

# Friedens Annual Congregational Meeting

## Pastor's Report

December 3, 2023

As we began our church year we addressed the continual challenge of ordained clergy's availability for presiding over the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I discussed the early church's presence in America. The same concern arose when six and seven churches shared a pastor. When the circuit pastor arrived on your "turn" that's when you celebrated the eucharist. As we talked with one another on church council, heard some options, matters settled and Pastor Kistler committed to Friedens once a month.

This past Ash Wednesday we held true to Friedens / Trinity Covenant as we worshipped at Friedens providing the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. Conversation evolved regarding cooperation between St. James, Friedens, and Trinity as we prepared for Maundy Thursday. Affirming St. James presence in the Parish all congregations agreed to worship at St. James for that most sacred evening with Pastor Rothermel preaching.

As conversations of more and more cooperative ministry unfolded, early in the year at a Parish Meeting I affirmed with all congregations and pastors present an offer to continue to provide confirmation and first communion instruction which was approved by the laity and the clergy who were present. As the year proceeded we provided confirmation instruction for fifteen candidates. A culmination of the 2022 and 2023 candidates occurred on May 21 when we confirmed

Your Hope Bruso

Jaxson Bruso

Owen Wolfgang

Lucas Schwartz

Blake Schwartz

Dawson Neugard

Anson Lenker

Gavin Klock

over

Presently we have enrolled eleven candidates. Among them you will find

Your Ayla Allvord

Hayze Hornung

Dylan Klock

Brody Wolfgang

Emma Oprey/ St. James

Austin Wolfgang / St. James

Christian Education took shape and form over the course of September and October as I taught five classes for our first communion candidates who completed the course and received their first communion on October 29, 2023.

Mia Henningsen

Olivia Herb

Cameron Henningsen

We gathered three people from each congregation and discussed the viability of cooperation as we worked toward securing a pastor. All congregations gave the go ahead. Councils were brought into the conversations. Call committees came together and conversed over unifying yet maintaining individual identities. Seems like very cooperative homework took place as the clergy candidates' package was procured. Profile meetings reviewed the candidates, along with interviews now ;the process is proceeding.

I took a month's pastor's report for church council and read a reflection by a very successful pastor who wrote that with all the sacred and serious work a pastor does what we do is fun. Yes, we do it because we have fun serving and no truer words were ever shared.

Respectfully submitted ,

The Rev. Lee A. Defenderfer