



The Transformer

February 2012

717-866-4910

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

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

(Mark 1:40-45)

I found myself reading this story over and over this past week. At first I focused on Jesus' compassion for this man and what Jesus did for him. Namely, granting him a new life by cleansing him of this terrible dis-ease – called leprosy.

My attention then quickly turned to the man's response after he was healed. For some reason Jesus tells this man to say nothing to anyone, WHY!?!? And why did the man not do what Jesus told him to do???

Then it dawned on me. The man's excitement could not be contained. His life had been transformed by an awesome encounter with Jesus. He went out and told everyone what Jesus had done for him because he was so excited. The news spread all over town, so fast and so furious, that Jesus had to go into hiding from the crowds. Maybe that's why Jesus didn't want the guy to tell anyone. Jesus knew what would happen.

Throughout Mark's Gospel Jesus and his ministry created a lot of buzz wherever he went. Word about him and what he was doing spread like a wildfire from town to town. Some people loved Jesus and what he was doing and other people hated Jesus and what he was doing.

I found myself wondering... does Jesus and his ministry create a buzz today and what kind of buzz is it?

Then I wondered... what would have to happen in our churches for people to meet Jesus and the life-transforming experience he offers so that the excitement in our lives could not be contained? What needs to happen for the buzz about Jesus to exist in our town that sends crowds into our local churches looking for him?

I wonder how might Jesus address the dis-ease in our lives and cleanse us from whatever is ailing us? I also wonder what buzz might be created if we did the following for Jesus:

- Pursue God's will for our lives and ministries (Colossians 1:9-12)
- Deal with our own shortcomings (Matthew 7:1-5)
- Embrace humility (Philippians 2:1-11)
- Encourage one another (Ephesians 4:29)
- Value reconciliation (Matthew 5:22-24) over diversity (Matthew 12:25).

These are just a few of my thoughts. Maybe I should have "stuck" to the compassion part of this story. That's probably a lot easier to deal with. What are your thoughts?

Peace, Pastor Miller



If you are interested in ordering a lily to place in the church for Easter, now is the time to do so. To order, please use the envelopes provided on the narthex bulletin board and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$6.25 each. **March 5** is the last day to order.

SHUT-INS BIRTHDAYS

February 27
 Mrs. Esther Yeakley
 450 Yeagley Road
 Myerstown, PA 17067



We would like to thank the members of the church for the beautiful cards and flowers we received for the holidays.

Peace be with you and your families. Wishing you all a blessed New Year.
 Jean & Isaac Villanueva

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



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

Congregational Meeting



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 12. Committee chairpersons annual reports are due in the church office by **FEBRUARY 1**.

Meals for the Homebound



Many Eager Ambassadors Lending Service....

Do you know anyone coming home from the hospital at Friedens, who will be homebound for one or two weeks and in need for meals? Please call Joanne at 717-628-1211 to schedule the meals. THANKS!



On Sunday, February 5, 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 ocanned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	2  7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 8:00 PM—Adult Choir	3	4
5 9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship	6	7 6:45 PM—Confirmation Class-Youth Room	8 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	9 6 PM—Youth Monthly Info Meeting 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 8:00 PM—Adult Choir	10	11
12 9 AM—Contemporary Worship 9:45 AM—Congregational Mtg. 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship	13	14  7 PM—Property Committee	15 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	16 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 8:00 PM—Adult Choir	17	18
19 9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship	20  7 PM -Women of ELCA—Parlor	21 6:45 PM—Confirmation Class-Youth Room	22 9 AM—Women Sew 7:30 PM—Ash Wednesday—Holy Communion	23 7 PM—Anniversary Committee 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 8:00 PM—Adult Choir	24	25
26 9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship	27	28 6:45 PM—Confirmation Class-Youth Room	29 6:30 PM—Soup & Bread Dinner 7:00 PM—Lenten Service			



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Thank you to all the Leaders who served as group facilitators in our 2011 fall, spring and summer semesters of Life groups here at Friedens. The relationships and faith development along with the continued outreach to our community has had a very positive effect on all those involved. We look forward to all that God has in store for this ministry in the coming year. Registration for our spring 2012 semester Life Groups are now open!!! You will have an opportunity to register for groups Sunday mornings now till February 12th in the fellowship hall from 10am to 10:30am or you can e-mail Valerie Hauck at valeriehauck@flemmyerstown.com

The following is a List of groups that will begin facilitating the first full week of February:

Kerry Keller

(General Group) Open to everyone beginning 2/6/12 Monday evenings 7- 8:30pm

Location: Church Parlor

Our study will be: *Experiencing the heart of Jesus* by: Max Lucado

The *Experiencing the Heart of Jesus* study is designed to be a very unique approach to bringing people closer to the very heart and soul of Jesus, and to help them have a more intimate knowledge of how His gospel flows through His relationship with us, and our relationships with others. This book explores the beautiful human qualities of Jesus that we emulate in order to find peace in the midst of chaos.

Jan DuBois

(Women's group) Open to all women beginning 2/7/12 Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30pm

Location: Church Parlor

Our study will be: *I Second That Emotion* by Patsy Clairmont God's Word is full of helps for emotions like grief, moodiness, fearfulness, anger, self-pity, and other human responses. Think of this LIFE Group as a spa- a place to be refreshed, revived, and even repaired a little. Women of Faith's Patsy Clairmont's book, *I Second That Emotion* provides a humorous, but Biblically commanding approach to dealing with the valleys of life. Girls just wanna have fun-and we will with this one!

Joanne Maurer

(General Group) Open to all beginning 2/7/12 Tuesday evenings 7- 8:30pm

Location: Home- 3 Springhouse Dr. Myerstown

Our study will be: *Gospel in Life* by; Tim Keller

In a video- based study of the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. Our group will study the city, our home now— and the world, that is. This study closes with the theme of the eternal city, our heavenly home—the world that is to come. In between, you'll learn how the gospel changes our hearts, our community, and how we live in this world. *Gospel in Life* is an invitation to all who seek to live the message of Jesus right here and right now...in our hearts, in our homes, and in the community around us.

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John Flesher

(General Group) Open to all beginning 2/9/12 Thursday evenings 7pm -8:30

Location: Church Parlor

Our study will be: *Basic. Who is God??* Basic. Who is God? Is a short film series from the creators of NOOMA featuring Francis Chan. The Bible is clear about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Still, so many of us in the church seem to want to redefine exactly what that means ... so we say things like we have Him in our hearts, or we believe a certain set of things He said, or we've memorized His commands ... therefore we're followers of Jesus. Is that what is all comes down to, or is there more to it than that? Could it be that when Jesus says to follow Him, He really means we're supposed to do the things He did? Please join us as we explore this exciting series.

Youth LIFE groups

Open to all youth grades 6-12 study begins 2/12/12

Location: junior high -youth room / senior high-Church Parlor

Our study will be: DVD guided lessons on living out your faith by the Skit Guys.

There will be a leadership huddle for all LIFE group leaders Saturday 1/28 10-12pm details have been sent to all leaders. We look forward to our time together and ask for your continued prayers in 2012.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 2011

				% of Budget 85%
Current Budget	Goal	\$29,428.00	Goal to Date	\$352,139.00
\$353,139.00	Rec'd	\$30,501.00	Rec'd to Date	300,793.00
Spang Crest	Rec'd	49.00	Rec'd to Date	810.00
Hunger	Rec'd	295.00	Rec'd to Date	4,078.00

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting, January 19, 2012**

Bruce Kauffman called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Greg. Gardner (Vice President), Jeff Gumpert, Bruce Kauffman(Chairman), Joanne Maurer (Secretary), Pastor Miller, Denise Noll, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer). Pastor Miller had an opening prayer and Bruce Kauffman read from Galatians 2:4, 2:19-20, 4:29, 5:13-15, 6:9. Discussion followed.

1. Part-time Secretary Position:

Pastor made a motion to have Church Secretary office hours: Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

2. Reports:

- a. Financial Secretary report from December 15, 2011. Jeff Gumpert motioned to accept reports. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Treasurer reports from December 15, 2011. Denise Noll motioned to accept reports. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Pastors report with corrections – Pastor’s Continuing Education begins Jan 30, New Member/ Disciples class on Jan 22, Baptism class on Jan. 29, 2012. Denise Noll motioned to accept corrections. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Property report:
Jody Appleby motioned to accept property report. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.

3. Spending Authorization Policy:

Denise Noll made a motion to accept the following positions granting them spending authorization of the church budget. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

List of names to accept list of positions for spending authority.

Pastor	Choir Director
Dir Discipleship	Bell Choir Director
Treasurer	Fellowship hour time
Church Secretary	Childrens Ministry Leader
Cont. Band Leader	Organist
Chair of Property	Chair of Cemetary

4. Communications:

Thank you letter from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for September and October, donation of

328 Pounds of food, including 193 pounds from Pictorial promotion.

5. Chis Helt has been nominated for Church Council by the nominating committee for 2012.

Jeff Gumpert motioned to accept Chis Helt for nomination to council for vote by the Congregation on February 12, 2012. Seconded by Denise Noll. Motion carried.

6. Pastor’s salary and housing allowance for 2012.

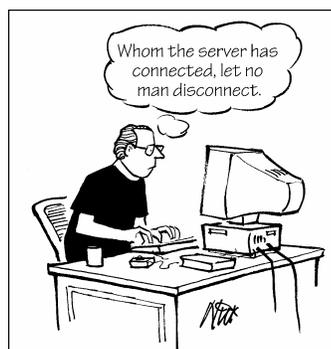
Jody Appleby motioned to accept Pastors salary report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

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- 7. Endowment income budget approved.
Jody Appleby motioned to accept income budget from finance committee. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
- 8. Annual Congregational Meeting, in the Sanctuary on February 12, 2012. Agenda includes: Endowment Budget, council member nominee and reports between the services at 9:45am – 10:45am.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer, Council Secretary



Since Ken is no longer with us, thee will be sign up sheets in the narthex to help organize cleaning times and areas. Joanne Maurer will be in charge of this. If there is an area that you would like to help with, call Joanne at 628-1211. There will be 5 areas: the sanctuary, sacristy; and pastor’s office; main office, narthex and parlor; the fellowship hall, kitchen hallway and kitchen; the rest rooms; the day care and Sunday school rooms.



In spring we will also need a group to take care of the flowers and weeds in the front of the church.

Thanks for your support,
Property chair, Gene Lessig



FEBRUARY 2012 EDITION OF YOU ARE THERE:

February 14, 1857: Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA:

At an adjourned meeting of the Lutheran Congregation of Myerstown on February 14th, 1857, on a motion it was resolved that the officers of the former meeting shall be the presiding officers. The committee appointed on the former meeting presented in their report together with a draft for a new church which was examined for some time. On motion of Josiah Groh the vote was taken concerning the wall of the said church. Weathered stone or brick were discussed. It was anonymously decided for brick on a motion by John Lehman. It was resolved that a committee of four to be appointed to solicit and receive subscriptions, whereupon the following persons were appointed by the chair for the said purpose: Samuel Houck, Henry Kreitzer, John Lehman, and Joseph Groh. The chair presented a heading of Subscription Books which on motion was executed on motion the Subscription Committee be requested to report in four weeks from this day. On motion it was agreed to adjourn.

(On January 1857 the congregation of Friedens voted to either to remodel the stone church or to build a new church. By a vote of 38 yes and 3 no's it was decided to build a new church.)

Greetings and Happy New Year!

The Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Pennsylvania, Delaware and Chesapeake Bay Region would like to invite you to our upcoming **2012 Community Leader Summit**. This event will bring together our Chapter Leaders, Congregational Advocates and leaders of Lutheran churches and organizations to network, build relationships and discuss available Thrivent programs and resources. There are many ways we can partner together, and our goal with this event is to start exploring these options. If there are any other key leaders from your congregation who would benefit from attending this event, please feel free to pass this invitation along.

You are welcome to attend one of the following summits:

Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Temple University Ambler (*lunch provided*)
580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler, PA 19002

Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lancaster County Convention Center (*lunch provided*)
25 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Saturday, March 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hershey Lodge (*lunch provided*)
325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

*Please register online by searching for PA events at www.thrivent.com/findanevent or contacting Gena Gilbertson at 888-350-3560 or gena.gilbertson@thrivent.com

WORSHIP SERIES for LENT 2012 -- RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

The Lenten season is a time for self-examination, repentance, and confession. It is also a time to take stock of our relationships with God and with others. As sinful human beings, we feel the weight of broken relationships and long to see them restored to wholeness. As we walk together toward the cross, we discover ways to restore our relationships through justice, faithfulness, trust, limits, love and forgiveness.

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday JUSTICE (Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, Mark 6:1-6, 16-21)

Lent begins with a call to fasting, prayer and repentance as we begin our journey to the cross. In our Old Testament reading, God reminds the Israelites, and us, that the outward observance of faith is no substitute for genuine fasting that result in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to restored relationships through justice.

Feb 26 FAITHFULNESS (Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-5)

Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment and faithfulness to his people and all of creation. The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan. Our baptism sustains us to restore our relationships through faithfulness to God and to others.

March 4 TRUST (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25)

God promises to make Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of nations. Though Abraham and Sarah are far too old to bear children, they trust that God will accomplish what God has promised. Their trust catalyzes their transformation as they receive new names and identities. Paul says God's promise comes to all who share Abraham and Sarah's faith and trust in God. We, too, get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

March 11 LIMITS (Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22)

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in relationship with one another. In order to live in healthy relationship, God sets loving limits in the Ten Commandments. Jesus also sets loving limits in the temple as he defends the worship of God alone and rejects the ways commerce can become our gods.

March 18 LOVE (Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, John 3:14-21)

In the wilderness, the people become impatient and begin to lose their faith and trust in God. After God sends poisonous serpents among the people, his love for them prompts him to make a promise to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. Just as those who look upon the bronze serpent was healed, so we will be restored when we behold Christ lifted up on the cross, God's ultimate gift of love.

March 25 FORGIVENESS (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16, John 12:20-33)

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. God promises to "forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." We see these promises fulfilled in Christ, who dies on a cross to forgive our sin so that we may have life. Because of this act of love, we are empowered to forgive ourselves and others.



February 22
7:30 PM

Wednesdays in Lent
6:30 PM—Soup & Bread Dinner
7:00 PM—Lenten Service