

The Transformer

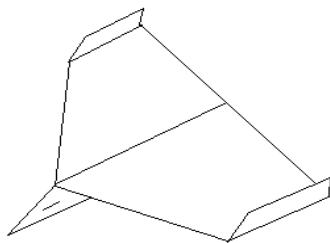
March 2010

717-866-4910

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

Our son, Simon, got a “Fold-a-Paper-Airplane-a-Day” Calendar at Christmas this year. Every morning since January 1, 2010, he comes out of his bedroom wiping the sleep from his eyes, staggers over to the side table, grabs the plane-of-the-day from the box, and brings it to me. We start our day together folding a paper airplane for that day. What an awesome way to start the day. It has changed our relationship for good.

I look forward to that time with my son in the morning. Together, we overcome the challenge (or opportunity) of folding the airplane of the day. Some of those paper airplanes can be pretty challenging. Who knew there were over 300 ways to fold a paper airplane?



During my morning devotions (before anyone else get up) I had a wild thought. I was thinking about the special time I have with my son every morning. I wondered if perhaps God, our heavenly Father, feels the same way when we start our day with him. I can't help but wonder if God looks forward to that time we spend together in the morning in prayer, Bible reading, or simply quiet time together. I have come to appreciate that time with God first thing in the morning “doing coffee together” as I put it. Together, we prepare to face the challenges (and opportunities) of the day.

My mind started wandering and I wondered what my relationship with my children would be like if I didn't spend any time with

them. On days when I get up and leave before they are even out of bed, I find there is something missing in my day. I wonder if that's how God feels when we rush into the day without spending any time with him.

For a while this year I would start my day saying, “God, show me what *to do* today. And show me what *not to do* today.” But I found myself going through the day second guessing myself. “Did I do what God wanted me to do or didn't I?”

About two weeks ago, I started my days differently. I realized that God is omnipresent and omnipotent. So whether I take time with God first thing in the morning or not, God is with me wherever I go.

I began starting my day with this simply pray, “God put me in the middle of what you are doing today.” That has made a huge difference. I see people differently. I see opportunities for ministry throughout the day that I hadn't seen before. I see God at work in their lives when I get there. My days – as hectic as they sometimes get – are filled with more joy and more peace because I see God at work all around me.

My prayer for you this Lenten season is that you too will see God at work in your life and in the lives of the people around you. God certainly is at work in your life and in the lives of the people around you.

Well, I need to go now. Simon just got up and it's time for us to fold today's paper-airplane-of-the-day. What an awesome start to an awesome new day.

Peace, Pastor Miller

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

March 13

Mrs. Mary Gassert
StoneRidge Village
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 14

Annie C. Haag
7 W. Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 21

Mrs. Helen Morris
StoneRidge Campus
450 E. Lincoln Avenue
Assisted Living, Rm. 247
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 28

Mr. Eugene Miller
450 E. Lincoln Avenue
StoneRidge Health Center
Myerstown, PA 17067

COMPEER AND FRIENDS CONCERT

The "Compeer and Friends" concert will be held on Sunday April 11, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at Friedens. Compeer is an organization that matches people with mental illness with a friend in the community so that they will not be alone. This is the fifth year for the concert and the first time that Friedens will be hosting.

Organist Jim Bieber, flutist Kateyn Umberger and pianist Doris Thompson will be among those performing in this years concert.

Also performing will be a choir comprised of members of the Friedens, Quentin UCC, and St. Marks UCC choirs. You are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this choir. We will be practicing on Saturday April 10 2010 at 2:00 P.M. here at Friedens. PLEASE COME AND HELP.

This concert was started by Jim's brother John Bieber as a fund raiser for Compeer. Let's make this year the best year ever for the concert. A free will offering will be taken at the door. For more information, call Jim Bieber at 717-821-0130.

MOTHER & DAUGHTER TEA

April 25, 2010 3-5 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Menu: Fresh fruit, Vegetables, Cream of broccoli soup, Assortment of petite sandwiches, Sweet treats, Coffee, tea & punch.

Entertainment: Gospel chalk talk by Elva Horst

Tickets: Adults (Age 13 & Up) - \$6.00

Children (Ages 5-12) - \$3.00

Children Age 4 & Under—Free

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Fellowship Hall 7:30-10 a.m.

Menu: French toast, scrambled eggs, fruit cup, coffee or orange juice. Served by the youth.

FRIEDENS STEEPLE Please take the time to look at the album, prepared by Keith Steffen, which documents the construction projects done at the church in 2009. The album is in the Fellowship Hall.

THE LUTHERAN SUBSCRIPTIONS – The church is no longer providing *The Lutheran* as in previous years. If you wish to receive *The Lutheran* you can do so two ways, if you have internet capability go to www.thelutheran.org or call 1-800-328-4648.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On March 7, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts will be welcomed. There is a need for cold cereal, instant mashed potatoes, Spam, corned beef, canned chicken, canned pasta, vegetable soup, jams & jellies, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, combs, hair brushes, facial tissues and toilet paper. Please put all donations in the narthex.

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9am-Strong Women 5pm-Strong Women 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE-Group-Parlor	2 7pm-Womens LIFE Group -Parlor	3 9am-Strong Women 6:00 pm-Adult Choir 6:00 pm-Soup & Bread 6:45pm-Lenten Study 7:30pm-Worship	4 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-V. Hauck	5	6
7 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	8 9am-Strong Women 5pm-Strong Women 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE-Group-Parlor	9 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble 7pm-Womens LIFE Group -Parlor	10 9am-Women Sew 6:00 pm-Adult Choir 6:00 pm-Soup & Bread 6:45pm-Lenten Study 7:30pm-Worship	11 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-V. Hauck	12	13
14 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	15 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Women of ELCA 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE-Group-Parlor	16 7pm-Womens LIFE Group -Parlor	17 9am-Strong Women 6:00 pm-Adult Choir 6:00 pm-Soup & Bread 6:45pm-Lenten Study 7:30pm-Worship	18 6:45pm-Church Council 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-V. Hauck	19 Deadline for Transformer articles	20
21 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	22 9am-Strong Women 5pm-Strong Women 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE-Group-Parlor	23 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble 7pm-Womens LIFE Group -Parlor	24 9am-Women Sew 6:00 pm-Adult Choir 6:00 pm-Soup & Bread 6:45pm-Lenten Study 7:30pm-Worship	25 7pm-Anniversary Comm.-Parlor 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-V. Hauck	26	27
28 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	29 9am-Strong Women 5pm-Strong Women 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE-Group-Parlor	30 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble 7pm-Womens LIFE Group -Parlor	31 9am-Strong Women 5pm-Strong Women 7pm-Adult Choir			



CHILDREN’S CHURCH (held at 9 a.m. only) All children **age 3 and up to and including 4th grade** are invited to participate in children’s Church. An age appropriate lesson based on the gospel or one the readings is presented along with a craft, activity or game relating to the theme. You are welcome to accompany your child if he or she feels uncomfortable attending themselves. If your child elects not to join the group on any particular day, that is ok too. Children will be called up front with the Pastor and be dismissed to go back to Children’s Church. Children’s Church is located next to the nursery. Children’s Church and Nursery are a **FOOD FREE ZONE**, no food is allowed due to allergies.

THANK YOU

Dear Family,

Thank you for your get well wishes. The phone calls, greetings, cards, meals, flowers and snacks were very appreciated. But most of all thank you for your prayers and your love shown to me.

God is good.

Blessings,
Violet & Roy Schaeffer



The season of Lent began on Wednesday, February 17 with Ash Wednesday Worship - a time for us to reflect on our need for God’s mercy and forgiveness as we invoke God to help us begin anew. We need to begin anew because we know that we are made of dust and to dust someday we will return...

But Lent isn’t about dying and turning to dust; it’s about living and turning to Jesus. Repentance means “to turn around and start fresh.” Just as the season of spring brings forth new life so too does the Season of Lent. This is a time of year when God is doing a new thing all around us as winter gives way to spring. It’s appropriate then to invite God to do a new thing within us -- turning us from death to life. As part of this renewal process we will gather every Wednesday during Lent for on going reflection and discussion using the following schedule:

- 6:00 Soup & Bread Supper
- 6:45 Bible Study (The Book of Acts)
- 7:30 Worship Service (Including Dramas)

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Study</i>	<i>Worship</i>
Week 2:	March 3	Acts 6:8-9:31	Drama – John – Chad Beiler
Week 3:	March 10	Acts 9:32-12:24	Drama – Leah – McKenna Achenbach
Week 4:	March 17	Acts 12:25-16:5	Drama – Martha – Val Hauck
Week 5	March 24	Acts 16:6-19:20	Drama - Samaritan Woman – JoAnne Swanger



What an amazing God we serve! In working with the people involved in our Lenten dramas I have been reminded of just how truly gifted and talented each one of us really is. In my devotions this week I was reading Matthew 25:14-30 The parable tells about a wealthy landowner who is about to go on a journey and who entrusts the management of his estate to his servants. This landowner recognized the different capabilities of each steward, so he gave to each the amount of money that he thought that each one could manage-five talents to one, two to another, and one to the third. The wise investors were willing to assume the risks of making an investment. They knew this was what their master expected. There was less pressure on them in one sense because it was not really their money they were investing. In another sense, there was more pressure because they were managing the account for someone else. The one-talent investor was afraid of the consequences of making a bad investment, so he took the money and buried it, while the five-talent and the two-talent investors each doubled their investment. When the master returned, he was pleased with the wise investors. He said, "Well done. You have been faithful with this little bit of responsibility. I will give you the opportunity to have more responsibility." To the foolish investor, though, he said, "You wicked and lazy servant." He lost his opportunity ever to do anything again for his master.

First of all, this parable tells us that God gives people different gifts. One man received five talents, another two, and another one. It is not your talent, which matters; *what matters is how you use it*. God never demands from you abilities which you do not have; but God does demand that you should use to the full the abilities which you do possess. Everyone is not equal in talent; but every person can be equal in effort. Last Sunday's Congregational luncheon/meeting is a good example of the fact that God gave each one of us a variety of talents. Some set up the tables for the luncheon, some cooked the meal, some brewed coffee, while others led the meeting, or operated the computer while others behind the scenes cleaned up the kitchen and the fellowship hall. Everybody has a gift of helping in some way.

The parable tells us that whatever talent we have, little or great, we have a special and unique gift or talent from God for the purpose of the Kingdom of God. The Lord has given special gifts and tasks to all the people in this church. Ask yourself which one of these servants do your most relate to in this text? And why?

Remember no one has been called merely to sit around. Everyone can do something. The work of the church will *not* get done unless all of us do what God has called us to do. Jesus is coming back-we know this is true. Does this mean we must quit our jobs in order to serve God? No, it means we are to use our time, talents, and treasures diligently, faithfully, and continually in order to serve God completely in whatever we do. Different amounts were given to each servant, according to his ability, and the return expected was in proportion to the sum entrusted. God recognizes that we all are different and expects of us only what is appropriate.

Imagine how a parent would feel if on Christmas Day when the gifts for their children were handed out, the children just took them, said "Thank you," and laid them aside with no attempt to open the gifts, not even to find out what they were! Imagine how the Lord must feel when he has given gifts to us that he intends for us to use, and yet we never take the trouble to find out what they are, never put them to work, and then excuse ourselves from serving the Lord and church by saying that we can't do anything!

God has blessed each one of us at Friedens Lutheran Church today, very richly. We are blessed with talents, and with time, with gifts and with graces, with finances and energy. How have you invested what God has entrusted you with?

Christ's Peace,
Valerie

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Feb. 18, 2010**

Council President, Bob Hauck called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Greg Gardner (Vice Pres.), Bob Hauck (Pres.), Dottie Kemble, Jill Kreider (Secretary), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer, Pastor Miller, and Denise Noll.

Excused: Jeffrey Gumpert

Absent: Jody Appleby and Carol Hartlieb

Bob Hauck opened with scripture reading from Acts 16: 5-10 and a devotional called "Confronting Closed Doors."

Discussion followed. Jill Kreider offered the opening prayer.

1. Election of Vice President: Jill Kreider motioned to nominate Greg Gardner for Vice President. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

2. Minutes: Denise Noll motioned to accept Jan. 21, 2010 minutes. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

3. Reports:

- a. Financial Secretary Report reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Jill Kreider seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Treasurer Report reviewed. Correction made by Elaine Lasch as follows: Net Ordinary Income on page 2 should be \$778.83 because a check to Roark Roofing for the amount of \$2,907.91 should have been from Capital Improvement instead of Building Maintenance and Repairs. Joanne Maurer motioned to accept report as corrected. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

4. Communications:

Jill Kreider communicated:

- a. Thank you from On Fire Youth Ministry for 2009 contribution of \$1,000.00.
- b. Thank you from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for December food donation of 163 pounds.
- c. Thank you from Luthercare for February gift of \$416.66.
- d. 2009 Year End Statement from Living Water International in amount of \$2,000.00.
- e. Thank you from Myerstown First Aid Unit for donation of \$1,000.00.

Pastor Miller communicated:

- a. Lent soup and study, we will be studying the book of Acts and dramas will be part of the service.
- b. Pastor Miller discussed and suggested to Gary Deck that we raise money to pay the college students who are part of the worship team at the 9:00 service.

Bob Hauck communicated:

- a. The Haiti relief fund is up to \$12,335.00
- b. Requested that the newest council members and any other member who has not had their picture taken for the council member photo board be taken as soon as possible so the pictures can be on display.

5. Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, Feb. 21st following the second service.

6. Open Forum. Discussion was held on Transformation Presentation by Pastor Miller.

7. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jill Kreider

Congregational Council Secretary