



The Transformer

January 2011

717-866-4910

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

Isaiah writes: *Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth do you not perceive it?* (Isaiah 43:18-19).

So much has changed in 2010 that I don't even know where to start. The old is certainly being replaced with the new. Maybe that's not such a bad thing. Perhaps Isaiah's predictions of nearly 3000 years ago, about God at work in the world, is still becoming a reality even as we move into 2011. The world is certainly changing.

Here's a list of things that have changed the world in which we live as we move into 2011. (I modified this list from a Web Blog article by Bill Easum).

1. Unemployment. The number of unemployed is 9.8% of the population with the real figure more like 20%. And the job's that have been lost are not coming back. It reminds me of when the steel mills closed and the job market changed drastically.
2. The Health Care Bill. Will it really do all that it claims to do? I wonder if such a mandate imposed on the entire population is a good idea.
3. The National Debt has grown so large that not only can we not wrap our minds around it but our way of life here in the good old USA will never be the same. This debt will influence our way of life for many, many years to come.
4. The Tea Party. We now have a third political party that seems to have some real voice and real power. Will politics ever be the same?
5. Wikileaks with its massive sharing of classified information has challenged the free speech realm that we hold so dearly. We now need to be very careful about what we say and write.
6. The BP Oil Spill which killed eleven people and destroyed the lives of millions along the Gulf Coast. Not to mention the impact on the environment. What will become of all that?
7. The 2010 elections and how that changed the face of the House of Representatives. The voice and vote of the people can and does make a difference.
8. Full Body scans at the airports. Are they really safe – especially for those who travel so frequently? Isn't this yet another way we are giving the Terrorists power over us?
9. The future of the ELCA with the formation of the NALC (North American Lutheran Church) and LCMC (Lutheran Church for Mission in Christ) from congregations and pastors who have withdrawn from the ELCA because of the sexuality decision in August of 2009. What does the future hold for the ELCA?
10. The comeback of GM and the murky future of all automakers.

These are just a few of the things that come to mind for me about how the world has changed in 2010. What comes to mind for you? On the other hand – I can hardly wait to see what new things God is going to do in my life and in the life we share at Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church. May God bless you and yours in many and various ways as we move into 2011. Happy New Year!

Peace,
Pastor Miller



We are nearing completion of the "new look" for our children's worship rooms. Completion of these rooms will allow us to provide ministry to the children in three age

groups: under 3 years, 3 years through kindergarten, 1st grade through 5th grade.

We are also planning an appreciation dinner for January 7, 2011. This dinner will recognize the efforts and service of those who have been involved in the children's ministry in 2010. We will also have the opportunity to discuss new ways to provide for the spiritual growth of our children.

If anyone has a passion to work with children and give your talents towards their spiritual growth please contact any team member. We plan to provide guidance and training to volunteers in the near future. As we grow in this mission we hope there are opportunities for you to share your talents at whatever level of involvement fits your schedule.

Children's Ministry Team: Missy Krause, Jill Kreider, Amber Miller, Lynn Appleby.

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAY

January 13
Arlene Billman
1009 Horseshoe Circle
Lebanon, PA 17042

January 17
Mrs. Helen Kemble
410 S. Railroad Street
Myerstown, PA 17067

January 20
Mrs. Elsie Troutman
Cornwall Manor
1 Boyd Street
Cornwall, PA 17016



Food Collection

On January 2, 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. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this outreach ministry.



BELL CHOIR NEWS - Eileen Beazley will be completing her ministry with us as Bell Choir director after 6 years with us at Friedens. Our heartfelt gratitude goes with her and we pray God's blessing upon her. Having completed her education at Lebanon Valley College she will study abroad in Germany beginning January 2011. Katelyn Umberger will be stepping into the role as Bell Choir director beginning January 1.

Wow! Did you know?

We now have over 500+ pictures and 50+ videos on our church Facebook page. Videos include weekly adult and children sermons and various worship songs by our own Praise & Worship Band. Be sure to check us out on Facebook: Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA. The church also has its own website: flcmeyerstown.com

JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  New Year's Day
2 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship	3	4	5 6:45 pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	6	7 Children's Minis- try Appreciation Dinner	8
9 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship	10	11	12 9 am-Women Sew 6:45 pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship	17 7 pm-Women of ELCA	18	19 6:45 pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	20 Deadline for Transformer arti- cles 6:45 pm-Church Council	21 Youth Encounter Quake (21-23)	22
23 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship	24	25	26 9 am-Women Sew 6:45 pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	27 7 pm-Anniversary Committee	28	29
30 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship	31					



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

The start of each New Year is a good time to set new goals. What projects do I want to start or finish? How can we organize our finances? What do I want to achieve spiritually during 2011? These are all questions I find myself pondering as the year comes to an end. No matter what comes my way I find peace in the hope that only Christ can bring. With the rapid changes in our world I can easily get a sense of unease and uncertainty. Sometimes I feel thrown off balance by the suffering I see all around us, the never ending technology that outpaces our ability to absorb it, and let's not forget the daily rise and fall of the financial markets. Sometimes what seems worth while today has less value tomorrow. As problems mount, (and they do) it's easy to become discouraged and lose heart. But placing all my hope on mans ability to problem solve is not the answer.

We can achieve only temporary peace on our own strengths however; those who trust in the Lord receive a new nature and are reconciled to Him. As His adopted children, not only are we at peace with Him but we've also been given the power to live in harmony with one another. No matter how much life changes (and it will) we can have hope, for we are anchored to a firm foundation that will never be shaken. (Isa.28:16)

As you replace your old calendar, let the New Year serve as a reminder that your loving heavenly Father is the God of second chances and a God of hope for a broken world.

Happy New Year

Christ's Peace
Valerie

Thanks you to every LIFE group leader who took the time to serve Christ as they served others in 2010. We look forward to all that God has in store for 2011. The Next Semester of LIFE groups begins the week of February 6th 2011. Registration for groups will begin Sunday January 16th. 2011
LIFE GROUPS- connecting you with God & others.

Read Through The Bible in 2011

We are very excited to invite you and your family to make a commitment in 2011 to journey together through the Bible as a congregation. In conjunction with your personal or family devotional reading time, Pastor Miller is planning to facilitate weekly discussions beginning in January (time and day of the week to be determined). For your convenience copies of the "Through-the Bible Reading Plan" are now available at the church office or can be downloaded from our webpage at www.flcmysterstown.com If you are interested in joining in the weekly discussions please register by calling the church office to reserve your place.

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

John 8:31



WORSHIP SERIES FOR JANUARY

In January 2011 we continue our journey through the Lord's Prayer as we consider the petition "Give Us This Day our Daily Bread. We will focus on how Jesus has gathered some followers and is now "branding" this highly missional and communal movement. It's as if Jesus is saying, "You are significant to God. God is significant to you. Let's live significantly." To live significantly is, in part, to depend solely on trusting God's goodness and grace. How can we understand this petition, not as a check-list or self-help manual to apply to our lives, but as a Living Word that our lives surrender to it? As we consider this petition, we are given the freedom to re-imagine our situation. The Living Word breaks in, opens up and drops us at the feet of Jesus, who declares the Kingdom of God is at hand.



January 2 Living on a Prayer Matthew 6:5-15

Prayer is a lived response to our trust in God. To petition "give us this day our daily bread" is to trust that God will provide.

January 9 The Wide and Gaping Landfill Luke 16:19-31

In our country, we individually create 4.5 pounds of waste per person per day. This equals 1,642.5 tons of waste per person per year (EPA statistics). Are we really praying for our daily bread? What do we mean by daily bread? To petition "give us this day our daily bread" gives us the opportunity to repent in those areas of our life that have skewed priorities.

January 16 The Not-So-Random Extreme Makeover Jeremiah 33:6-11

God's heart beats a rhythm of restoration, and our hearts are invited to join the dance. To petition "give us this day our daily bread" is to move into partnership with God to be a systematic and sustainable answer to this petition for others.

January 23 Winner Winner Chicken Dinner Psalm 8

Our efforts are to the glory of God. To petition "give us this day our daily bread" is to give praise to our God for God's power and majesty.



FAITH & FAMILY

It is hard to believe that we are turning the page of the calendar to January 2011. It is the time when we reflect on the past and look to the future. We think about what we would like to do differently in the New Year. For 2011, I am making a commitment to spend more time in my walk of faith. I admit that there are times when I get caught up in the busy-ness of life, running here and there but not taking the time to walk with the Lord.

I would like to share with you two wonderful blogs that I find to be very inspiring and thought provoking. Both are written by Christian moms who are busy raising children, working, running a household and balancing the craziness of life all while walking on the path. I often find myself relating to the experiences they share, especially the musings found on "Graceful."

The first "A Holy Experience" <http://www.aholyexperience.com/> is written by Ann Voskamp. Here is her personal biography as found printed on her website:

I'm Ann Voskamp, a plain Ann without even the fanciful "e", wife to The Farmer, mama to six, determined laundress, chief bottle washer, desperate Grace-clinger.

*In the dark hours, I pray more and write. **This place is about finding the beauty and quiet**, slowing to see the sacred in the chaos, the Cross in the clothespin, **the flame in the bush**... Just to listen – laundry, liturgy, life, — holy ground. A holy experience — because all of life flames with God.*

*Honestly, I'm a bit of a mess. It's okay, really. **Grace is the most amazing of all**. I won a full-tuition scholarship to university and never finished. I married a Farmer instead & came home to gravel road & cornfields. I had babies. Half a dozen beautiful babies. My laundry basket is never empty. I lose library books. I homeschool our six exuberant kids and most days I feel just a tad bit overwhelmed and very crazy. When the kids and the washing machine sleep, I wash my real dirt down with words and The Word....."*

The second, "Graceful" <http://nebraskagracious.blogspot.com/> is written by Michelle DeRusha. Here is her personal biography as found printed on her website:

"I'd like to say I have a child-like faith now – firm, unwavering, trusting. But I don't. My faith is a wrestling, questioning, waffling kind of faith. And it's here, on this blog and in some of my other writings, that I wrestle. I ask questions. I doubt out loud. I pray out loud. I look for God in the everyday. Often I find him. Sometimes I don't.

It's not perfect, this quavery faith. I'd certainly prefer something more solid, something less wavering. But I'll take what I can get and be grateful for it as a gift from God.

Thank you for accompanying me on the path."

If you have a moment I encourage you to take a look at these blogs. They have helped me in my faith journey and I plan to read them daily in 2011. On each site, you can subscribe to have them delivered to your inbox daily. I take comfort knowing I am not alone on this walk. There are others journeying down a similar path and of course we have our constant walking partner- Jesus. I'd be curious to hear what you think of these blogs as well as the ways you incorporate faith in your daily life. Drop me a line

amiller70@comcast.net.

Blessings,
Amber

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Dec. 16, 2010**

Council members met at Carol Hartlieb's home to enjoy dinner together. Pastor Miller offered the opening prayer.

Council President, Bob Hauck, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Greg Gardner (VP), Jeff Gumpert, Carol Hartlieb, Bob Hauck (Pres.), Jill Kreider (Sec.), Elaine Lasch (Treas.), Joanne Maurer, Pastor Miller and Denise Noll.

Excused: Dottie Kemble.

Bob Hauck opened with a scripture reading from Acts 1:8 and a devotional called "The Power Within."

1. Minutes: Nov. 18, 2010 minutes reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept minutes. Carol Hartlieb seconded. Motion carried.

2. Reports:

A. Financial Secretary Report from Nov. 2010 was reviewed. Joanne Maurer motioned to accept report. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

B. Treasurer Report from Nov. 2010 was reviewed. Jeff Gumpert motioned to accept report. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Miller reported:

A. The daily devotional/reading plan will be posted on the website.

B. Rev. John Lose has requested to be an Assoc. member of Friedens.

3. Spending Authorization Policy from Finance Committee has been tabled at this time.

4. Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Feb. 13th, 2011.

5. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by :

Jill Kreider

Congregational Council Secretary





A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all those who contributed to the Angel Tree Gift Cards this year. Thank you for helping to touch the lives of needy families in our area. We sent \$2,100 in support of this outreach ministry.



**Caring
Loving
Eager
Ambassadors
Needed...**the more ambassadors, the less time to keep our

church clean! Once or every other month for two or three hours? To schedule appointment, please call: Joanne at 717-628-1211 or e-mail—joannemaureur@comcast.net



Thank you to everyone who generously gave support to the staff gifts this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in showing our support for our leaders.

Gratefully yours,
The Staff



Thank you!
Amber, Simon, Thea,
and I would like to extend our deep appreciation for the wonderful gifts, cards, visits, bonus, and

thoughtful words and deeds shared with us this Christmas season. Your generosity has warmed our hearts and reveals the love of God at work within you. Thank you for making Christmas 2010 so very special for us.

Peace, Pastor Miller

Words to live by as we move into 2011...

"When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: admit it, learn from it, and do not repeat it."

-- Paul "Bear" Bryant



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OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 2010

						% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$316,080.00		85%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$23,188.00	Rec'd to Date	\$269,185.00		
Spang Crest	Rec'd	54.00	Rec'd to Date	998.00		
Hunger	Rec'd	395.00	Rec'd to Date	3,630.00		



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship

What a great time it is to fellowship from 10 to 10:30 on Sunday morning between church services. Coffee, goodies and catching up with friends on the happenings in their lives, is a big part of this time. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday to set up for the fellowship hour, just sign the sheet in the fellowship hall on the tables next to the stage. It is fun to serve in this way, if you have never done so before and would like to serve see one of us during the fellowship time. If you are not comfortable with serving, you might possibly make an extra dozen or two of cookies the next time you bake. Put them in a container, along with what they are (and if they contain nuts) and place them in the freezer in the church kitchen. A big thanks to those that have served in this ministry and also to those who would like to do so.

Carmela Deck, Annette Beamesderfer and Susie Harper



Student Ministry

Thank you for our El Salvadoran ministry, especially for those who contributed this year to support our Sponsor Our Student. We provided \$3,500 . Thank you to every-

one for their generosity for making this outreach ministry possible.

Missing pronouns

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say I.

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say My.

Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray for one another,
To ask God for "our" daily bread, you must include your brother.

For others are included ... in each and every plea,
From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once say Me.

BRAND NEW

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown