



# THE FRIEDENSBOTE

*Friedens Evangelical Church*

## A Message From Pastor Mark Voll

January 2004



Happy New Year!

I am excited about 2004! I am excited about seeing God's hand at work in and through His church—and Friedens in particular. I believe God has been preparing His people for a dynamic, powerful, inspiring, and culture-altering demonstration of His redeeming truth and grace. I believe a significant number of churches are being spiritually awakened and are ready to take big steps—and even huge leaps of faith—and that God will prove Himself up to the challenge to cause it all to be successful. I believe His Kingdom will be growing by leaps and bounds in 2004—including right here—because I'm seeing more and more men, women, and even children eager to actively participate in God's redemptive work.

Friedens is growing, not only in numbers—but even more importantly—we're growing in our faith and our Christian commitment. Stronger and deeper faith is a signal to God that we're ready for more challenges. As we accept the challenges (like adding to our staff and stepping up our outreach) God responds by empowering the faithful disciples with all they need to successfully meet the challenge. Every challenge met results in blessings. And then those who are blessed are eager to accept new and greater challenges. That's the recipe for a spiritually strong, healthy and growing church!

What is one of our challenges in 2004? For a number of years we have been so comfortable, financially, that some in the church family may have come to believe that Friedens didn't need its members to work very hard to

support it. That's myth, not truth. In 2004 we need all our members and regular attendees to accept and practice a biblical approach to stewardship. God spoke through His prophet, Malachi, to those who were withholding from God the first-fruits that belonged to Him. God accused them of robbing Him. And He challenged them to bring "the whole tithe" into the storehouse. God then promised He would respond to their obedience and faithfulness with a flood of blessings like they'd never seen or imagined!

All that we have comes from God. Those who know Him know that to be true. And those who know that to be true also know that God continues to bless—in every way—those who are faithful stewards of their God-given time, talents, and treasures. They also know that God, who has met every need in the past, will continue to meet every need today, tomorrow, and forever! Are you one of those? Does your giving to the church's ministries represent obedience to "first-fruits giving"? Do you take a significant percentage of your income right off the top and bring it to "the storehouse" - Christ's church? Are you at least trying to take steps of faith in that direction? Do you also give faithfully of your time and talents to the ministry and mission of the church?

I'm excited about all I see God posed to do in and through us in 2004. Will you be an important part of it? Will you look back a year from now and celebrate God's power and blessings? I don't want anyone to miss out on what I believe is going to be a break-through year for this church—150th anniversary year! All the faithful who have gone before us are cheering us on!

### Special points of interest:

- 150th Anniversary
- Blaze Winter Retreat info.
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Free!  
A refrigerator calendar!

# JANUARY 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						
4 8 & 10:30 worship Communion Sunday  BLAZE 6:30-8 pm	5	6 6:30 pm 150th Committee	7 6:30 pm Men's Bible Fellowship  6:30 pm AWANA	8 6:30 am Prayer 9:30 am Women's Bible Fellowship 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm Worship team	9	10
11 8 & 10:30 worship BLAZE 6:30-8 pm  3-6:30 Adult Service Opp. At Milwaukee Res- cue Mission	12 7 pm Contemporary Worship Planning	13 7-8:45 H.S. Bible Study	14 6:30 pm Bible Fellowship  6:30 pm AWANA	15 6:30 am Prayer 9:30 am Women's Bible Fellowship 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm Worship team	16	17
18 8 & 10:30 worship  BLAZE 6:30-8 pm	19 6:30 Church Council  	20 7-8:45 H.S. Bible Study	21 6:30 pm Bible Fellowship  6:30 pm AWANA	22 6:30 am Prayer 9:30 am Women's Bible Fellowship 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm Worship team	23	24
25 8 & 10:30 worship No BLAZE  5 pm Pot Luck 6 pm Annual Meeting	26	27 7-8:45 H.S. Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Bible Fellowship  6:30 pm AWANA	29 6:30 am Prayer 9:30 am Women's Bible Fellowship 6:30pm Choir practice 7:30pm Worship team	30 BLAZE Winter Retreat	31 BLAZE Winter Retreat  Wetzel/Dieringer Wedding

January 2004

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. DON

### LET US LIVE OUT IN 2004, "NO DOUBT."

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV)*

*"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)*

*"And He that doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith, for whatever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23 NKJV)*

The word faith in the New Testament is a conviction that is based upon hearing the Word of God. The Scriptures teach us that our lives are to be lived out by faith. In the New Testament the word faith and the concept of faith is always in regard to God, Christ and the things that pertain to the Spiritual live of believers. We are never encouraged to put faith in people or things, for they are both temporary. In fact, the middle verse in the Bible says, "It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man." (Psalm 118:8 NKJV). We know that God, Christ and the Holy Scripture are continuous, immutable and will last throughout all eternity. I like the words of the song The Solid Rock, which say,

*"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness;*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When darkness seems to hide His face. I rest on His unchanging grace;*

*In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the vale.*

*His oath, His covenant, His Blood, support me in the whelming flood;*

*When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;*

*ssed in His righteousness alone, faultless to*

*stand before the Throne.*

*On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;*

*All other ground is sinking sand,*

*All other ground is sinking sand.*

The word that comes from the very heart of God has caused so many to live by faith, for the just shall live by faith. In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews we have the hall of fame of the faithful. When I think of those wonderful people of faith, who have suffered so much, it encourages me to live my life by faith also. The reasons that every believer should live by faith are as follows: (1) Life is brief, 1Chronicles 29:15; (2) Life is frail Job 4:19; (3) Life is uncertain (Proverbs 27:1).

When we are living by faith we will be sustained by God and He will keep us standing under adversity, persecution and times of temptation. Living by faith will cause us to have the victory over Satan and his devices. (1Peter 5:8-9). Satan has fought with Joshua, Christ, Peter, Paul and the early church; yet, he will lose the battle against God. The Church that lives by faith is an army that is moving forward for the cause of righteousness and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Thomas Chalmers, that great champion of the Free Kirk (Church) of Scotland, was a heavy man. One day he went to visit in a home where the woman was having great difficulty in this matter of the life of faith. To reach the house he had to cross a burn by means of a bridge that did not look any too strong. The cautious Scot began tapping the timbers with his heavy walking cane to see if they would hold. The woman of the house, observing the minister's hesitation, called out to him, "Lippen the bridge, mister, it'll bear ye." Dr. Chalmers walked confidently over, and said very earnestly to the woman. "Lippen Jesus, woman, He'll bear ye!" That is not just the initial step; it is the practiced attitude of the heart in every circumstance of life. So, in this year of 2004 will we act and live in faith or will we trust in those things around us?



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Alice Rabenhorst	01/05
Erna Dahm	01/06
David Toeller	01/07
DeVerne Smith	01/08
Roy DeSimone Sr.	01/08
Brandon Schultz	01/12
Adam Grady	01/14
Scott Grady	01/14
Spencer Jacque	01/15
Roberta Schlenvogt	01/16
Mike Bendt	01/20
Betty Bogle	01/21
Amy Rippel	01/22
Terry Wetzel	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



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating 26 years together  
Eric & Laura Eberhardt 01/07/1978

Celebrating 32 years together  
Alan & Donna Schlenvogt 01/15/1972

Celebrating 13 years together  
Erwin & Dawn Schlenvogt 01/19/1991

William & Sally Duman 01/25

Celebrating 27 years together  
Pastor Mark & Sue Voll 01/29/1977

Thanks to all

...those who helped put together the wonderful children's Christmas program – kids, youth and certainly the fearless directors, Litha Mueller and Vernette Kroboth.

...those who helped decorate the Sanctuary and Memorial Hall

..those who sing weekly in the Choir and Worship team. Thanks for sharing your gift of music!

...those who went Caroling and helped make this a brighter Christmas for many.

~A Special thanks to Eleanore Schafer who wrapped all of the gifts for the Awana boys.

January 2004

## SEEN MANY CHRISTIAN NOVELS FOR TEENS LATELY?

-By John Newton

I was listening to Paul Harvey on the radio recently. Mr. Harvey said that a doctor in England had discovered a new medical condition he termed—Hogwart's headaches. He discovered the reason for the sudden increase in terrible headaches among his patients—mostly children. They were engaging in marathon reading sessions of J. K. Rowling's newest book, over eight hundred and seventy pages long. Most of the children were reading the book for eight hours every day, until having read from cover to cover

Given the "Hogwart's Epidemic," and the hundreds of children's fantasy books lining the shelves of major book stores, it seems safe to say, that there must be quite a demand for children's books. But what kind of children's books is there a demand for? Go into any book store and find the pre-teen and teen section. Pull a couple of books off the shelf at random. You'll discover that the vast majority of books involve adventures with witchcraft and sorcery.

How much demand do you think there is for Christian novels and books—among the same age children that read Harry Potter books?

To give you an example, the largest Barnes & Noble book store in the state, carried the Left Behind series for kids, and two Christian novels for teens. That's it! Although, it is interesting to note that they did carry a large selection of Christian novels and books for adults.

So why do book sellers have so little to offer Christian youth? I can only come up with two reasons. 1) There is

not enough demand, or 2) There are not enough Christian authors who write books for this age group.

I want to do everything I can to help. I'm just completing a novel written for pre-teens and early teens. In my book, twins Teri and Carrie struggle to try and keep their mom and dad from getting divorced. Along the way Teri meets a guy she really likes, but mistakenly thinks she needs help getting him. And she gets help from her friend who says she can fix things by casting a spell—what a mistake! Teri and Carrie start to learn that prayer, faith, and love are the only things they need to help their parents and themselves.

But will they learn before it's too late? Will Teri be able to find a way to break the hold the devil has on her in time? Will Carrie end up performing Dance of the Indian Princess at the school play, and let the devil get a hold over her too? There are only two weeks left till the play...

My prayer is that what I write will be both God honoring, and draw Christian and non-Christian youth to read it. Please say a prayer that if it is the Lord's will, my book will be published, and will help counter the vast ocean of books that glorify witchcraft and sorcery.

I'm entering my novel in *Operation First Novel*, sponsored by Tyndale House and Jerry Jenkins Christian Writer's guild. The winner is announced July, 04.

*Your prayers are greatly appreciated!*

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## BLAZE STUFF



### Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>-Feb 1<sup>st</sup> The BLAZE Winter Retreat

Don't miss this year's awesome Winter Retreat! 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 an overall good time! **All for only \$50!!!!** (If cost is a problem talk to Pastor Kato) Money is due January 18th. Stay tuned for more details next month and start thinking of who you could invite!



January 2004

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY

2004 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the incorporating of Friedens Evangelical Church. In July 1854, Evangelical Friedens Church became the first Protestant church in Port Washington.

In 2004 we will celebrate, commemorate, and rededicate! An anniversary planning committee is meeting and is comprised of: Debbie Bendt, Doris Feider-Schlenvogt, Sue Voll, Roy DeSimone, Alice Rabenhorst, and Pastor Voll. Some of the preliminary plans include:

- **January 25th:** A 5:00 pm pot-luck supper followed by our Annual Meeting...we'll use this time to set our hearts and minds on the church's mission and ministry that was – and is! We'll affirm who we are...whose we are... what we have...and what we're to do and be! It won't simply be "business as usual" at the 2004 Annual Meeting.
  - **February:** A return visit from Greg Buchanan! On Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine's Day) there will be a catered candlelight dinner for couples called "An Evening of Elegance". Greg Buchanan will provide the music. Sunday morning, February 15<sup>th</sup>, Greg will lead us in worship at both services.
  - **March:** Spring Fellowship Dinner.
  - **April:** Easter celebrations. Grand kick-off for a church wide campaign: "40 Days of Purpose".
  - **May:** Special worship with bluegrass band "Bluegrace"
  - **June:** An extra-special Vacation Bible School!
  - **July:** Outdoor worship & picnic. Baptism service. Historical displays. Open house. The Anniversary Banquet is being planned for July 30<sup>th</sup> to be held at Country Inn & Suites.
  - **August:** The church's focus will be on outreach and service projects.
  - **September:** The Ozaukee Chorus will feature their annual sacred concert here at Friedens! "Christopher Church mouse" will launch our new season of AWANA!
  - **October:** Fall Fellowship Dinner
  - **November:** (yet to be determined) Youth Concert?
  - **December:** Christmas caroling. Christmas musical.
- In addition, the Planning Committee is looking into possible 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "memorabilia" that people might like to purchase as remembrances.
  - Also, the Church Council has enthusiastically supported the creation of a "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund". The goal is to raise \$15,000.00 in gifts, memorials, and pledges (to be paid by the end of 2004). The fund would be used for special anniversary projects, activities, promotions, mission projects, outreach projects, anniversary booklet, etc. A beautiful 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund recognition display is also be planned in order to thank those who support the effort.
  - Do you have any memorabilia you'd like to share with the church? Contact the church office.

January 2004

**Helmut Haak** died suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 26th at the age of 81. He was the husband of Marianne Haak. They lived in Saukville.

Helmut was born in Germany. He and Marianne, who was also born in Germany, were married in 1949. They made their escape from East to West Germany in 1952 under the cover of darkness and fog. Eventually they made their way to Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Helmut was an excellent plumber as well as an avid sports fan. He loved soccer and golf best.

Helmut and Marianne raised two sons and also were blessed with three grandsons. He loved spending time with his family and helping them with their projects.

Marianne would like to thank all the church family for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and the beautiful service and fellowship supper.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

## GET INVOLVED! CLASSES, STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES! THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

### AWANA—CHILDRENS MINISTRY

(age 4-grade 6)

\*meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm. For more information contact GERALYN ESSELMAN 284-9598.

**HIGH SCHOOL GUYS/GIRLS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** \* will resume January 13th Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at the home of Doug & Marci Ferrell or Pastor Mark Kato Call 375-1009 for details.

### BLAZE – YOUTH GROUP (grades 7-12)

\*meets on Sundays from 6:30-8:00 pm. Interested? Talk to Pastor Mark Kato.

### SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

\*for Adults, Sr./Jr. High, and Elementary age kids at 9:15 am.

**WEDNESDAY— MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** \* meets at 6:30 pm. For more info call Mike Bendt at 284-5499

**THURSDAY— WOMEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** \*will resume January 8th meets from 9:30-11:30 am .Call Marci Ferrell (375-1009)

### PRAYER GROUP

\*meets Thursday mornings at 6:30 am. Everyone welcome. Contact the office for more information.

**THURSDAY - CHOIR & WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE** \*Choir meets first at 6:30 pm, the Worship Team meets at approximately 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Mark Voll.

### CHRISTIAN RECOVERY

\*meets at 8:00 pm on Tuesdays . It is a group for those in recovery from drug and/or alcohol abuse. It will be Bible and Christ-centered. The leaders are Lee & Dyane Sloan. You can call them for more information at 262-387-1526.

### JANUARY 11TH

\*Adult trip to Milwaukee Rescue Mission 3:15-6:30 pm Call Marci or Doug Ferrell for more information at 375-1009

### JANUARY 25TH

\*5:00 pm Potluck dinner followed by 6:00 pm Annual meeting.

### JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1ST

\*BLAZE Winter Retreat at Camp Zion



## FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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## Membership Information

Those interested in joining, who were unable to attend the most recent Membership Seminar, may contact Pastor Don Zahurancz to arrange to go over the membership information with him at any time.

