

Watch out! It is coming! Hold on to your hats and your thoughts!

What's coming is a time of visioning for our congregation! Right now a Visioning Task Force is planning small group gatherings for the month of March to seek to discern where God is calling us to go as we finish the CMC project and move forward in mission and ministry.

Remember when we started the building project over ten years ago? We had many small group gatherings to give prayerful thought and discussion to what God desired us to do as a congregation. At that time through discernment we moved forward to be a "progressive" church that was eager to reach out to the community and we needed an expanded facility to do so. It was through those early meetings that the name for the building - "Community Ministry Center" - was agreed upon. The name was to reflect our desire as a congregation to engage the community together in mission and ministry.

As the early years of the building project went by we had a few rounds of small group meetings. We gathered to discuss what shape the building should take. We gathered to brainstorm what ministries we envisioned would possibly happen and so how the CMC should be laid out. During those small group meetings dozens of people of all ages came out to share their thoughts and to hear the comments of other members.

Now by fall 2012 the CMC mortgage should be paid off. We have built the building and will have soon finished the "paper work" of paying off the debt. Thanks be to God! We have done it in record time and in ways that have strengthened and expanded our congregation's ministries. We are by no means "little Friedens." We are a thriving and growing congregation in whose facility the lights are on most nights of the week with activities occurring for both the congregation and community.

So now what? Where is God calling us to go? What is God calling us to do? On the one hand it would be easy to "sit back" and enjoy what we have accomplished remember the "good old days" of meetings, work nights, and achievements. But, if we did we would soon become a "maintenance" church rather than "progressive." We would soon become a "rear view mirror" congregation always looking back rather than a forward thinking and visioning church.

So watch for the details coming to you through the bulletin and correspondence in the weeks ahead. You will be invited to attend a small group gathering. There will be discussions. There will be a questionnaire we are urging all members to fill out. We are trying to even get it online for those away from here. We are eager to have your prayerful input as we seek God's guidance for our next steps together in ministry.

We give thanks to God for all the way in which He has led us through this expansion project! Every step of the way He provided more than enough time, skills, and money to make the vision of the CMC into a reality. Now we are asking you to hold up in your prayers the question:

- God now what do you desire Friedens Lutheran Church to be about?
- God where do you desire to us to go in mission and ministry?

Pray! Listen! Come out to your small group gathering and share your thoughts as desire to move together in Christ's ministry!

The Visioning Task Force