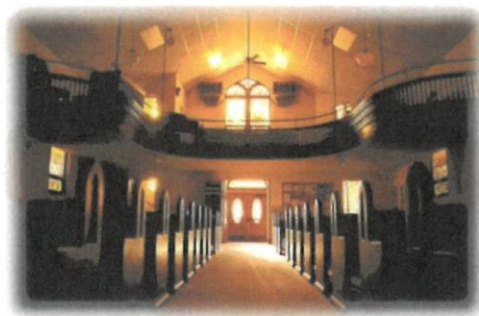
July 24, 1913—

“The walls are up, and work on the roof will commence in a few days.”

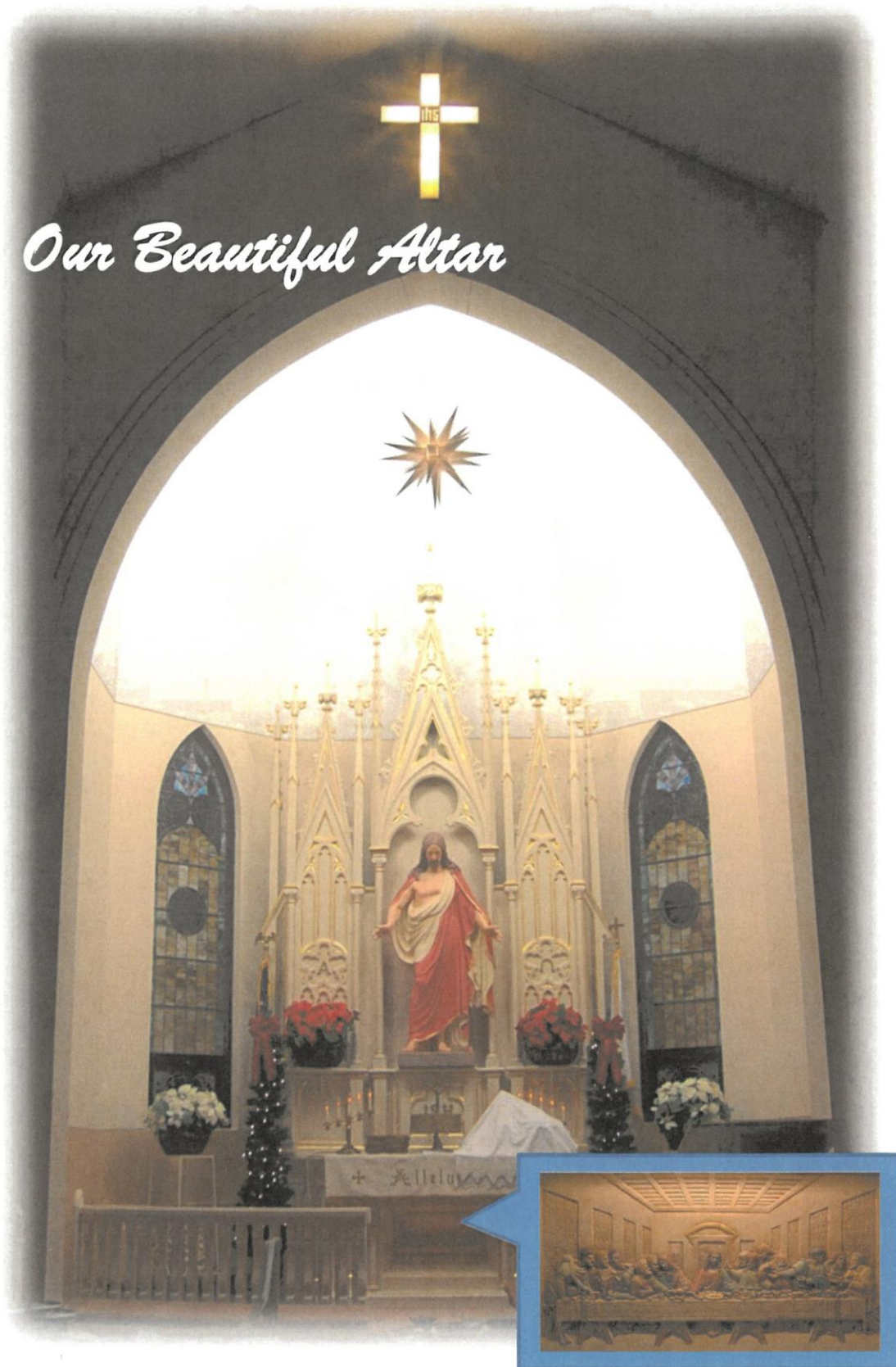
August 28, 1913—

“Brick work on the tower is expected to be completed within the week. The roof is complete, and carpenters will proceed with the finishing work.”

Dedication Day was on December 7, 1913. It began with a last short German service in the old church at 10 a.m., with the father of the congregation's pastor, Rev. G. Gruber of Nebraska, preaching the sermon. Afterward, the line of people marched over to the new church. Rev. R. Gruber opened the doors, and Rev. Justus Naumann, President of the Minnesota Synod, delivered the first sermon in German. There was an afternoon service with Rev. Koch of Belle Plaine, Minnesota, giving the sermon in German, as well. In the evening, a service given in English was conducted by Rev. A. Eggert of Jordan, Minnesota. Dinner and supper were served by the congregation in the new church basement. The choir sang at all the services.

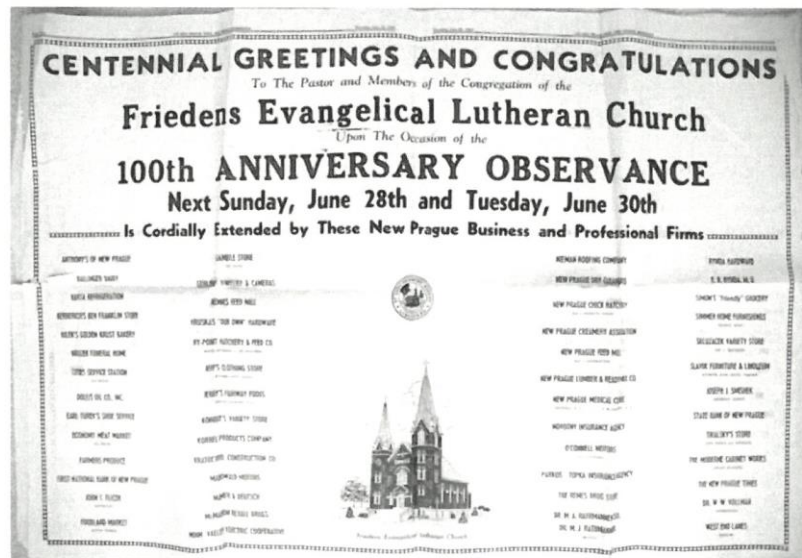


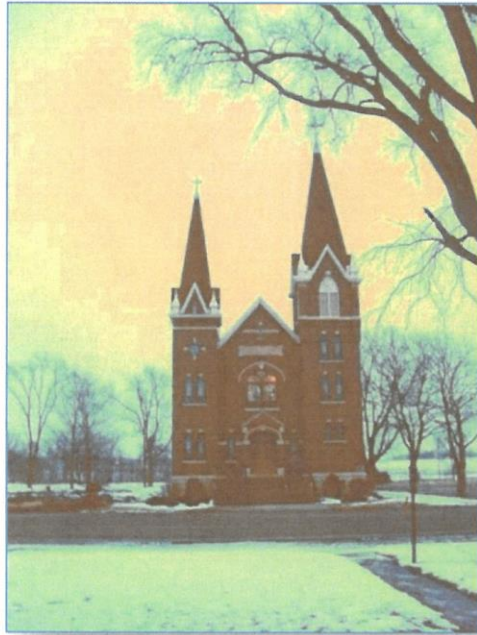
Our Beautiful Altar



More Church Updates . . .

- 1916: The second pipe organ was purchased and installed.
- 1929: The church was redecorated for the congregation's 65th anniversary.
- 1945: The church basement was remodeled.
- 1948: A loud speaker system was installed.
- 1952: The church was redecorated.
- 1961: An Electronic Baldwin organ was installed at a cost of \$3,000.
- 1964: The church was redecorated for the congregation's 100th anniversary. A new hot water furnace was obtained, and a suspended ceiling was installed below the tin ceiling.





1984: The cupola was removed and the roof was re-shingled.

1989: Renovation projects were undertaken for the congregation's 125th anniversary. The 39 stained glass windows were removed and restored, with protective storm windows added. The brickwork was tuck pointed. With the roof work, etc., the project cost added up to \$80,000, which was paid without a special drive or pledging.

1990: Carpeting was installed for \$5,540.

1991: An Allen Organ was purchased for \$19,000.

2001: A church addition was approved.

2006: The church addition was completed.

2006: The church basement was remodeled into classrooms.



Longest Married Couple at Friedens

Robert Ergin & Mary Jean (Mertens) Grassmann

Married July 2, 1951

63 Years



Bob was born to Ervin and Alice (Meyer) Grassmann on August 20, 1927, in New Prague, Minnesota. He had two brothers: Richard (deceased 2006) and Gerald (deceased 2005). Mary Jean was born to Ollie and Mollie Mertens on August 15, 1927, in Jordan, Minnesota. Bob and Mary Jean have four children: John, Gary, Judy and Lori; five grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Bob served in the military from 1945-1947. Upon returning from the service, he started farming on his parents' farm. He also was a salesman with New Prague-Ceska-Louisville (NPCL) Mutual Insurance Company for 35 years. Bob is a lifelong member of Friedens, as were his parents. He served on Friedens' Cemetery Committee for 30 years. One of his

church memories is of his father and his Uncle Rudy pumping air for the church organ on Sunday mornings.

Mary Jean worked as a secretary for Green Giant Company in Le Sueur, Minnesota, from 1945-1951. She also taught piano lessons and enjoyed knitting and crocheting projects, which she sold at craft sales.

They have enjoyed traveling, fishing, playing cards and watching baseball games over the years. After selling their farm in 2008, they moved into the town of New Prague, where they currently reside. They will be moving soon to Jordan, Minnesota.

Senior Members of Friedens

90 Years and Older

Geraldine Doris Ruehling Bell

I was born on April 23, 1924, on my parents Richard and Wilhelmine Ruehling's farm in Scott County, New Prague, Minnesota.

My husband's name was Otis T. Bell.

Our children:

Lois M. Bell
Otis R. Bell
Lynn M. Schultz
Lori K. Otto
Paul I. Bell (deceased, age 11)
Infant son (deceased)



I am a lifelong member of Friedens and was baptized and confirmed there in 1938, by Pastor Alfred Martens. There were six in my class. I attended confirmation class in the frame school house in Lanesburgh Township for two years, often walking the three miles. We were excused from class at District 61, so we could attend confirmation class. I was also married by Pastor Martens.

My parents were also members of Friedens, as were my grandparents—Heinrich and Maria (Jahn) Ruehling. My dad, Richard, was a young man at the time the present church was being built. He hauled bricks from New Prague with a team of horses and a wagon. The bricks came in by train. My mother's Uncle Charles Schultz, and his crew, were the brick layers for the church. They were from Shakopee, Minnesota.

Geraldine's Favorite Bible Verse:

Psalm 23, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Lillian Delores (Novak) Tietz-Doherty



Lillian was born January 29, 1922, in New Prague, Minnesota. She grew up and went to school in the New Prague area.

Lillian and Ewald Tietz were married in 1944. Ewald died on December 27, 1969, at the age of 53. They were married 26 years and have 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Dahlia Beno (Mound, MN)
Ernie Tietz (St. Clair, MN)
Terry Tietz (Montgomery, MN)
Becky Freeman (De Moines, IA)
Steven Tietz (Santa Cruz, CA)
Matt Tietz (Prospect, KY)

After being a widow for 18 years, she married Melvin Doherty in 1987. Melvin died on September 10, 2013, at the age of 93. They were married for 26 years.

Lillian joined Friedens Lutheran Ladies' Aid in 1947. There were about 40 members then. She enjoys the outings with the Aid members and recalls the Mystery Tours and the bus trip to watch the "Winter Carnival" parade in Minneapolis. She shared, "It was extremely cold, so we had to go in a store and watch the parade through the window!"

Lillian's Favorite Bible Verse:

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Esther Emma (Tietz) Bruzek Jensen

Esther was born on April 12, 1923, in Le Sueur County. On June 26, 1944, she married Ludwig Bruzek (deceased November 14, 1973). Together, they had sons Curtis and Michael Bruzek. On July 9, 1977, she married Arnold Jensen (deceased July 4, 1990).

Esther has been a lifetime member of Friedens and has been very committed to church activities. For six years, she attended the parochial school, and she remembers walking through creeks and over fences to get to school. At times, she remembers the church being very cold as a child. The Christmas Eve recitations, for which she had the closing part, were in German, as she recalls.

Esther, along with Velma Bohnsack, were the last to be confirmed in German, while the rest of the class was confirmed in English. The parents of each year's confirmation class were expected to thoroughly clean the church in preparation for Confirmation Sunday.

She enjoyed teaching Sunday school for 41 years.



Lanesburgh Lutheran Church Sunday School--1941/1942 (Teacher: Esther Tietz Jensen)

Front: Elda Tietz, Joann Martens, Dorothy Jane Eilers, Eileen Meyer & Edward Meyer.

Middle: Donald Eilers, Daniel Tietz, LeRoy Reinke, Clarence Ruehling, Bernice Svoboda, Louise Heine & Donald Meyer.

Back: Martha Meyer, Lloyd Ruehling, Jerry Grassman & Oliver Krohn.

Sunday school was started by Rev. Kelm, and Esther was one of the first four teachers. Since there were no separate rooms, each teacher taught their class in the corners of the church. She also recalls teaching in the frame school house. She also taught Vacation Bible School and time-release classes. She served as Secretary for Walther League for three years and sang in the choir.

For 20 years, Esther set up the communion ware. Along with Izak Jirik, Esther was privileged to be chosen to cut the ribbon for the new Fellowship Hall Dedication.

In addition to her many commitments to the church, Esther also worked at the New Prague telephone office for 29 years and at Sears for 4 years.

Esther's Favorite Bible Verse:

Psalm 118: 14, "The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation."

Goldie Maria (Jahn) Novak



Spouse: Edward James Novak, 1910-2001

Children: Allen Edward Novak
Carole Sue Novak Goldenman
Linda Ann Novak
Joanne Marie Novak
Jeanne Marie Novak Baldwin Sween

Memories of Friedens

By Goldie Novak

Born January 8, 1917

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in 1913. The land it sits on was donated by my grandfather, Fred Jahn. I was told many times that it was my grandfather, Fred Jahn, who donated the beautiful stained glass windows from Germany.

I remember the pipe organ. There was no electricity, so air had to be pumped by hand into the organ in order that it could be played, make music, and people would sing. There were three or four chandeliers, which hung over the pews on each side for light at night. Maybe they were gas lights?

Christmas Eve:

A real evergreen tree stood in the southeast corner of the church. Candles in candle holders were clipped to the branches. Men would light the candles. The candles would burn a short time and then be put out. Also, men stood with buckets of water and mops ready to put out a fire, if needed.

Children's Christmas Program:

It was all in German. I went to say my piece. I looked up at the beautiful tree and forgot what to say. Pastor was kind and helped me get started with my Christmas piece.

In church, this is how people sat! Men sat on the right-side pews and women and children on the left side. As a three- or four-year old, I sat between my mother and Grandma Ruehling-Meyer. I wore a velour brown hat, the brim turned up, my black hair in one braid tied with a pretty ribbon bow. My shoes were laced up to my knees. Mother and Grandma always wore a hat, as did all the ladies in church.

On Saturday evenings, at 6 o'clock, the church janitor rang the church bells for a few minutes. It meant church would be held on Sunday morning. The bells also rang before and after service.

My home was northeast of the church. Sunday morning, we walked to church. The bells would ring, and we got there in time for the first hymn. My home was lovely. It had stained glass windows over picture windows. Grandpa Fred Jahn had them sent from Germany also. My home is still standing there today.

Pastor Gruber came before Pastor Kelm. Pastor Gruber baptized me. One of his great grandfathers, Franz Gruber, wrote the melody for the song, Silent Night (in German—Stille Nacht). The melody was written by him on Christmas Eve 1818.

Pastor Kelm's daughter, Velada, was my playmate. She would come to our house at chore time, go into the barn and watch the cows being milked by hand. Velada and I were the same age.

When Pastor Kelm came, he and Mrs. Kelm started Sunday School and Ladies' Aid. I was one of the first Sunday School teachers. I sang in the church choir and was a member of Walther League. It was a youth group that studied the Bible and had social events. I was a teenager. My friend, Nathalia Dallmann, was Pastor Gruber's granddaughter. She played the piano for Walther League and Sunday School.

Goldie's Favorite Bible Verse:

Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (Goldie's confirmation passage!)

Ella Bernice (Beuch) Tietz



Ella was born March 18, 1918, and raised on a farm one mile south of Lydia, Minnesota. She was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Fish Lake. She grew up in the area with five siblings and attended school through grade 8.

Ella married Erhardt Tietz on May 25, 1944. They lived on Erhardt's farm, located between Heidelberg and Union Hill, and she became a member of Friedens.

She enjoyed being a homemaker and working on the farm, tending chickens, ducks and geese.

Her pride and joy was a "huge" vegetable garden, and she loved flowers. Times were tough then, so canning and sausage making were a mainstay.

The farm was sold in 1971, and Ella and Erhardt moved into New Prague, Minnesota.

Her husband died on April 21, 1989, and she continued to live in the home until 2007, when she moved to the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, where she still resides. She truly enjoys being able to attend worship services at Friedens occasionally.

Children:

Wayne (Shakopee, MN)
Kenneth (New Prague, MN)
Alan (New Prague, MN)
Edward (Orlando, CA)

Ella's Favorite Bible Verse:

**1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ
his Son cleanseth us from all sin."**

Pastors

The following provided spiritual guidance as missionaries and circuit pastors to the Friedens area before the congregation was organized in 1864:

Rev. John Christian Friedrich Heyer, 1859

Rev. Heyer was the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN, until 1862. He was born July 10, 1793, in Helmstedt, Lower Saxony, Prussia, and became a pastor in 1820. During the 1820s, he lived in Friedens, Pennsylvania. He was the first U.S. Lutheran missionary to India from 1841 to 1845; 1848 to 1857; and 1869 to 1871. He returned to the U.S. in 1857 for his health. He helped form the Minnesota Synod and was its first president. While in Minnesota, he did missionary work around the state. He was the first pastor of the Minnesota Synod to conduct a bilingual service. Rev. Heyer passed away on November 7, 1873.

Rev. Adam Blumer, 1860 to 1862

Rev. Blumer was one of six pastors to form The Minnesota Synod. In 1860, he started the St. Johannes German Lutheran Church in Shakopee, Minnesota. Rev. Blumer served the Shakopee area from 1859 to 1866.

Rev. Ernst August Gottlieb Fachtmann, 1861 to 1864

Ernst Fachtmann was born on July 3, 1813, in Baerstel, Osnabrueck. He was a pastor in Brandenburg, Prussia. Rev. Fachtmann came to America in 1857 and did mission work in Wisconsin from 1857 to 1862. He took over for Rev. Heyer as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and as acting president of The Minnesota Synod. He also did mission work in the area. Rev. Fachtmann also served St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Henderson from 1868 to 1877. Rev. Fachtmann passed away on January 17, 1877.

Rev. Cord S. Sprengeler, 1863 to 1864

Rev. Sprengeler was the first Minnesota graduate from Fort Wayne, Indiana, Seminary. He served in Canada from 1861 to 1863. In December of 1863, Rev. Sprengeler became pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Young America Township in Carver County. During this time, he was also a circuit pastor. Later, he served in Cleveland, then Elysian, Minnesota. His son, Henry, served in the ministry, as well. Rev. Sprengeler passed away on October 10, 1903.

The following were pastors of Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, since our congregation was organized in 1864:

Rev. Julius Wolf, 1864 to 1874



Rev. Wolf came from Germany. He accepted a call to Friedens after serving the Jordan-Sand Creek area from 1862 to 1864.

Rev. Christian Alpers, 1875 to 1882

Rev. Alpers came from Germany. His bride joined him from Germany. They were married on July 5, 1873. During his pastorate, a Christian day school was established. Besides teaching school and caring for this congregation, he also had three other charges: The Pomeranian Church, near Heidelberg, one in Montgomery, and one near Webster. In 1882, Rev. Alpers accepted a call to St. Clair, Minnesota. One of his daughters later married Fred J. Meyer and returned to Lanesburgh. Over a dozen of their descendants are currently members of the Friedens congregation.



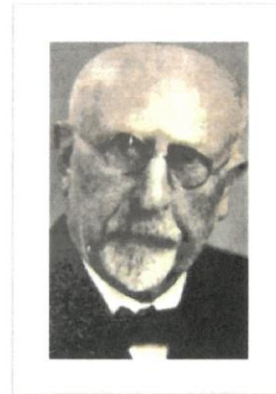
Rev. Wilh. F. Dreher, 1882 to 1885



In March of 1885, During Rev. Dreher's pastorate, the congregation adopted a resolution to engage a parochial teacher for her Christian day school. The salary was \$300 cash, a free house and fuel. Rev. Dreher's brother, John Dreher, was hired as the Christian day school teacher in 1885.

Rev. Karl Hauser, 1886 to 1888

Rev. Hauser came to Lanesburgh shortly after graduation from Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. His wife was the daughter of Rev. Volkert, who was at one time the pastor of the Lutheran Church at Big Woods, about 10 miles from here. During their stay in Lanesburgh, two sons were born to the young couple—Martin in 1887, and Karl in 1888, who later prepared to enter the Holy Ministry. In 1888, Rev. Hauser was extended a call to a Slovak congregation in Minneapolis. He served that congregation with great success for many years.



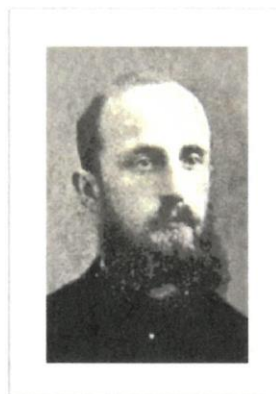
Rev. Theodor Schroeder, 1888 to 1900



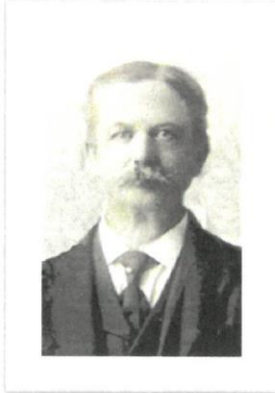
Rev. Theodor Schroeder was called to Lanesburgh in the fall of 1888. He resigned in 1900 because of his health. His sons, Victor, Emanuel and Helmuth, served in the ministry.

Rev. Theodore William Fettinger, 1900 to 1908

Theodore Fettinger was born in Zell on the Attersee in Upper Austria, on September 22, 1863. He came to America in 1886, and was matriculated in the Seminary of the Minnesota Synod in New Ulm, Minnesota. He served as Secretary of the Minnesota Synod for 12 years. In September of 1900, Rev. Fettinger accepted a call to our congregation. He served until April 5, 1908, after which he resigned due to poor health. He moved to Nebraska and his health improved. He went on to preach to mission stations in South Dakota.



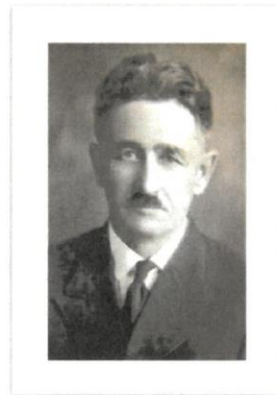
Rev. Rudolph Gruber, 1908 to 1923



During Rev. Rudolph Gruber's pastorate, the current church was built. He came here from Hoskins, Nebraska. His grandfather came to America in 1839, with Prof. Dr. Walther, and founded the Missouri Synod. Rev. R. Gruber became seriously ill with diabetes in early 1923, and died on March 21, 1923. He is buried in our cemetery. His daughter, Margaret, was the first to be married in the new church, to Robert Dallmann, and she was an organist at Friedens for many years.

Rev. H. E. Kelm, 1923 to 1940

H. E. Kelm was born in Antonienhoff, Kreis Kolmar, I.P., in the Province of Posen, Germany. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, in 1904. He served congregations in Campbell and Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, before accepting the call to Friedens. During his pastorate, the current parsonage was built. Rev. Kelm later served a congregation in Chisholm, Minnesota.



Rev. Alfred Martens, 1941 to 1976



Alfred Martens graduated from Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, in 1929. He served congregations in Tyler and Island Lake, Minnesota, where he provided accompaniment to hymns with his violin. Installed on February 16, 1941, Rev. Martens served this congregation for over 35 years. He oversaw the expansion of church services into New Prague and the building of the town chapel, providing German language services until 1976. He was the last pastor to have a cow and sheep at the parsonage. He was also an excellent horseshoe player.

Rev. Arnold E. Ruddat, 1977 to 1985

Arnold Ruddat was born January 22, 1944. He graduated from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, in 1970. Pastor Ruddat started the hog roast service in the park. He was pastor at Elmwood, Wisconsin, and Holland, Michigan, before accepting the call to Friedens. From here, he went on to serve in Collins, Wisconsin. His son, David, is also a pastor. Rev. Arnold Ruddat passed away November 22, 1997.



Rev. Wilbert Neumann, 1985 to 1995



Wilbert Neumann was born February 8, 1930. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, in 1955. He was pastor at Rockford and St. Paul, Minnesota, before accepting the call to Friedens. He oversaw the church remodeling for the 125th congregational anniversary, as well as planning for the remodeling of the parsonage after his retirement. He was our first pastor to bowl a perfect 300 game! Pastor Will now lives in Champlin, Minnesota. His son, Marcus, is also a pastor.

Rev. Robert G. Glasgow, 1995 to 2001

Robert Glasgow was born in January of 1950, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, in 1991. He was a Pastor in Pittsburg, Kansas. Currently, Pastor Bob is serving Monte Vista and Las Animas, Colorado, as well as working with Adams College in Alamosa.



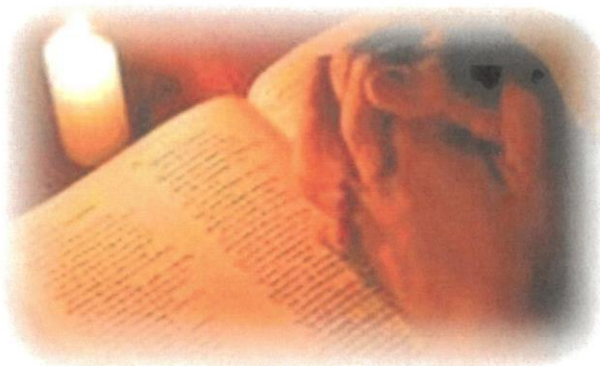
Rev. Marcus Richter, 2001 to 2007



Marcus Richter was born June 16, 1972, in Zwickau, Germany. He graduated from the Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Leipzig, Germany. During his pastorate, the Fellowship Hall was built. He currently lives in Michigan.

Rev. Henry T. Koch, 2008 to Present

Henry Koch was born November 7, 1962. He graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, in 1988. After graduating, he spent a year studying in Germany and traveled to Israel and our mission in Zambia. He served as pastor in Torrance, California, and St. Petersburg, Florida, before accepting the call to Friedens. Pastor Koch is a fourth-generation pastor.



Other Church Properties & Locations

First Parsonage: Built in 1876, it was a two-story frame house, with a pastor's study. Before then, Pastor Alpers was given room and board at the Heinrich Eilers home.



First Parsonage

Parsonage Barn: Unknown as to when it was built, it is currently the oldest building on the church property. It is seen in the background of a photo of the 1875 church. Rev. Martens kept a jersey milk cow there, as well as sheep, into the 1960s.

Second Parsonage: Built in 1924, the cost was \$10,000. In 1928, the ladies of the congregation furnished the funds to decorate the interior. The porch was enclosed in 1954. The kitchen was remodeled in 1958. The parsonage was most recently remodeled in 1995.

One-Car Garage: Built in 1941.

Two-Car Garage: Built in 1990 by church members.

Parochial School: The first log church was moved in 1876, and an addition was added on to each end. It served as the parochial school until 1935. After that, it was used for Sunday School in the summer months. Sunday School used to run from Easter to Christmas.

Teacherage: At first, the education of the congregation was provided by the pastors and a congregation member, Friedrich Gosewisch. When Friedrich lost his eyesight in 1885, it was decided to call a teacher. The teacherage, looking similar to the first parsonage, was built soon thereafter. After the parochial school closed, the house was occupied by the church janitor, August Krohn, and his family. A church member, Lyle Crawford, took down the teacherage and used the wood for their family cabin up north.



Teacherage (Krohn House)

The Teacherage Barn: Since teachers were here before cars, a barn was needed, rather than a garage. We do not have any pictures of the barn, but church member, Bill Martens, took down the barn for the lumber.

Public School: Parochial and Public school were each taught for four months out of the year until 1923. Then, a separate public school, District 61, was built. After one-room schools were closed, the church bought the school and property. It served some use for years, including being used for Vacation Bible School. In 1973, church member, Manral Jahn, removed the building, cleaned the bricks, and reused them to build a house for his son, Daryl (Brian Jahn's father).





Pavilion and Park: After the brick schoolhouse was removed in 1977, it was voted to improve the ballpark and playground. In 1979, the park shelter was built. In 1984, the cupola was removed from the church roof and moved to the park, where it turned into a sandbox for the children.



Cemetery: The cemetery predates the congregation. It was bought in five different parcels.



Pomeranian Church & Cemetery: The Pomeranian Church existed from 1867 to the 1880s. It was a mile west/northwest of Heidelberg, and was served by the Friedens pastor. In the 1880s, fire destroyed the church, including all records. All that remains today is the cemetery, with one tombstone commemorating it.

Other Places of Worship & Education: As a means of evangelism, church services were conducted in New Prague in the 1928 high school building twice a month, starting in 1938. Church services and release time confirmation classes were held in the Lunak Store on Main Street (near the shoemaker) and at the Soukup Cigar Factory on Highway 21. The Mission Festival was held for years in Eilers' woods, where an altar was built. After the service, the congregation would have a picnic lunch and the church band would play.

Chapel: Built in 1949, with a flat roof, the design allowed for adding on a second story expansion. The cost was \$12,000. It was used for church services, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bible Study Club and release-time confirmation classes. The chapel was renovated in 1989. A gable roof was added in 1997. After years of debate, in 1999, a two-thirds majority voted to sell the chapel and consolidate church activities at Lanesburgh.



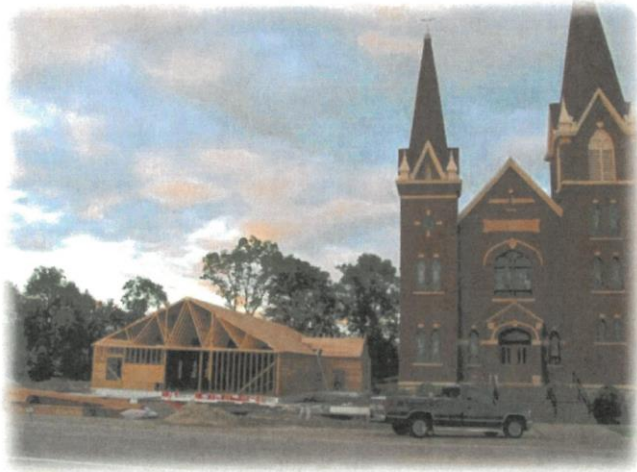
Friedens Chapel

The altar area at Friedens Chapel



The Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship Hall began as a handicap-access fund in 1997, when the members of the congregation wished to add an elevator and ramp to allow handicap access. In July of 1999, a building committee was formed. The committee talked to, and visited, many other congregations who had already added ramps or elevators. One common theme came from these meetings, "If you are building on to add handicap accessibility, invest a little more and enlarge your fellowship area." Most of them wished that they had done so.



Long before any committee was formed, Tom Meyer, Architect, and now partner at Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R), had drawn up some sketches of possible additions to the church. No one really knew for sure why he had made these drawings. Some believe it was a project for a college credit, and others believe it was just wishful thinking on Tom's part to create a larger entry to the original church. Tom had been a member of Friedens while he grew up in the Heidelberg area. When the Handicap Access Committee contacted Tom to seek

his help in developing a plan, he was delighted, and offered the services of his firm at a minimal cost. After meeting with the committee and having several meetings with the congregation, a concept plan was prepared, and some estimates were received as to the project cost.

In January of 2003, Friedens voters approved the project after church member, Rick Tietz, generously offered to take the necessary time away from running his business to manage the





construction project. Rick proposed that the members of Friedens had most of the talent and labor needed to complete the job and could hire subcontractors when special equipment or skills were needed. The voters felt Rick's concept of using member sweat equity, and his gift of construction management, would save tens of thousands of dollars and allow the congregation to be able to afford the addition. The original estimate

was well over one million dollars; however, Rick felt it could be completed for about half that amount. After working with the architect, some more space was added to the plan, along with upgrades to the interior.

Work started the very next Saturday, with clearing away of some trees, and covering the ground with straw, so that the frost would not go any deeper. This allowed for an earlier excavation of the site the following spring. Late in April, the footings were dug, and by



May, the foundation walls were poured.

The outside wall framing started right away on the hall side of the building. It had been decided to get the hall side enclosed first, creating a storage and work area, and the entry was to be completed later in the fall. Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturdays were set as work times. On average weeknights, a crew of 6 to 10 members would show up, and on Saturdays, usually 10 to 15 would come to help, with lunch being provided by members of Friedens.



It was late July of 2003, when Rick Tietz was killed in a car accident. His funeral was held inside the uncompleted hall area, with seating set up on the dirt floor, and a small platform for an altar. This was the first public use of the addition. It was Rick's vision, organization, and willingness that got the project started. He never considered it to be his project, but a work of the whole congregation. He taught us what we could do as a group working together. He is greatly missed.



After Rick's death, a building committee, consisting of Jeff Heine, Willard Rancour, Myron Tietz and Tom Thomsen, was appointed to continue the project.

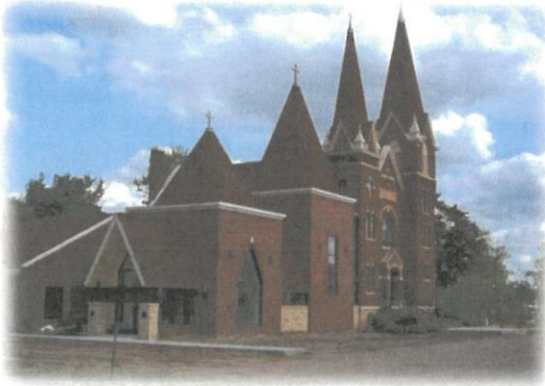
By the fall of 2003, the outside walls of the entry area were framed, and temporary roofs were tarped for the winter. During that time, masons started the brick work on the hall side of the site. Windows were installed to enclose the hall, which could then be heated, so work was able to

continue in the kitchen, restrooms and office areas. Wiring, insulating, and sheet rocking for the hall were completed that winter.

During early spring of 2004, the brick contractor returned to finish the entry side of the addition. While the masons finished the brick work on the entry and towers, we spent three months building the two steeples. They were constructed completely on the ground in front of the addition. Accuracy was of the utmost importance, because the steeples needed to be lifted up, and then positioned down 30 inches inside the now completed towers. We had allowed for only 1 inch of clearance



along both sides of each structure. It was the middle of July, at 6 a.m., when workers from Ames Construction came one Saturday to lift the steeples into place by crane. The taller steeple weighed over 5 tons. Both steeples fit right into place, and



by 8 a.m., we all were done, cleaned up, drinking coffee, and eating doughnuts, while looking up at the latest and monumental change in the project.

By the winter of 2004, we had most of the outside work completed, and we got to work sheet rocking the entryway. The elevator contractor started his installation, and the inside framing was completed. The connections between the church and entry were opened.



A small group of volunteers emerged about this time. They called themselves "The Holey Rollers"--painters actually--diligently and carefully completing their task of painting and staining everything in sight.

During the spring of 2005, the trim work was well underway, and the stairways were also coming together. Most of the other finish work was completed during this time, and all areas of the project seemed to get finished up neatly by the now somewhat smaller group.



The construction of the Church Fellowship Hall was completed in 2006 at a cost of \$633,676.30, which was paid within a year of the building's completion.

Friedens Organizations and Events



Ladies' Aid: Organized in 1934, the Ladies' Aid meets monthly in the afternoons. They are involved with various activities and have raised donations for missions over the years.



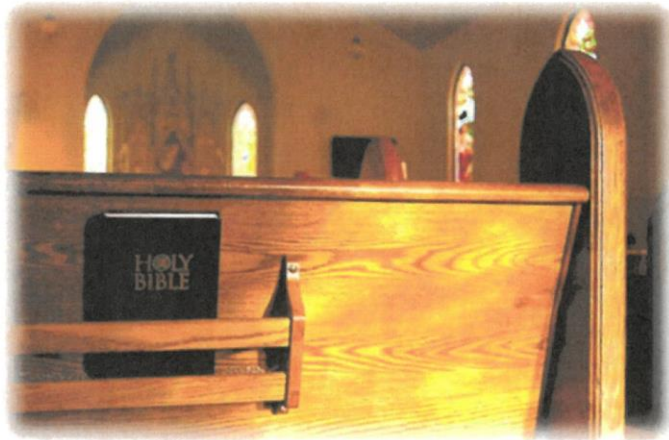
Friends in Faith at Friedens: FIFAF began in 2002. They meet monthly in the evenings, and are involved with various activities that include movie nights and “soup-and-sandwich suppers” during Lent.

The Lanesburgh Concordia Band: It started about 1887, and for the next 75 years, provided music for church services and events, such as mission fests. They practiced at the District 61 school, or at members’ homes, with a lunch served at mid-practice. The band played at other area churches, such as Webster and Fish Lake. To this day, musicians continue to accompany the organist at special church services.

Choir: Not sure exactly when the choir began, but it did sing at all the services at the dedication of the third church in 1913. The variety of music and number of members has varied from soloists, to an Easter Cantata: The Passion and the Promise, performed in 1996. The two most recent choir directors have been Kathy Kasten (moved to Rochester) and Donna James (retiring).

Bible Study Club: The Bible Study Club started in the 1940s, and met monthly for Bible study and a business meeting. It also had activities, such as selling Christmas cards. In the 1990s, it evolved into the Bible studies we have today.

Bible Studies: Bible studies are held Wednesdays, as well as Sunday mornings after Church services.



Bible Information Classes: Provided for new members.

Mission Fest: For a number of years, it was held in Eilers’ Woods. After a picnic lunch, the Lanesburgh Band would play. Currently, we have one mission fest on home missions and one on foreign missions.

Hog Roast: Persuaded by Bob Halvorson, Pastor Ruddat started the Hog Roast in 1984. Generally, the second Sunday in August, which has a remarkable record of good weather.

Fish Fry: Put on by the Church Council with member-donated fish.

The Walther League: From 1922 till 1947, it held two meetings a month for teens. One was a Bible study, and one was a business meeting, along with activities.

Today's Youth Ministry

The Pioneers: The Pioneers began after the Walther League ended. Currently, it has monthly activities, including a pine car derby, bake sales and summer camp outs.

Teen Bible Study: Held monthly.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., for preschool through grade 8.

Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School is for preschool children through grade 6.

Christmas for Kids: Pastor Richter began this outreach.

Easter for Kids: Pastor Koch began this outreach.





"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

It is interesting to note that we, at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, have a connection to the well-loved Christmas hymn, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" You may remember that one of our 90+ members of our congregation, Goldie Novak, mentioned in her memoirs (in the "Senior Members of Friedens" section of this book) that Pastor Rudolph Gruber had baptized her. She also mentioned that one of his great grandfathers, Franz Xaver Gruber, wrote the melody for the song, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" The story of



how this song came to be is a great example of God at work in our lives. As we read the following story, shared by Erhardt "Butch" Dallmann (grandson of Margaret Dallmann), we can see the Lord orchestrate His servants and their circumstances, as He guides them in the creation of this wonderful and joyous Christmas hymn that shares the Good News of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Twenty miles northeast of Salzburg, Austria, lies the quiet little village of Oberndorf, Austria. It is nestled in the mountains along the Salzach River. In Oberndorf, there was a church by the name of St. Nicholas Church. Joseph Mohr was the priest of the church and Franz Gruber was the organist and choir master of the church. Because the church and other buildings were built in a low lying area next to the Salzach River, the church received extreme damage in a flood in 1818, and, therefore, the organ was ruined.



The Silent Night Memorial Chapel in Oberndorf replaced the original Nicola-Kirche.

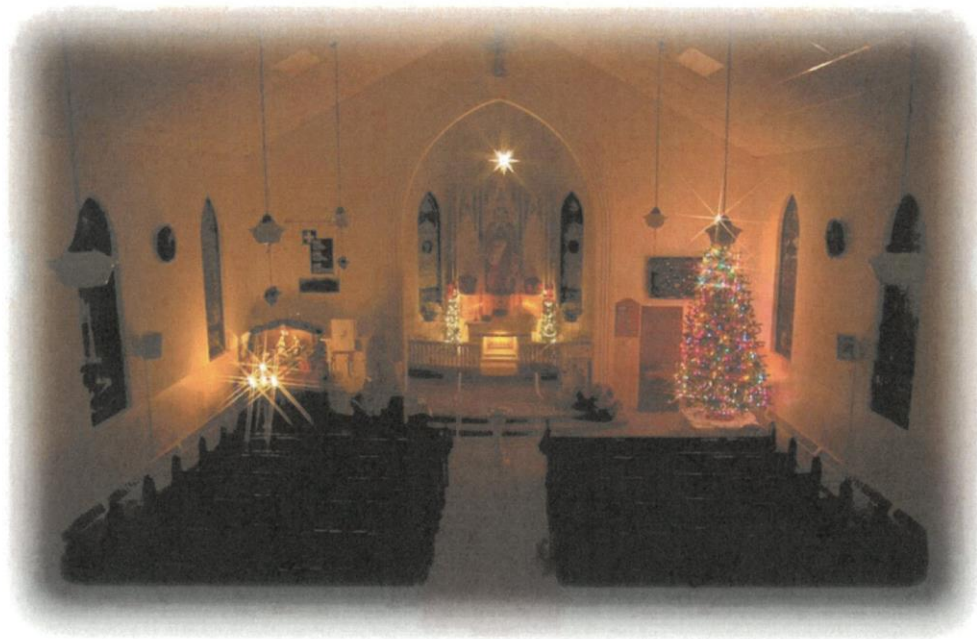
It was Christmas Eve, and since they couldn't use their organ, Joseph Mohr was wondering what music they could have for their Christmas Eve service that night. He recollected that two years earlier, he had went out along the Salzach River and sat on a mountainside overlooking the valley. As he sat there, he saw how beautiful and quiet it was and started thinking about the birth of the Christ Child—Jesus. He sat there and penned a poem and entitled it, "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!"

Joseph Mohr then found his poem he had wrote in 1816, and brought it to Franz Gruber and asked him if he could put the poem to music and have it ready for the Christmas Eve service. Franz Gruber took the poem home, and, with his guitar, strummed the music to a new Christmas song.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1818, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" was sung for the first time by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber, as Gruber played along with the guitar.

Franz Gruber was my great, great, great grandfather, and in 1839, the Grubers came over on a sail boat that landed in New York. From there, they dispersed across the United States. Rudolph Gruber was a pastor in Nebraska, and was called to Friedens Church to be one of the pastors, where he served from 1908 to 1923. Pastor Rudolph Gruber and his wife are buried in the church cemetery. Their daughter, Margaret Gruber, married Robert Dallmann, who came over from Germany in 1906. Margaret Dallmann was the organist at Friedens Church for many years.

-Story submitted by Erhardt "Butch" Dallmann (Grandson of Margaret Dallmann)



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church Decorated for Christmas (2013)

Franz Gruber wrote “Silent Night! Holy Night!” for the guitar, and the melody has slightly changed over time, but it is still recognizable as the “Silent Night” we know today—just with an Austrian Flair. In 1855, Franz Gruber also arranged his version of “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” for soloists, choir and organ, as shown on pages 39 and 40. Also shown below are the original 6 verses—verses 1-3 translated to English by John Freeman Young (1820-1885) and verses 4-6 translated to English by William C. Egan, Silent Night Historian:

Original Six Verses of “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!</p> | <p>4. Silent night! Holy night!
Here at last, healing light
From the heavenly kingdom sent
Abundant grace for our intent
Jesus, salvation for all.
Jesus, salvation for all.</p> |
| <p>2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!</p> | <p>5. Silent night! Holy night!
Sleeps the world in peace tonight
God sends His Son to earth below
A Child from whom all blessings flow
Jesus, embraces mankind.
Jesus, embraces mankind.</p> |
| <p>3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth!</p> | <p>6. Silent night! Holy night!
Mindful of mankind's plight
The Lord in Heav'n on high decreed
From earthly woes we would be freed
Jesus, God's promise for peace.
Jesus, God's promise for peace.</p> |



Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!

Text von Joseph Mohr - 1816

Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber - 1818

1. Stille Nacht!
2. Stille Nacht!
3. Stille Nacht!

4. Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft ein - sam wacht
Heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn! O wie lacht
Heilige Nacht! Hirten erst kund ge - macht

7. nur das traute heilige Paar. Hol der Knab' im
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die
Durch der Engel Alleluja, Tönt es laut bei

This is taken from the 1855 Franz Xaver Gruber manuscript. Der Notensatz stammt aus einer Fassung von Franz Xaver Gruber in 1855, für Sopran-, Altstimme, Chor und Orgel. Gruber zeichnete diesen Satz während er Chorleiter in Hallein, Österreich war. Der Urtext stammt von Pfarrer Joseph Mohr (1816) in Mariapfarr, Österreich. Die Vertonung von Gruber folgte 1818 in Arnsdorf. Die Uraufführung war bei der Mittnachtsmesse (1818) in Oberndorf. Die sechs Verse des Urtexts sind im Internet bei <http://fingeb.org/Lieder/stillena.html> zu finden. Cyber-sheet music by frank_petersohn@sunshine.net



10 11 12

lok - kig - ten Haar schla - fe in himm - li - scher Ruh____,
 ret - ten - de Stund' Je - sus in dei - ner Ge - burt____!
 Fer - ne und Nah: Je - sus der Ret - ter ist da____!

13 14

schla - fe in himm - li - scher Ruh,
 Je - sus in dei - ner Ge - burt!
 Je - sus der Ret - ter ist da!

15 Chor 16

schlaf - fe in himm - li - scher Ruh____,
 Je - sus in dei - ner Ge - burt____!
 Je - sus der Ret - ter ist da____!

17 18 19

schla - fe in himm - li - scher Ruh!
 Je - sus in dei - ner Ge - burt!
 Je - sus der Ret - ter ist da!



STATISTICS*		
Record	Last 25 Years	Total
Baptisms	113	1,422
Confirmations	127	999
Marriages	35	349
Burials	69	384
Baptized Members		282
Communicant Members		235
*These statistics are through 2013, and do not include any 2014 statistics.		

MILESTONES	
Year	Milestone
1856	German Lutheran settlers first came to the Lanesburgh area.
1864	Founding of the Congregation/First church built (log church)
1873	Beginning of Christian Day School
1875	Log church moved and used as school house.
1875	Second church built.
1876	First Parsonage built.
1881	Bell purchased for second church (the same bell we use today).
1883	First pipe organ purchased for \$421.50
1884	Only German language was used.
1913	Third and current church built.
1916	Second, larger, pipe organ purchased.
1917	Minnesota, Nebraska, Michigan and Wisconsin merged to become WELS.
1922	Walther League Society organized.
1923	First English service.
1924	Second Parsonage built.
1934	Ladies Aid organized.
1935	Depression forced closing of Christian Day School.
1937	Last German Confirmation (Esther Jensen's class)
1938	Mission station started in New Prague.
1941	Garage built at parsonage.
1942	Resolution passed for all congregational meetings to be held in English.
1942	Constitution of congregation translated into English.
1945	Basement of church remodeled (yellow brick, red floor).
1948	First sound system installed in the church.
1949	School (Chapel) built in New Prague.

MILESTONES (Continued)	
Year	Milestone
1961	New electronic Baldwin organ installed in the church.
1962	Folding doors installed in church basement.
1963	Mimeograph machine and typewriter purchased.
1964	Suspended acoustical ceiling installed, and interior walls were re-plastered in the church.
1973	Old public school removed and park improvement began.
1976	Last German services held.
1977	Regular Sunday services started at the Chapel in New Prague.
1984	Bud Halvorson persuaded Pastor Ruddat to have the first Hog Roast service.
1984	The cupola was removed for re-roofing of the church, and was converted to a sand box for the park.
1988	The stained glass windows were restored, and the Church and Parsonage were tuck pointed.
1988	First computer donated to the church.
1990	Carpet installed in church.
1990	New double garage built at the Parsonage.
1993	New Allen Organ was purchased for the Church and used through April of 2014.
1993	New red hymnals were purchased.
1995	Last Parsonage remodeling.
1996	First occasional children's sermon done by Pastor Glasgow. Currently, as of 2014, we have a children's sermon every Sunday service.
1997	Handicap access committee formed.
1997	New wood truss roof installed at Chapel.
1999	Building committee formed for Fellowship Hall.
2001	The Chapel was sold. The whole congregation could then attend worship services together at the Church.
2002	Friends in Faith at Friedens formed (evening ladies group).
2003	Fellowship Hall construction approved in January.
2006	Fellowship Hall was dedicated in January.
2006	Basement of Church remodeled into classrooms for Sunday School.
2008	Tuesday services started.
2009	Saturday services started.
2012	Church interior was repainted.

We, at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank God for guiding us, blessing us and watching over us for the past 150 years.

Thank you, Lord Jesus!



The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Amen