

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)



Rev. Henry T. Koch

Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Tuesday: (See Calendar)

Saturday: Noon

Online Services: EFriedens.com



FRIEDENS' FAITH IN FOCUS

August 2025



*"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.
And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31)*

Youth Ministry

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

Next summer, the WELS International Youth Rally "Christ Through Us" will be July 14-17, 2026, back at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. These biennial rallies are special blessings for our teen-age members. Our teens who will be confirmed in May 2026, through those graduating from high school next spring may attend next year's rally. We previously attended a rally there in 2018. The Tuesday-to-Friday rally requires a nearly 700-mile drive (1 way), for 11 hours of driving time, plus rest stops and a time zone change. The rally registration begins late afternoon, which makes for a very early, pre-dawn start and long day if trying to drive that far in 1 day.

Last summer, we enjoyed flying to Denver for the 2024 WELS International Youth Rally. We got great fares and were blessed to borrow a van in Colorado. A search for flights to Toledo was not promising, and the next closest airport would require 3 hours spent driving to MSP and from Cleveland's airport. An added blessing routed to us by flying with the cheapest tickets was that the first day we arrived early enough to go whitewater rafting before the rally, and, the day we left, we had time after the rally to hike in mile-high mountains and visit a railroad museum.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HENRY T. KOCH

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church | 28983 – 181st Avenue | New Prague, MN 56071

Pastor's Cell: (952) 393-5786 | Church: (952) 758-2828 | Church E-mail: FLCSec@bevcomm.net | Website: EFriedens.com

An experience to consider for next summer that would make a driving trip more enjoyable and memorable by leaving a day early, on Monday, would be to take the car ferry 1-way across Lake Michigan. The 73-year-old S. S. Badger is the last coal-fired steamship on the Great Lakes. The 61-mile, 4-hour water route links Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Ludington, Michigan. It would add a couple hours to the trip but only about 20 miles of distance. The cost of the ferry this year is \$42 for children through age 15 and \$86 for ages 16 and up. We would leave at 7 a.m. Monday, July 13, to catch the 2 p.m. ferry in Manitowoc and arrive in Ludington at 7 p.m. The University is then a 4-hour 15-minute drive from the ferry.

Chat GPT has many creative ways to productively fill a Monday evening, and Tuesday in Michigan or Ohio, with historic, educational and/or nature stops. That Monday evening, just 10 minutes from the ferry, we could walk the beach or a nature trail at Ludington State Park. We could bring sleeping bags and arrange with a neighboring WELS or ELS church to provide overnight hospitality in their basement or fellowship hall. Options for Tuesday include A) Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids (interactive exhibits for teens), B) Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, C) Tobico Marsh / Bay City State Park, and D) Sauder Village (Archibold, OH). Ohio's largest living-history village has interpreters in 1800s dress, hands-on crafts and blacksmithing. Teens see pre-industrial life in action. E) Toledo Metroparks - Oak Openings Preserve or Wildwood Preserve has unique sand dunes, oak savannas and hiking trails. Pastor Koch invites teens' and parents' input on these options.

Synod News

A presentation from the Synod Convention, which met in New Ulm the fourth week of July, is available to view online at <https://welsconvention.net/news/livestream/>. The Tuesday evening session features a Special 175th Anniversary Presentation: "The Story of the New Ulm Campus and its Role in WELS History." (Skip to minute 16 for the start of the 63-minute, picture-rich retelling.) In addition to history of our worker training college, you will learn about rural Minnesota tensions in WWI, and how the statue of Arminius (Herman the German) links to an event during Jesus' time on earth, but that happened over 1,600 miles away.

Library News

Our church has now received its own copy of the new hardcover *Christ Through Us* pictorial history of the Wisconsin Synod 1850-2025. As noted in June, this book includes interesting narratives accompanying hundreds of photos. It functions well on a coffee table. A person can pick it up, open to any page and see in photos and text an interesting piece of God's kingdom advancing. This history has the added benefit of encouraging the reader's faith as it recounts God's blessings, his faithful guidance through past times of disasters, trouble and human mistakes and the spreading of the gospel far beyond what could have been imagined in the early humble days. Members are encouraged to take turns borrowing this from our basement library for a couple of weeks, then returning it for the next to use. Our library has a sign-out sheet on the wall. Perhaps people can sign up on a waiting list, too. If no one is waiting, a person could "renew" the book.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church is Registered to be an Exhibitor at Czech Out New Prague This Year!



Czech Out New Prague is set to take place on **Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** Again, this year, the Chamber is partnering with the New Prague Area Arts Council who has Sean Benz & the Misfits coming to play at Memorial Park!

Our Outreach Committee has planned for our church to make a showing at Czech Out New Prague this year in their ongoing efforts to invite people to worship at Friedens. Stop by at Friedens' tent to say, "Hi!" Please tell Pastor Koch if you'd like to be an ambassador for our church. He'll fill you in on the details.

Czech Out New Prague is an annual business and community expo designed to showcase what New Prague has to offer! There will be food, entertainment, kids' activities and more. We hope you'll join us for this fun, family event!

Memorial Park
400 Main St E, MN 56071-2429, Minnesota, New Prague

MISSION FESTIVAL 2025

August 3

Worship at 9 a.m.

A Mission Presentation is planned for 10:15 a.m.
by Rev. Luke Wolfgramm, Head of Europe Missions
Potluck Luncheon to Follow



We are excited to have Rev. Luke Wolfgramm (accompanied by his wife Jennifer) come to Friedens to preach and give a mission presentation on WELS Mission happenings in Europe! We look forward to hearing this special update on what is happening in regard to spreading the Gospel in Europe!

Two Baby Girls were Baptized in June: Marci Ann Hauser & Violet Elsie Bisek

Baptized: June 14, 2025

(Parents: James & Maggie Hauser)



Baptized: June 29, 2025

(Parents: Greg & Sara Bisek)



These two beautiful and delicious Costco cakes were provided by the Friedens' Ladies Aid to precious little Marci & Violet on their respective Baptism Days. Everyone was invited to share in the joy of their Baptisms and eat some cake, too! May God bless these tiny new members of Friedens.



Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church

28983 – 181st Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071 | (952) 758-2828 | EFriedens.com

Vacation Bible School 2025

Lunch provided.

Come and Learn About
Our Heavenly Father's
Love & Forgiveness!

August 6
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

*Feel free to invite
friends! There are
invitations on the
literature table.*

Bible Stories | Game | Crafts | Singing

Vacation Bible School is open to any child, from 3 years old (potty trained and accompanied by parent) through 5th grade. To sign your children up to attend Vacation Bible School, please fill out a Registration Form for each of your children. There are Registration Forms on the website (efriedens.com under the "Ministries" tab), or on the literature table in the Welcome Area of the church (by double-glass doors). Please give your completed Registration Forms to Pastor, or you can put the forms on the desk in the copy room. You can also e-mail them to the church office at flcsec@bevcomm.net. You can also just come early on August 6, at 10:45 a.m., to register the same day as the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Henry Koch (952) 393-5786.

We are looking for VBS volunteers!

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area! Thank you!



BE STRONG
be brave
BE FEARLESS
you are never
ALONE
JOSHUA 1:9

sowing the seeds of Faith



As you may remember from the flyers put in mailboxes at church, the theme for this year's convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was "Sowing the Seeds of Faith." Our opening service was titled, "God Makes the Mission Grow." There were 682 people at this service and the offering was \$20,950.63. The actual registered attendance was 616. The Friday morning devotion was titled "A Mission Seed is Planted." We heard how well the native African workers were doing in our Central African Medical Mission in Malawi and Zambia.

Rev. Joel Nitz of the Asia One Team spoke about work being done in Vietnam, Nepal and India, how people became Christians through small ways. God does work in mysterious ways, so with "little seeds planted" people became Christians. Small things became great things. A person being kicked out of his family--because he became a Christian, then moving away, he found another Christian and his life continued to grow with the Lord. "Sowing Seeds Always Works," maybe not just the way you think it should. So, we trust the power of the Gospel, pray and you do your job and let God do his.

Friday afternoon mission title and speakers, "Planting Seeds in a Growing Garden," by Rev. Ross and Charissa Chartrand, spoke about their first year in a new mission in Bentonville, Arkansas. We had a zoom connection with Rev. Matt and Christine Doeblner from Australia. Many people living there are immigrants, especially from China, so it is a great opportunity to minister to them. Our Friday afternoon devotion was "Supporting a Growing Seed" (see the progression). Saturday morning's devotion was "Keep the plant Growing by Grace."

After the devotion was the annual roll call. When our turn came, we said, "Minnesota Valley here we go!" (Continuing, we sang) *Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

The home mission project voted in was WELS campus ministry and the world mission was Bangladesh--each receiving \$66,143.46 and the Kids C.A.R.E. received \$43,530.38.

Rev. Andy Westra, of Christ our Refuge, Waco, Texas, spoke about how important it is to tell the next generation (our kids) about God, showing them God's word is true, showing them how they belong. Hearing again how Academia Cristo has brought so many people to Christ. Saturday afternoon's devotion was "The Seed Becomes the Mature Plant" and the closing service on Sunday was "Scatter the Seed to all!"

Consider joining us next year in Madison, Wisconsin.

Thanking God for all he does,

Gay Eaves and Beth Sirek





2025 Fall and Winter Tours

Travel with WELS Groups

Interested in traveling with members of our faith family where WELS worship and Christian fellowship are integral parts of the itinerary? The OWLS (WELS Seniors) is partnering with Father's World Tours to offer trips *every which way* across the USA. Upcoming options include a Labor Day weekend show trip to the Ozarks (8/29-9/1), wildlife and waterfall viewing on Minnesota's North Shore (9/2-5), a comprehensive New England autumn immersion (9/22-10/4), or a Southern California/Mexican coastal cruise combo (12/31-1/13). Trips are open to WELS members of all ages. Visit www.fathersworldtours.com or contact Steve Balza (steve@fathersworldtours.com or 507-217-1731) to learn more.

Weekend in the Ozarks swings south to KS, MO, and AR to see Sight & Sound's *David* along with *The Great Passion Play* and WELS worship in the woods. Aug 29-Sep 1

Minnesota Wildlife and Waterfalls heads north to the stunning Superior shore to explore the national forest's fabulous flora and fauna...wolves and bears, oh my! Sep 2-5

Autumn in New England flies east to Boston to kickoff a 6-state adventure including Acadia Park, Fenway Park, and the region's renowned fall foliage. Sep 22-Oct 4

California Cruisin' flies west to Joshua Tree NP, Palm Springs, the Reagan Library, the Rose Parade, and a Princess cruise along Mexico's coast. Dec 31-Jan 13



Thanks to LaDonna Oberle and All Who Helped!

"Worship in the Park"

Outdoor Worship Service in the Church Park | Petting Zoo & Potluck

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is

July 13, 2025

love, joy, peace, patience,

goodness,

kindness,

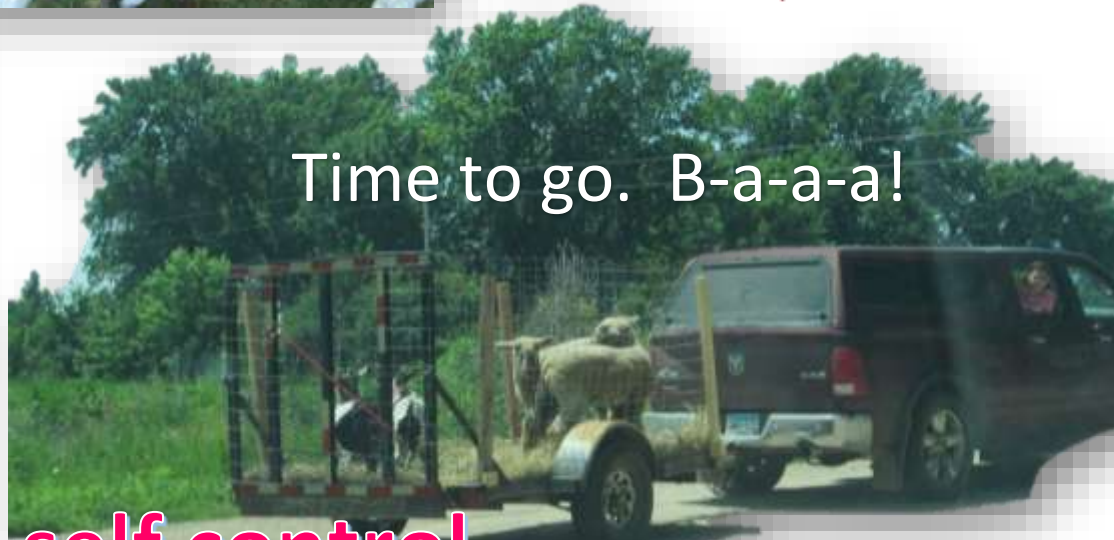
faithfulness,

gentleness,

and self control. Against such things there is no law.



Thanks be to God for blessing us with wonderful weather for the worship service, petting zoo and delicious potluck!



Time to go. B-a-a-a!



Urgent Prayer is Needed for Our Online Worshippers in South Africa!

(The Attempt at Genocide in South Africa is Not Being Reported Here in the US.)

Hi Heidi,

Our humble apologies for not responding sooner and sincerely appreciate your most thoughtful concern and interest for our safety and wellbeing here in South Africa from so far away. We are fine, all thanks be to God, as long as all the necessary security we have installed is not breached. WhatsApp keeps us all interconnected to a Neighborhood Watch.

The political and social situation is in no way inspiring. The former liberties (freedom and safety) we all took for granted are now a thing of the past. Shopping with exposed jewelry is a definite NO, NO. You constantly need to make yourself very much aware of your surroundings and avoid certain areas. As a family, we used to enjoy many hikes, picnics and even climbed Table Mountain three times. In the current political climate we would definitely not entertain these ideas.

Travelling on our national roads is relatively safe, but try to avoid after-sunset travel particularly in the proximity of low-income areas. Even stopping at picnic sites along the highway can be risky. Certain vehicle types, in particular, the Toyota Fortuner, Ford Raider/Everest, VW Polo and German luxury vehicles are targets for high-jacking. Our daily run-about is a more modest vehicle in which we do not feel overly exposed; however, in our luxury vehicle, we have become very aware of being at risk. It is also a fact that our farming community is now also very much at risk.

The key problem in South Africa is that of having a corrupt ANC-led government. Almost every state-operated enterprise (SOE) has collapsed, rampant crime is the order of the day, non-existent border controls, and a judiciary that can no longer be relied upon as being impartial. Hopefully Donald Trump will find the time to impose very harsh and targeted individual sanctions on the current ANC leadership.

Amidst all the gloom there is an emerging ray of sunshine. Young YouTube podcasters are making themselves heard and their daily viewings are growing significantly.

I urge you to watch the following two podcasters who will provide you with absolute unvarnished insight into daily current events. They are only two of the many whom we need to remember in our prayers. All of them have in some form or another been threatened.

1. Citizen Concerned: A lovely young Christian married mother with 2 young boys.
2. Bonsai Shongwe: A deeply Christian middle-aged male – a Pastor.

May God keep you all steadfast in His Word at Friedens, and under the protection of His Merciful Wings, especially in these times.

With many Blessings, kind thoughts and love from both of us,

Walter & Noleen



There is more. Right after Walter sent his e-mail, he received a notification that a young man with his little boy got attacked going through the McDonald's drive-thru right by his home!

RIDDLE FOR ALL ~~MARRIED~~ FEMALES AT FRIEDENS



“I Once Was Lost but Now Am Found”
What am I?

**Does your left hand weigh less than it
usually does?**

Please see Church Mouse, if this is your ring.
The mouse has it under lock and key.



ANSWER

Well . . . this pretty
ring wasn't a
wedding ring, like I
thought. I took it
to Marquart
Jewelers, and they
told me it was a
sterling silver ring,
but the
“diamonds” were
only cubic zirconia
(waa, waa)!

Happy Birthday, Mary!



On June 22, Mary Bowen was presented with a beautiful birthday cake and wanted to share her cake with her church family after worship, as she celebrated her birthday here at Friedens!

Thank you, Mary.



Restoration Project

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church



One half of the project has been seeded by an estate gift. Until now, all of the estate gift has been invested and generating income to permit more ministry than otherwise possible, including part-time administrative assistant, color copier, Peace Fund, and to cover budget shortfalls. It will be important to replenish this investment fund in order to continue having that ministry and income; so, our goal as members is to donate one half the estimated project cost: \$200,000.

Church Attendance June



06/01/25	65
06/07/25	16
06/08/25	62
06/14/25	43
06/15/25	74
06/21/25	16
06/22/25	72
06/28/25	12
06/29/25	72
TOTAL	432

Happy August Birthday!



Linda Jandt	1 st
Cindy Koch	6 th
Sophie Wawrzyniak.....	10 th
Sara Bisek.....	10 th
Jacob Jandt	16 th
Doug Holicky	24 th
Pauline Helgestad	28 th
Kathy Dodds	29 th

NOTE: If you do not see your birthday shown on the list, please let the church mouse know, and she'll make sure you get on next time your birthday rolls around.

How Would You Prefer to Get Your Newsletter?



Initially, when I was hired as Admin. Assistant (over four years ago already--WOW), I requested people to let me know how they'd like to receive their newsletter. People had three choices—church mailbox distribution, e-mail or mail. **Please let me know if you'd like to change your choice and have your newsletter e-mailed, or if you'd like to just pick it up at the church. I can put you on the church mailbox distribution list then.** They're saying at the post office that postage is going up again in July, so it would save the church some money. **Thanks so much! --Church Mouse**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER

The DEADLINE to submit any information for the next newsletter is the 15th of the previous month.

Please keep the size of your submission small (quarter to half page). Keep in mind that the newsletter is basically finished half way through the month, so last-minute entries might not happen; however, there is always hope.

The church mouse is expected to get the newsletter out (via e-mail) before the last Sunday of the month. It then gets mailed out to members the week after the last Sunday of the month. Thank you.



--Church Mouse

FIFAF BOOK CLUB/BIBLE STUDY



Thursday, August 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Friedens Fellowship Hall

Questions: Call Amy Jirik

952-290-1067





Don't forget that you can give an offering on our church website (efriedens.com). Just click the **"Give"** button (upper right corner) and fill in the fields. Easy!

USHER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2025

DATE	TEENS		ADULTS	
August 3 (9 a.m.)	Lucas Holicky	Mason Storlie	Doug Holicky	Troy Rabenberg
August 10 (9 a.m.)	Josef Jirik	Ethan Paler	Duane Jirik	Justin Storlie
August 17 (9 a.m.)	Sam Workman	Ruth Workman	Gary Grassmann	Bruce Nelson
August 24 (9 a.m.)	Mikkala Quickle	Kameron Quickle	Jeff Heine	Joe Stahl
August 31 (9 a.m.)	Daniel Callahan	Claire Callahan	Dean Cornelius	Willard Rancour

Thank you for serving as an Usher, as you guide and help worshipers in God's House!

Please Note: If you are not able to usher on your assigned date, please look in your photo directory (see the Admin. Assistant if you need a directory) and call someone to stand in for you. You can swap your date with someone else, too.

Prayer Requests



Ways to Request Prayers:

1. E-mail: flcsec@bevcomm.net
2. Phone: (952) 758-2828
 - a. Leave a voicemail
3. Website: efriedens.com
 - a. Click **PRAYER** on the Navigation Bar
 - b. Click the **PRAY** button
 - c. Fill out request form
 - d. Click **SEND**

Members of our Church Family will lovingly send up prayers for you.

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH MEETING MINUTES



OUTREACH MEETING

July 7, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Those Present: Pastor Koch, Jeff Heine, Russ Meyer, Will Rancour, Cindy Koch, Karen Schroeder (Heidi Gilsrud via Zoom—minutes).

Devotion.

1. Pastor read from “Replacing a legend. Who could follow the great Elijah?”
2. Pastor led in prayer.



Czech Out New Prague.

1. Shirts: No T-shirts, but polo shirts would be nice with custom name tag. (Heidi)
2. Members should bring their own chairs and water.
3. Bring one table and four chairs. When people are around, no one should be seated.
 - a. Will Rancour has a trailer to haul stuff.
4. There should be a sign or a banner that says Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church.
 - a. Laminated posters were shown that were used at another event.
 - b. Signage discussed. An 8' sign would be nice.
5. Batteries (9V). Quantity of 100 taped to church postcard and over top. (Pastor & Cindy)
 - a. Lay out batteries on table? No—just hand them out as you talk with people.
6. Cookbook Drawing: Every half hour.
 - a. People must provide name, address, phone number.
 - b. Need a drawing box or ice cream pail.
 - c. Posterboard is needed to post winners. (Russ will get from Suel Printing.)
7. There will be a cooler of water for our volunteers.

Petting Zoo.

1. Ladonna Oberle and others will be bringing the animals for the petting zoo on July 13.

Next Outreach Meetings: July 29, at 6:30 p.m. & August 11, at 6:00 p.m.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

July 10, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Those Present: Pastor Henry Koch, Keith Barta, Will Rancour, Patrick Schaefer, Dave Tietz, Pam Tietz, Steve Kotek (Heidi Gilsrud via Zoom—minutes).

Council Meeting Minutes Review.

1. Keith read the minutes of the last Council Meeting.
2. There was a motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion was approved and seconded.

Membership Actions

1. Baptisms: Marcie Hauser and Violet Bisek.

Old Business

VBS.

1. VBS Coordinator: No volunteers yet.

Shelter Cement.

1. We received a bid from Steve Kotek of \$10,000. A breakdown is needed before the Voters' Meeting.
 - a. Josh Bulfer is expecting a bid in a couple of days.

Third Steeple Water Leak.

1. Third Steeple (from the South) is leaking. The flashing has problems.
 - a. Nieman's submitted bids--#1 "Replace Option" would be to replace and install rubber roofing around the two new steeples, install roof system, decking, 5-year contractor's warranty (\$4,600 - \$5,000); #2 "Repair Option" would be to basically repair what needs to be done, with no guarantees (\$2,400).
 - i. Dave Tietz and others were asked their viewpoint. People were in agreement for the Replace Option.
 - ii. A motion was made to go ahead with the Replace Option (Nieman Roofing). It was seconded. All approved. Keith will continue being the contact person. (Voters will be informed; however, no voter approval is needed, since bid is under limit.)

Tuck-pointing Church and Parsonage.

1. One bid has been received. Two people have come out. Of the two, only one person cared to take pictures. The pictures were handed out for the Council to view. Keith thought the bid was reasonable, except for the painting of the bell tower for \$8,500. It was expressed that we have already had everything painted up there. That portion of the bid can be deleted. The bid was reviewed (church tuck-pointing--\$28,000, parsonage--\$3,000). There is no guarantee that this will fix the water leaks (bell tower over new ceiling dripping on floor—flashing problem?). Nieman Roofing can look at the suspected area.
 - a. It was questioned that maybe the tuck-pointing is not an immediate need. This job was quoted at \$31,000. We need to come up with a recommendation. Some time is needed.

Parking Lot.

1. Tabled.

Reports

Pastor's Report.

1. A Sunday School Superintendent is ideal for encouraging parents and attendance. This person can visit the classes. Pastor will propose this at the Voters' meeting.
 - a. Qualifications: A man or woman can check to see if learning is taking place. This person would be the back-up teacher. They would do the closing devotion (review of lesson and prayer).
 - b. A class schedule has been prepared for the coming year. There are 13 lessons per quarter. The Sunday before Christmas could be the practice. We'll have a Thanksgiving lesson. The Sunday after Memorial Day, Pastor would like to have Sunday School.
2. Shut-ins discussed (8 people).

Treasurer's Report.

1. The Treasurer's Report was handed out. Will Rancour made a Spending vs. Income Report (tracks the deficit right off of the checking account). Pam also made a Spending vs. Income Report. Pam and Will's reports were compared and did not match. Keith suspected a timing issue. Pam will check it out.



- a. Will Rancour showed second quarter donations at \$119,000. The June financial donations were \$25,000.
 - b. Pam reported that the real-time checking balance on this day is \$25,000. One month ago, it was \$28,000, and one year ago, it was \$72,000. Brotherhood insurance came out in June for June/August/September. Keith thought of discrepancy in May numbers of \$3,000, perhaps. The Pastor's pension came out in July (July 2) and would be reflected in the real-time checking balance.
 - i. Will Rancour thought we should look at end-of-month numbers for accuracy-not real time. Pam replied that the real-time numbers are not for record keeping or to show deficits but just a real-time-as-of-today checking balance.
2. Changes: Pam went through changes and charges.
- a. June—we paid Brotherhood (July, August, September).
 - i. 2024 we are paying \$4,200; 2025 we are paying \$4,868.
 - b. Workman's comp stayed the same--\$219.
 - c. Quarterly WELS Pastor's pension--\$1,132.
 - d. New Printer Agreement with Loffler—went from \$272 to \$390. June and July came out on one bill \$810, due to that Pam said she wasn't aware of the new contract amount.
 - e. Piano Tuning--\$228.
 - f. Computer Storage: Heidi added--\$21 (annual charge).
 - g. Scholarship: \$1,600.
 - h. Electricity: Church \$43; Parsonage \$25. (\$519 for both church and parsonage).
 - i. Gas: Went from \$116/mo. to \$515/mo. (Rebate from new boiler ran out—new pricing effective this past spring).
 - i. Will asked if it was possible not to do a budget plan, since gas is less during the summer and income is less. Pam prefers the budget plan number, as she was requested to do last year.
 - ii. Parsonage gas was \$56 and now it is \$256.
3. Pam said we had \$275 in the black last month (June) going off of Quicken.
4. Pastor's health insurance was \$2,829 and now it is \$2,920.
5. Missions: We had been giving \$2,500/mo. and now \$2,585/mo.
6. Paychex: Heidi is now getting one paycheck. Pam is having the taxes come out in one amount.
7. Monthly Expenditures:
- a. Pastor's pension, Pastor's mileage (under Outreach Ministry); events expense (batteries, registration fee).
8. The total income does equal the total income for the checking statement.
9. Investment Account Details: Pam showed report and stated it changes quarterly. The beginning value was \$286,000 and the ending value is \$315,000.
- a. Cemetery Fund was \$35,000 and that is up to \$38,000.
10. Keith stated that the Lord has blessed us (looking at the total fund balance) and that our checking account balance has only gone down about \$4,500 (annual). Keith said that he thinks we do not have to draw out of investment account yet.
11. Pam relayed that members like to know the church projects up front, to consider as they donate.
12. Keith mentioned that there will be a Congregational Meeting on July 20, after worship. He'll just take about 3 mins. to update on the upcoming Voters' Meeting.

Elders' Report.

1. Men's Bible Study: Studying Psalm 56-60.
2. Baptisms: Violet and Marci.
3. Trailblazers: Learn to play Chess went ok.
4. Outdoor service with Potluck.
5. Mission Festival: August 3.
6. Pastor is going on vacation August 23-September 3.
7. VBS Coordinator.
8. Elders are still studying the Shepherd's Book (Chapter 3).
9. Ushering will stay the same.
10. Next Elders' Meeting: August 14.

Trustees' Report.

1. Trustee items will be addressed at the Voters' Meeting on July 27.

Voters' Meeting.

1. The Agenda was handed out.

Be kind and compassionate
to one another,
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

New Business

Tuck-pointing (no painting).

1. Discussion. Sealer will be used and will be blended in. How much would it cost to take bricks out and replace with new. It was replied that there are no bricks left from the original building. It was stressed that all leaks should be stopped. (There is no guarantee that any work will stop the leaks.)
 - a. Will Rancour's opinion would be to put off the tuck-pointing and get the leaks repaired for sure. The guess is that, since we just had a new roof put on, that the leaks have something to do with the flashing.
 - b. There were differences of opinion, so the decision will go to the Voters.

Cement work for Pavilion.

1. There is a bid for \$10,000. Josh's guy's bid, Josh guessed, would be a little higher.
2. Tree roots are underneath.
3. Keith asked if there was an option other than cement. Gravel?
 - a. Pastor asked if we were using the pavilion enough to justify \$10,000 for work.
 - b. Uneven concrete is a safety issue.
 - c. We'll put the decision to the Voters.

Bylaws.

1. The Bylaw was read regarding the Council's spending limit. Should it stay at \$5,000? We'll recommend staying with that.

Nominating Committee.

1. We need to get a Nominating Committee. Some names were mentioned: Jeff Heine, Bruce Nelson, Larry Bowen, Gary Grassmann, Doug Lau, Kris Hunt, Roger Meyer.

Pastor's Salary Recommendation.

1. The Recommendation for Pastor's salary was discussed.

Next Meeting will be Combo Exec. Council Meeting/Elders' Meeting: August 14, at 6:30 p.m.

**The Lord will
fight for you.
You need only
to be still.**

Exodus 14:14



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:21-28)</p>						
<p>MISSION FESTIVAL</p> <p>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m. Coffee Time: 10:00 a.m. Mission Presentation: 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Potluck Lunch to Follow Mission Presentation</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m. Bible Info. Class: 3:30 p.m. Worship: 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIFAF Book Club: 6:30 p.m. Czech Out Now Prague: 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (Memorial Park)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>15</p> <p>Ladies Aid: 1:00 p.m. COMBO ELDERS/ EXEC. COUNCIL MTG: 6:30 p.m. (Prairie Quilters Picnic—Park & F.H.: 6:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>16</p> <p>Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon Bible Info. Class: 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon Bible Info. Class: 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OUTREACH MTG.: 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Info Class: 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>20</p> <p>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>21</p> <p>(Prairie Quilters 9:00 a.m. – Noon)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon Bible Info. Class: 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m. Bible Info. Class: 3:30 p.m. Worship: 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>27</p> <p>Games: 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>28</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon Bible Info. Class: 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>LABOR DAY Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Worship: Noon</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p>						

