



The Transformer

June 2013

717-866-4910

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

Romans 5 – “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; ...”

One of my professors at seminary said that every pastor has one sermon and they repeat that one sermon week after week using different illustrations and different scripture passages. I have discovered that my one sermon is “It’s All About God.” I am grateful to Paul for all his reminders of that truth.

When Paul was Saul, he was a Pharisee and therefore followed every law on the books. He was very proud of his accomplishments and could stand before God and everyone else proclaiming his righteousness. What he learned, and shared in his letters, was that it wasn’t about him at all; it was all about God.

We are brought into God’s presence and made right – clean and fit enough to hold up our heads in God’s presence – not through anything we have done, not by our own goodness or good works, but simply by believing in Jesus and trusting him. We don’t even have to have a huge amount of belief or trust, because our being in God’s presence doesn’t depend on us, it depends on Jesus. Faith about the size of a mustard seed will do.

We are already justified – made right - with God because of Jesus. That is such a difficult concept to grasp because we are so very aware of our sinful nature. I’ve had people agonize with me about themselves or their children because, while they believe in Jesus, they know they still sin. It’s hard to comprehend that even though we still sin, even though we may still have pockets of evil within us, Jesus made us right with God.

Belief doesn’t mean we never sin again; it does mean that the Holy Spirit is already working away within us filling us with God’s light. And that happens without our knowledge. Once we’ve accepted Jesus; once we believe and trust in him, the Holy Spirit quietly works away on our behalf. Meanwhile, we’re straight with God and are able to communicate with God. Why? Because of God’s great love for us found in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So, when I am tempted to believe it’s about me and what I am doing for God; when I’m tempted to reduce God to my level and keep God in my back pocket, I read Paul’s letters again and realize that God is a mystery I’m never supposed to understand in its entirety.

And an even bigger mystery is why such an awesome and glorious and mysterious God should ever bother with a mere human being like me. But God not only bothers with the likes of me, God loves every single one of us.

So I pray with the Psalmist, “Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Ken

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

They say you can learn a lot about a relationship by the way you say goodbye. Watch a married couple as they separate to go about their day. Watch the children being put on the bus by mom on the first day of school. I recall the scene a few years ago when we were dropping our daughter off at college as hundreds of college students said goodbye... as parents set their children free. You can learn a lot about a relationship by the way you say goodbye. In speaking to Pastor Ken, in how I could say good bye to you ...he simply said this.... "It just needs to be a GOOD goodbye".

In God's word, the apostle Paul said goodbye to the leaders of the church in Corinth. This comes from the second to last chapter of 1 Corinthians, So after encouraging, rebuking, reminding and strengthening the Corinthians, Paul said this:

"Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

I truly count my years at Friedens Lutheran Church as one of God's many blessings, I am thankful to all those people who have served along side me in ministry to Christ Jesus. I believe this is an exciting time for our church and it doesn't have to be a time of sadness, but a time of excitement to see what God will do next. Our Praise Team sings a song entitled "Refiners Fire" God will shape and reshape us till we are what "He" has designed us to be. I believe this to be true personally, and I also see this to be true in the many changes taking place here at Friedens Lutheran Church. As I say Goodbye to you I leave you with a reminder that "God is Good all the time" and "all the time God is Good!!"

"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you"

Valerie



OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

April 2013

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	Goal to Date	\$107,208.00	88%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$20,819.00	Rec'd to Date	93,899.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	34.00	Rec'd to Date	162.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	205.00	Rec'd to Date	990.00	





STUDENT LOAN APPLICATIONS – College students and students attending other qualified institutions may pick up loan applications at the church office. Applications must be returned by **JUNE 15th**.



We would like to thank everyone who has contributed fabric, especially Wendy Gilbert and many others that have given sheets, curtains, table cloths, blankets, etc. Come and join us the second and fourth Wednesday, 9:00-12:00 to knot or sew. There is good fellowship. We'd love to have you.
The Sewers

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

June 25
Mrs. Margaret Fessler
Spang Crest
945 Duke St.
Lebanon, PA 17042

June 28
Mrs. Rhoda Leshner
Spang Crest
945 Duke St.
Lebanon, PA 17042

June 28
Mrs. Roberta Sitler
Linden Village
100 Tuck Street
Lebanon, PA 17042



Food Collection

On Sunday, June 2, 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 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. .



The volunteer cleaning team will remain in action for 2013. Because of our budget deficit, nothing was proposed for professional cleaning service again.

I want to thank all the members who helped to keep our facility clean this year. We hope that others might join in whenever they can.

Please call Barb or Gene Lessig, at 866-2291 if you would like to help.



Like us on
Facebook



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

JUNE 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM - Traditional Service	3	4	5 6:45 PM -Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal	6	7	8
9 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM - Traditional Service	10	11 7 PM—Property Committee	12 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM -Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal	13	14  Deadline for newsletter articles	15
16  9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM - Traditional Service	17 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Pavilion	18	19 6:45 PM -Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal	20 6:45 PM—Church Council	21  First Day of Summer	22
23 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM - Traditional Service	24	25	26 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM -Praise & Worship Band Re- hearsal	27	28	29
30 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM - Traditional Service						



COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP

Ever wonder how coffee gets magically made in the morning for you nearly every Sunday? Well, all it takes is a few minutes of someone’s time and a desire to help keep our social hour lively. Members of the coffee hour committee are seeking helpers who are willing to volunteer to make it happen...we can’t do it all ourselves! Coffee, cookies and munchies are all purchased and waiting for someone each Sunday to pull together. We even have a new coffee pot! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BAKE OR PURCHASE TREATS BY YOURSELF.** Sign up on the list in Stauffer Hall or talk with Susan Harper, Caremla Deck or Annette

SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Sun, July 14th - Wed, July 17th 6:00 to 8:00 pm

"Kingdom Rock" will empower your little ones to stand strong with epic Bible Adventures, Imagination Station and crafts, tournament games and rockin' music!!

Register at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/FriedensMyerstown

or call the church office. Deadline is July 1st. *****To access this site, enter the web address in your Address Bar, not via Google.*****



MEETING - June 2—following the 9:00 morning service, the 2013 Mission (restore Camp Crossroads in New Jersey) participants will meet in the church par-



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL is continuing to search for a person or persons to serve as **CHAIRMAN OF CEMETERY BOARD**. Please connect with a council person if you or some one you know would enjoy using their gifts in this important ministry area. Council Persons names/pictures are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parlor.

ATTENTION --- YOUR HELP NEEDED

In order to bring our records up to date we ask you to fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or put it in the offering plate.

NAME _____

E-mail address _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Thank you for filling out this form.

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
May 16, 2013

Jeff Gumpert (President) called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Present:

Jody Appleby (Vice President), Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (President), Chris Heft, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer, Denise Noll, Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

1. Pastor Osborne opened the meeting with prayer.
 2. Devotion/Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7. Discussion followed.
 3. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 - a. Denise Noll made a motion to accept the April 25, 2013 Church Council Minutes. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Jody Appleby made the motion to accept the April Financial Secretary's Report. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Denise Noll made a motion to accept April Treasurer's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Pastor Osborne shared a copy of his Pastor's Report for April 2013. Pastor plans to attend the Synod Assembly in June at Messiah College. He also reported no one from the congregation expressed an interest in attending as delegates. Pastor will be off July 1-7, 2013 and August 5-11, 2013. Pastor Kehrli will lead worship on July 7 and August 11.
 - e. Thank you letter from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for April 2013 donation totaling 116 pounds.
 - f. Thank you card from Janet Moyer for the gift basket for Secretary's Day.
 - g. Thank you letter from Borough of Myerstown for the 2013 contribution of \$250 to their PILOT program.
 4. An update was shared on the Furnace Replacement. Property is looking at the end of July/August for installation.
 5. An update was shared on the Video Recording and Projection Equipment Upgrade. This team is currently meeting with 2 different vendors.
 6. The group discussed the continued need to find a person or persons to serve as Chairman of Cemetery Board. We may need to consider making this a paid position. Pastor Osborne will connect with Roger Kauffman for further input/discussion.
 7. A congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary between services at 10 am on Sunday, May 19, 2013 for the election of the Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee).
 8. Jeff Gumpert shared updated email correspondence with Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania for their "Seeding The Future" campaign. The group again agreed it would not be beneficial at this time to commit to this campaign.
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- 9. Jeff Gumpert will attend the May 28, 2013, Finance Committee meeting.
- 10. Pastor Osborne shared a report of the May 14, 2013 Property Committee meeting.
- 11. The Council Nomination Committee for 2014 will be Joanne Maurer and Denise Noll. Joanne and Denise will be finishing their second 3-year terms the end of 2013.
- 12. Pastor Osborne gave an update on the Ministry Site Profile Team. Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert, Roger Kauffman, Violet Schaeffer, Len Schott and Judy Zinn have agreed to serve on the team.
- 13. Pastor Osborne will schedule a New Members Class in the near future. If you know of any person or families who would like to join Friedens, please ask them to connect directly with Pastor.
- 14. Children’s Ministry will be hosting an Alex’s Lemonade Stand on Sunday, June 9, 2013 in honor of Landon Kreider. The theme is “Mix. Pour. Find a Cure for Childhood Cancer.”
- 15. Jody Appleby shared a concern of a member about handicap accessibility in our restrooms and also smoke detectors in our building. Joanne Maurer will connect with Property Committee on these items.
- 16. Jeff Gumpert read a letter of resignation dated May 14, 2013, from Valerie Hauck, Director of Discipleship. Valerie’s last day of employment with Friedens will be Friday, June 7, 2013. Chris Heft made a motion to accept this resignation with regret and thanks. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
- 17. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6:45 pm.
- 18. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary



CHILDREN’S CHURCH will be hosting Alex's Lemonade Stand (Foundation for Childhood Cancer) in honor of Landon Kreider on Sunday June 9th. It will begin during coffee hour in the fellowship hall. Then at 11:30 we will move outside to sell lemonade till 1:30. Can't make it, but want to help make a difference? Please visit ALEXSLEMONADE.ORG



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Tad Achenbach
John Flesher
Chris Heft
Sister Janice Ruch
John R. Smith
McKenna Achenbach

