



# The Transformer

December 2016

717-866-4910

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*Friedens Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The weeks preceding Christmas provide opportunity to ponder the mystery of the Word of God embodying human flesh (incarnation) and coming to humanity in the person of Jesus.

Granted, when all around us people feel time squeezed as they rush towards Christmas Day and the other events filling the December calendar, it is difficult to set aside quiet moments each day to ponder the Advent stories and the questions raised.

But, let us savor these twenty-five days. Maybe you can set aside ten minutes at the start of each day for bible reading, prayer, and Advent contemplation.

If you have a hymnbook at home, look up an Advent hymn or a favorite Christmas Carol and slowly read and ponder the lyrics. You could also “google” a favorite song or hymn and find the lyrics that way.

As discussed in recent weeks, we live at a time when political and societal crevices divide Americans, and hostilities among nations and tribes breed violence. Yet, when the angels announced Jesus’ birth their song extolled God’s glory and the arrival of the “Prince of Peace.”

The four sermons for Advent will address how Jesus brings humanity Peace, Reconciliation, Restoration, and Presence.

We can heed the angels’ announcement and not succumb to fear. We can receive Jesus’ gift of new life and become the blessing God would bring to all.

Knowing Jesus came for all humanity

We look upon other persons, even across divides, from the perspective of the cross;  
and believing Jesus loves “all the children of the world,”  
we will call out abusive, hateful, and disrespectful language for what it is.  
We will speak truth and do so in a loving way.

Knowing Jesus embraces broken lives

- the grief stricken, the confounded, the abused, the lonely, the sick -  
We too will listen and, as needed, absolve, apply what soothes,  
and accompany the wounded towards restoration

Knowing diverse people are made one in the Risen Christ

barriers torn down; chasms crossed; communities formed -  
We will create safe places where all might assemble  
to address and work through our differing perspectives.

And Knowing that to do this work of love

puts us up against principalities and powers that would tear humanity apart  
We will regularly gather for prayer as we join the psalmist saying  
*Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way. (Ps 139:23-24)*

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**December Notes:**

**Please come to worship on Christmas Day.** Once every handful of years Christmas Day falls upon a Sunday and we gather to celebrate birth and resurrection. This year our service is also broadcast on WLBR radio, and we hope to “live stream” the service on computer. However, nothing can replace our gathering together on this most holy and celebrative days.

**The day after Christmas** Cheri and I travel to Omaha to spend a week with son Matt, his wife Maegen, and the two grandsons Landon and Jackson. Pastor Bob Kehrli will preach and preside at both services on January 1.

Here is the calendar for Christmas Worship at Friedens.

**Sunday, December 11 the “Blue Christmas Service” at 3:00 pm** will bring the message of Jesus’ coming to the the sense of loss and trouble some folks are feeling this year. This is especially true for persons who grieve the death of a loved one. Our youth group will help lead this service.

**Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** brings together the marvelous hymnody and special music of Christmas with the story told through scripture. Persons from the greater Myerstown and Eastern Lebanon community will join us for this worship.

**Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, the Family Christmas Service** where participation of children and youth is encouraged alongside adults. The Christmas story gets told through narration and picture.

**Christmas Eve at 11:pm, Traditional Candlelight Festival Worship,** the Christmas liturgy features special music, reverent setting, and joyful song.

Cheri and I extend to you our heartfelt prayers the he, who is the Word made flesh, the Prince of Peace, bring you fresh expressions of peace and joy.

Your friend and pastor,

Robert Wallace





## Food Collection

On Sunday, November 6, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, reusable plastic containers.



## Christmas Cards

The Social Ministry Team will deliver your Christmas cards to the following nursing and retirement homes: Spang Crest, StoneRidge Poplar Run, StoneRidge Towne Centre, Cedar Haven, Juniper Village, Linden Village, Traditions, Brethren Home, Palmyra, and shut-ins in residence (as per church bulletin).

Postage is not needed. There will be a box in the narthex to deposit cards from November 27 through December 18. The last day to deposit cards is **DECEMBER 18.**



### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IDEA:

Help yourself to Friedens Global Missions catalogs, found in the gift box at the bulletin board. A wide variety of ideas for helping the poor throughout the world with the purchase of gifts that change lives. Perfect gifts for family and friends who have everything!



### BIRTHDAY PARTY

**SPANG CREST** Birthday Party will be held December 5 at 2 P.M. Volunteers are needed.

For more information call Barbara Grumbine (866-6218) or Janet



### OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

October 2016

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,450.00	Goal to Date	80%
\$365,409.00	Rec'd	\$28,169.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	55.00	Rec'd to date	489.00
Hunger	Rec'd	315.00	Rec'd to Date	2,455.80

# DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 PM—Mass Choir Reheatsal	2	3
4 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	5	6 7 PM—Worship Committee	7 9:45 AM— Pericope Study 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	8 7 PM—Mass Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	12 6 PM—Women of ELCS Holiday Dinner at StoneRidge	13 7 PM—Property Committee	14 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	15  7 PM—Church Council 6:30 PM—Mass Choir Rehearsal	16	17 3 PM Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
18 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	19	20	21  9:45 AM— Pericope Study 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	22 7 PM—Chancel Choir	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4 PM—Family Service 11 PM—Candlelight Festival Worship
25 10:30 AM— Christmas and Sabbath Day Worship	26	27	28 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	29 7 PM—Chancel Choir	30	31



## Congregational Council invites you to join in their Service Project and experience the true joy in serving others

### What:

We will deliver wish list items, sing Christmas carols, serve treats & drinks and enjoy fellowship with the residents of American House in Lebanon, PA

### When:

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016**

Leave Friedens at 1:00 pm, arrive at 1:30 pm at American House in Lebanon

### How:

How can you help? Its easy!

- Join us on Sunday, December 4 at the American House in Lebanon
- Donate any items from the Wish List (place unwrapped items in box in Stauffer Hall)

### Wish List:

- Adult Coloring Books, Colored Pencils
- Lanyards
- Male Body Wash, Female Body Wash
- Light Perfume for females; Hand cream for females
- Warm Sox for males
- Bootie Sox for females (slipper type sox)
- Watches – male or female
- Puzzle Books (word searches, word fill ins, cross word)
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Underwear for males (size 32 to 5X)
- Underwear for females (size 7 to 13)
- Umbrellas

### Where are we going:

American House Personal Care Home  
 25 S. 9th Street , Lebanon PA 17042  
 717-272-6678, Contact Persons: Kelly / Cindy / Melissa  
 Parking: large lot on corner beside Farmers Market

### Who are we serving:

- 73 residents
- 52 males (ages: 25 to 78)
- 21 females (ages: 40's to 50's)

### Questions? Connect with:

Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch, Tom Morrissey, Sharon Riegel, Scott Stephenson, John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr.

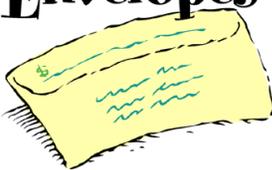




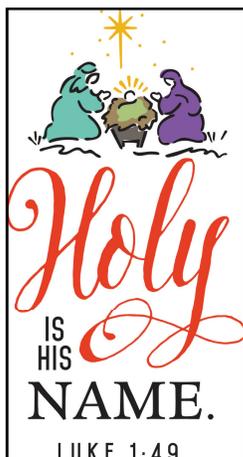
**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The financial books of Friedens will close December 31, 2016. Persons who want their contributions to be credited to 2016 must have their offering in to the Financial Secretary on or before December 31.

**Offering Envelopes**



**CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2017 are prepared and are on a table in hall outside the parlor. Kindly pick them up. In case your name has been missed, please contact the church office.



“Have you always wondered what it felt like to sing in a mass Chorus? Would you like to be part of something very special and wonderful? Know someone who loves to sing but doesn’t attend Friedens Lutheran Church? If you answered “yes” to these questions, then I have something for you! Friedens is hosting a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. We are planning several musical offerings as part of the service, including the Mass Choir. There are three rehearsals scheduled: December 1 and 8 from 7:00-8:30, and December 15 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We ask that you can attend at least one of the rehearsals, if not all three. There will be a dress rehearsal at 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 17. Help spread the word!! For more info contact Gloria Tice at [glotice@gmail.com](mailto:glotice@gmail.com).



**THE YOUTH GROUP** will be holding a Blue Christmas service on December 11th to commemorate our loved ones who have passed. During the service, we will be showing a slide show honoring them. If you would like to share a picture of your loved one to be

shown in the presentation, please give a picture of them to the office or email them to the emails below, please include your loved one’s name with the picture. If you have any questions, contact the emails below.

[kelsiesalem@comcast.net](mailto:kelsiesalem@comcast.net)

[dumbla@comcast.net](mailto:dumbla@comcast.net)