

The Transformer

September 2012

717-866-4910

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

I was talking with a friend of mine this past week and he began to lament about how fast the world is changing right now. We agreed it seems that even change is changing at a rapid pace. We also agreed that it seems we can't do much about the change or the pace of change in our world right now. So... we changed our topic of conversation and began talking about cars, old and new, for the rest of our time together.

I returned to the office and in my email box was an article entitled *7 Things In The Church That Will Not Change* by Thom Rainer. I have discovered that God's timing is impeccable and incredible. This article was exactly what I needed after discussing the change topic with my friend. I emailed him a copy of the article...



Thom writes that he loves to follow church trends. He has served as a teacher, researcher, and church consultant for over thirty years. In his ministry he has discovered seven things in the church that will not change. Thom says, "In the fast pace of change in local congregations, these seven constants are good reminders of what really matters."

- 1. The Bible is still the Word of God.** How true! It always has been and always will be. It is sharper than a two-edged sword. It is powerful because it is the Word of God.
- 2. The gospel still changes lives.** *The gospel is the power for salvation. The gospel transforms lives. The gospel is the same regardless of other changes in our churches.*
- 3. Small groups are still vital.** *In the New Testament, groups sometimes met together in homes or other places. Throughout Church history, the role of groups has been vital. It is the place where community is established and where deep truths are taught. It has been called Sunday school, small groups, home groups, and cell groups. But they are all forms of small groups creating community and fellowship and learning.*
- 4. The mission field still needs workers.** *That includes the mission fields to the farthest ends of the Earth. And it includes the community in our backyard.*
- 5. Prayer is still powerful.** *God is still using praying churches to do God's work in the world. Never, ever take for granted the power of pervasive prayer.*
- 6. Hurting people still need ministry.** *Pain and hurt may come in different names over the years, but the needs are still similar. A church that truly cares for people will always have a place in*

the community. A church that sees people through the eyes of Jesus will always be effective in healing the hurt.

7. God is still in control. *Sometimes, the pace of change confuses and disorients us. Sometimes, the amount of suffering in the world challenges us. Sometimes, we feel like there is no hope. Remember, God is still in control. He always has been; He always will be. He is there for you and your church.*

There are great reminders as we move into the fall season here at Friedens. We know that change is inevitable. We also know that change can be disconcerting and somewhat frightening for many people. But we also know that the important things, like these 7, will never change. These are the things that really matter. These are the things that really make a difference in the church and the world in which we are called to serve.

What would you add to Thom’s list? What are some constants that will never change in our churches? What really matters at Friedens?

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Miller

MONTHLY FREE MEAL

Myerstown United Church of Christ will again host a monthly free meal on the second Thursday of every month beginning in September and ending with the May meal. It is our way as a congregation, to reach out to our community in Christian love. Everyone is welcome. The meal hours are 4 PM-7 PM. We appreciate your willingness to share in this outreach. Please contact the church office, 866-5252, if you have any questions.

Bible Quiz



At the outset of his reign as Israel’s third king, Solomon saw the Lord in a dream. God invited Solomon to request anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for?

- A. The ability to discern between good and evil
- B. Long life
- C. Riches
- D. Conquest over his enemies

Answer: A (See 1 Kings 3:4-14.)





For all families who have children in the Children's Ministry program, including what we referred to as nursery, we have made some changes to the age groups. All children who enter school this year in first grade through 5th grade will be Elementary (green room); all who enter kindergarten this fall will be Kindergarten (blue room); all children younger than entering Kindergarten will be Pre-school. The pre-school children will go to the pink and yellow rooms. These rooms will be opened up and there will be a quiet area and a play area. There will be at least two people assigned to those rooms. You may take your pre-schooler to the room prior to church service or the teachers will escort them to the room after the pastor gives the Children's Message during service. Any questions please ask Lynn Appleby, Missy Krause, Jill Kreider, or Amber Miller.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



The church office is open from 9 AM—1 PM Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The Anniversary Committee has extra copies of the new church directory. The cost is \$5 a copy. Please see Brian Beamesderfer, or contact the Church Office.



MISSION WORK- Have you ever wanted to go on the mission trip but you can not travel? Well we have a mission right here in town. We will be helping out at the **Bahney House, every third Saturday of the morning of the month. We will post the project of the morning and a sign up sheet in the hall near the Mission board. Please consider this part of our church family being the hands and feet of Christ going over the fence in our community. Please see Jon Koller or Jan Dubois for more details.**



VIDEO MINISTRY

VIDEO MINISTRY TEAM

Do you enjoy viewing our Facebook video posts of the Adult and Children's Sermons? Do you appreciate viewing the Adult & Children's Sermons on the big screen at 9 am worship? We are looking for folks to join our Video Ministry Team to assist with recording the sermons and also projecting the sermons on the big screen at 9 am worship. Experience is nice, but not necessary. Please connect with Sharon Riegel or John Tice to learn more about how you can help with this important ministry at Friedens.



Dear Friends,
Your visits, calls, get well cards and especially your prayers have been a real comfort and support during my recuperation following surgery. With my deepest thanks and appreciation for your caring concerns.
Pastor Kehrl

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6 PM—Hymn Sing</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 AM— Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Deadline for newsletter articles</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 PM—Women of ELCA</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:45 PM—Church Council</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9 AM— Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 PM—Anniversary Committee</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 PM— Children’s Ministry Dinner— Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>						

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Thank you Summer LIFE groups!!! You made a difference to one another and to the world in which you serve!

The following are comments from those attending our summer semester when asked the question “ One of the things I’ve enjoyed most about being in a summer LIFE group was....?”

- Learning a little bit about everyone
- Understanding that we are all together on this journey of faith
- Our service project
- Being with this group of people
- Open discussions
- Our group participation!
- Getting to know members of Friedens Lutheran Church more closely
- Our study by Max Lucado
- The people in our group
- The laid back atmosphere of being in a home
- Everyone was open to listen, talk together I found this to be helpful
- The study materials
- Our leaders
- The fact that our service project tied into our study
- Sharing life with others deepens my faith
- Our prayer time
- The snacks were so delicious!
- Study was a challenge

Fall LIFE groups launch October 7th stay tuned for group information and details about where and when you can get connected to God and others.

Our Youth took an amazing trip to the 2012 National Gathering New Orleans and will be sharing some of their experiences on Sunday September 9th during worship and also during our coffee hour.



SEPTEMBER EDITION OF FORMER PASTORS OF FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Ronald H. McClung **Tenth Pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church**

Pastor Ronald McClung served as Friedens 10th pastor from 1972-1980. During his ministry, Friedens experienced an exciting FAITH ALIVE weekend. Over 20 fellow believers from communities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Washington D.C. traveled to Friedens for the weekend to witness and share their special faith. It was a weekend that taught how important it is for Jesus' followers to publicly express their Christian love for their fellow man because He, our Savior, has made it possible for us to "love one another as I have loved You."

Pastor McClung graduated from Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA in 1960, Gettysburg Theological Seminary in 1963, B.D.; Master of Sacred Theology, Gettysburg Seminary in 1969; Doctor of Divinity, Faith Evangelical Seminary, Tacoma, Washington in 1980. He served at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD, 1960-1969; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pontiac, Michigan, 1969-1970; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA, 1970-1972; Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, 1972-1980; Fourth Lutheran Church, Altoona, PA, 1982-1984; Trinity Lutheran Church, Convoy, Ohio, 1985-1988.

Pastor McClung served as Councilor for Alcohol and Drug Addiction at St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading, PA and also Glenbeigh Hospital, Rock Creek, Ohio.

Pastor McClung was born October 4, 1936 and passed away September 30, 1989. Pastor and Doris McClung raised two children, David and Deborah. A third child, Timothy John died in infancy.

Pastor McClung's message in the introduction of the 1975-1976 Church Directory best sums up his ministry:

"Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church...

Is more than merely a place to worship

It is a family of God's people!

People committed to Jesus.

People who share the Holy Spirit of the living Jesus.

People who know the joys of a living faith in Him.

People called by Jesus to serve.

People who practice stewardship."

(continued next page)

Rev. John Francis Lose
11th Pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church

John Francis Lose accepted the call to Friedens, September 1980. His path to Friedens led him through the parishes of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Williamstown, PA; Christ Lutheran Church, Hughesville, PA; Christ Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA. Pastor Lose was pastor for Friedens until 1994.

Born and raised in Sunbury, PA, Pastor Jack served in the U.S. Marines for 20 months after graduating from High School. In 1953 he received an A.B. in Social Science at Gettysburg College. In 1953 he entered the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg and eventually earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree. Before Pastor Jack completed his studies at the seminary he married a Gettysburg College senior Susan Elizabeth Gotwald, whom he had met at a Lutheran students' gathering in Michigan. Five wonderful children have blessed their marriage. They are Susan Carolyn, Jeanne Anne, John David, Rev. David Jeremiah, and James Mark.

Pastor Jack's ministry at Friedens began with the celebration of the twentieth birthday of our church building and the designation of Pastor Stauffer as Pastor Emeritus. A study with far reaching impact and prepared by a Lutheran Pastor, the Bethel Bible Study Series was begun in 1981. The series continued for an intense review of the Old and New Testament and church wide Bible Studies for all members of the congregation for the next few years. 1981 was the anniversary of Pastor Jack's ordination, the 25th year. The occasion was observed with a congregational dinner and the presentation to him of a trip to Israel.

David Lose, teacher, became David Lose, preacher, when he graduated from the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, May 1993. Pastor Jack was able to take part in David's ordination in November at St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit NJ.

In Pastor Jack's quest to know God better, he has helped us to know Him better. Each week Pastor looked out on our congregation knowing full well it was his responsibility to lead us to the throne of grace. He encouraged us to listen for the still small voice of God whispering peace and pardon for us all. He asked us to really know Jesus and reminded us that Jesus requested His followers to abide in Him. Abiding in Him means we believe in Jesus, trust Him, love Him, and love one another as He commanded. This is the saving grace and need.

Rev. James N. West
Twelfth Pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church

Born in Philadelphia, Pastor West received his B.S. Ed. Degree from Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. He also attended Temple University and Northern Illinois University. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, then located in Springfield, Illinois.

Pastor West accepted our call as Pastor in May, 1995. He began his work among us in July, 1995 and was installed on September 10, 1995. Pastor West was pastor for Friedens until 2002.

(continued next page)

Prior to this pastorate, he served the ELCA as vice president of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, from 1989-1995. In this capacity he administered the admissions program, church relations and alumni/ae affairs, development and planning of the institution.

From 1986-1989 he served two rural LCA congregations in Western PA, Lake Lutheran, Conneaut Lake and Christ Lutheran, Springboro. While serving these congregations part time, he was the chief development officer for Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was there that he met his wife, Rebecca. They were married January 2, 1988. They have two sons, Benjamin and Adam.

Earlier while rostered in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, he was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cleveland Ohio; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Biloxi, Mississippi; and a teacher and athletic director of St. Matthews, NYC. He served on several national and synodical task forces and commissions in the ELCA, LCA and LCMS.

During the national tragedy of September 11, 2001, Pastor West restored our faith in our fellow man, with his insight of trusting in God during times of trouble.



The Adult Choir will start rehearsing for the fall on Wednesday, September 5, at 7 P.M. If you are interested in joining the Adult Choir, please contact Mike Yeagley at mikeyeagley@flcmystown.com, or simply attend our first rehearsal on September 5. Hope to see you there!

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS				
July 2012				
				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,258.00	Goal to Date	\$ 183,804.00
\$315,093.00	Rec'd	\$27,173.00	Rec'd to Date	182,716.00
Spang Crest	Rec'd	55.00	Rec'd to Date	476.00
Hunger	Rec'd	320.00	Rec'd to Date	1,830.00
				99%





FRIEDENS GARDEN GROUP

Objective: To maintain and beautify landscaping of the church.

Duties: Edge, mulch and weed existing landscaping. Trim and maintain shrubbery.

Option: Plant, water and deadhead annuals.

Time required: No monthly meeting. Work "as needed" when called by facilitator.

All work to be coordinated through Property Committee. Sign up on sheet on bulletin board in the hallway.

Facilitator: Joel Zinn, 866-4420.



Food Collection

On Sunday, September 2, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. In honor of our 200th Anniversary our goal each month is 200 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. We collected 196 pounds of food in July.



Coffee Fellowship

What a wonderful time of fellowship we share after worship in fellowship hall. A time to mingle and catch up with members and a great opportunity to welcome our visitors.

We are looking for volunteers to host the coffee social. There is not a lot of work involved, the coffee is provided, you just need to prepare the coffee and provide a snack to share. Won't you please consider hosting the fellowship. A sign-up sheet is on the table in fellowship hall. If you have any questions you can talk to Annette Beamesderfer, Carmela Deck or Susie Harper.

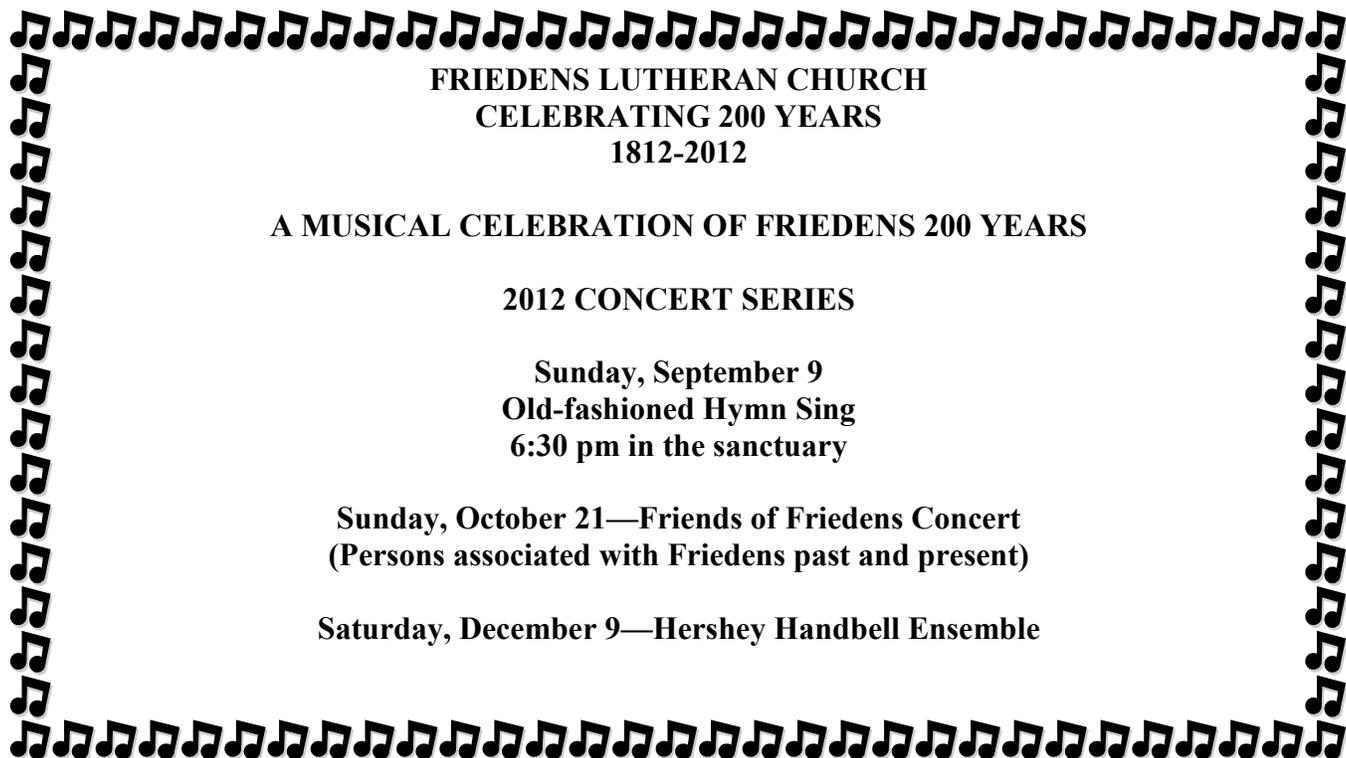
FROM THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Hymn Sing
Sunday, September 9, 2012
6:30 pm in the sanctuary
Join us for an evening of hymn-singing & special music
Have a favorite hymn you would like us to sing? Place your hymn request in the box located in the fellowship hall by Sunday, September 2, 2012.

Following the hymn sing, please join us in the fellowship hall for light refreshments & fellowship

Please plan to join us, and bring a friend!
"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:2



SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

September 1

Mrs. Darlene Wise
30 Scenic Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 2

Mr. Lawrence Snyder
338 W. Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 7

Mr. Nelson Nagle
ECC StoneRidge Towne Centre
S. Railroad St.
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 19

Mrs. Ellen Bucher
130 E. Reistville Rd., Unit 1
Myerstown, PA 17067



Women of the ELCA resume monthly meetings on Monday, September 17 at 7 P.M. in the parlor. If you need the Bible Study and Guide, extra copies are available in the church office. We will be studying a variety of Biblical travelers through November, beginning with Jacob. You will need a Bible, other materials will be provided. Feel free to study materials before we meet. All are welcome!





Make your plans now for our 200th anniversary weekend on November 3rd and 4th. On Saturday, November 3, starting at 3:30 P.M. we will have Dawn and Randy Marks providing the Friedens Family with a special Anniversary Concert. At 5 P.M. we will have dinner with the following menu: Roast Beef or Filled Chicken, vegetables including filling, broccoli Normandy, and cole slaw; rolls; coffee and Wenger drinks. The price is \$10 for members 13 years and older; \$9 for children 8 to 13 years; \$8 for children 3 to 8 years old and children under 3 for free. That evening we will have a multi-media presentation of our 200 years as a congregation. Tickets will be available at the church office starting August 5th..

Children's Ministry Dinner

Friday September 28th

6:30pm

Church Fellowship Hall

Bring your appetites and ideas!

Anyone interested in joining this ministry is welcome to come.

The focus for this dinner will be to provide training and support for our new curriculum and the new preschool program. We hope to be able to answer questions and provide resources. We recognize that we made the changes in August but felt we wanted to have some time with the new programs in order to look at any changes you would like to make. We will also be making any changes to the tentative schedule you should already have received.

RSVP by September 23rd

Lynn Appleby, 717-933-5358

appleby@comcast.net

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
August 16, 2012

President Bruce Kauffman called the meeting to order at 6:46 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (Vice President), Chris Heft, Bruce Kauffman (President), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer (Secretary), Pastor Miller, and Dense Noll.

Bruce Kauffman offered the opening Prayer and Pastor Miller provided background information on our devotional reading from John 21:1-14. Discussion followed based on two questions...What do you hear God saying to you “personally” in this text? What do you hear God saying to you “as a church” in this text?

1. Lutheran Camping Corp. Mike Youse did a presentation on “Seeding the future.” Discussion occurred and will be left as an agenda item for the September Council Meeting.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications.
 - a. Dense Noll made a motion to accept July minutes. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Jeff Gumpert made a motion to accept July’s Financial Secretary’s report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Dense Noll made a motion to accept July’s Treasurer’s report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
3. Pastor’s Report:
 - a. Leadership Summit at LCBC #1 takeaway for me – without a leadership team and a commitment to a clear vision and motivating mission the church/organization is not healthy and will not be healthy nor can it live into its full potential.
 - b. Education Ministry for Grades 6 though 12 being consider for the fall.
 - c. Baptisms.
 - d. First Communion.
 - e. ELCA Leadership Training for Transformational Leaders August 24-25 in Altoona, PA.
4. Communications:
 - a. Thank you from Lebanon County Ministries for June food donation totaling 132 pounds.
 - b. Thank you letter from Luthercare in July for a gift to Spang Crest for \$74.00.
 - c. Thank you from Lebanon County Ministries for July food donation totaling 255 pounds.
5. Building Use:

Discussion occurred and will be left as an agenda item for the September Council Meeting.
6. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer
Council Secretary

Worship Series for September 2012

Stewardship of life calls us to consider how we will invest three precious resources: time, wealth and spiritual gifts (AKA time, talent, treasure). These are three of the most relevant topics of daily life, and the source of so much stress and pain: “Life feels like a treadmill. I’m moving, but it doesn’t feel like I’m going anywhere.” “I’m so busy. I just never have enough time to get everything done.” “We just never seem to have enough money to meet our bills!”



Despite our discomfort, these are three topics disciples often DON'T want to hear us preach about! At the deepest level, we don't want to hear that these resources ultimately don't belong to us, that we're not in control. We experience joy-filled, abundant life when we invest all we are, and all we have, on purpose!

September 9, 2012 IN THE ZONE 1 Peter 4:7-11

Our gifts are often discerned when we feel “in the zone,” and those gifts help point us to our purpose and calling in daily life.

September 16, 2012 IT'S ABOUT TIME Psalm 90:1-12

We're called to address busyness and our investment of time, and to invest into what really matters: God's purpose for you.

September 23, 2012 MONEY MATTERS 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

No single resource impacts our lives more profoundly than money. Perhaps that's why the Bible has so much to say about how to manage it. We really have been blessed to be a blessing!

September 30, 2012 KINGDOM LIFE: MORE OR LESS Matthew 4:12-17

The Good News according to Jesus is this: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near.” In Jesus, something radically new has broken into this world, and into our lives.

A POWERFUL WEAPON

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.

—Samuel Chadwick

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
We are a church that is deeply rooted and always being made new. As we gather for worship this morning, may the Holy Spirit fill and guide us, so that we may be a church that is both resilient and always reforming.

In less than a year, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. As we celebrate, we look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church.

Join us in celebrating the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our own communities and around the world.

What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 new congregations
 - Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors
 - Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world
- Contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty

The year of our 25th anniversary begins Jan. 1, 2013, with the theme “Always being made new.” I invite you to join me in celebrating these 25 years together in Christ. Visit www.ELCA.org/25years for more information, and begin planning ways to bring this celebration to your congregation.

I am grateful for your leadership, support and prayers in making the work of this church possible.
In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P.S. In the coming months, please continue to visit www.ELCA.org/25years for resources to help you celebrate this important milestone in your own congregation and community.

.....