



Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial

Located in Friedenber, MO

A Ministry of Concordia Historical Institute

2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Hill of Peace,

It is good to be able to praise the Lord with our three yearly services. Our attendance continues to increase and the church is full of song again.

“A Service in Anticipation of Easter” was held on March 26, 2023.



The service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink. “A Fifteen-Point Sermon on How to Properly Consider Meditating on the Holy Suffering of Christ” Martin Luther, 1519.” Darlene Kiefer was the organist, with the Immanuel Lutheran Men’s Choir, directed by Eric Seibel, and accompanied by Janet Seibel. Fellowship followed in the Church Hall.



After much discussion it was decided to find someone interested in the purchasing the old Frankenberg Heritage Cabin on the Hill of Peace property. The wooden shake roof has leaked for many years causing some of boards to rot. It had become a liability. There was the possibility of someone getting hurt on the property, which was a concern. We checked a few years ago and it was going to cost around \$27,000 to repair the roof and replace some of the boards. The Hill of Peace Advisory Committee felt the maintenance of the historic church and church hall was a priority. Danny Kiefer contacted Mark Pratt, of

Antique Logs and he offered \$1,500 to buy the cabin, dismantle it, haul off all debris, and smooth out the lot. The Hill of Peace Advisory Board, with the approval of Concordia Historical Society, voted to sell the cabin to Mr. Pratt. There was one additional bid of \$500 which did not include cleaning up the lot.



On a very sad note, Mr. Eric Seibel, long time Director of the Immanuel Lutheran Men's Choir in Perryville, (a wonderful man) passed away on June 5, 2023. He will be remembered for greeting everyone with "Good Morning!" no matter the time of day, his service to the community, mentoring demeanor, quick wit, and easy laugh. He was a man of strong Christian faith, a devoted husband and father, and an inspiring music educator. The Perry County Community, especially the youth whom he taught a love of music, were so fortunate to have had him in their lives. He will be missed.

"Harvest Festival Service" was held on October 8, 2023.



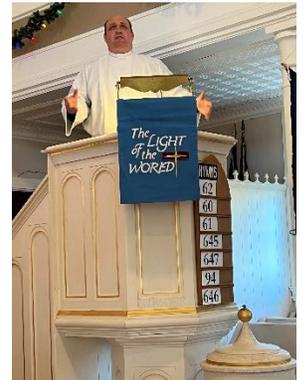
The service was conducted by the Rev. Joseph Schlie, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Missouri, and the Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink, Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute. The organist was Darlene Kiefer. Special music was by the Immanuel Lutheran Men's Choir under the direction of Kantor Nathan Steele and accompanied by Janet Siebel. Fellowship and good food followed the service.



"A Service of Readings and Carols" was held on December 3, 2023,



conducted by Seminarian Michael R. Wilke and the Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink, Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute. Seminarian Wilke's sermon was titled "Three Christmases: Past, Present, and Yet to Come" (Luke 2). It was a very inspiring sermon. His participation was greatly appreciated. The Immanuel, Perryville Men's Choir performed under the direction of Kantor



Nathan Steele accompanied by Janet Seibel. Organist Darlene Kiefer was on the Hill of Peace Church organ. Fellowship in the church hall followed the service. Bev Erdman's beautiful flower arrangements adorned the altar, as they have for many years. Thanks to Bev for providing the beautiful flowers, the Board for decorating the old church, and the ladies and gentleman for their delicious deserts.



On December 14th and 15th, the annual Perry County Church Tour was held. Our beautiful old Hill of Peace Church was #2 on the tour. Visitors commented how beautiful the old church was and they especially liked the smell of the cedar tree with its homemade ornaments, paper angels garland, and the tinsel. Many said it brought back memories of their past Christmas celebrations. The weather was perfect and the tour brought over 600 people to the Hill of Peace Church. If you have not taken the tour, consider doing so. In addition to visiting Hill of Peace Church, there are 38 other churches on the tour.



Hill of Peace Advisory Committee has decided to replace the broken concrete in front of the church. The plans are to use a light stamping to make it look more like the era of the old church. Any monetary help will be appreciated. The church roof has been repaired, painted inside and out, and windows sealed. The replacement of the concrete should complete the more costly repairs.

Thanks to all for your help without it we could not have completed the necessary repairs.

You are invited to attend the **2024** services and fellowship:

Service in Anticipation of Easter	March	17th
Harvest Festival Service	October	13th
Service of Readings and Carols	December	1st

Dear Friends of Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial:

For the last few months, we've been emphasizing the importance of being thankful for God's good gifts—God's good gifts graciously given to us, our families, and our church families. One of those good and gracious gifts is Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial. Thanks to countless hours by the Advisory Committee and other volunteers, the Church and Parish Hall have never looked better. And we are doubly thankful for your continued attendance at the Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter services; for your singing and participation in the worship services and fellowship after. We are especially thankful for the musical offerings by Darlene Kiefer and the Immanuel Lutheran Church Men's Choir.

The ministry of Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial is to encourage a deeper appreciation and thanks for the rich Lutheran history and heritage the church and parish hall preserve and proclaim. The Friedenbergs congregation was the "mother church" for several other congregations (some are still with us and some have subsequently been disbanded). As a historically German Bavarian congregation Friedenbergs is unique among the historical sites in Perry County and the Saint Louis region.

As we begin a new year under the care of our merciful Lord, let us pray for thankful and joyful hearts—even among our daily challenges and struggles. And I ask that you continue to be generous in your prayers and financial support of Hill of Peace Lutheran Memorial. It takes more resources than you might think to keep this as a shining historical treasure for the benefit of our children and our children's children.

God's richest blessings in Christ,

Daniel N. Harmelink

*The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink, Executive Director
Concordia Historical Institute*

(Turn Over For Page#4)

Friedenberg History

February 1918

September 1935

October 1940

Friedenberg Parish School Have Flag Raising

The Young People's Society of the Lutheran Congregation at Friedenberg recently decided to present to the Lutheran School of Friedenberg a large United States Flag in honor of the boys who have graduated from this school and are now serving their flag in the army or navy. This flag was hoisted for the first time last Wednesday and is now floating from a 35 foot pole. The first hoisting of the flag was attended with appropriate ceremonies, the school children rendering a number of patriotic songs. In an address made by the pastor of the Friedenberg congregation to the members of the Young People's Society and the school children after dwelling for some time on the history and the meaning of "Old Glory" it was pointed out that the Lutheran Schools of our country are a bulwark of true patriotism. The Lutheran Schools, while their purpose is to teach the children the fear of the Lord and the way to salvation, are eminently capable of implanting true patriotism into the hearts of Young America, intrusted to their care. "We teach" it was said, "our children in our schools to be patriotic, i. e. to obey the government and to seek our country's welfare, not because it is expedient to do so, not because otherwise our co-citizens would frown upon us, but because the Lord demands it in His word. Our children are taught that they must be subject to that government which rules over them and protects them; that they must be loyal, obedient and patriotic Americans, that they must pay their taxes promptly and support their government in peace and in war to the full extent of their ability.

Although we have not expected it to be otherwise yet we are proud of the fact that throughout our country the graduates from the Lutheran Schools have shown themselves loyal when called to the colors. Many thousand Lutheran boys are now serving in France and in the camps at home.

A chaplain of our army recently reported that amongst 35,000 boys at Camp Grant (Rockford, Illinois), he located 3,940 Lutheran boys, serving as privates and officers.

In fact, we have not heard of a single graduate from a Lutheran School throughout the Union who has been disloyal or has refused to serve his country."

BRIEF HISTORY OF FRIENBERG CHURCH

The following brief history of the Friedenberg Ev. Church, was compiled by the pastor, Rev. Wm. Gieselmann.

The beginning of the Friedenberg congregation dates back to about 1842, when the Rev. C. F. Gruber, Sr., of Uniontown began preaching in the neighborhood. The services were held in the homes of the members, mostly, however, in the home of Ferdinand Bergmann. Thirteen of these families organized the congregation in 1844 and called as their first pastor the Rev. E. O. Wolff. In 1846 the first church building was erected, a small log building, one mile north of the cemetery. Of those baptized in this church only one member is still with the congregation, Mike Springer, 87 years old.

Due to emigration the congregation was compelled to build a new and larger church in 1852. It was built on land donated by Grandpa Ochs, on the site of the present cemetery. Mrs. Barbara Hoehn and Mr. John Hacker, still living, were the first children baptized in the new church.

When in 1859 the Farrar congregation was organized, the then pastor of Friedenberg, was given permission to preach at Farrar every fourth Sunday. During the Rev. Gruber's pastorate, in 1861, the church became a member of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states which had been organized in 1847. The first teacher for its church school was called in 1861.

In June, 1866, while the Rev. Besel served the congregation, a number of members were released to organize the Lutheran congregation of Ferryville.

In 1874 the congregation began to relocate its church property by erecting a school and a teacher's home at Friedenberg. The school was placed in charge of Mr. Emerich.

In November of 1884 it was resolved to build a new church at Friedenberg which resolution was carried out the following year. The cost of the church was approximately \$4,000 which amount had been paid upon the completion of the building. It was dedicated on the 27th day of September, 1885. The present year therefore brings the golden jubilee of the church, which the congregation will observe this coming Sunday.

The following year the Rev. H. Guehmer became pastor of the congregation and served for twenty-six years, or until 1912. During his time, in 1897, the members living to the southeast were given permission

to organize the Lutheran congregation of Longtown.

The 75th anniversary of the congregation's existence was appropriately celebrated on Sept 7, 1919.

In February of 1922 a ladies aid was organized by the then pastor, the Rev. R. Rook. This organization has been a boon to the congregation, as they have financed most of the improvements made in the last years. The new parsonage was built in 1923 and dedicated in January of 1924. The present pastor, the Rev. Wm. Gieselmann, was installed in March, 1925.

The following thirteen pastors have served the congregation: Rev. E. O. Wolff 1844-1849, 1851-1856; Rev. E. Reissner 1850; Rev. Theo. Gruber, Jr., 1856-1863; Rev. Fr. Besel 1863-1872; Rev. O. F. Vogt 1872-1876; Rev. Holtermann 1876-1881; Rev. Weber 1881-1886; Rev. H. Guehmer 1886-1912; Rev. Joseph Schoech 1912-1919; Rev. R. Freche 1919-1920; Rev. R. Rook 1920-1925; Rev. Wm. Gieselmann 1925.

During the 91 years of the congregation's existence 1160 were baptized; 650 confirmed, 192 married, 25,725 communed, 454 buried.

The following constitute the present board of officers: Pastor, the Rev. Wm. Gieselmann; Elders, Messrs. Gustave Ochs, Charles Hacker, Charles Springer; Trustees, Messrs. Carl Bergmann, Ernst Ochs, Martin Oswald; secretary, Adolph Ochs; Organist, Elmer Meyer; janitor, Ferdinand Hoehn.

CROSTOWN NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mehner and baby were down from St. Louis last week visiting their parents. They returned home Sunday evening. Mr. Mehner is employed by General Motors.

Mrs. John Wahlers went to St. Louis last Sunday evening. She will make her home with her daughters in St. Louis.

Mrs. Cora Kaempfe went to St. Louis Monday to witness the big Legion parade and other festivities.

Glennon Grimaud this week started a bus service to Perryville, carrying about 22 children who are attending Ferryville High School.

On Sunday, September 29, there will be English services, with Holy Communion, at the Zion Lutheran church. Services will begin at 9 o'clock and will be conducted by the pastor, the Rev. A. M. Bruss.

Ely Sandlin is night watchman for the Frisco this week, substituting for Leslie Swank, who is attending the Legion convention in St. Louis.

Farmers of this section are hauling sugar cane to the Jos. Stueve mill at Farrar, this week.

Full Attendance at Conference at Friedenberg

28 Pastors of Cape Girardeau and Perry Counties at Sessions Oct. 7-8-9.

A full attendance, comprising 28 Lutheran pastors of Cape Girardeau, attended a three-day conference at Friedenberg last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Visitors at the meeting were the Rev. Gieselmann of Kimmiswick former pastor of the Friedenberg church, the Rev. Ernst Mueller of Uniontown, a missionary, and the Rev. E. Koerber of Springfield, Mo.

The Biblical position of the Christian in civil affairs, a very timely subject, was thoroughly discussed the discussions centering about the Sixteenth Article of the Augsburg Confession, one of the confessions of the Lutheran Church, on which the Rev. G. B. Seboldt of Gordonville had prepared an instructive essay.

He stated that all orderly and established governments in this world are good works of God and are ordained by Him. Accordingly, they must be obeyed unless they should tell the Christian to do things forbidden in God's world. It was furthermore pointed out that only the citizen's bodily, material welfare comes under the control of the state, not the spiritual or soul welfare.

The essayist showed why Christians should take an active interest in civil affairs, use the ballot, seek public office, and above all pray for wise and prudent government, for "the gospel does not overthrow civil government, but penetrates and sanctifies it."

Much time also was devoted to the youth program of the Church, and to synodical matters as presented by Pastor Paul Koenig, President of the Western District of the Missouri Synod.

Varipus doctrinal and practical matters were discussed in essays by Pastors Vogel, Hafner, Hemmann, Wittrock Dippold and Strickert.

Wednesday night, a pastoral service was conducted, in which the Rev. O. Hemmann of Longtown delivered the sermon. All pastors partook of holy communion.