



February 2024 Newsletter

Friedens Church of Washington

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Our Lord's Unfailing Love

by Susan Holle

When we are let down by those we hold dear
Jesus' love is a beacon that shines so bright
Through our heartbreak and fear
It guides us through day and night
In Isaiah 43:2, there is a promise so true
"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.
In His love and mercy, we find refuge anew
Though the human's heart may alter
And we cry and mourn
God's love never falters

For His love is an eternal flame that never dies
His loving embrace will comfort us through the evening til morn

We should praise Him to the skies
"I'm with you always," He declares
In every letdown and every tear
His words and sacrifice show us that He cares
And His unfailing love is forever near

News, Events and Updates. . .

Frieden's Women announcements:

- Friedens Women will have their meeting February 7th at 4:30pm.
- Friedens Women have planned a barbecue takeout on February 18. The cost is \$15.00 per plate and includes chicken, buttered potatoes, green beans and a dessert.

Women's Fellowship announcements

- The next meeting will be February 15th at 2:15 pm.
- Women's Fellowship will provide the Lenten Meal on February 28th.
- Women's Fellowship would like to welcome 3 new members: Debbie Wellmann, Linda Jurecka and Sheri Finke. If you think you might like to join, please contact Lou Ann Canatella or any other member. Women's Fellowship meets the third Thursday of every month at 2:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Come sit in on a meeting to see if it is for you.
- A Takeout Dinner is in the planning stages and will be on April 21st.
- Women's Fellowship will continue to collect hygiene items for the Salvation Army, Phoebe's Home and /or the Senior Center in Brenham. Also, items for the Brenham Pregnancy Center in Brenham. Collection boxes are in the narthex.

Bible Study announcements:

We meet in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come join us and bring your bible or you can use one from the church. We are currently studying the Book of Daniel. Please check the calendars for dates of no Bible Study due to holidays.

Choir announcements:

We sing during worship every first Sunday of the month and practice before worship.

Sunday School announcements:

- Sunday School will have their Valentines Party during Sunday School on Sunday February 11.
- Sunday School will be doing the Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 13 at 5:30.

Confirmation

The 2024 confirmation class convenes each Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. The class will include Katie Becker, Lila Ray Kennedy, and Bailee Wilson. Stacey Becker will be on hand with Pastor Eric teaching the class.

Food Pantry Volunteer Workers

Needing Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer at the Pantry, please contact Lou Ann Canatella.

Food Pantry Items Needed

Feb. – Hot Cereals Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Cream of Rice, Grits

March – Canned Meat (Spam) Tuna, Chicken

April – Dried Beans & Peas(pinto, navy, black eyed,kidney)

Altar Flowers

Feb 4 – John Walkoviak

Feb 11 - Open

Feb 18- Keith and Thresia Schlabach

Feb 25- Open

First Sunday Refreshments & Fellowship prior to Worship

Feb 4 – Women’s Fellowship

March 3– Frieden’s Women

April 7 – Altar Guild

Note: If you are unable to serve on the dates

below, please contact the church office.



Liturgist

February 4 – Sandra Bosse

February 11 – Vivian Kolkhorst

February 18 – Flora Mason

February 25 – Heather Mason

Acolytes

Teagyn Wilson

Katie Becker

Lila R Kennedy

Brody Parsons

Ushers/Greeters

Heath & Ashley Leiber

Karen Lockhart & Jill Rogers

Lucy Lorenz

Candace & Cory Marek

Donation to Bread Partners and Installation of Officers



The Prayers and Concerns of Our Church

Larry and Laura Hargrave,Joey Helms,Ralph and David Holle, Shelli James, Dorothy Hughes, Mary Lee Lewis, Madeline Almquist, Pat Beirute, Sylvia Budraitis, Francis Ramsey, Joy & John Adkins, Ruth and Kenzie Garrett, Herb Kammel, Erin Schwamyer, Shirley Finke, Jenny Fritz, Cindy Wellmaker, Bill Newsom, Leah Weld, David and Kenney McAlpine, Troy Weigand, Robin Dutton, Beverly Schlabach, Bill Pentecost, Cyril Burke, Jimmy Shimshack.

Note: If you have anyone to add to the prayer list or remove, please contact the church office or email the church @ friedenschurchhofWashington@gmail.com. Numerous concerns have been have been raised by congregational members about the unknown names remaining on the prayer list for months. Please review the list above and contact the church with updates of any of the names listed above. Thank you.



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The family of Rose Lee Lohmeyer would like to thank the members of Friedens Church and the community of Washington for your kindness during this difficult time. Your prayers, phone calls, flowers, visits, and expressions of concern are so greatly appreciated. Rose Lee would be overwhelmed by your expressions of love and concern.

We would also like to thank Women’s Fellowship (a group near and dear to Rose Lee’s heart) for the amazing meal they provided for everyone attending the funeral service.

And last, but not least, we would like to give a huge thank you to Pastor Eric for his wonderful funeral service. He really knocked it out of the park. His visits with Rose Lee meant so much to her. We are very grateful for the love and compassion he showed her to the very end. Thank you Pastor Eric. And again, thank you to everyone.

Sincerely,
Lou Ann Canatella on behalf of:
Gordon, Cindy & Phillip Lohmeyer and the Loesch and Lohmeyer Families

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Activity Center
February 2- Chili and Stew Supper 4:30-6:30
February 17 – Kolkhorst Family Reunion- Changed to Fellowship Hall

Please call the church office for rentals or call or text Cindy Walkoviak (C) 979-229-6710

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Thank you:

Thanks to Carolyn and Quinn Collins for donating the letters denoting the sections of cemetery.

Church Council News

Message from the 2024 Council President:

The search committee presented to council their recommendation for our next full time pastor. Church Council interviewed and through a 7-2 vote, council will proceed with the next steps to filling the Pastoral position.

While there is still much to be done by council, this first step is very important. While I feel everyone is eager to get this “over the finish line”, there is a process we must follow, and only by God’s will and timing shall take place.

February 14 marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, and Church Council will provide the first Lenten meal on February 21st. The meal promises to be wonderful with homemade chicken spaghetti, bread, salad, and deserts so make plans to attend, not just on the 21st, but every Wednesday until Holy Week. I’m sure Pastor Eric will have an interesting devotional series again this year. Nothing like feeding our hunger, both sustenance for the body, and the spirit within us.

Dale DeAeth is retiring as our grounds keeper on January 31, 2024 after 21 years. Council would like to Thank Dale for all his hard work in keeping our church, school, and cemetery looking nice.

February 1, 2024, Don Kolkhorst will become our new grounds keeper.

January 28th will be our annual Congregational meeting to cover all the reports and announce new committee appointees.

Blessings in Christ

John Walkoviak

Church Council Work Schedule For February 2024		
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Council 2024</u>	<u>Council 2023</u>
02/04/2024	LaNell Langford	Linda Werchan
02/11/2024	John Walkoviak	Sheri Finke
02/14/2024	Amy Stolz	Denise Stolz
02/18/2024	Mark Dickschat	Jim Burke
02/25/2024	Tanya Parsons	Dale Borgstedte

Happenings on the Way to Heaven

by Kathryn van der Pol

God and Economics

I am continuing my series on economic principles taught in the Bible.

One of the most important commandments is “Thou shalt not steal.” While its importance is self-evident and something we are quick to instruct little children, there’s a deeper thought behind the commandment that is foundational to Judeo-Christian society. The premise of this commandment is that property ownership is a good and necessary thing. Contrary to Nimrod, the king who built the city and tower of Babel, who wanted to control everyone and everything, God knows that individuals thrive when they are invested and rewarded personally in their work, most particularly when His people are obedient to His laws.

The Bible is full of stories about property rights. When Sarah dies, the Hittites offer to give Abraham a tomb to bury his wife. “Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead (Genesis 23:5). But Abraham insists on paying for it. He wants to own it free and clear; further, he requests witnesses to attest he holds the title. If Abraham accepted the first offer of a “free tomb” he had no protection if later in the future, others made a claim and took the area back. Without ownership, he had no right to use this plot of land even for himself.

Further, when you own something or have "dominion," you are responsible. As I wrote last month, dominion includes the notion of stewardship. It is under your control and it’s expected that you will take care of it. This is why we have developed the concept of property rights. Property is under your control and it's your responsibility. If someone takes it from you unlawfully, then you have lost control. Furthermore, theft not only harms the owner. It harms the orderliness and confidence of the community.

Socialists (aka Communists, globalists, collectivists, totalitarians) are opposed to the Ten Commandments, in general, and the Thou-Shalt-Not-Steal one, in particular. They need the assets from one group so they can give them to others. They do this by fooling us into believing that we are entitled to housing, higher education, healthcare, and food, regardless of whether we earn it or not. This is not biblical nor realistic because the only way that people can have these things without working for them is if they have assistance from those people that do. When people are given things freely, it is charity, and God commands us to do this, but when a government seizes from one to give to another, it is force and theft. It is not charity.

The basis of American society has been the notion that people can work, earn, and keep the fruits of their labor to buy property. Land is not the only form of property. However important land is. There are three types of property. The first property right you possess are your thoughts. You have a right of conscience.

The second property right you possess is your labor. Your ability to work and make something or provide a service is a form of property. The third property right is your stuff. You worked and earned to acquire what you have.

The Bible is full of examples and stories that protect all three aspects of your property rights: your right of conscience, your labor, and your stuff. Our Constitution protects the rights of conscience, speech, property rights, and patents. That is one of the most important reasons that people come here is for the opportunity and respect for property rights.

So, think about the “socialists/collectivists.” What do they want to do? They want to own our assets; destroy our family, control our ability to work; and control even our thoughts. Artificial Intelligence is predicted to eliminate hundreds of thousands of jobs, so the collectivists want to offer universal basic income to pacify people thereby hoping to prevent them from rioting in the street. They want to control the internet and your sources of information. They want to control your children’s education; they want to centralize and control healthcare. This is not Biblical. This is the return of Nimrod. and the brick tower of Babel.

Appreciate what God made and has given to your care. Uphold and build upon God’s principles. Final thoughts: Work is good. Property rights are part of God's plan of stewardship. Don't let the Collectivists fool you.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Communion Refreshments <i>Choir sings during worship</i> L-Sandra Rossé A-Teagyn Wilson G-Heath & Ashley Leiber	5	6	7 Friedens Women 4:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm	1 Bible Study 10 a.m. 8 Bible Study 10 a.m.	2 Chili & Stew supper 4:30 – 6:30 pm Food Pantry	3
11 Sunday School Valentines Party L-Vivian Kolkhorst A-Katie Becker G-Karen Lockhart & Jill Rogers	12 Fishermen of Friedens deliver for Bread Partners at 6 am	13 Pancake Supper at 5:30 pm Council Mtg at 7:00 pm	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	15 Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting at 2:15 pm	16 Food Pantry	17 Kolkhorst Reunion Fellowship Hall
18 L- Flora Mason A-Lila R Kennedy G-Lucy Lorenz	19	20	21 Confirmation 5:30 pm	22 Bible Study 10 a.m.	23	24
25 Friedens Women Takeout 15:00 L-Heather Mason A-Brody Parsons G-Candace & Cory Marek	26	27	28 Confirmation 5:30 pm	29		

Food Pantry item for February is "Hot & Cold Cereal".
 The calendars are continually being updated so be sure to replace your current calendar when you receive your current newsletter.

2024

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