



The Transformer

January 2018

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends at Friedens,

Following our gathering with you for those magnificent Christmas Eve worship services, Cheri and I spent Christmas Day with her folks, two sisters, brothers-in-law, niece and nephew. Yes, getting together with family over a meal served with conversation and laughter is a wonderful gift.

The next day I attended to some congregational matters before packing for our week-long visit with son Matt, daughter-in-law Maegen and the three grandchildren. Those Nebraska days were filled with the blessings of being family. Of course most of our interactions occurred with the grandchildren. Watching Cheri relate with them (ages 6, 3, and 7 months), once again reminded me of how fortunate our three children are to have a Mom like her. Matt and I even reprised a father-son outing when we went to the movie theater featuring a wide-screen, lounge chair seating, and 3-D to watch the recent Star Wars release.

We enjoyed fun times, even though I inadvertently became host to the cold germs that the grandkids incubated.

Together in Ministry

On Sunday, January 7th, we hold our congregational meeting to elect council members and receive an update on our Family, Youth and Children's ministries. Please arrange your schedule to attend this meeting. The "ask" is for you to invest thirty minutes in our Life Together as Friedens congregation.

The nominating committee presents Kim Garhart, Brian Kleinfelter, and Amanda Klopp as persons who bring ability, passion and commitment to serve on our church council. Nominations may also be made from the assembly with prior permission from the person being nominated. Completing their service on council are Chris Heft, Sharon Riegel, and John Umberger. We thank these three for their splendid contribution - hours of service and thoughtful reflection.

We also express gratitude to others who have faithfully served the mission and ministries of Friedens in various capacities and now transition into new involvements. Millie Treat concludes thirty-one years as our financial secretary. Lynn Appleby completed her ministry as coordinator and loving presence for Children's Church. Holly Heft and Kelly Stephenson finished a handful of years directing a vibrant Vacation Bible School. Thank you all for your ministry among us.

Obviously, we need persons to step into these roles so these ministries can continue to thrive. You can help our congregation keep this period of transition short. If your God-given gift mix fits any of these roles, or if you know of someone who is well suited, would you please let me know? Someone once told me of having the desire to take on a particular role, but she did not because no one ever asked. While I understand that feeling, here is my problem, "In a congregation of several hundred persons, I do not know everyone's availability."

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I have also heard of persons being reluctant to step forward, because of the admonition to be humble. Yes, humility is admirable. Being a humble person means I acknowledge and defer to persons who have particular gifts and abilities that I lack. It does not mean denying those I have. In fact, we are told to invest our gifts and abilities in God’s good work taking place in and through the congregation (see: Matthew 5:14-16; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12).

So, as we express gratitude for our friends who have completed their season of service, and as we welcome persons stepping into new roles, let us also be attentive to how the Lord might be nudging us into new endeavors.

Together following Christ, we step forward into 2018,
Pastor Wallace

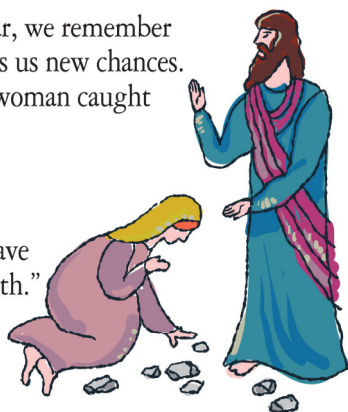


If you are interested in ordering a lily to place in the church for Easter, now is the time to do so. To order, please use the envelopes provided on the narthex bulletin board and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$6.75 each. The last day to order is **MARCH 6**.

? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. “Go, and from now on sin no more.”
- B. “Not even in Israel have I found such great faith.”
- C. “Peace be with you.”
- D. “Tell no one what I have done for you.”



Answer: A (See John 8:11.)



A PENGUIN “PARABLE”

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group.

While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold. In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.



Food Collection

On Sunday, January 7, 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, toilet paper, and reusable plastic containers.



Thank you from the staff for the generosity of the congregation for our Christmas bonuses this year. We greatly appreciate the financial gifts.

Sincerely, The Staff at Friedens Lutheran Church

Thank you for the precious and thoughtful card. Best of luck always to everyone. Happy Holidays to all.

Al Shade



Thank you to the Friedens family for their cards and a poinsettia and for thinking of her at Christmas.

Arabelle Yarnall

Thank you to all the members of Friedens, for prayers, cards, and a visit by Barbara Grumbine and Sally Sholley with a poinsettia and a bag of Janie's favorite candy. You have helped make our Savior's birthday more meaningful.

Thank you again,
God bless,
Love Dean & Janie

Greetings and blessings to all, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for the beautiful poinsettia and a host of Christmas greetings, delivered by an elf named Sally Sholley.

Sincerely
Sheila Peckenschneider

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 2017

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$33,857.00	Goal to Date	\$169,285.00	65%
\$406,280.00	Rec'd	\$23,481.01	Rec'd to Date	110,221.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	14.00	Rec'd to date	147.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	145.00	Rec'd to Date	965.00	

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	4 7 PM—Choir	5	6
7 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:05 AM—Congregational Meeting 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	8	9 7 PM—Life Group 7 PM—Property Committee	10 9 AM - Women Sew 1 PM—Life Group 6 PM—Life Group 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	11 7 PM—Choir	12	13
14 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	15 	16	17 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	18 6:30 PM—Ministry Coordination 7 PM—Choir	19	20
21 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	22	23	24 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	25 7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Choir	26	27
28 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	29	30	31 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band			

Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
November 16, 2017

Chris Heft, President, called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm.

Present: Chris Heft (President), Lynn Appleby, Wendy Gilbert (Secretary), Jim Kneasel, Sharon Riegel, Scott Stephenson (Vice President), Richard Stoner, Rev. Robert Wallace, Jr. (Pastor).

1. Chris Heft opened the meeting with prayer and scripture.
2. Council viewed the 4th video from the Flourish Training Series, followed with discussion.
3. Pastor Wallace made a motion to accept the November 16, 2017 Council minutes. Lynn Appleby seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. Council nominees Kim Garhart, Brian Kleinfelter, and Amanda Klopp were presented for election at the upcoming January 7, 2018 Congregational meeting. Recognition of appreciation will be presented to Chris Heft and Sharon Riegel for their service to Council, Milicent Treat for her 30 plus years of Treasury book keeping, and Lynn Appleby for the children's worship program.
5. It was reported that the church sent \$400.00 to the ELCO school district "Friend Helping Friend" campaign.
6. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary report. Jim Kneasel seconded the motion and the motion passed.
7. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Pastor Wallace seconded the motion and the motion passed.
8. Thank you to Chris Riegel and Jon Zinn for their diligence in researching the "Church Windows" program for recording the Treasurer's report.
9. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the Pastor's report. Wendy Gilbert seconded the motion and the motion passed.
10. Pastor David Daubert will join the January Council meeting via Skype to discuss the "Day8Strategies" program. This would be the next step of our Spiritual Vitality report. We will discuss Clear Purpose, Guiding Principles, and Strategic Initiatives.
11. Pastor Robert Kehrli will preside and preach on December 31, 2017 and May 13, 2018.
12. Dr. Kirby Keller will preside and preach on April 29, May 6, and May 13, 2018.
13. Pentecost Sunday is May 20, 2018 at which time Friedens will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.
- 14. Congregational Meeting will be January 7, 2018, 10:05 am.**
- 15. Ministry Coordination meeting will be January 18, 2018, 6:30 pm.**
- 16. Council Meeting will be January 25, 2018, 7:00 pm.**
17. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Wendy Gilbert, Council Secretary