December Newsletter

Connect with Us

The Rev. Lee R. Gable, Pastor

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Upcoming Events

- **December 2** - Razzle Dazzle in Dike
- **December 9** - 6:30 - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class
- **December 13** - Christmas program & Dancing around the Christmas Tree
- **December 16** - 6:30 - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class
- **December 19** - Advent Open House
- **December 24** - Christmas Eve
  - Office Closed
  - 5:00 pm Candlelight worship
- **December 25** -Christmas
  - Office Closed
- **January 1** - New Years Day
  - Office Closed

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship

5:00 pm

DECEMBER 2026

Birthdays

Madison Staker- 1
Kellie Shoemaker- 2
Bryn Petersen- 4
Kristen Staker- 4
Marvin Folkerts- 6
Kennedy Syhlman- 10
Merlin Freese- 10
Linda Nielsen- 10
Emma Staker- 10
Nora Faust- 13
Kristine Cipressi- 14
Patricia (Welter) Johnson- 14
Jean Loger- 15
Karli Lotts- 18
Trisha Weichers- 18
Cooper Bakker- 19
Duane Mueller- 20
Nicholas Reinicke- 20
Sutton Six- 21
Ryan Nuss- 22
Carlene Stage- 23
Kathryn Petersen Hinds- 24
Brenda Cooper- 25
Waylon Syhlman- 26
Steve Nielsen- 29
Kevin Pruisner- 29
Abby Brekke- 29
Kathy Folkerts- 29
Doug Dall- 31
Megan Griffith- 31

Anniversaries

Larry & Jeanne Guthrie- 15
Roy & Audrey Stefan- 27
Eric & Darla Andersen- 29
Jim & Jannan Marx- 29

Prayer List

- Jim Loger
  - recuperating at home
- Letha Petersen
  - recovering from fall
- Carol Watson
  - health concerns
- Angie Wibben
  - recovering from sugery

These names were received by the church from the individual or their family and have consented to have their names released to the Fredsville congregation. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office (319-989-2065) to be included in our weekly prayers or contact Pastor Lee.

Pastoral Pondering .... What shape is your generosity taking?

If your inbox and mailbox are anything like mine you are beginning to see the requests for end of the year support arrive. The church is one among many of the organizations that are doing a variety of good work in our local community, across the country and around the world. In a season of need, generosity can take a variety of shapes. It is a great gift to offer and receive.

I have experienced Generosity to be one of the primary focuses of our ministry at Fredsville. We are deeply grateful for the finical gifts you provide that support the day-to-day operation of our congregation. Utility bills, paper, coffee, salaries, and fruit snacks (*for the kids of course*) may not be exciting but they are essential to the work we do together as Fredsville, caring for people and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Thank you for your support*.

You embrace generosity not only in the ways you support this congregation, but you go further to support the community and other partners in ministry year-round. I love how you embrace the work of House of Hope to honor Mother's Day in May. Then follow-up by supporting the work of the Salvation Army Men's Shelter in honor of Father's Day. We have dedicated seasons of giving to the work of The Humane Society, Lutheran Services in Iowa. During Lent we gather items to assemble Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief and so many quilts and pillowcase dresses. We assemble College Care Packages to share a bit of joy with students. The Little Free Pantry helps keep people fed. Then there are the meals you help provide. Meals for Teachers, Meals for Funerals, Meals on Wheels, and Danish Strips to bring the joy of community.

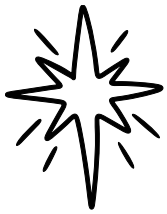
The Community benefits from your generosity, the Angel Tree returns this year. The Farm Endowment Fund makes a big difference. We received a great gift in this land and this congregation stewards this gift through hearts of generosity, making sure it continues to benefit others in the future. The Fredsville Endowment Fund has reached countless lives with generosity shaped by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We provide scholarships for students, and financial support to organizations across the Cedar Valley and beyond. Your generosity makes a positive impact in the lives of others near and far.

There are so many ways you can continue to offer time, financial support, and love. There is a lot of need in the world right now. In this season of giving and receiving may you live generously and share the love of God in the ways you are able. You are making a difference. Thank you Fredsville Family.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always...

Pastor Lee





A Word From Fredsville's Council President

He Calls You to be Joyful and Thankful



In November and December, my emotions are up and down . Even though the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays bring sadness with missing those who are now in Heaven, I choose to smile. Even through tears and missing them beyond words, I choose joy. But most of all, I choose to be thankful. My life has been shaped and memories created because they were in my life. During this season, I wish for all of Fredsville, a special season of remembrance and a wonderful time of rejoicing in our greatest gift of all - the birth of Jesus.

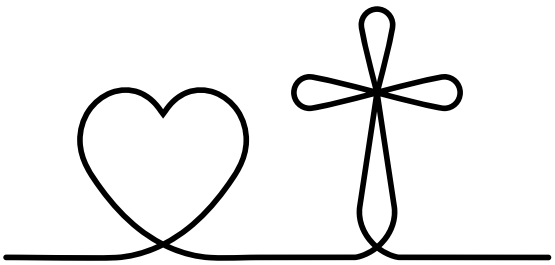
Philippians 4:4 reminds us about rejoicing. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice." Another scripture many of us are familiar with is Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it".

I know the month of December can sometimes become busy with shopping, wrapping, Christmas gatherings and all the things we feel we need to get done, But let's not get caught up in the hustle and bustle that we forget what this season is truly about. God wants us to experience joy often. He calls us to be thankful for many things including our families,our friendships and all of the everything around us.

Christmas is more than decorations, gifts, and traditions. It is a celebration of God's incredible love for us - a love so great that He sent His Son into the world to bring us hope and peace. As 2026 comes to an end, I want to let each and every one know how thankful I am for you and how I love to rejoice and praise God with you.

Merry Christmas!
God's Peace!

Amy Camarata
President, Fredsville Lutheran Church



FREDSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

Date: Sunday, November 22, 2026

Attendance: Pastor Lee Gable, Linda Nielsen (Treasurer), Wanda Nielsen, Roy Stefan, Amy Camarata, Keene Petersen, Amanda Bakker, Jodi Bergmann, & Gary Koenen. **Absent**: Tony Norton & Abby Brekke.

Call to Order: President Amy Camarata called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor opened with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Nielsen presented the financials.

As of October 31, 2026

- General Fund: $50,809.87
- Building Fund: $7,678.74
- Memorial Fund: $11,528.33

Secretary's Report:

- Previously reviewed and approved by the Council via email.

Old Business Discussed:

- Facility Use Policy: Council has received clarification, and a revision was made to the policy as previously discussed. An update to the fees section for clarity is being completed and the policy will be approved by council members electronically.

New Business Discussed:

- The Endowment Committee's allocation of funds for fall 2026 was presented by Pastor. Council discussed, reviewed and approved of the allocations set.
- Treasurer, Linda Nielsen, presented the proposed 2027 budget. The budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and recommended to Council. The 2027 proposed budget compared to the 2026 budget was discussed and reviewed by Council. Gary Koenen made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Wanda Nielsen, motion carried.
- Annual Meeting date(s) were discussed and set:
  - Annual Meeting: February 21, 2027
  - Snow make-up date (if needed), February 28, 2027

Updates and Upcoming Reminders:

- We will have 3 spots to fill on Council. Please reach out to any council member if you are feeling moved to serve on Council.
- Christmas Eve is coming up. Council has agreed to keep the service time to 5 pm.
- Property Committee: The committee received window estimates for the Sunday School rooms. Also being discussed is the HVAC for the Fellowship Hall. They are looking at new units that will both heat and cool. These would be the same units that were installed in the sanctuary. Lastly, they're reviewing and discussing the curb and gutter along the road parking.

Pastor Report: A full Pastor's report is available as an attachment in the Secretary's Notebook.

- October was a full month. Pastor presided over a wedding, the confirmation of four Fredsville students, and attended an Eagle Scout ceremony, all of which was in the same weekend.
- Pastor assisted two of our neighboring congregations while their pastors were on vacation. He presided at funerals for both families. Pastor also led devotions at Westview Estates in Reinbeck and continues with home and care facility visits.
- Confirmation is a highlight in our education ministry. Pastor reports the students are engaged and joyfully participating in class. Sunday school is gearing up for their Christmas program to be held on December 13th, and pastor will be assisting in bringing the story and traditions of St Lucia from his home congregation to ours.
- Pastor, along with a small group from Fredsville, attended the President's dinner at Wartburg Theological Seminary. This event was a "Thank You" event for those who financially support WTS.
- Pastor agreed to host a table at Dike Razzle Dazzle, representing Fredsville on December 2nd. Let him know if you would like to help and attend that evening.

Closing Prayer: Council concluded the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 27th, 2026 – Following Worship

Respectfully Submitted: Amanda Bakker, Council Secretary

Thank You Notes

Fredsville Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministires. Your support allows ThreeHouse to maintain a safe, loving and nurturing environment for UNI students and other young adults in the community.

Thanks to you, ThreeHouse is able to provide meals for students, supportive bible studies, and worship services that allow students to examine and stremgthen their faith.

Your friend at ThreeHouse



Danish Strips

As we share our love this upcoming Christmas season let us not forget our friends who we don't see often. If you would like to help make or deliver Danish strips to our shut ins and people who have experienced health and life-changing situations this year please sign up in the gathering space or contact Jean Loger.



Danish Cookbooks

Looking to buy a special gift for someone for the Holidays? We will be selling our Danish Cookbooks. If you are interest please see Ashley, if you are unable to stop by when she is in the office, please send her an email at fredsville@fredsvilleluthern.org. The cost of the cookbook will be $30.

The Angel Tree Is Back!

The Angel Tree is back, and this year we are supporting a wonderful new recipient: Christmas in Grundy County!

We invite you to join us in spreading Christmas joy by donating toys, gift cards, or money. You can also volunteer your time to help make this special event a success. Be sure to check out the books for sale near the Angel Tree, too!

What is Christmas in Grundy County?

Christmas in Grundy County is a one-day event that gives parents who may be experiencing financial challenges the opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts for their own children. Volunteers from area churches, communities throughout Grundy County, and Operation Threshold come together to make this possible.

The Christmas Store will be held at the Grundy Center Community Center. This special event allows parents to personally select gifts for their children, helping preserve their dignity and the joy of giving.

How Can You Help?

- Donate Toys: Please bring new, unwrapped toys.
- Donate Gift Cards: Help families purchase gifts for their children.
- Give Financially: Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.
- Volunteer: Help make the Christmas Store a success!



<u>Important Deadline: Sunday, December 6</u>

All toy donations, gift cards, and financial contributions need to be received by Sunday, December 6. We will also have a special offering that Sunday.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact Melissa Loger at 319-939-5957, or complete the volunteer form located in the gathering space and place it in the Gift Bag. Payment for books may also be placed in the Gift Bag.

Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ and bring joy, hope, and Christmas blessings to families in our community!



Fredsville Endowment Committee Fall Grants



The Fredsville Endowment Committee met on November 2 and a total of $26,400 was granted to 13 charities.

Beyond Pink TEAM $500	Dike Community Food Pantry $500	Do Better Be Better $500
House of Hope $1,900	Love INC of the Cedar Valley $500	Lutheran Services in Iowa $1,000
NE Iowa Food Bank $2,000	New Hartford Community Church $500	Peoples Community Health Clinic $1,000
ThreeHouse Ministires $1,000	UNI Panther Pantry $500	Eye on Grace Foundation $3,000
Fredsville Little Food Pantry $500		



Fredsville College Scholarships Awarded



Fredsville Scholarships of $1,000 each were awarded to 13 college students to be applied to their spring college expenses.



College Care Packages

Signup to bring items for our College Care Packages. There is a google document in the weekly updates and hard copy in the gathering area. Items will be due back to Beth Petersen by Sunday December 6th. We have containers on and under the table in the gathering space to put your items in.





Baptism November 22

Korby Karlie Nank





Pie Sunday





LOOKING AHEAD









December 13 - Kid's Christmas Program & Dancing arournd the Christmas Tree

Fellowship following worships with Maidrites, Tatter tots, baked beans, will be provided Please bring salads and sweets to share!



January 6 - Epiphany Party!

Wow! Looking ahead! Everyone is invited to join the confirmation students as we celebrate Epiphany with a party!!! January 6 - 6:30 p.m. Spaghetti casserole and beverage will be provided; guests please provide a side dish - salad, breadsticks, dessert.

Weather date...following worship on January 10.

Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent **Blue**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Isaiah 40:1-11 -** Good news of God's coming to a people in exile
- **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** - Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)
- **2 Peter 3:8-15a -** Waiting for and hastening the day of God
- **Mark 1:1-8** - John appears from the wilderness

Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent **Blue**

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** - Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden
- **Psalm 126** - The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** - Kept in faith until the coming of Christ
- **John 1:6-8, 19-28** - A witness to the light

Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent Blue

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 -** The Lord's promise to David
- **Luke 1: 46b- 55** - You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)
- **Romans 16:25-27 -** The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ
- **Luke 1:26-38** - The angel appears to Mary

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve White

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Isaiah 9:2-7 -** Light shines: a child is born for us
- **Psalm 96** - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)
- **Titus 2:11-14 -** The grace of God has appeared
- **Luke 2:1-14** - God with us

Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas **White**

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Isaiah 61:10-62:3** - Clothed in garments of salvation
- **Psalm 148** - The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)
- **Galatians 4:4-7** - Children and heirs of God
- **Luke 2:22-40** - The presentation of the child

Sunday, January 3 - Second Sunday of Christmas **White**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Jeremiah 31:7-14** - Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock
- **Psalm 147:12-20** - Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)
- **Ephesians 1:3-14** - The will of God made known in Christ
- **John 1:1-18** - God with us: the incarnation of the Word

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study 9:00 am	2 Razzle Dazzle in Dike	3 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	7	8 Bible Study 9:00 am Pillowcase Dresses 12:00-4:00 pm	9 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm	10 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 Worship 9:30 am **Children's Christmas Play** Sunday School 10:30 am	14	15 Bible Study 9:00 am	16 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm	17 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 OPEN HOUSE 2-4 pm Fredsville Parsonage
20 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	21	22 Bible Study 9:00 am	23	24 **Office Closed** Christmas Eve **5:00 pm Candlelight Worship**	25 **Office Closed** Merry Christmas	26
27 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am **Council Meeting**	28 Fancy Fingers 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	29 Bible Study 9:00 am	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	Epiphany Party January 6, 2027	

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