

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

October 2017



500 years ago (on October 31st, 1517) Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. It was this simple protest that began the Protestant Reformation and forever changed the course of church history.

The Ninety-Five Theses are mostly concerned with the practice of selling indulgences. Indulgences were a form of guaranteed forgiveness that could be sold to a Christian for a specific sum of money. At the time of Martin Luther, the church was quite literally selling God's forgiveness. But it must be recognized that the practice of selling indulgences came from a theology where the church controlled access to the forgiveness of sins.

And so, in his theses, Martin Luther directs his attention to the theology of forgiveness that made the sale of indulgences possible. He argues that true repentance is not administered by the clergy. Therefore, not even the Pope can forgive sins that God has not already forgiven. Additionally, those who buy indulgences are less likely to seek true repentance (because of poor motivations and a false sense of security) so their purchase leaves them even more trapped in sin than before.

These arguments infuriated the Pope and all those who profited from the sale of indulgences. The next year, Martin Luther was threatened with arrest, but he fled from church officials. In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated – cut off from church life and denied access to forgiveness. Next came the famous Diet of Worms (a General Assembly of German rulers that met in Worms Germany) at which Luther dramatically refused to recant his teachings. He said:

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.”

Luther was found guilty of heresy, his writings were banned, it was made illegal to give him food or shelter, and the rulers in Germany declared that anyone who killed Martin Luther would receive protection from the law. It was a dire moment for the Reformation. But Luther escaped from Worms and began to disseminate his teachings through his writings – gradually expanding his influence to subject beyond indulgences, translating the Bible into German, authoring a number of hymns, and eventually founding a new denomination.

In 1567, fifty years after the Ninety-Five Theses, the Catholic Church stopped the sale of indulgences. 400 years after that, in the Second Vatican Council, Luther won the day again when the Catholic Church recommended that priests should normally conduct the mass in the local language, rather than in Latin. Martin Luther influenced the whole Christian faith – not just Protestants – with his life and teachings.

And so this month, 500 years after Martin Luther's first protest, we remember his courage and conscience and seek to continually advance this Reformation.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

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## Where are they now?

Our visit today reaches to Crete, Nebraska where we visited with Carolyn Greene Wieland and her husband, Ron Wieland. This family has many branches that have developed in the history of the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. These branches reach back to Carolyn's great-grandparents, Warren and Edith Dankle and branches out to include Carolyn's grandparents, Leah and Wendall Greene. Further growth occurred as Richard and Donna Greene were also members of the church. So, Carolyn and Ron and family were, at least, the fourth generation of members of First Presbyterian.

Carolyn Greene entered this world on December 9, 1957 as she joined her older sister Jacqueline Greene Mason. She was born at Mary Greeley Hospital and lived in Ames, Iowa a short time prior to moving to Glidden. She entered kindergarten in Glidden and was taught by Mrs. Legore. She enjoyed Mrs. Gregory as a first grade teacher and recalls with fondness her bus trips to Ralston for her fourth grade education. Carolyn enjoyed her days at school and the exposure to new ideas.

Junior High and high school increased the speed of learning and it also increased the activities in Carolyn's life. She became involved in band, chorus, swing choir, swing shows, choral reading, speech and drama. As a high schooler she qualified for the state speech contest all four years and received a one rating each year. Carolyn's preferred subjects were English taught by Mrs. Marilyn Jepson and Biology taught by Mr. Barry Brandt. In band Carolyn played the flute and was drum majorette. She received several awards in school including outstanding female actress, Iowa Bar Citizenship award, along with other awards. A great memory for Carolyn and the entire Glidden Community happened in the fall of 1975 when Carolyn was a senior. She recalls with fondness the State Championship Football team and how it brought the community together. In addition to school, extracurricular and teenage activities Carolyn and Jacquie loved helping at Greene's Market, which was owned and operated by Grandpa and Grandma Greene.



Time moved on and so did Carolyn as she enrolled in Buena Vista University for one year and in the summer of 1977 she attended a wedding and met Ron Wieland. They dated nearly two years and were married September 2, 1978 at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden with Rev. Scott Burkley officiating. At most weddings there are some hiccups and many go unnoticed. It seems that Pastor Burkley was rather new at his job and asked Ron to place the ring on Carolyn's finger and repeat after him. When it came time for Carolyn to place the ring on Ron's finger Pastor Burkley skipped this part and went on with the ceremony. Carolyn did her part and quietly placed the ring on Ron's finger without instruction. Carolyn said, "It was

very hot the day of the wedding, the church was not air conditioned and maybe Scott just wanted to move the ceremony along".

While in Glidden the Wieland's two children were born. Angela was born June, 1979 and Natalie was born on December 28, 1981. Both of these young girls attended Sunday school and church. Ron worked at Juergen's Produce and

Kloser Seed prior to joining up with Farmland Foods. After a short stint at the Carroll plant, Ron was transferred to the Farmland Plant in Crete, Nebraska where he has been in several supervisory positions and most recently a position as a process scheduler. Ron has been employed at Farmland Foods, now Smithfield, for the past 40 years.

Once the two children grew, Carolyn accepted a job in the Admission Office at Doane University in Crete. Doane University has an enrollment of one thousand students. Carolyn fills many jobs in the office from processing applications, admitting students, reviewing academic scholarships plus supervising 55 student ambassadors who give tours of the University and answers questions of new students. Carolyn works a twelve month year and has been employed at Doane for the past 24 years. In the past, Carolyn has traveled with the girls' volleyball team as a chaperon which drew her close to these young women.

Earlier we mentioned the two children who both have graduated from Doane. Angela has received her Master's degree and is an Instructional Coach in Grand Island. Angela and husband, Patrick Harder have two

children, a daughter Riley 14 years of age and a son Kaden 10 years of age. The youngest daughter, Natalie has received two Masters Degrees and teaches in the special education department at Elkhorn, Nebraska. Natalie and her husband, Brandon Shirley have two children, a son Austen who is twelve years of age and a son Kyler seventeen months of age.

The Wieland's keep busy with work, grandchildren, following sporting events, restoring old furniture, yard work and packing garden supplies for winter. They have served on the church board, golf course board as members of the local country club. They are members of the United Church of Christ. They do like to travel and in July of this year the entire family went on a cruise to the Bahamas and followed it up with a stop at Universal Studios where they visited Harry Potter's World.

Carolyn has great memories of Glidden including school, swimming pool and swim team, Greene's Market, Swedes Café roller skating and ice skating on the flooded tennis court at the park.

We closed out our conversation with Carolyn by asking about their future. They are discussing retirement but a time remains an option. They plan to continue work, involve themselves with grandchildren, do some traveling, and enjoy family and friends.

It was great to make contact with these church friends of the past and learn of their blessed life. We wish them Gods speed as they travel the future.

## October Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1<sup>st</sup>-Bridget Draves
- 1<sup>st</sup>-Brooke Draves
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Mark Conner
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Mary Haselton
- 6<sup>th</sup>-Oliver Conner
- 12<sup>th</sup>-Gordon Cose
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Ty Cose
- 20<sup>th</sup>-Loretta Hansen
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Ethan Mueggenberg
- 28<sup>th</sup>-Roy and Marge Middaugh Anniversary



### **Speedy Recovery:**

To Marlene Sherwin on her recovery from back surgery. Prayers are with you.

### **Sympathy:**

To Bill and Elaine Crawford on the death of Bill's mother. May she be accepted with open arms into the Kingdom of God.

## *Kudos Korner:*

*\* Jane Burdine for painting the north exterior metal door on the church building.*

*\*To all who contributed in any or all ways for the installation of storm windows over the past few years. This adds to the exterior appearance of the church.*

*\*To volunteers who helped package meals from the Heartland in late August. They were Pastor Brian, Abby Stoner, Gordon Cose, Diane Thelin, and Suzy Danner.*

*\*To Weston Conner and Emily Naylor on their marriage on September 23, 2017 in Pleasantville, Iowa. May they enjoy a great life together.*

*\*And many blessings to our wonderful Sunday School teachers as they embark on a new year.*

## **Announcements**

**\*Sunday School is back!**

All classes will meet at 9:30am

Adults will be at the United Methodist Church

Students / Children will be at the Presbyterian Church

**\*CE meets on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, after church at the United Methodist Church**

**\*Parish Life meets on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm**

**\*PW meets on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at Napoli's in Carroll**

**\*Trunk-or-Treat is Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 4-5pm at City Park in Glidden**

The Special Offering for September and October is the **After School Program**

GRASP, the Glidden-Ralston After School Program, meets at the Glidden United Methodist Church, throughout the school year, Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30pm to 5:00pm. The program serves children from age 5 to sixth grade. Students are driven to the church by bus, and local volunteers provide homework assistance, snacks, and fun activities. Best of all, it is free to attend. GRASP is a true blessing to our community, so we want to support them both financially and with willing volunteers.