



The Tidings

March 2012

Ministerial Moments

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It is hard to believe that spring is almost here already, maybe because we did not have much of a winter. With spring comes Lent and Easter. With spring also come baby animals, trees and flowers budding and in bloom and then, of course, allergies. Still, after the darkness of winter I don't know anyone who doesn't glory in the freshness of spring sunshine and flowers.

Lent, however, is a somber time. We say 6 weeks or 40 days, which mathematically doesn't work out until we realize that the Lenten season does not include Sundays. The reason Sunday is not included is that Sunday is the Lord's Day, the celebration of Christ's resurrection. In other words, while we celebrate Easter, to a certain extent every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. So the rest of the week, you "fast" and Sunday you "feast".

I still need to study fasting. As Protestants, we are more likely to fast for health or weight loss reasons than religious ones. I can't say I understand fully how the religious fast is supposed to be done; in fact I know more about the fast of Ramadan than I do about the Lenten fast, mostly because by the time I was growing up, the Lenten fast had been reduced to giving up chocolate or other sweets. The fast is supposed to be a discipline of not eating certain items and more prayer. During Ramadan, Muslims do not eat from sunrise to

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Wurstmarkt Time!!!

You know it's almost Spring when you see the pink pig in the front lawn of the church in late February. Yes it's that time again. Wurstmarkt Time!!! **Saturday, March 17 - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.** I'm sure that Funds and Fellowship could use as much help as they can get and all the pies you can make.



Daughters will have crafts and baked goods at the wurstmarkt the money will go towards the carpet fund. crafts and baked goods are welcomed

See the sign up list or call Susan Olyer (3324) or Bobbi Duffie (3489) to find out where help is most needed.

March Birthday's

Curtis Werner	5
Milton Dressel	7
Calvin Fruth	9
Dorothy Dressel	10
Ruth Erb	12
Stacey Pilbean	12
Clinton Galle	13
"Mike" Archie Dierks	13
Mervin Erb	15
Mindy Fitch	18
Alberta Galle	20
Brian Matzenbacher	23
Paul Weilmuenster	25
Caroline Galle	26
Timothy Campbell	31

March Anniversary's

Dennis & Nicole Sinn	10
Bill & Carol Gladson	15
Kenneth & Lorrie Lehman	20
Robert & Imogene Lehman	21
Warren & Kay Trotter	21

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

marissafriedens@gmail.com

Greeter and Ushers for March and April

2012-2013 complete list will be in April's Tidings.

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March 4 - Donna Galle, David Keim, Ruth Erb, Kevin McDonald

March 11 - Ruby Lehman, Janice Schmidt, Susan Oyler

March 18 & 25 - Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, David Barbee

April 1 - Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Reinhardt

April 8 - Easter Sunday - Council Members

April 15 - Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn

April 22 - Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal & Donna Galle

April 29 - Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald

Comments from the Church Mouse



Our church had a great bowling party on February 12th, but it was held in Sparta, so I didn't get to go. I know that it was a project of Funds and Fellowship. I heard Bobbi Duffie saying what fun it was to watch the little ones throw balls with something you call bumpers on the alley. Hey, that's bowling talk, and I don't know the language.

Now dart ball, I watch and understand. When men like Rev. Robert Schmidt, Ron Geisel, Dennis Kinzel, Kevin McDonald, Mike Dierks, Dwayne Waeltz, Mugs Holloway, and Todd Erb start practicing throwing darts, I observe from safely inside my fellowship hall hidey-hole. They have a good time and do really well.

On the 18th Evangelical Daughters hosted the Women's Pre-Lenten Breakfast. The ladies from the other churches are very complimentary about the event. All I know is that I love hot cross bun crumbs.

Our Wurstmarkt will be March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Grandfather mouse used to say that was corned beef and cabbage day, but at Friedens it will be German sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, applesauce, and bread day. Oh, I love it, I love it. All the good food fixed - plus the many desserts. Susan Oyler and those Funds and Fellowship ladies are good workers and organizers.

With Lent here, there will be more activity on some Wednesday evenings. I'm used to choir practice and dart ball practice, but not special services. I just wish they'd bring food when they come to a worship service. Yes, I know I am obsessed with food. That's just how it is.

As we head toward Easter, I hope most of the people who attend my/our church will think on how they live their lives, and remember to love one another. Miss Susie told the kids in Sunday School that you should love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. That's good advice for any age.

WANTED !!!

Rev. Jim Ryan has informed me that several Food Pantry workers have retired in the past year and a couple more would like to. Please contact Rev. Ryan at Marissa Presbyterian Church if you are interested in volunteering for two hours once a month.

Ministerial Moments Continued

sunset. In the evening they tend to have a feast, at least as I experienced it with Sema, and to me this was more skipping lunch than a true fast, which to me would be abstaining from all food for a given period of time.

A lot of fasting in the Old Testament was done for penance. Sometimes the fast was not just accompanied with prayer for salvation from a situation, but also for guidance from God. One example of this is in the Book of Esther when the queen prays for a solution to save her people.

Fasting is meant to weaken the flesh and strengthen the spirit. In strengthening the spirit, it is meant to strengthen one's prayers. Whether you fast or not, the habit of prayer is important. At the Pre-Lenten Breakfast, the women were given Lenten prayer journals. Each one has a place to write one's prayers for the day. If you read [The Help](#), you know that Aibileen got her start writing by writing out her prayers. Some people find writing prayers to be very helpful. Most of us say prayers before we go to bed. Some say grace before eating and some pray in the morning. Prayer can be anytime of day and can be as short as a couple words, "Help me!" or as long as the Pastoral prayers I say on Sunday mornings. I ask that when you pray, in addition to your loved ones and family, as well as those on the prayer list, that you include your community and the church in your prayers. When we are united in prayer, we can do great things.

Blessings,

Pastor Gail

One Great Hour of Sharing



One of our special offerings each year is One Great Hour of Sharing. This is the offering which goes to world missions. The theme this year is "Sharing brings Joy." Some of the things OGHS has given are:

A family displaced by natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives.

Anyone who had to walk miles to get water for their family, smiles as a well is dug in their community, bringing clean water within reach.

A farmer whose harvest succumbed to the storms, is thankful when offered food, water, and new seed, helping her to make it through to the next harvest.

By giving to those in need, we recognize the unity in Christ between ourselves and others. Knowing there are those who would share willingly with them, those receiving aid are reminded of who they are: beloved children of the Creator, each one a person of sacred worth.

When you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, remember the joy your gift offers others is hope. You are not only helping others, but changing lives.

2012 Church Council

NEW OFFICERS

Marlene Karsten – President ; Carol Reinhardt – Vice President

Bobbi Duffie – Secretary ; Lori Selman – Treasurer

Susie Stewart – Financial Secretary

Elders: Marlene Karsten, Larry Matzenbacher, “Pete” Dressel, Lorrie Lehman

Deacons: Susie Stewart, Carol Reinhardt

Trustees: Bobbi Duffie, Curt, Werner, Kevin McDonald, Duane Waeltz

Flowers for Easter and Christmas: Pete Dressel will be in charge of .

Pastoral Relations committee: Ruby Lehman (until June) John Barrett,
Susie Stewart

Order Form for Easter Lilies - Due March 25th

Name of person ordering

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____



Number of lilies ordered _____ X \$8.00 each

= Total Amount Due: _____

Money or check may be attached to this form and dropped in the offering plate or given to Pete Dressel. Orders MUST be in by March 25th..

HOLY HUMOR

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

Many Thanks to

FUNDS and FELLOWSHIP:

Thank you to Funds and Fellowship for another wonderful bowling and pizza party. I believe everyone there had a good time.

EVANGELICAL DAUGHTERS:

Thank you to Evangelical Daughters for another wonderful Pre-Lenten (Fat Saturday) Breakfast. Several people expressed their appreciation. The food and decorations were wonderful as always. I am told we had 54 in attendance. We also got quite a few things donated for the Women's Shelter in Belleville.

MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Day of Disciple- ship @ Nashville 9 am to 3 pm
4	5 Daughters Meeting 7 pm Pastor Gail @ Conference	6 Pastor Gail @ Conference	7 Lenten Service 7:00 pm Biddleborn	8	9	10 Lenzburg Pancake Breakfast
11	12	13 Council Mtg. 7 pm	14 Lenten Service 7:00 pm Friedens	15 Set-Up for Wurstmarkt 6:00 pm	16	17 Wurstmarkt
18 One Great Hour of Sharing	19	20	21 Lenten Service 7:00 pm Lenzburg	22	23	24
25	26	27 Region 8 Mtg. Lenzburg 7 pm	28 Lenten Service 7:00 pm Darmstadt	29	30	31



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**Friedens United
Church of Christ**

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*"Through the Spirit we are
a Church on the Move:
Welcoming, Caring,
Sharing."*

Lenten Service Dates and Places

Lenten Schedule: Two readers needed for skits

February 29	7:00	Friedens
March 7,	7:00	Biddleborn
March 14	7:00	Friedens
March 21	7:00	Lenzburg
March 28	7:00	Darmstadt
April 5		Maundy Thursday – Friedens (will need readers)
April 6	7:30	Good Friday – Biddleborn
April 7	7:00	Easter Vigil – Freeburg
April 8		Easter Sunrise – TBD



Friedens United Church of Christ
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