

May 2013



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments



Well if April showers bring May flowers, we should have abundance this year. Unfortunately last year's drought caused the death of both the church and parsonage Dogwood trees. I especially loved to see the Dogwood blossom. Its cross-shaped flowers are said to be a reminder of Christ.

With the spring we have all sorts of reminders of the resurrection: flowers bloom, the grass grows; we see the fields grow green and if you live near a farm you might see baby animals. I have been told that among the many new exhibits at the Coal Fest (at least I think it is new) Rainbow farm will be bringing a petting zoo. There will also be a martial arts show, Fred Bird and other team mascots and a juggler. Coal Fest is June 6-8. The theme is "Field of Dreams".

We had our second Evangelism meeting on April 14. Bobbi Duffie will be putting together the visitation teams and she and I will put together a list of people to visit. When we get our teams and list together we will try to have a meeting to go over what we will do, when, and how often. We may also need a list of people to call or visit while I am on Sabbatical. I have also had a request that at least part of our prayer chain go through the e-mail. I will soon have a list out for those of you who would like notice of prayer requests through e-mail. Those people will then be taken off the phone list unless they request not to be. The phone list may be shorter, but will continue.

The Sabbatical Team will be headed by Marlene Karsten and Kevin McDonald. They will be in charge of putting together the list of people who will speak during those six weeks and we will need to make decisions on who will be in charge of putting together the worship service for each week. In addition, they are looking into the possibility of having some special music during that time. It is my hope that we will have this list of what is happening before the end of next month.

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July and August Tidings Newsletter

The July and August newsletters will be combined this year. We normally combine June/July, but with Pastor Gail going on Sabbatical and Lori out most of July it will just be easier. This will also give more time for the committee more time to get coverage figured out while Pastor Gail is out and that can be placed in the Tidings as well. This will also save on paper and postage.

Deadline for this issue will be: Sunday, June 16th.

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Greeter and Ushers for May and June

May 5: Linda Jones, Dale & Sharon Reese

May 12: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters

May 19: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner

May 26: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

June 2 - Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

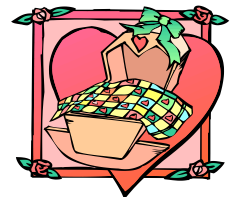
June 9 & 16 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson

June 23 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

June 30 - Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner



Mother – Daughter Tea



Come join us for our annual Mother Daughter Tea on **May 6th at 6:30 pm** in the Church basement.

Dinner will consist of our fabulous assortment of salads plus dessert.

Program: Marlene Vogel-Karsten will present a short program on quilts. Samples of different quilt patterns will be on display. Members will be sharing some of their quilts and the interesting story behind their quilt.

Admission will be a **donation** for the Food Pantry.

Donation suggestions: Monetary donations, always welcome – (non-perishable items)

Supplies: Paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, cleaning products

Food: Macaroni & cheese, tuna or other canned meats, pasta, cooking spray, canned fruits & vegetables



Personal Hygiene: Kleenex, Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Baby Wipes, Soap, toothpaste

Comments from the Church Mouse

Oh, isn't it nice to have warmer weather? It is, it is!

Evangelical Daughters meeting was an April Fool's theme, and I learned a lot of fun jokes. Then Pastor Gail, Susie Stewart, Carol Mercer, and Linda Jones sang a silly song about April Fool and I loved it. It was my simple type of humor. Janet Fauth made some goodies that I loved, too, at least the few crumbs that were left. The church ladies clean up too well. Remember to leave a few tidbits for me, please.



The ladies talked of the Mother/Daughter Tea the first Monday of May, which is the 6th. They are going to have some good salads, sandwiches, and desserts, but they are also going to have a program on quilts. Maybe I should bring mine that Kay Trotter gave me. I'll have to somehow ask Marlene Karsten about it, or try to put the idea in her head. Maybe a group of women would not want to share with a little mouse. Oh well.

Various groups have been contributing to the carpet fund for new carpeting in our church. Most of what is on the floor is O.K., but there are spots that could be dangerous. I wouldn't want anyone to trip and fall. I scurry right over the pulled sports, but my two legged friends are not as nimble as I am. When I heard Duane Waeltz talking about the carpet fund one Sunday morning, I was so pleased that it has grown. Bobbi Duffie had been one of the people who had priced the carpeting, and she was pleased too.

Ron Geisel left a newspaper on the desk, and I saw a picture in the paper of some of the Funds and Fellowship people who had given money to the New Athens Home for the Aged and other worthy places. They are a hard working group.

Our church people are special, and I'm really glad that I live at Friedens.

May Birthdays

Susie Stewart	1
Marilyn Lewis	2
Kenny Jenkins	2
Kevin McDonald	7
Greg Ray	15
Elizabeth Stuart	18
Kenny Raban	25



May Anniversaries

Larry & Linda Jones	3
Jim & Tari Carpenter	7
Calvin & Delow Fruth	30

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Our special event sign broke in the wind a few months ago and Kevin is in the process of re-welding it in such a way as to make it stronger. He is also trying find some way of covering the letters so they don't blow all over.

Our five weeks of Lenten Services plus Sunrise service netted the Ministerial Alliance \$741.00. Unfortunately, this is the time of year when Ameren sends out a lot of disconnect notices (I've been told they cannot disconnect in the winter.) so I have been swamped once again with requests for financial help. Most people do what they can to get by, but occasionally I have someone who needs way more help than I, or probably anyone else, can give them. Please pray for those who have lasting unemployment, underemployment, or illnesses which keep them from making ends meet.



As many of you know, summer is favorite hymn time. When I was little I noticed that our church got out the old hymnals in the summer and we sang songs like "Bringing in the Sheaves". I asked my dad about it and he said that since it was hard to get people to church in the summer with vacations and such, the minister felt it was a good time to reward those who did come by singing the old hymns. There have been a few times Nancy and I have been stumped, but most of the time one of the two of us knows and has a copy of the requested hymn so you do not need to limit your favorites to those in the hymnal. Last year the favorites did not quite fill out the summer. Other times they have lasted into September. The slips for favorite hymn requests will be in your bulletins every week from May 5 – 26.

Easter was early this year and so is Pentecost. Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, is May 19, the week before Memorial Day weekend. Please remember to wear red that day. If you do not have red, Meteor Orange is a pretty fiery color also.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

I know the answer to the question to "Who let the dog(s) out". It was my three year old grandson, Skyler! On April 17, as I was hurriedly going to my car to meet the Leland Juenger family at the funeral home, Skyler came out of the back gate to meet me. I tried to tell him that I wasn't coming home but he didn't understand and by the time I told him to shut the gate, Ozzy had seen his chance to escape. Logan went searching for him for me, and Hope gathered up the kids and got them in the car to look for him. I went around the block once and then headed for the funeral home. When Kevin came to get Logan, they drove around looking for Ozzy also. He's pretty good and hiding when he wants to explore.

I got back home about a half hour later and had barely gotten inside when the phone rang. A very nice lady from down on the other side of Casey's called to see if we had a dog that got loose. I grabbed a leash and walked down there. She and her husband were very nice and told me what a "nice" dog he is. A little bit later their children and some neighbor kids came, one had Ozzy by the collar and another had a cup of water for him. As I snapped his leash on him I said, "Well Ozzy, you had quite an adventure." Then each of the children had to lean over and give Ozzy a hug. I told them to feel free to come visit Ozzy and where we live.

It was hot that day and having had his run, Ozzy was happy to get home. We have good people in Marissa.

Blessing, Pastor Gail

MAY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 15—Clergy Day @ Memorial Hospital 8 am to Noon May 19—Pentecost Sunday, wear Red also Deadline for June Tidings			1 Choir Practice 7:00	2	3	4 City wide Yard Sale
5	6 Mother/ Daughter Tea 6:30 pm	7 Sonshine Corner Meeting 1:00 pm	8 Choir Practice 7:00	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13 Blood Drive 2:30 to 6:30	14 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	15 Choir Practice 7:00	16	17	18 5K Run in Marissa
19 Deadline June Tidings, Pentecost Sunday, Wear Red	20	21 Region 8 Mtg 7:00 pm @ New Baden	22 Choir Practice 7:00	23 Clergy App. Day @ Mascoutah 9:30-3:30	24 MHS Graduation 7 pm	25
26 Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

**FRIEDENS WILL HOST COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**

MONDAY, MAY 13th

FROM 2:30-6:30 P.M.

If you can't give blood, please help us out!
There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.
Please sign up your help is needed!



*Friedens United Church of Christ
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