

Senior Pastor

By Brandon Lemons, Senior Pastor

The EFCA

I am very thankful that Friedens is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). The EFCA is certainly not the only healthy, Bible-based denomination; as I've moved to different states in the past 12 years, I've attended churches from three evangelical denominations. However, as I think about the EFCA, there are two main reasons I am thankful:



- I value the way the EFCA keeps “the main thing the main thing.” We strongly emphasize the essentials of the Christian faith (namely the importance of the Gospel and the Bible) while valuing charity on the non-essentials.
- I value the way the EFCA offers strong support and coaching for churches and pastors, while also allowing each church to govern its own affairs. Leaders from the EFCA, particularly from the Forest Lakes District (FLD) (consisting of Wisconsin and Michigan’s upper peninsula), have been invaluable in helping Friedens navigate multiple transitions in recent years. District leaders have also been of great benefit to me personally in terms of encouragement, coaching, and training.

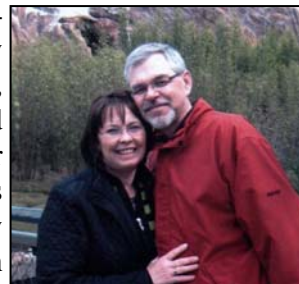
New District Superintendent

At the FLD’s Spring Conference on April 8-9, we elected a new District Superintendent. In April of 2010, the FLD’s previous District Superintendent of nine years, Ken Moberg, announced his resignation so he could return to pastoral ministry. I definitely miss him in the District Superintendent role, but I’m looking forward to our next District Superintendent, Gaylen Nagel.



Gaylen served as the Interim District Superintendent after Ken’s departure, so it will be a natural transition for him. Gaylen’s background is a bit atypical for a District Superintendent, but he

brings many strengths to the role. The atypical part is that Gaylen has not served as a vocational pastor; his background is in the insurance industry. However, Gaylen has shown himself to be a competent church leader, serving for eight years on the FLD’s District Board and 24 years on his church’s Elder Board as the church grew from 100 to 1600 attenders (he served 12 of those years as “church chairman”). Gaylen values learning; he has audited 24 credit hours at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and one highly educated pastor says, “Gaylen is better read than I am.” Gaylen’s unique perspective as a lay person will actually be an asset in enabling him to relate to congregation members, particularly when churches experience transitions or conflict. I am very thankful that God has led Gaylen to be the FLD’s next Superintendent.



Gaylen & Joan Nagel

Worship Well

By Charissa Toeller, Worship Team Leader



*Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like you have loved me
Break my heart for what is yours
Everything I am for your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity*
From the song “Hosanna,” by Brooke Fraser

The lyrics from this worship song give us a lot to think about. It is so easy to serve God by doing the things we enjoy and loving the people who are easy to love, but that doesn’t sound much like having a broken heart, does it? Recently, I was asked to serve in a way that really tested my patience and endurance. This song constantly came to mind. I needed to be able to love with God’s love, and that was not something I could do in my own strength. I realized that the small sacrifices I made were actually giving me an amazing opportunity to participate in the ultimate cause of God’s Kingdom—making disciples of Christ.

I pray that the people of Friedens will also continue to have hearts broken for the Kingdom’s cause. We only have this life, so why not spend it on what will last for eternity?