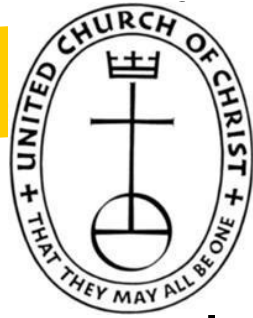




June 2016



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

According to our Centennial pictorial phone book, in the late 19th Century there were many families of German Evangelical background around Marissa. In order to find a place of worship they had to go to either Lenzburg or Darmstadt which was inconvenient in the days before automobiles. One Sunday, two ladies, Mrs. Ernst Kunze and Mrs. Matthias Bopp contacted Rev. Yargsdorf of Darmstadt and invited him to come to Marissa to conduct services.

In January 1891 the congregation was organized and adopted the name Friedens (meaning peace) German Evangelical Lutheran Church. They met in the warehouse of Loesche's store, but soon moved to an old public school building directly across the street from the present church property.

The cornerstone for the original church (see picture by elevator) was laid in May 1891 and completed and dedicated in November 1891. Two years later a parsonage was built. Sunday School was begun in 1893 and in 1901 a Christian Education building was added.

In 1922 the congregation voted to become part of the Evangelical Synod of North America. In 1923, the constitution was revised to allow women the privilege of membership. In 1940, the constitution was revised to conform with the newly merged Evangelical & Reformed Church.

Services were originally in German and the early record books were in German. Mabel had much of the early records translated to English for the Centennial but I'm not sure where they are. I'm also not sure when German services ended, but I believe it was sometime before WWII, perhaps closer to WWI. It's been awhile since I heard that story.

Curt Werner came and talked to the confirmation students Wednesday May 18. I heard from him some stories I don't think I had heard before and could see that Riley and Davey were particularly interested. Curt remembers having Sunday school in the basement of the old white church and the building of this one around 1950. He also remembers Rev. Beier, I believe, having a second job working at the Schneidewind Jewelry Store.

Curt's father did a lot of the electrical work for the church. Memorial money in honor of his aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schweickert, paid for the stained glass windows which were dedicated in 1961. The parsonage was built in 1965.

While the UCC was formed in 1957, each church had to vote to accept the merger and it was not until 1967 that Friedens rewrote its constitution to change its name to Friedens United Church of Christ.

Inside this issue:

Greeter/Ushers	2
Birthday /	2
Anniversary List	
VBS	2
Pastor's Contact Information	2
125th Anniversary of the Church	3
Where People Are?	3
Thanks!	3
June Calendar	5
TWIGS	6
Blood Drive	6



Continue on Page 4

Greeter and Ushers for June and July

June 5 - Dave & Pete Dressel, Carol Gladson

June 12 - Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson

June 19 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

June 26 - Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett

July 3 - Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett

July 10 & 17 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

July 24 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn, David Barbee

July 31 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Marlene Karsten



June Anniversary's

Neal & Joan Galle	2
Craig & Melanie Rahlfs	2
Tom & Bobbi Duffie	5
Fred & Marilyn Lewis	17
Martin & Alberta Galle	18

June Birthday's

Paula Neely	1
Pastor Gail Geisel	6
Sarah Galle	7
Irving Schickedanz	12
Courtney Swartzkopf	13
Sharon Reese	16
Leslie Lehman	18
Gertrude Heil	22

VBS

Marissa Vacation Bible School will be meeting from 6-8PM June 13-17 at the Village Park. There is also an optional meal for participants at 5:30PM. Most of the classes will be held under the shelters.

Pastor Gail's Contact Information

I have been told that people are having trouble getting hold of me. Of course the best way is Tues - Sun. at the church 295-2004. In the evenings and weekends, the next best is the parsonage 295-2812. The phone only rings 4 times and we don't always get to it in time but if caller ID shows a 618 area code, we will call back even if there is not a message. My cell phone # is [618 - 443-7532](tel:618-443-7532). I usually, however, leave my phone in my purse at home and do not always hear it if someone calls, so the home phone is better. If all else fails, call Ron [618-443-7727](tel:618-443-7727). He almost always has his phone on him. I hope this helps in contacting me. Pastor Gail

125th Anniversary of the Church

COME AND CELEBRATE

JUNE 12TH. Confirmation of Riley Starr and David X. Schneidewind, guest speaker, Rev. Shana Johnson, new conference minister and special music by the choir. After church, we will have a potluck and special music by Ken Treveer.

Wondering Where People Are??

This is a list of those you may have missed recently:

NURSING HOMES

Irene Trieffenbach – New Athens Home for the Aged
DeLow Fruth – Coulterville Care Home

ASSISTED LIVING

Merv and Ruth Erb – Cedar Trails, Freeburg #108
LaJune Fulton – Cedarhurst, Sparta #12
Mabel Schickedanz – Cedarhurst #25
Irving Schickedanz
Caroline Galle – Cedarhurst #26
Dorothy & Milton Dressel – Cedarhurst #23

THANKS !!!

- Thanks to Curt Werner for coming and sharing his remembrances of church history with Riley and Davey on May 18.
- Thanks to Neal's Plumbing and seeing the state of our flag and donating us another one.
- Thanks to David Schneidewind for taking care of the meal arrangements for June 12th and also ordering a new flag.

Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

Someone else will have to tell me the date the elevator wing was added, although I think it was in the 90s. Rev. Schmidt, who also had a second job as a school bus driver, told me the Wurstmarkts were begun during the 18 years he was here. One of his daughters told me of planting trees on the front lawn of the parsonage. I know at one time the churches of Marissa gathered every time there were five Sundays in a month for a joint service. I don't know when that ended. We still have the Ministerial Alliance, which consists of the five churches in town plus Darmstadt and Biiddleborn and helps people in the payment of their bills.

During the 1990s, the Fruth family donated a storefront to the church for use as mission. This has become Sonshine Corner, a thrift store, which gives all of its money back to the community; most of it to the Ministerial Alliance. Sonshine Corner also houses the Marissa Christian Outreach Project, which gives those in need commodities once a month as well as giving school supplies at the beginning of school and Christmas Baskets at Christmas. In addition Sonshine Corner houses the Marissa Food Pantry which helps those in need of getting enough food.

Funds and Fellowship also gives most of the money they make at the Wurstmarkts to special outreach programs of the conference and Friedens church. Four of the town churches of the Ministerial Alliance rotate Vacation Bible School between them every year. The Ministerial Alliance also has two services per year which rotate between the churches. Offering from these services goes to help those in need within the Marissa School District.

Evangelical Daughters, which at one time was group for the young women of the church and is now the primary women's group of the church continues to have a Mother/Daughter Tea each May. They also have crafts and bake sales at each Wurstmark to help earn money towards church and mission needs. They continue to host the Pre-Lenten Breakfast, which it is my understanding, began while Pastor Clara was here.

While our church is aging, we still have had an impact on the community around us. In 2014-15, we received a Neighbors in Need grant which helped in getting the Community Garden started on the site of the old high school.

This past year, 2015-16, we received a literacy grant from the Deaconess Foundation to begin a literacy program. We worked with the Library and elementary school to get this going. I have written about it before and will not belabor the point.

The surviving called pastors are:

Rev. Robert Schmidt	1966-1980
Rev, John Austin	1981-1989
Rev. Max Pepmeier	1989-1993
Rev. Clara Benson	1999- 2005?
Rev. Gail Geisel	2007-

We are, as many churches are, surrounded by a cloud of witnesses who have gone on before us. Many thanks to all our ancestors who founded this church and for those who have worked through the years to keep it going. Let us celebrate!

Blessings,
Pastor Gail ,

Blessings, Pastor Gail

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 TWIGS begins	7	8	9 Coal Festival	10 Coal Festival	11 Coal Festival Parade 4 pm
12 125th Anniversary Celebration	13 VBS 6-8 @ City Park	14 Council Mtg - 7 pm VBS 6-8 @ City Park	15 VBS 6-8 @ City Park	16 Blood Drive @ Township Building VBS 6-8 @ City Park	17 VBS 6-8 @ City Park	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

BLOOD DRIVE - JUNE 16 !!!

This Blood Drive will be at the Marissa Township Building.

Please give blood!

JUNE 16th - - - - - FROM 3:00-7:00 P.M.



TWIGS !!

We will have Twigs again this year starting Monday June 6 from 11:00-12:00 serving lunches to all Marissa youth up to age 18. I understand that they need volunteers Wed. – Friday.



Friedens United Church of Christ

820 North Main

Marissa, IL 62257