



The Tidings

March 2014

Ministerial Moments

The earliest Christian celebration was of the Resurrection. Every Sunday was a celebration of the resurrection. Tied to worship was the meal, or Eucharist. Because it was common for early Christians to eat together as part of their worship, the Sundays became feast days..

We don't know exactly when Lent was established, but that it already existed in most Christian communities by the early 4th century. Some communities, at least, considered the forty days of Lent to be commemorative of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Lent means "turning" and so was used as a time of repentance for those who had drifted away from the church and also a time of preparation for the newly converted to be baptized and become members of the church. It was also a time of fasting.

Carnival is a very old custom from the pagan times which was incorporated by Christians as the time of celebration between Epiphany and Lent. The last few days of Carnival, especially Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, became a time to rid the cupboards of all flour, eggs, dairy and meat products prior to the fast of Lent. Many breads and cakes became part of the feast. In some parts of the world Carnival and Mardi Gras included street parties with masks, music, and parades.

Mardi Gras ends Carnival and Ash Wednesday begins Lent. The name, Ash Wednesday, comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes upon the foreheads of worshippers as a sign of their humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death sin brings into the world.

The purpose of Lent is to lead us toward spiritual growth. It is a time for prayer, fasting, and works of love. The original fast was to do without meat, dairy products or eggs. Most of us remember our Catholic friends eating fish on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. Today, most of us may forego a favorite food, TV, internet, video games, or candy during Lent. Some of us may even venture toward an occasional meatless meal or day.

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Congregational Meeting - March 23

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on March 23, 2014. This is to vote on the proposal from the committee to have pastor move to 35 hrs/wk. There will be an explanation of what the committee came up with in the church vestibule. You can also contact the church and a copy can be mailed to you or email Lori at loriselman@gmail.com for a copy via email.

March Birthdays

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 Anniversaries

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



Fix Up and Clean up Marissa

On February 13 I went to a meeting called by Mayor Jerry Cross. He and the township have once again allied themselves to clean-up Marissa much as they did last year, but hopefully on a larger scale. My understanding is that you will receive in your village newsletters something regarding this project. If you know of anyone who needs assistance with property clean-up whether for financial reasons, or age, please contact me or Jim Perrine. If you would like to volunteer to help with the clean-up please call the village office and let them know what kind of work you are capable of helping with.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of our UCC five for five offerings which we collect each year. The theme this year is "We are One" and focuses on sharing with our brothers and sisters around the world. Our giving through OGHS unites us with 9 other denominations and Church World Service. A part of OGHS goes toward long-term disaster recovery such as Hurricane Katrina. It also assists in international aid, including micro-credit loans of \$20-\$2000 to begin small businesses or further an education.

Comments from the Church Mouse



We've had a pretty cold, snowy winter, haven't we? One Wednesday evening at choir practice and Funds and Fellowship meeting, the parking lot was really icy. Then Sunday morning, Feb. 16th, it had refrozen and had a little more sleet on top of it. Slick! Whooo – I watched from the window in the back of the sanctuary as John Barrett spread salt near the entrance and by the handicapped parking. I think someone helped him, but I couldn't see who.

The snow fall before that, Ron Geisel had tried to shovel in the parking lot and by the entrance, but the snow kept coming. It's a good thing we have people like John and Ron to fight the results of winter weather. Duane Waeltz has helped before, too. Good men.

When I was waiting for a few tidbits at Evangelical Daughters meeting I learned about the March 1st Women's Pre-Lenten Breakfast. They are having breakfast casseroles, fruit, and hot cross buns. I love the crumbs from the hot cross buns. The service starts at 8:30, but I'll be ready to scamper around about 9:30 to 10 and scarf up any morsels left on the floor. I have to be quick because those ladies clean up fast.

I also learned that we will have Community Vacation Bible School from July 7-11. Susie Stewart and Carol Mercer seemed pleased with the program they will be having, and I am just pleased that we are having VBS. Those kids leave good tidbits for me, and since they have snack time with each age group, those in the kitchen don't have enough time to sweep the floor after each group. More for me! I know I'm going to like this "Workshop of Wonder" VBS.

Funds and Fellowship are getting ready for the March 15th Wurstmarkt. The committee ladies who met, Susan Oyler, Bobbi Duffie, Peggy Dierks, Evelyn Schneidewind, Carol Mercer, and Pastor Gail, were pretty organized. I saw Susan and Bobbi do some inventory when the school was closed for snow days. They are ready to "rock and roll". Such good food our people serve at their Wurstmarkt; whole pork sausage, real mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, apple sauce, bread, and drinks. I especially like the green beans.

Funds and Fellowship also sponsored a big group of church people getting together at the Okawville Mineral Springs Hotel for a meal after church on February 9th. I wasn't there, (they don't allow mice) but I heard it was a good experience, a good waitress, and good food.

We have a lot going on at Friedens. Are you a part?

Dartball Needs Players

The Dartball team will continue to play during March. They are in need of a few more players. Women are welcome. Team practices every Wed. at 7 or on Lenten Wed., after services. Contact Ron Geisel, Duane Waeltz, or Kevin McDonald from more information. Tournament will be either March 28 or April 7

THANK YOU !!!

Thank you to Evangelical Daughters, Jay Lehman and Gary Stewart for the new toilets in the downstairs women's bathroom.

Ministerial Moments Continued

More important than fasting, however, is that we take some time to self-examine ourselves and take an inventory of where we may have hurt others, fallen short of God's call for us, or have places to improve. This is also a time to look outward toward our neighbors, community, and the world which God has placed in our care. Not only what can we improve, but what are we grateful for? Where has God been in your day? Who do you feel a need to pray for?

Above all, do not forget to set aside a time each day to pray. There will once more be Lenten Devotionals available if you find these helpful, or you may choose a Portals of Prayer or any other help.

Peter Chrysologus, 5th century bishop of Ravenna said: "Prayer knocks on the door, fasting obtains, love receives. Prayer, Love, and Fasting: these three are one, and they give life to one another."

The emptiness we sometimes feel when we pray could be the result of not letting our prayer flow into the way we live our lives. Christianity is not a "Sunday thing", but an everyday thing. It is a way of life.

Pastor Gail

2014 Church Council

NEW OFFICERS

President - John Barrett

Vice President - Jay Lehman

Secretary - Sandy Smith

Fruth Rental: Jay Lehman

Financial Secretaries: Kay Trotter & Crystal Cathcart

Flowers: Mandy Schmierbach

Elders: Linda Jones, Kay Trotter

Deacons: Sandy Smith, Mandy Schmierbach, Crystal Cathcart

Trustees: Jay Lehman, Bobbi Duffie, John Barrett

Funds and Fellowship Outing to Okawville

On Sunday, February 9th a group from Friedens traveled to the Original Spring Hotel in Okawville to enjoy a time of fun, fellowship and food. Lunch was served family style and included fried chicken, pork roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw and a drink. The food was DELICIOUS. After lunch we enjoy Valentine conversation hearts with the persons picking the "I love you" hearts receiving 10 dollars to pay for their meal. Winners were Pastor Gail and Kathleen Robert. (Susan was in charge of the game and both winners were sitting at her table!!!) After that we took a tour of the hotel and then headed for home. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 One Great Hour of Sharing	31	Wednesday April 2: Lenten Service @ Friedens 7 pm Sunday April 20: Easter Sunrise Service @ Faith Baptist 7 am				1 Day of Discipleship @ St. Paul's Belleville 8:30 Pre-Lenten Breakfast
2 Transfigurations Sunday	3 Daughters Meeting 6:30 pm	4	5 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service ; Choir / Dartball practice after	6	7 World Day of Prayer Dartball @ Addieville	8
9	10	11 Council Mtg. 7 pm	12 Lenten Service @ Lenzburg; Choir/ Dartball practice after	13	14	15 Wurstmarkt
16	17	18	19 Lenten Service @ Biddleborn ; Choir/Dartball practice after	20	21 Darball Home vs. Plum Hill	22 DuBois on Broadway \$40, entertainment/dinner. Christine Brewer performs
23 Girl Scout Sunday Congregational Mtg after Church	24	25	26 Lenten Service @ Darmstadt ; Choir/Dartball practice after	27	28	29

Greeters and Ushers 2014 - 2015

March 2014 through August 2014

** It is very important that if for some reason you can not make your scheduled week(s), please find a replacement or contact a church council member. If your name does not appear on this list, please contact a church council member to report the oversight. Thank you!

Date	Ushers and Greeters	
March	2	Donna Galle, David Keim, Ruth Erb, Kevin McDonald
	9	Ruby Lehman, Janice Schmidt, Susan Oyler
	16	Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, Ron Geisel
	23	Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, Ron Geisel
	30	Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal Galle, Donna Galle
April	6	Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Reinhardt
	13	Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn
	20	Easter - Council Members
	27	Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald
May	4	Linda Jones, Tim Campbell
	11	Evangelical Daughters
	18	Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner
	25	Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb
June	1	Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb
	8	Dave & Pete Dressel, Dorothy Dressel, Carol Gladson
	15	Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson
	22	David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
	29	Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner
July	6	Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner
	13	Bobbie Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
	20	Bobbie Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
	27	Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn
August	3	Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten
	10	Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbie Duffie, Tim Campbell
	17	Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman, David Barbee
	24	David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
	31	Linda Jones, Lorrie Lehman, Dale & Sharon Reese

VBS COMING to Friedens This Summer !!!

Friedens UCC will host Community Vacation Bible School from July 7-11 in the mornings. The theme will be "Workshop of Wonders". Members will be asked to help in various ways

Pre-Lenten Breakfast - March 1, 8:30 am

Theme is the Spirituality of **Mardi Gras**

There will be an ecumenical service, and communion will be served to those who wish to take it. Following the service, breakfast will be in Fellowship Hall.

Second Sheet of User/Greeter list for Sept. 2014 to February 2015 can be picked up at church, or it will be in the April Tidings.

Order Form for Easter Lilies - Due April 6

Name of person ordering

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____



Number of lilies ordered _____ X \$10.00 each

= Total Amount Due: _____

Money or check may be attached to this form and dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Orders MUST be in by April 6th.



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 15 - 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. They are in need of potato peelers on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 am, also need help cleaning up around 7:00 pm.

Saturday, March 15 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm



*Friedens United Church of Christ
820 North Main
Marissa, IL 62257*