

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)



Rev. Henry T. Koch

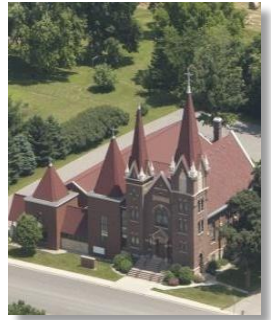
Worship

Sunday: 9 a.m.

Tuesday: (See Calendar)

Saturday: Noon

Online Services: EFriedens.com



FRIEDENS' FAITH IN FOCUS

October 2025



"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

Annual Bike Ride

September 14 was a beautiful afternoon for our annual bicycle ride from Waterville to Elysian and back. We were blessed with beautiful weather—warm enough to appreciate ice cream at our turnaround stop, without last year's risk of overheating. No one got sick. No flat tires. No bug swarms. Perhaps, because we have experienced those in some of the past years' trips, we can better appreciate when things go so smoothly! We thank Jeff Heine for donating the use of his truck and trailer!



Back (From Left): Kaden Holicky, Lexi Barta
Front (From Left): Pastor Henry Koch, Gabriel Bovi Lorandi, Chris Johnson, Mateo Lorandi, Keith & DeLynn Barta

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

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)



Reformation Memorial

Danish Reformation

Some of our members have Danish family origins. If so, they can celebrate back-to-back Reformation Days, on October 30 and 31! Most Lutherans know the story of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, on October 31, 1517. When Luther's theses, seeking debate on the sale of indulgences, were taken down and translated from Latin (intended only for a debate among scholars) into the lay people's language of German, the news spread rapidly. The news did not stop at national borders! There were political and financial incentives that also played a role to the north, in Denmark, so that on October 30, 1536, Lutheranism became the state religion. Johannes Bugenhagen, a close associate of Martin Luther, was instrumental in shaping the Danish church. The photo is of the Reformation Memorial, erected on the 400th anniversary, outside the University of Copenhagen and Church of Our Lady.

En stærk fæstning er vor Gud!

MLC College Choir Concert



In October, the Martin Luther College Concert Choir will be starting out their fall tour at Trinity Lutheran Church, 500 W. Church St., in Belle Plaine. We have been invited to the concert on Friday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. Trinity is also in need of 30-34 host homes to accommodate the choir members that Friday night. They are paired up Ark style (2 x 2) and ask that the pairs not be separated. Hosts are welcome to take more than one pair. Sofas, shared beds and air mattress accommodations are altogether acceptable; but, of course, their own bed is preferred. We ask that the hosts provide breakfast and an on-time (TBD at this point) return to the church Saturday morning. Save the date on your calendar! And while we know it's a distance, please consider hosting a pair of students (or more).

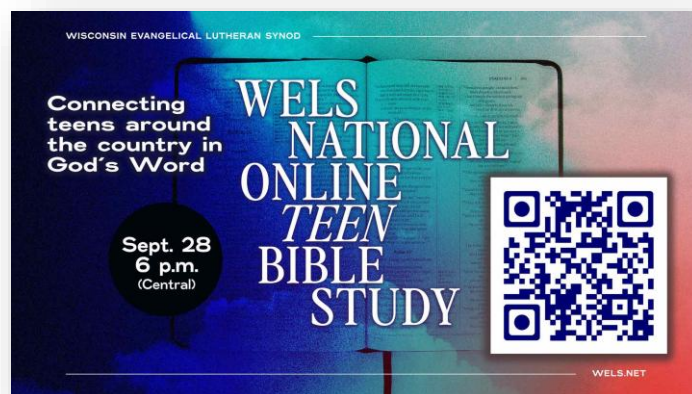
Kathy Fredrich, (612) 817-6956, is coordinating the housing accommodations for the students. To sign up, you can contact her or scan the QR code. This is a wonderful privilege to be having the MLC Concert Choir present their Fall concert in our area! If you have never heard the Concert Choir before, now is your opportunity.


National Online Teen Bible Study

Our youth are encouraged to join WELS teens around the country for the next online Bible studies: **6 p.m.**

Sunday, September 28, and Sunday, November 9. The interactive Zoom series studies *The Book of Judges*.

The topic on September 28, is "Generation Degeneration" (Judges 1:1 - 3:6); the topic on November 9—"Deborah, A Smashing Salvation" (Judges 3:6-4). Fathers, guide your teens to register at <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/>





*"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them,
doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness,
and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" (Luke 15:4)*

Trailblazers

Kickball in the Church Park (All Ages)

Friday, October 3 | 3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Make sure to sign up on the wall over the literature table. Thanks.

UPDATE—NEW DATE!

Oktoberfest!

Feel free to
bring a dessert!

**all are invited to
attend Oktoberfest!**

Friday, October 3 (Fellowship Hall)
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by: Terry & Linda Jandt;
Will & Brenda Rancour

**Menu: Pork, Spaetzle & Gravy,
Sauerkraut, Fried Apples & Desserts**

Free-will offering



"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." (Psalm 100:3)

A Beautiful Day for a Bike Ride

It was reported that Friedens' annual bike trip in Waterville, Minnesota, along the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail, was beautiful! This was a 12-mile ride, with an ice cream break at Scoops in Elysian.

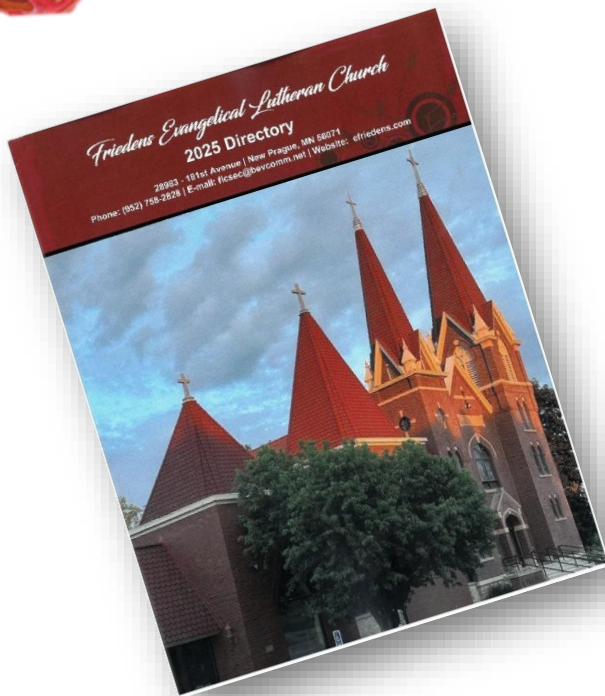
Thanks to Jeff Heine for the use of his truck and trailer. Pastor shared these pictures and thinks this may have been the 17th time for the annual ride.



From Left: Chris Johnson, Kaden Holicky, Keith & DeLynn Barta, Mateo, Lexi & Gabriel Bovi Lorandi



"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 10:6)



The 2025 Directories are here!

Please see
Heidi Gilsrud
for your copy!

**Please Note: There are limited copies
(if you did not submit a photo),
so hurry while supplies last.**

Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) Presentation by Jill Jahn

**October 5
After Worship**

On Sunday, October 5, Jill Jahn (a former member of Friedens) will be giving a presentation from her August trip to Central Africa. She'll be collecting certain items for CAMM:

| Malawi | Zambia |
|---|---|
| Short and Long-Sleeved Shirts and Sweatshirts (24 Months - 4T) | |
| Sun Hats (Infant – Adult) | |
| Onesies (12 Months – 2T) | |
| Athletic Pants/Leggings (12 Months – 4T) | |
| Baby Receiving Blankets, Socks and Hats | Baby Blankets of Any Kind |
| Sunscreen Lotion (SPF 50) | Baby Receiving Blankets, Socks and Hats |
| Knitted/Winter Hats (Infant – Adult) | Sunscreen Lotion (SPF 50) |
| 1- and 2-Gallon Ziploc Bags | AA Batteries (Dry Cell—Not Lithium) |
| Pill Bottles | 1- and 2-Gallon Ziploc Bags |
| | Pill Bottles |

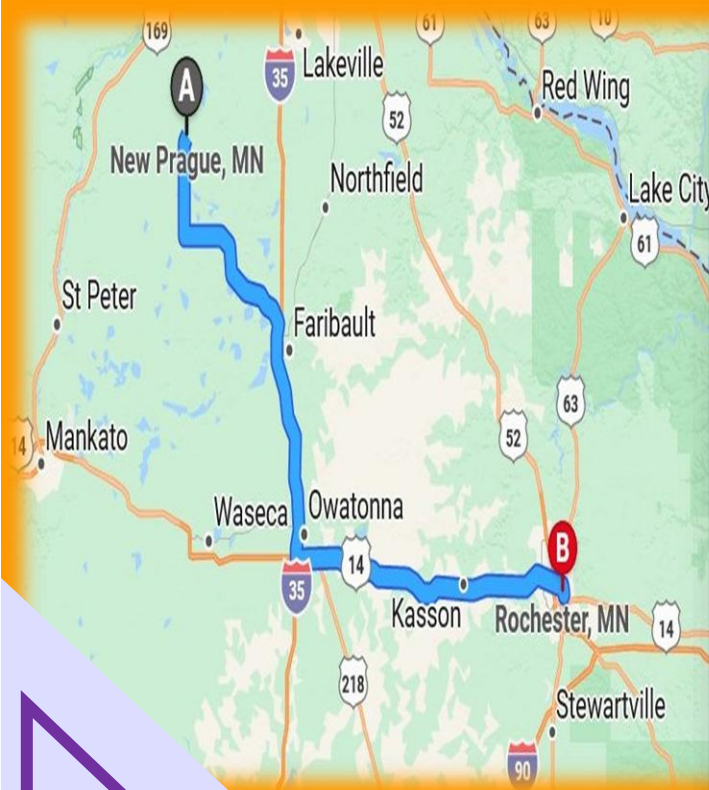
CHURCH CHICKEN WAS ADOPTED!!!



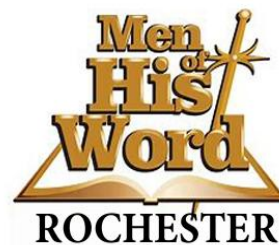
As you may recall from September's issue of *Friedens' Faith in Focus*, Pastor Koch encountered a little chicken that had decided to live here at the church. No one had come around to claim him, and Pastor had gone around to the neighbors to see if it was one of their chickens, but everyone said it wasn't theirs. Pastor asked one of our members--Ladonna Oberle--if she would take him. Ladonna kindly offered to adopt the little one. He is a little bantam rooster! Ladonna decided to name him Abraham!

He didn't go quietly, though. Ladonna had to net him, so that is why he looks a little disheveled--but he's no worse for the wear. Good job, Ladonna. He's a cute one. Thank you for giving Abraham a good home!





Join us as we Forge
Ahead in Faith,
confident in the
One who calls us
onward, no matter
what lies ahead.



Martin Luther
observed, "A Christian
is an optimist."
Confident in God's
grace, we'll talk
honestly about real
challenges we face
today, always in the
light of the confidence
we have in Jesus and his
promises to bless his
Church.

Men of His Word - Rochester

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

Mayo Civic Center

30 Civic Center Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Register at: <https://www.menofhisword.org/rochester-registration.html>



LWMS CORNER: Pause for Prayer

God of the harvest!

You have entrusted to us the mission of your church. We have been blessed with so many opportunities to support mission work in our church body from the 100 New Missions in 10 Years and Acedemia Cristo to the One Teams in many nations and the tremendous work through Mission Journeys. We ask that you bless our mission efforts so that those who do not believe in you will hear your truth and believe. Please use our fall rallies throughout LWMS to energize and support these missions. We praise you, dear Lord, and entrust ourselves to you as tools for your kingdom harvest. Amen.

Thank you to all who donated in the LWMS MN Valley Circuit Fall Rally free-will offering! Friedens donated \$579 to the mission efforts noted above. Thank you for being cheerful and generous givers.

**In Christ's Love,
Beth, Cindy, Gay, Pam and All Women of Friedens**



October's Movie Pick from Russ Meyer

On Fire



Biography based on O'Leary's bestselling memoir

An emotional and faith-filled portrait of resilience as O'Leary not only battles to survive but ultimately discovers what it means to truly live. From frontline workers to family members, and support of the community, this film is a celebration of heroes.

ON FIRE

GET POPCORN!

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Shakopee theater | October 9th | 4:00, 6:45 |
| 8380 Hansen Avenue | October 10, 11 & 14 | 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:20 |
| Shakopee, MN 55379 | October 12 | 1:30, 4:10, 6:50 |
| Lakeville theater | October 9th | 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 |
| 20653 Keokuk Ave | October 10 | 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 |
| Lakeville, MN 55044 | October 11, 12, 14 | 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 |
| | October 13 | 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 |
| | October 15 | 1:30, 4:00 |

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 for August

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| 08/02/25 | 15 |
| 08/03/25 | 57 |
| 08/09/25 | 20 |
| 08/10/25 | 53 |
| 08/16/25 | 21 |
| 08/17/25 | 73 |
| 08/23/25 | 20 |
| 08/24/25 | 57 |
| 08/30/25 | 10 |
| 08/31/25 | 50 |
| TOTAL | 376 |

Please Consider Signing Up to Volunteer for Our 2026 Special Events!



* A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to all those who signed up on the volunteer posted sign-up lists during the past year, as well as the online signups! This list doesn’t even include any of the Trailblazer events people, or people who just jumped in to help (too many to even fit on the page)!

In light of the response we received for more church events (from our congregational survey), the church Elders and Council realized we have to be more prepared with having our volunteer teams in place prior to the new year. We are asking our members to please see the new “**VOLUNTEER**” wall (across from the literature table) and sign up to be a volunteer for an event or two. **Go ahead and just fill up those sign-up sheets!** Then, we can keep having our wonderful events we enjoy so much.

THE NEW PLAN: Before the new year (2026), we’ll see how many volunteers we have signed up. If we have all the volunteers we need for an event by **December 31, 2025**, that event will be included in the 2026 Special Events Schedule. Sadly, if we do not get any or enough volunteers signed up by the deadline, that event will not be included in the 2026 Special Events Schedule.

Please Note: At any time, if anyone would like to host an event, they can always go to the Elders and ask.

Volunteers During Past Year

* Christmas for Kids

Abigail Angrimson, Maggie Hauser, DeLynn Barta, Megan Warner, Ryan Warner, Kaelyn Barta, Haley Bulfer, Pastor and Cindy Koch, Josh Gilsrud, Heidi Gilsrud.

* New Year’s Eve Party

Jeff and Donna Heine, and others who helped.

* First-Thursday Dinner of the Month

Elders, Terry Jandt, Larry and Mary Bowen, Beth Sirek, Kathy Dodds, Council, Youth, Outreach, Will and Brenda Rancour, Terry and Linda Jandt, Susan Quick.

* Lenten Soup Suppers

Karla and Steve Kotek, Will and Brenda Rancour, Carol Heine, Cindy Rivers, Mike Meyer, Dave & Pam Tietz, Meghan Warner.

* Easter for Kids

Pastor and Cindy Koch, DeLynn Barta, Heidi Gilsrud, Lori Holicky, Abigail Angrimson, Linda Fahrenkamp, Paisley and Remy Tietz, Megan Warner, Kaelyn Barta, Beth Sirek, Jeff Heine, Patty and Doug Lau, Susan Tikalsky and Piper Cornelius.

* VBS

Pastor and Cindy Koch, Mikkala Quickle, Abigail Angrimson, Gay Eaves, Beth Sirek, Paul Roemhildt, Megan Warner, Ryan Warner, Kaelyn Barta, Maggie Ruehling, DeLynn Barta.

* Easter Breakfast

Steve and Karla Kotek, Amy Olson, Jeff Heine, Ladonna Oberle, Duane and Amy Jirik.



| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bruce Nelson | 4 th |
| Jamie Maluchnik..... | 6 th |
| Daniel Callahan..... | 9 th |
| Connie Meyer..... | 9 th |
| Julie Hunt..... | 11 th |
| Stephanie Schanus | 12 th |
| Caleb Schanus..... | 12 th |
| Alan Ruehling | 14 th |
| Eric Rabenberg | 16 th |
| Joyce Hogan..... | 19 th |
| Cassandra Ullom | 23 rd |
| Daniel Barnack..... | 27 th |
| Hailee Ullom..... | 31 st |

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.**

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.



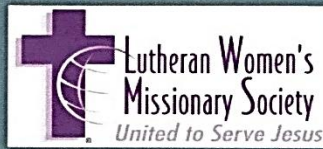
Who's your mommy, Abraham?

She's such a nice lady—and loves chickens!

Ladonna.

I love her.

--Church Mouse



Co-Hosted by Zion, Morgan MN.
Coffee & Registration 8 - 9 am

MN Valley Circuit **FALL RALLY**

October 4

St. John's Lutheran Church
119 West Broadway Street
REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Program: 9 am - 12:15 pm with lunch to follow.

TRAINING WORKERS FOR God's Harvest

Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful but
the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

Speaker of the Day
Pastor Abram Degner,
Academia Cristo



****Food Drive**** **MLC Food Bank** **for Married Students!**

Please consider bringing in some non-perishable food items during the month of October to help feed married MLC students.

The **DEADLINE** to bring in a food donation to help these students is **October 26, Before Noon**. (Please check the "Best Buy" dates. We cannot donate old food.) There is a round table set up in the Welcome Area for your kind donations. There are extra "Items Needed" sheets on the table for you to take for your shopping list.

—Church Mouse

Although there are many items that are noted on the "Items Needed" list, here are the most needed items that are in low supply:

Brown Sugar
Powdered Sugar
Flour 5# Bags
Sugar 5# Bags
Chunky Soups or Progresso Soups
Spaghetti Sauce: Hunts, Prego, Ragu, or Store Brand
Bottles of Fruit Juices, such as Old Orchard (64-oz. size)
Packages of Toilet Paper
Packages of Paper Towels
Kleenex Boxes

Thank you!

... and much more. Please see the "Items Needed" list on the round table in the Welcome Area.



Women's Bible Study!



Thursday, October 2, 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 OCTOBER 2025

| DATE | TEENS | | ADULTS | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| October 5 | Daniel Callahan | Claire Callahan | Duane Jirik | Justin Storlie |
| October 12 | Lucas Holicky | Mason Storlie | Gary Grassmann | Bruce Nelson |
| October 19 | Josef Jirik | Ethan Paler | Jeff Heine | Joe Stahl |
| October 26 | Sam Workman | Ruth Workman | Dean Cornelius | Willard Rancour |

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

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.

JOIN US FOR AN

Autumn FAMILY EVENT

OCT | 5 | 2PM

Minneopa State Park

54497 Gadwall Road, Mankato, MN 56001



Devotion, activities, Snack & Craft for girls & boys!

Hosted by



RSVP for craft supply quantities.
lgpdistrict19.com/fall-event

This event is open to the public!
Bring a friend or invite a family!

**State Park
Pass Required.**



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.



Those Present: Pastor Henry Koch, Keith Barta, Patrick Schaefer, Will Rancour (Guest: Larry Bowen) (Heidi Gilsrud—minutes via Zoom).

Devotion.

1. Pastor gave devotion on Luke 15:1-10. Rather than focusing on the sin that caused the sheep to be lost, we should rejoice (like the angels) over each repentant sheep that is found.
2. Pastor led in prayer.

Reading and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes.

1. No meeting in August. Went over July's minutes.
2. A motion was made to approve the last meeting minutes from July. It was seconded and passed.

Membership Actions.

1. None.

Unfinished Business

VBS.

1. Vacation Bible School: Completed.

Pavilion Shelter Cement.

1. Pavilion Shelter Cement Project: Completed for a cost of \$10,600.

Third Steeple Water Leak Repair.

1. Third Steeple Water Leak: Completed. We are awaiting the bill.

Tuck-pointing Project.

1. We received a bid for \$31,175 for doing the tuck-pointing job. The work started September 11.

Parking Lot Improvements.

1. Tabled.

Reports

VBS.

1. Vacation Bible School: We made use of the Sunday School lessons that were not taught during the school year.
 - a. Pastor suggested we might expand on VBS next year to a two-day event.
 - b. VBS was well received and went smoothly.

Catechism.

1. There are two students in Catechism this year.
 - a. The Ladies Aid usually provides a new study bible for the Catechism students.

Funeral Gift.

1. The Ladies Aid is asking for guidance from the Council regarding funeral gifts. Typically, the Ladies Aid receives a gift for their work, and they use that for their operating expenses. All they charge is the cost of the food they buy. Sometimes, if there is a "non-member" funeral, or—in other cases—if the people just don't know, they do not receive a gift. Should the church ask for a fee to use the hall? If Bruzek Funeral Home coordinates the funeral, they will inform of any fees, so there is usually not a problem. There was a thought at the Ladies Aid that this is just what we do for the community, and some Ladies Aid members are not interested in charging anything. This topic was tabled at their most recent meeting due to one member who brought up the topic was not there.
 - a. *Council Recommendation: The recommendation would be to not have a stated fee. Tell the funeral family, "If the family wishes to make a donation for cleaning, etc., they can." The Council sees no reason to change at this time.*

Sunday School Teachers.

1. The Sunday School teachers were installed on September 7.

Youth Bike Trip.

1. The Youth Bike Trip is scheduled for September 14, at 1 p.m.

District President's Report.

1. Pastor went to a conference and shared the District President's report.

Family Paid Leave.

1. In response to Pam Tietz' question, If a called worker is under the self-employed social security, they are excluded from this paid leave. Pastor would be excluded from this, so the church should not be paying into this for the Pastor, but for any other employee there is an amount of \$3,900 annually.

Bible Information Classes.

1. A new Bible Information Class is starting. It will overlap a little with another student's class.

Creatures.

1. Trustees are aware of the bats.

Ice Maker in the Parsonage.

1. The built-in ice maker in the Parsonage is not working. Discussion on what is wrong and repairs.

Treasurer's Report.

1. Will Rancour reported on August donations. We had a \$10,000 donation for the concrete project. Total donations were \$29,000.
2. Doughnut Money: We are getting money in for doughnuts, and it is going into the general fund. If someone would like a refund for getting the doughnuts, they will have to go through Pam.
3. Special Donation for Newsletter Postage and Children's Activities: A past member responded generously with a \$1,000 donation to cover newsletter postage and children's activities (which are very important to her, as stated in a heartwarming letter that she sent.) This was truly a blessing received!
4. Will went over the balances. Balance as of September 11: \$19,352. He doesn't know how many bills have gone out. As of the end of the month (August), the balance was \$28,781. Will's and Pam's numbers won't match, due to that the last day of the month in August was a Sunday.
5. Will included July's financial report, since there was no meeting in August.
6. Will questioned the free-will mission offerings from the mission festival. Is this amount--\$352--over and above the planned mission offering we make at the end of the year? Yes. These mission festival offerings are sent directly to WELS. The \$352 will be over and above our pledged mission amount.
7. Investment Fund Balance (As of the End of August): \$327,801. It made about \$12,000 the last 2 months.
8. The Council thought that we should draw out of the investment fund \$45,000 to cover the tuck-pointing project and the rest of September and October. Will responded that November and December are generally our best months. Historically, as soon as Sunday school starts, more offerings come in. Keith will get with Pam and initiate a \$45,000 withdrawal.

Trustees' Report.

1. Bat Deterrent Device: The Elders talked about purchasing a bat-deterrent device. Everybody seemed to think it was a good idea. Patrick thought it seemed to be a rather inexpensive way to solve the problem. Pastor had shared with the Elders that about 19 bats flew out of the large bell steeple right after sunset, as he counted them one night. They come out from under the metal cap. There are screens on the inside of the louvers.
 - a. Pastor's concern was that if they come into the sanctuary when deterred out of the steeple. Spray foam should've helped seal things. If the bat deterrent device doesn't work, then we'll look at additional sealing measures.
2. Concrete Work: Steve Kotek did a great job on the shelter! He had also found some rotted boards, where he "sistered" in some good boards to straighten them back up. He also did some dirt work. He did a great job! Steve had some leftover concrete that he used to help out the lip of the shed.
3. Tuck-pointing job has started.



Elders' Report.

1. Keith relayed that the pastor shouldn't be in the position of asking for volunteers. The congregation would like more special events, though. We'll post sign-up sheets in October. Before the Voters' meeting in January, we'll see how many volunteers we get. If we have volunteers at that point, it will become part of the 2026 Special Events Schedule. If we do not get volunteers signed up for an event, that event will not be part of the set 2026 special events schedule. People can still change their minds later. They can go to the Elders and ask if they can do an event.
 - a. It came up that someone would feel uncomfortable signing up for something nine months in advance.
 - b. Would we cancel Easter Breakfast if no one signed up?
 - c. A discussion of "core" events should be considered.
 - i. Core Events: First and last Wednesday Soup Suppers during Lent; Easter Breakfast; Fish Fry; Mission Festival.
 - d. Additional Opportunity Events: First-Thursdays Dinners; New Year's Eve Potluck; Remainder of the Middle Soup Suppers; Advent Service Game and Snack Nights.
 - i. Pastor asked, "Do you need a sign-up for a Potluck? Keith replied yes, because you are there and not in church. What about New Year's Eve? Won't there be a Devotion?"
 - e. The Oktoberfest date was changed. Will asked why? Keith brought up that they (the Elders) decided to start bundling events to get more interest.
 - f. We should advertise that people do not have to pay for things out of pocket (they can do this if they want). They can get reimbursed out of the free-will offerings. It has to be communicated. The intent is not to make money. Should we set a limit on dollars spent? "You will be reimbursed for hosting an event, but the people who want to pay their own way can."

New Business

Vice President.

1. Keith found, in reading the bylaws, that we should appoint a vice president. This is not voted on—just an appointment. Keith will talk with Dave Tietz about this.

Grace Lutheran Church (Le Sueur, MN) is having some problems.

1. Grace Lutheran hasn't had a pastor for a long time, and is experiencing dwindling membership and finances. They are having a meeting on September 21, at 7 p.m., to discuss these issues. Pastor Koch, Keith Barta and Larry Bowen will attend. Grace Lutheran has asked Pastor Patrick Feldhus to serve them, who has a call to serve Hope Residence in Belle Plaine, MN (Lutheran Home), where they care for people with Down Syndrome. He has taken out some of his time to serve at Grace, just to fill in. He said he'd do that for five years. The five years are coming to an end and pastor Feldhus needs to get back to his call. They've got some money in the bank, but their attendance sounds like it is in the 20s. Grace Lutheran is basically in the middle of Trinity (Belle Plaine), St. Peter and Friedens.

Nominating Committee.

1. The Nominating Committee is not voted on, it is appointed. Larry Bowen agreed to be on the committee. Keith will talk with a couple of other members.

Oktoberfest.

1. Oktoberfest is planned to be held on Friday, October 3, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 - a. Volunteers needed to bring desserts (Heidi to send e-mail).

Requests.

1. There was a request to keep the church doors locked during the day for safety. Heidi could buzz someone in, but she'd need a camera. Keith will talk with Heidi about the door system. Patrick brought up a 2-way P.A. system that possibly has a camera built into it. It is basically just a Ring Doorbell. There is an ability to push a button and open the door there, too. Patrick will ask Jeff about this.
2. Five-Year Plan (Where is this Church Going?): We need to know where we want to be in five years and how we're going to get there. This can be something that we get the whole congregation involved with. Council can review, when finished. Larry Bowen agreed to start on this plan. Larry thinks that we are not focused enough on Outreach.

Next Exec. Council Meeting: October 9, at 6:30 p.m.



OUTREACH MEETING
September 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.

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

Devotion.

1. Pastor led a Devotion on Philippians 4: Learn to be content.
2. Pastor led in prayer.

Czech Out New Prague.

1. Follow up with people was discussed. (Heidi texted and called in August), Karen tried to connect with them in September, and Pastor will try to connect with them, too.

Oktoberfest.

1. Heidi sends the newsletter to prospects, so they will be invited to Oktoberfest via newsletter.
2. People are welcomed to bring a dessert (Heidi e-mailed, put in bulletin and newsletter).

Trailblazers.

1. Trailblazers: There will be a kickball game in the church park at 3:45 p.m., before the Oktoberfest dinner.

Bike Trip.

1. The September 14th bike trip went well. Went to Scoops ice cream shop, too.

Food Drives.

1. There was a discussion of food drives—MLC married students and community.
 - a. Discussed reaching out to grieving and impoverished families.
 - b. There was a discussion of who and how to help. The Peace Fund helps with this, too.

Hot Chocolate Stand.

1. Karen brought up having a hot chocolate stand on main street in New Prague during the holiday season.
 - a. Russ and Jeff brought up that there are requirements for food handling and prep in Scott County. A peddler license may be required. We could maybe do this in LeSueur County.

Christmas for Kids.

1. Christmas for Kids will be held on December 6, from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Cindy Koch will coordinate.

Next Outreach Meeting: October 13, at 6 p.m.



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p>“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m. Coffee Time: 10:00 a.m. (CMM Presentation by Jill Jahn) Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 10:10 a.m. Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING: 11:15 a.m.</p> | <p>Office Closed 6</p> | <p>Office Closed 7 Choir: 7:15 p.m.</p> | <p>Office Closed 8 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m. 5 & 6 Catechism: 4:15 p.m. 7 & 8 Catechism: 5:40 p.m.</p> | <p>Office Closed 9 Ladies Aid: 1:00 p.m. EXEC. COUNCIL MTG: 6:30 p.m. (Prairie Quilters: 7:00 p.m.)</p> | <p>Trailblazers-- Kickball: 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Oktoberfest Dinner: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>4 Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon</p> |
| <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 10:10 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p> | <p>13 OUTREACH MTG.: 6:00 p.m.</p> | <p>14 Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m. Worship: 6:30 p.m. Choir: 7:15 p.m.</p> | <p>15 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m. 5 & 6 Catechism: 4:15 p.m. 7 & 8 Catechism: 5:40 p.m.</p> | <p>16 (Prairie Quilters: 7:00 p.m.)</p> | <p>17 (Prairie Quilters: 9:00 a.m. – Noon)</p> | <p>18 Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. (Prairie Quilter Day Retreat: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Worship: Noon</p> |
| <p>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 10:10 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 Choir: 7:15 p.m.</p> | <p>22 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m. 5 & 6 Catechism: 4:15 p.m. 7 & 8 Catechism: 5:40 p.m.</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 Men's Bible Study: 8:00 a.m. Worship: Noon</p> |
| <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Guitar Club: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 10:10 a.m. Bible Study: 10:15 a.m. MLC FOOD DRIVE DONATION DEADLINE TO DONATE: NOON</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m. Worship: 6:30 p.m. Choir: 7:15 p.m.</p> | <p>29 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Games: 10:00 a.m. 5 & 6 Catechism: 4:15 p.m. 7 & 8 Catechism: 5:40 p.m.</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> |  |