

The Transformer

February 2015

717-866-4910

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



Annual Congregational Meeting

It's that time of year :)

Annual Congregational Meeting (with lunch) will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall.

Annual Reports from Staff & Team/Committee Leaders are due to Janet Moyer, Church Secretary by no later than Sunday, January 18, 2015.

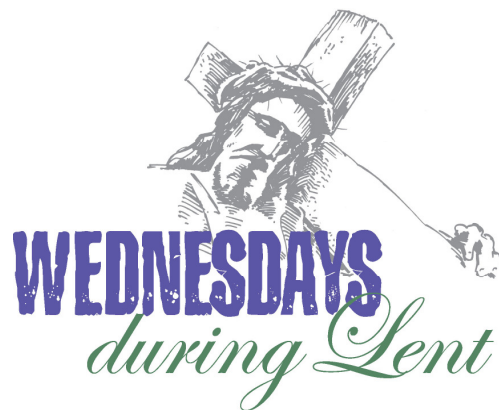
**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Annual Report packets will be available for review beginning Sunday, February 1, 2015.

During this meeting we will review these reports as well as the Endowment Budget. Also on the agenda Council Nominees for 2015 & an update from Parlor Remodel Team. Elaine Lasch/Council will coordinate lunch.



If you are interested in ordering lilies 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 of the lilies is \$6.50 each. **MARCH 9** is the last day to order.



Lenten Soup and Service this year will be in the form of a Life Group. This means that the group of individuals who gather on a Wednesday evening will meet for a sermon-based meditation. See the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The first Wednesday night Life Group session will begin on Feb. 25, 2015 and will meet every Wednesday through March 25, 2015. If you would like to lead this group, please see any member of council OR indicate your desire to lead on the signup sheet.



Food Collection

On Sunday, February 1, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for Juice, instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned chili, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, canned luncheon meat, 18 oz & 32 oz. jelly, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



Many
Eager
Ambassadors
Lending
Service...

Do you know anyone coming home from the hospital at Friedens, who will be homebound for one or two weeks and in need for meals?

Please call Joanne at 717/507-1997 to schedule the meals.

Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



Like us on
Facebook



The church office hours are
9 A.M.—1 P.M.
Monday to Friday.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 2014

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$322,179.00	91%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$28,981.00	Rec'd to Date	293,288.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	54.00	Rec'd to Date	687.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	160.00	Rec'd to Date	2,910.00	



SHUT-IN BIRTHDAY

February 27
Mrs. Esther Yeakley
450 Yeagley Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

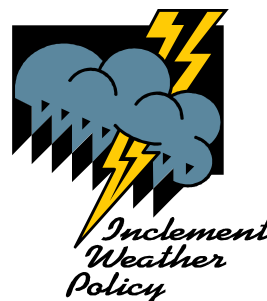


We hope you are ready to join in with the social time between church services. Again we are asking for help to serve the coffee, drinks and goodies. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but coffee and snacks are provided, we just need help to prepare and serve. Find a friend and serve together. A sign-up sheet is in the Stauffer hall and we hope you will be able to help continue our social time together. If you have any questions please contact Annette Beamesderfer, Carmella Deck or Susie Harper.



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and flowers delivered to me. I appreciate the visits and communion, Janet & Pastor Kehrl.

Thank you,
Lois McCulley



FOUL WEATHER POLICY

If worship needs to be cancelled due to foul weather, this info will be shared on:
-1270 AM WLBR/100.1 FM WQIC
-WGAL TV & website
-Friedens Facebook page



Those who **hope** in the **LORD**
will **renew** their **strength**.
They will soar on wings like eagles.

ISAIAH 40:31, NIV

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsel 7 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 AM-Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsel 7 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>DEADLINE Newsletter Articles</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 AM-Women Sew 7:30 PM—Lenten Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

EL SALVADOR UPDATE

On January 15, 2015, \$4,100.00 was sent to our sister parish pastor, Guadalupe' Cortez. A portion of this money was the generous collection of Friedens Children's Church from November. The remainder of the gift was mission money from Global Mission's Fund.

Guadalupe' will use her discretion for use of our gift of \$4100.00. Tuition for our children from Nueva Esperanza will be taken out of this gift, as school for these children began on January 19th. The remainder of our gift will go to fund the community church building fund. The building of this new church, in Chacalcoyo, El Salvador, will serve several small communities, now united for safety.

Another monetary gift is scheduled to be sent in the Spring of 2015. Any donations to El Salvador, in the foreseen future, will cover tuitions and the church building fund. Total cost of the new church is estimated at \$40,000. We are joined with other US and foreign Lutheran parishes in the Chacalcoyo Church Fund.



CALLING ALL RUNNERS AND WALKERS!



Council has made a donation to the Evangelical Seminary event, "2nd Annual Four Chaplains Scholarship Run". The 4 mile run/walk or 1.5 mile run/walk is February 7, 2015 at 10 am, rain, snow or shine.

Friedens donation entitles us to 2 complimentary race entries.

For more information OR to claim one of the complimentary race entries, see Jody Appleby, council president.

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.

" _____
 _____ ?

 _____ " _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

YOUTH EVENT



Adult Valentines Day Italian Dinner sponsored by the Youth Group to be held February 14, 2015 from 5:00- 7:00pm.

Cost is by donation the night of the event in which a portion will be donated to a local charity.

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
January 15, 2015

Jody Appleby, President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer) and Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor).

Excused: Jon Koller, Sharon Riegel (Secretary)

Guests: Valarie Herron, Kerry Keller, Bev Levensgood

1. Opening Prayer: Jody Appleby opened the meeting with a devotional (Luke 6:27-38) and prayer.

2. Janice DuBois made a motion to appoint the following officers for 2015. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion Carried.

Jody Appleby, President

Frank Armstrong, Vice President

Sharon Riegel, Secretary

Millie Treat, Financial Secretary

Elaine Lasch, Treasurer

Sally Sholley & Violet Schaeffer, Assistant Treasurers

3. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. **Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the December 18, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**

b. **Chris Heft made a motion to accept the December 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**

c. **Jim Kneasel made a motion to accept the December 2014 Treasurer's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**

d. **Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the November 2014 & December 2014 Pastor's Reports. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.** Pastor Osborne read a request for donation to the 2nd Annual Four Chaplains Scholarship Run sponsored by the Evangelical Seminary of Myerstown on February 7, 2015. **Frank Armstrong made a motion to contribute \$500 to this run. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.** This run will be announced in the bulletin with invitation for any interested people to enter the run using the (2) complimentary entries afforded for the contribution of \$500.

e. Thank you letter from Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania for our recent gift of \$500.

f. Thank you letter, certificate and "cut out" of Valentine Hall from Gettysburg Seminary for our recent gift that qualified us for "Leadership Circles" for another year.

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4. Elaine Lasch reported on the Finance Committee meeting of January 13, 2015.
5. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall. Annual Reports from Staff and Team/Committee Leaders are due to Janet Moyer, Church Secretary by no later than Sunday, January 18, 2015. Annual report packets will be available for review beginning Sunday, February 1, 2015. Agenda for the annual meeting will include: annual reports, endowment budget, update from Parlor Remodel Team, (3) new names for congregational council, update from Pastoral Search Team. Elaine Lasch & Janice DuBois will coordinate the meal.
6. Jim Kneasel reported on the Property Committee meeting of January 13, 2015
7. A report on the Capital Fund Appeal was not available.
8. A Pastoral Search Team Update was provided by Chris Heft. The Pastoral Search Team asks that the congregation continues to keep them in prayer as they continue the search process.
9. Pastor Ken Osborne's last Sunday with Friedens will be January 25, 2015. On January 25, 2015, there will be one worship service at 10 am followed by light refreshments & celebration afterwards. Pastor Robert Kehrlí will be our supply pastor for February 1, 2015 and February 8, 2015. Pastor Andy Evenson, Dean of Lebanon Conference, is working on finalizing a new Interim Pastoral Candidate for Friedens. Pastor Evenson is coordinating this process with Jody Appleby, Council President.
10. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December 2013 meeting Pastor Osborne shared with the group his findings from Synod. At our February 20, 2014 meeting Pastor Osborne shared a sample policy/employee handbook from a local church. At the December 18, 2014 meeting Janice DuBois shared a draft Parental Leave Policy. At our January 15, 2015 meeting Council reviewed amendments to the draft based on suggestions from December 2014 Council meeting. **Jim Kneasel made the motion to accept the Parental Leave Policy and Family Leave Policy for Friedens Lutheran Church. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.**
11. At our December 19, 2013 meeting Chris Heft shared an update on Clearances/Background Checks for Liability Purposes. Pastor Blezard of Synod provided Chris with a website for Council to review. Pastor Osborne & Janice DuBois contacted other churches for sample policies. Pastor Osborne provided info on a "Safe Church" program featuring various sessions which will be offered here in Myerstown. At the February 20, 2014 meeting Jim Biever shared his thoughts/insights with the group. It was agreed to form a team to work on a "Safe Church Policy" for Friedens. On August 21, 2014 Keith DuBois provided Council with a rough draft of a policy titled "Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program for Friedens Lutheran Church". Mr. DuBois reported the team met on 3 occasions and consisted of himself, Lynn Appleby, Jim Biever & Kerry Keller. At the November 20, 2014 meeting Council received an updated rough draft policy with their agenda packet. At the November 20, 2014 meeting Ken Osborne reported he received new info on mandatory reporter, etc. and will share this info with Jim Biever and Keith DuBois.

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At the December 18, 2014 meeting Keith DuBois provided Council with another rough draft of a policy including the info from House Bill 435. Mr. DuBois will have the draft policy reviewed by the church insurance carrier and a lawyer. At the January 15, 2015 meeting Council reviewed the approval of the Safe Church Policy for Friedens by our insurer, Cincinnati Insurance. The legal department of Cincinnati Insurance also approved the policy. **Chris Heft made the motion to accept the Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program Policy for Friedens Lutheran Church. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.**

12. The following have agreed to serve on Council: Bev Levengood (1 year term), Valarie Herron (3 year term) and John Umberger (3 year term). These individuals were invited to attend the January 15, 2015 Council meeting. The names will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2015.

13. At the April 24, 2014 meeting Council received a recommendation to once again form a Worship & Music Committee. After discussion Council agreed with this recommendation. Pastor Osborne is currently working on this.

14. At the November 20, 2014 Council meeting, Parlor Remodel Team Leaders, Ralph Kaylor and Kerry Keller, provided Council with a proposal of parlor remodel costs. After discussion it was decided to table this item. Parlor Remodel Team Leaders will re propose with 2 options at a future Council meeting. Council greatly appreciates all the efforts of the entire Parlor Remodel Team. **At the December 18, 2014 Council meeting Janice DuBois made the motion to give Parlor Remodel Team permission to order furniture not to exceed \$10,000. Sharon Riegel seconded. Motion carried.** At the January 15, 2015, Council meeting Kerry Keller presented an edited Parlor Remodel Proposal. Discussion ensued concerning the Parlor Remodel Team's reason why a double swing door was not included in the initial proposal to council in November 2014. The omission of such a door was due to the scarcity of funeral viewings in the parlor in Friedens history, anticipation of limited number of funeral viewings in the parlor in future due to general increase in funeral costs and anticipation of construction costs for such a door. An update from the Parlor Remodel Team will be shared at the February 8, 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting.

15. Lenten Wednesday Evening Soup and Service for 2015 season will be offered as a Life Group. This format & details will be announced in bulletin and Transformer. Life Group leader will be sought and interested members of congregation are invited to participate.

16. Next Council Meeting will be held on February 19, 2015 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will prepare opening prayer/devotional.

17. **Jody Appleby made the motion to adjourn. Chris Heft seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Meeting closed with sharing of joys and concerns and prayer lead by Pastor Ken Osborne.

Janice DuBois, Acting Council Secretary
