



THE FRIEDENSBOTE



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK...

"Glory to God in the highest!"...that exclamation was sung by an angel chorus with only the Bethlehem shepherds as their human audience. The historical record indicates they did just that; they went down the hillside into town, found and worshiped the Christ child and then gave even greater glory to God by telling everyone who'd listen all they had seen and heard.

I believe God is most honored when our words and our deeds reflect the desire of our hearts to do all we can to bring Him glory. I believe we are a spiritually stronger and more exciting church today because more of you have a passion and commitment to glorifying God.

More and more of you, when you talk about what the church should be doing...when you talk about the church's priorities...when you talk about the church's investment of resources...you're talking about the church's mission and glorifying God. That is how it is supposed to be! That is the kind of thinking and living that God blesses!

The fire that damaged our church building back on July 8th has, for most of us, focused our vision even more clearly on the relationship between "things" and "mission." The things that help us accomplish our mission are very important. The things that do not are far less important. The Building Committee and Church Council are to be commended for leadership that emphasizes our mission as Christ's church.

Leadership that focuses on our mission won't make everybody happy because there are still those whose vision of the church has less to do with our vision to "seek out, welcome, reconcile, build, and serve" and has more to do with "protect and preserve." It would be great to have

unity of purpose, but as long as a great majority of the church embraces its mission and vision, we'll be spiritually strong, growing and glorifying God.

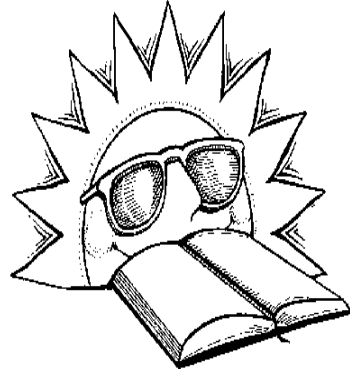
My heart is filled with thanks for all those who have given voice and service in support of the church's mission and ministry this year. The list of people is very long: nursery caregivers, greeters, ushers, choir, worship team, Sunday School teachers, VBS staff, AWANA staff, BLAZE staff, women's ministries, men's ministries, Missions, Evangelism, Church Council, Elders, Building Committees, office helpers, church family who serve the mission of the church through volunteering locally, regionally, and beyond, librarians, prayer partners, and host of others who help behind the scenes and do a variety of ministries inside and outside the church.

I am thankful for those who have financially supported the mission and ministries of this church the past year. Though 2002 brought somewhat more difficult times economically for some, most of you have remained faithful in your giving. You are trusting in God's provision and He is blessing you for it!

Let's continue to glorify and praise God together! Let's stay focused on our mission as a church. Let's remain committed to the kind of leadership that is passionate about God's vision for His church.

We need your help!

VBS (Vacation Bible School) is looking for directors to begin planning for the June event. Please contact the church office if interested. Believe it or not June will be here soon!



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!!

- We need teachers for the 3rd quarter of Children's Sunday School (March, April & May) for a variety of grades.
- We are also in need of a 3rd grade teacher replacement beginning in February because Julie DeSimone will be having knee replacement surgery.

Please contact Sue Voll if you are interested in either of these opportunities.



Alice Rabenhorst	01/05
Erna Dahm	01/06
David Toeller	01/07
DeVerne Smith	01/08
Roy DeSimone Sr.	01/08
Dan Brunnquell	01/11
Brandon Schultz	01/12
Adam Grady	01/14
Scott Grady	01/14
Spencer Jacque	01/15
Roberta Schlenvogt	01/16
Roger Bolz	01/17
Mike Bendt	01/20
Betty Bogle	01/21
Amy Rippel	01/22
Sheli Benson	01/23
Julius Bendt	01/25
Sam Sterhagen	01/25
Terry Dekker	01/25
Terry DuMez	01/25
Jessie Simonson	01/31
John Schuette	01/31
Jason Seyfert	01/31



Happy Anniversary!

Eric & Laura Eberhardt 01/07/1978
 Alan & Donna Schlenvogt 01/15/1972
 Erwin & Dawn Schlenvogt 01/19/1991
 William & Sally Duman 01/25
 Pastor Mark & Sue Voll 01/29/1977



Are you interested in becoming a member of Friedens Church?
 There will be a membership seminar on January 11 from 9-12 noon
 Questions? Call and talk to Pastor Mark.
 To R. S. V. P call the church office.



Friedens Evangelical Church

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Non-profit Org.
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RENOVATION UPDATE...

Scaffolding fills the sanctuary for work on the ceiling, etc.

Renovation of the kitchen continues.

The old choir room is being finished this week.

Sanctuary furnishings have been ordered.

The decorating committee continues their work of selecting fabrics and colors.

The time line has everything done by Palm Sunday. Let's pray things keep going without interruptions and that the workers are all safe from injury or illness.

Let's keep praying for the Building Committee and Church Council as they diligently and faithfully serve the mission of the church through this very challenging time.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES....

The Church Council continues to work closely with the Building Committee to carefully manage the fire insurance resources for the clean up and renovation of the church.

Pastor Matt and Kari's last Sunday will be January 12th. They are moving to the Twin Cities where Pastor Matt will continue his education and pursue a doctorate and teaching credentials. Kari has accepted a position as conference coordinator for a Christian ministry in Minneapolis. (a special coffee hour reception is planned following both services on the 12th) Those who would like to do special cash gifts to assist them in their ministry pursuits, you can do it through the church or send it to them directly.

Lengthy discussion was held concerning the Paul & Esther Beer life insurance gift to the church. Though a letter written by them 10 years ago concerning the gift assumes the church's only option for the replacement of the organ would be another pipe organ, the Church Council feels that the Beer's could not have anticipated either the church's present circumstances and need nor the advent of much less expensive, full-size digital organs that re-create the sound of classic pipe organs. The Council also feels that responsible church leadership should ask: Would a pipe organ costing hundreds of thousands of dollars make a better church? Or would it make it more likely that we will accomplish our mission to "seek out and welcome all in need of spiritual direction, reconcile lives to God, and build and equip devoted disciples to serve Christ Jesus."? If a great sounding \$50,000.00 organ and a great sounding piano can lead us in meaningful worship, is it good stewardship to spend years raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for a pipe organ? Recognizing the spirit of the Beers' gift, the needs of the church for a new organ that enhances worship and music, and the availability of more cost effective instruments that have the sound and appearance of a traditional pipe organ, the Church Council, at the January 19th congregational meeting, will ask the congregation to approve the use of the life insurance proceeds for the purchase of a new organ and piano for the church. Money that would have had to be used for these instruments from fire insurance money can then be used to enhance the renovation of the church.

A Message from Pastor Matt...

This month holds a major change for Kari and I as we move to Minnesota to take the next step God has for us. January 12 will be our last Sunday before we move. We both would like to once again thank all of you for your kindness to us, for the many wonderful memories, and for the ministry that we have experienced together. We also appreciate the support of the Church Council, the encouragement of the Elders, the partnership and friendship of Pastor Mark and Sue, and the many, many other things throughout our time here that make Friedens a very special church.

We do plan on keeping in touch, and we care very much about what happens here at Friedens. As soon as we have the specifics, we will let you know our address and phone number. We also plan to stop by and visit from time to time, as we have opportunity. We look forward to the time we will spend with all of you over the next few weeks before we go.

We know that God will continue to do a great work here at the church, since "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). You and we will continue to be partners together as we seek to glorify God and draw others to Him wherever we may happen to be. May God bless you and His Church in this new year!



BLAZE AWESOME 2003 WINTER RETREAT!!



Start planning now for this year's Winter Retreat,
Friday January 31-Sunday, February 2

Once again, we will be going to Camp Zion in Door County. There will be games, tubing, capture-the-flag, singing, opportunity to grow closer to God, and a rip-roarin' good time!!!!

The cost is \$45 per person (talk to Pastor Matt or a Blaze Leader if the cost is a problem).

Your money is due by Sunday, January 19.

Be sure to invite your friends!!

January 2003



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship is at 8 & 10:30 am with the Christian ed. Hour at 9:15 am. Nursery is provided for both worship services and during the Christian Ed. hour			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 Prayer 6:30 am 1 pm afternoon women's fellowship weather permitting Choir/ Worship team practice 7 pm	3	4
5 Regular worship Communion Sunday No BLAZE BLAZE staff meeting	6	7	8 AWANA 6:30 pm Men's Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm	9 Prayer 6:30 am Choir/ Worship team practice 7 pm	10	11 New Membership Seminar 9 am-12
12 Regular worship BLAZE	13 7:00 pm Council	14	13 AWANA 6:30 pm Men's Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm	16 Prayer 6:30 am Choir/ Worship team practice 7 pm	17	18
19 Regular worship No BLAZE 6:30 pm Annual Meeting	20	21 7:00 pm Elders	22 AWANA 6:30 pm Men's Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm	23 Prayer 6:30 am Choir/ Worship team practice 7 pm	24	25
26 Regular worship BLAZE	27 7:00 pm Missions	28	29 AWANA 6:30 pm Men's Bible Fellowship 6:30 pm	30 Prayer 6:30 am Choir/ Worship team practice 7 pm	31 BLAZE winter Retreat	