



The Transformer

September 2017

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers and expressions of congratulations on the occasion of our 40th wedding anniversary.

Following worship on our anniversary day, Cheri and I traveled to Oakwood, Ohio to spend several delightful days visiting with my aunt. On the 21st we sat in the bleachers at the local high school soccer stadium and viewed the eclipse (90% complete), while live streaming the NASA coverage of the full eclipse as it took place from Salem, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina.

Watching this magnificent display, I recalled the awestruck psalmist who intoned:

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! - Psalm 8

Yes! God is mindful of us, and God wants what is best for creation. According to divine will and merciful love, God continually acts in and through human history to draw you, me and all humanity into the same kind of relationships the Father and the Son and the Spirit have with one another. Remember how Jesus prayed in the Garden:

Holy Father, protect the persons who bear your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one... I'm not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world, than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; ... Your word is consecrating truth.

In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. - John 17:11, 15-18

So,

How do we respond to both extraordinary and subtle God sightings / God moments - an eclipse, a child's laughter, an older couple walking hand in hand?

What difference does it make to us that we are being made one people in Christ, being protected by divine love, being sent into the world according to God's mission?

(Continued next page)

Those two questions will remain before us over the coming months. I will address them in sermons and these monthly letters; we will discuss them at ministry meetings and church council; and we will make them part of faith formations for children, youth and adults.

We are loved by God! How then shall we live?

I am eager for how we will discern together God's will for us.

Your pastor and friend,

Robert Wallace

EXCITING NEWS !

The Allen Theatre in Annville will host our special viewing of the new Martin Luther [movie](#) at 6:00pm on Monday, October 23. Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks, but for now review the website. One tidbit: *"In a quest for authenticity, every word of Luther's dialogue in the film was taken verbatim from his actual writings and speeches. Similarly, all filming was done in the castles, monasteries, and ancient churches of eastern Europe—chosen for their undisturbed 16th century heritage."*

A few key notes:

- All tickets are pre-sales through a website link that I will provide.
- We will need at least 75 tickets to sell before we can confirm the event.
- We are most definitely looking to promote this event to the entire Lebanon County community

Thrivent Financial is a major sponsor of the movie.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRIP—Pastor Glenn Beard, Lower Susquehanna Synod Disaster Response Network Coordinator, will once again be organizing a disaster response trip, October 8-14, in Monmouth County, NJ. Participants will be working with St. Bernard Project to help finish the rebuilding of homes damaged or destroyed by Super Storm Sandy almost five years ago. The group will be staying at historic Camp Evans in Wall, NJ. This will be the group's final trip to New Jersey! Space is extremely limited for this trip. If you would like more information, or to sign up for the trip, please contact Pastor Beard at gbeard@luthercare.org or call him (717) 471-1067. The deadline to register is September 10th, although the trip could be filled by that point.



Friends of Spang Crest Chicken Bar-B-Que by Kauffman's will be held on Friday, September 8 from 2:30—6 PM.
Cost is \$7.50 and includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, roll and applesauce.
For tickets see Barbara Grumbine, 717-821-6993 or Janet Kehrl, 717-866-6726.



Food Collection

On Sunday, September 3, 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.

YOUTH Meeting

ATTENTION all Junior and Senior High Youth - The countdown has begun!! Youth Group is coming back and it kicks off on Sunday, September 10th at 10:30 in the youth room. I hope to see you all on September 10th!! - Chuck

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

September 1

Mrs. Darlene Wise
30 Scenic Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 2

Mr. Lawrence Snyder
338 W. Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

September 6

Mrs. Dawn Sell
Manor Care
900 Tuck Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

Congregational Meeting



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

July 2017

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$33,857.00	Goal to Date	\$33,857.00
\$406,280.00	Rec'd	\$25,666.00	Rec'd to Date	25,666.00
Spang Crest	Rec'd	30.00	Rec'd to date	30.00
Hunger	Rec'd	215.00	Rec'd to Date	215.00
				76%

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Welcome



As most of you are aware, I have been hired as the Director for Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Friedens. It is very hard to put into words how excited I am to be a part of the Friedens family. I can't wait to get to know not only the youth of the congregation but the congregation as a whole. When it comes right down to it we are all God's children so I feel that my reach covers the young as well as the young at heart. I didn't answer the call to get involved with youth ministry until later in my life. I was raised as a Catholic and went through 12 years of Catholic school. Through marriage to my wife, Michele, I made the change and became a follower of the Lutheran faith. In 2012, while at the Winterfest retreat for High School youth in the synod I felt the urging to answer the call for a part time Junior/Senior high youth associate at my home congregation of St Peter in Mechanicsburg, PA. After 5 years in that position I felt as if I was being called to do more. As I was very passionate about youth ministry, I sought out a full time position in the field. It didn't take long before Friedens popped up on my screen in an email. I was happy with everything that I found out about the congregation and I was excited to explore the opportunity. Through God's grace I was called to the open position and here I am. A couple of other facts about me are that I am a fan of all things Carolina. My favorite color is Carolina Blue. I have been married for almost 22 years. I have a 14 yr old daughter, Audrey, who will be joining us for youth activities. Last but not least, Hawaiian pizza is my favorite. Blessings to all of you. I am looking forward to many years of faith and fellowship with all of you.

Chuck Bissell
Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries



BOOKMARKERS

A labor of love-bundles of book-markers (40 total) lovingly colored by Deanna Curry, will be sent to our students in El Salvador. Deanna used her hobby of coloring to express her love for the children Friedens sponsors with school scholarships.