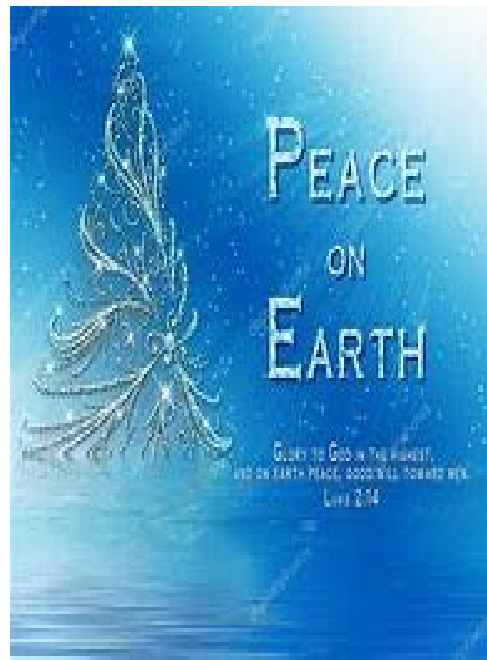


FRIEDENS FLYER
January 2020



Pastor's Message

For many years I have taught a class about the difference between the biblical story of Jesus' birth and the version instilled in our heads by popular culture and tradition. I have always wanted to impress upon those classes the need to actually *read* the Bible in order to know what scripture says, rather than getting information from television or movies. Many people are convinced that Mary rode a donkey into Bethlehem and that the wise men appeared with gifts on the same night as the shepherds.

The truth is, the Bible doesn't say a word about how Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, and nothing is said about the number of wise men that showed up, only that three gifts were given. And the shepherds saw Jesus in the manger, but the wise men arrived when Jesus was two years old and living in a house with his family.

Over the years I have learned that revealing this biblical truth to some folks can be very upsetting, because the Christmas story is dear to our hearts and is, perhaps, one of the few biblical stories that many people believe they know reasonably well. It can come as a shock to hear that what we have learned or believed to be true is actually incorrect.

But our Lord does not demand that we be biblical scholars and get all the facts straight in order to hear the Good News that God has come to be among us. The star may have not been shining over a stable in Bethlehem and wise men may have been nowhere in sight when Jesus was born, but I, for one, will still keep the Nativity on my mantle the way I've always remembered it: with the full complement of characters I always imagined were there. The Christ who was born long ago came for the whole world, for every single soul, and the wise men were witnesses to this glorious news. And the angels sang and the shepherds rushed to see that God appeared even to the least of all people...to them...and to every seeking soul who cries out for help in this world of sin and death.

Only when we sit at the feet of the Master, our Lord, in his heavenly kingdom, will we finally learn all the details of that birth long ago. But, then, it really won't matter, because, then, we will have what is most important: we will have Jesus. And that is what our Lord wants for us now. Jesus has come, salvation has arrived—in the flesh—for you. That's the truth. I'll let God worry about the details.

Blessed Epiphany, *Pastor Swanson*



Friedens Council Minutes

December 10th, 2019

Attendance: Ed Tietsworth, Rick Herring, Kathryn Otto, Scott Allvord, Julie Klinger, Dave Henninger, Jean Morris, Gary Klinger, Pastor Mark, Vicki Troutman, Amy Allvord and Damaris Merwine

Devotions: A reading and prayer by Pastor Mark

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes by Rick Herring, seconded by Kathryn Otto

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve treasurer's report and pay bills as they come due by Jean Morris, seconded by Julie Klinger

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark visited homebound members, Pottsville medical centers and Hershey. Attended Evangelism, Christian Ed and Worship & Music committee meetings. Also attended Schuylkill Mission District council meeting and Ministerium meetings. Taught 2 confirmation classes and led mid-week Advent services. Bible study will resume after the New Year, dates and times to be determined after Pastor Laura's hip surgery. Bishop Zeiser will preach at St. James for dedication of their new building addition. The date for the dedication service is Sunday February 2nd. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this joint service and it will also be Souper Bowl Sunday. The snow date is March 1st. Mike & Sue Deiter were received as the newest members of Friedens Church. Pastor Laura will be having hip surgery Monday, December 30th and will be out for a month or less. Pastor Mark will lead Saturday evening services at Christ United and will attend council meetings and answer any emergency calls in her stead.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed:** Attendance improving. Christmas program will be December 22nd with fellowship to follow. Rehearsal will be December 14th 10-11:30am and December 22nd 10-noon with lunch provided. Christmas in November items to be distributed to 3 members in nursing facilities and remaining items to be shared with several nursing homes. Confirmation class has a good pastor/student rapport. Encouraging group of eligible First Communion class to begin in the spring. Next meeting February 11th, 2020, 8:30am at Kathryn's house.
- **Worship & Music:** Thank you to all who helped in any way with the congregational dinner and to all those who attended. Thank you to Dan Carl for providing the church with another beautiful Advent wreath. Elaine Cave tuned the piano and she noticed some brackets that need to be replaced and some mouse dirt in the piano. There will be no psalm during Christmas Eve service and the choir will sing their anthem during this time instead since it is a paraphrase of the psalm. Hymn 42 will be sung while people are lighting their individual candles and the ushers will be asked to dim the lights as the candles are lit. We are not putting out pew candelabras this year and Tammy was given the message of the trees to be put in the bulletin. Communion will be by intinction and Dave & Jess Henninger will be the presenters of the elements. For the December 29th service that Pastor Mark will be absent from a hymn sing will be done for the message and the congregation will be asked to select 4 Christmas hymns. In the New Year for the prayer list we will pray aloud the new names on each respective Sunday and then a list of other names by week in the bulletin for the whole month. There will be time for a person to silently pray for those not mentioned aloud. Pastor Swanson is developing a welcome brochure to be put in the pew racks. The brochure will contain our ministries, schedule and other pertinent information about our church for visitors.
- **Property:** A load of coal was bought for the parsonage. Outside receptacles need to be looked at. The carpet strip was placed upstairs and looks nice, we thank all who did this. A piece of siding came off the bell tower.
- **FLYC:** Basket raffle December 1st

Unfinished: Latshaw has yet to get the balcony unit up and running. Estimates for repaving the parking lot need to be received so we can present to the congregation so the parking lot can be fixed next year. Also the pole light for parking lot was discussed again and before parking lot can be done a channel has to be done to run power to grass.

New: Election of officers:

- ❖ President: Damaris Merwine, nominated by Julie Klinger, seconded by Jean Morris
 - ❖ Vice President: Amy Allvord nominated by Julie Klinger, seconded by Jean Morris
 - ❖ Secretary: Ed Tietsworth nominated by Julie Klinger, seconded by Jean Morris
 - ❖ Treasurer: Gary Klinger nominated by Rick Herring, seconded by Scott Allvord
- Motion to close nominations by Rick Herring and seconded by Kathryn Otto.

Parish: January 20th, 7pm, at St. James

Adjournment with Lord's Prayer. Motion to adjourn by Scott Allvord, seconded by Ed Tietsworth

Next Meeting: January 14th, 2020, 7pm, at Friedens church

Respectfully submitted, Damaris Merwine-council secretary.

2019 Annual Congregational Meeting

December 1st, 2019

Call to order: Church council president Dave Henninger called the meeting to order.

Opening Devotions: Prayer was given by Pastor Mark.

Minutes from 2018 annual meeting: Council secretary Damaris Merwine read the minutes from the 2018 congregational meeting.

Pastor's report: Pastor presented a 2 ½ page written report on the year in review and a message that the purpose of the church is to reach out and remember the world we are called to serve. Pastor went over the new heating & cooling systems installed in the church, paying off our mortgage, the sale of 741 E Main St, tree removal at the parsonage, day camp, old restrooms back up and going and the many social functions we have had throughout the year (Mr. Sticky, church picnic, fall bazaar, and auctions to name a few). We may be a smaller church but we respond in amazing ways to assist those who are hurting. Pastor wished to thank all those who give of their time and talents, from the bigger things to the smaller more mundane things that often get overlooked but mean so much. In the years to come we need to reach out, work cooperatively with other congregations and look outward as Jesus leads us.

Election of church council members:

Damaris Merwine-reinstated for her second term

Vicki Troutman- 3 years.

Mike Deiter- 3 years

A motion was made to accept these members to council and congregation approved.

Presentation of proposed 2020 operating budget: The church treasurer Gary Klinger presented a step by step report on where the 2019 finances went to and then went down a very well formulated 2020 proposed budget.

Adoption of the 2020 operating budget: A motion was made to accept the 2020 operating budget as presented and congregation approved.

Unfinished business: We are still waiting on Latshaw to finish the heat project and install the unit in the balcony. He says he has the unit but we have found it difficult to get him here to finish the job. He has not been paid to put that unit in as of yet and we are holding payment until job is complete.

New Business: Gary Klinger presented 2 estimates for a sign to be put out front. These were ideas to bounce around for a future date and he wanted the congregation to be informed of what might possibly be looked at and get opinions early so it isn't sprung on the congregation without notice. This is not a set in stone thing and needs congregation approval before moving forward on anything, but feedback and ideas are welcome so we can see what we may need to look at.

Adjournment with Lord's Prayer: A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Kline and seconded by Jean Klinger.

Respectfully submitted by Damaris Merwine; council secretary



JANUARY

2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> <i>5:00pm-Choir</i>	3	4
5 <i>2nd Christmas</i> <i>9:00am-Worship w/ Communion</i> <i>10:15am-Sunday School</i> <i>4pm-Conf. @ St. James</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>8:00am-Worship&Music</i> <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> <i>5:00pm-Choir</i>	10	11
12 <i>BaptismOfOurLord</i> <i>9:00am-Worship</i> <i>10:15am-Sunday School</i>	13	14 <i>8:30am-Christian Ed.</i> <i>6:45pm-Executives</i> <i>7:00pm-Council</i>	15	16 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> <i>5:00pm-Choir</i>	17	18
19 <i>2nd Epiphany</i> <i>9:00am-Worship</i> <i>10:15am-Sunday School</i> <i>4pm-Conf. @ Friedens</i>	20	21	22	23 <i>Bulletin & Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>5:00pm-Choir</i>	24	25
26 <i>3rd Epiphany</i> <i>9:00am-Worship</i> <i>10:15am-Sunday School</i> <i>Fellowship</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>Bulletin Deadline</i> <i>5:00pm-Choir</i>	31	

<u>January 2020</u> Worship-9:00am Sunday School-10:15am	<u>Jan. 5th</u> -Christmas 2	<u>Jan. 12th</u> -BaptismOfOurLord	<u>Jan. 19th</u> -Epiphany 2	<u>Jan. 26th</u> -Epiphany 3	<u>Feb. 2nd</u> -Epiphany 4	<u>Feb. 9th</u> -Epiphany 5
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Julie & Ruth	9:00am-Worshipw/Communion 10:15am-Sunday School 4:00pm-Confirmation @ Friedens	9:00am-Worship 10:15am-Sunday School	9:00am-Worship 10:15am-Sunday School 4:00pm-Confirmation @ St. James	9:00am-Worship <i>Fellowship</i> 10:15am-Sunday School	9:00am-Worship & Communion Joint Service @ St. James	9:00am-Worship 10:15am-Sunday School A.G.-Ruth & Julie
ACOLYTES	Volunteers	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	N/A	Volunteer
COUNTERS	Nancy Kline & Lee Kiefer	Kathryn Otto & Palmer Geist	MaryJane Allvord & Julie Klinger	Jean & Gary Klinger	Nancy Kline & Lee Kiefer	Kathryn Otto & Palmer Geist
FELLOWSHIP				Nancy Kline, Mary Carl & Dolores Huntsinger		
GREETERS/*E.E.	Nancy Kline *A.J. Kline & Ann Miller	Cindy & Rick Herring *Joan Smith	Sue & Mike Deiter *Donna Horn	Heather & Ed H. *Jean Morgan	N/A	Jess & Dave H. *Kathryn & Renee'
LAY ASSISTANT	Ron Radel				N/A	
LECTOR	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	N/A	TBA
USHERS *Head Usher Jan.: Dave Henninger	* Rick Herring Andrew Allvord Jeff Klinger	* Julie Klinger Larry Klinger Mike Deiter	* Scott Allvord Damaris Merwine Michael Allvord	* Jason Wolfgang Christy Leiter Kathryn Otto	N/A	*HU-Rick Herring Ed Hornung Ed Tietsworth Rodney Troutman
VIDEO	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Larry Klinger | 19 Kristopher Klinger |
| 2 Cindy Klinger | 24 Evan Maurer |
| 3 Patricia Miller | 25 Logan Lombel |
| 7 Cole Miller | 29 Jeff Klinger |



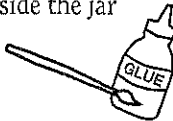
Let Your Light Shine!

Make this colorful candleholder as a reminder to "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

(Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

What you need:

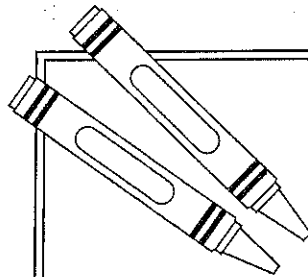
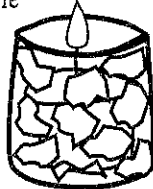
- colored tissue paper
- clean empty jar (baby food or jam jar) or a votive candleholder
- votive candle or any small candle to fit inside the jar
- white glue
- paint brush



How to do it:

(Note: Be sure to get an adult's permission first.)

1. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue on a small section on the outside of the jar.
3. Stick some pieces of tissue paper onto the glued sections. The pieces can overlap.
4. Spread another thin layer of glue over the tissue paper pieces.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 until the entire jar is covered. Let it dry.
6. Place a candle inside your "stained-glass" jar.
7. Ask a parent or an adult to light the candle for you.
8. Try to memorize Matthew 5:16 and recite it whenever you see your candle lit. Think about how you are going to "let your light shine" through good works.



Just for KIDS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new calendar year, let us always remember who we should follow in this world.

Directions:

1. Start at the circled letter "I." Follow the direction of the arrow and circle every other letter until you have gone around the world one time.
2. Start at the circled letter "I" again, and write down the circled letters on the blank lines below.
3. Beginning at the *W, write the letters or numbers that are not circled until you have gone around the world again. Read the message.



" _____

 _____ : _____ 2, NIV

Answers: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." JOHN 8:12, NIV

[KID0106A]

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