



# The Transformer

March 2016

717-866-4910

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

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

Over the weeks in Epiphany and Lent you probably picked up a recurring theme - being a disciple, a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, is neither sectarian practice nor religious observance. Rather discipleship is a way of being that radiates the image of God through Jesus and influences everything we think, say, and do. Reflecting the life and love of Jesus, is an ongoing process of transformation that makes it possible for us to live Christianly.

The Message -paraphrase addresses this view of the Christian life with this rendition of Romans chapter twelve, verses one and two:

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*

## **WORSHIP INVITATION**

With this thought in mind, I extend an invitation for you to do something counter cultural – something that will impinge upon your schedule. Would you please consider gathering with other worshippers on the evenings of March 24-26 from 7 pm to 8 pm? That is Holy Week and those three worship gatherings are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil.

Holy Week begins with our recalling Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Those coming to the city to bring their Passover celebrated Jesus' arrival. Quickly celebration turns to somber observance. At Palm/Passion Sunday worship, we hear a dramatic reading of Luke's rendition of the Passion Story.

During the ensuing days, we delve deeper into the story through which Jesus addresses us personally and globally. In reality our worship during the "Great Three Days" is one expression. There is no benediction after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, or after the plaintive cry "It is Finished" on Good Friday. Rather we transition from one worship focus to the next as a singular, unfolding worship expression.

On Maundy Thursday we take part in the Lord's Supper and strip the altar symbolizing Jesus' humiliation. On Good Friday we meditate on the cross and how Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil. That day you have the opportunity to receive personal absolution and anointing. Then on Easter Vigil we reverence the dawn of Jesus' resurrection and the gift of new life. The sacrament of Holy Baptism will take place that evening. The movement from meal, to death, to resurrection is marked by our worship, waiting, and watching.

Please join in this one worship expression by attending each of the three services that bridge the observances of Lent to the Alleluia of Easter morning.

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### BIBLE STUDY AND OTHER ITEMS

Bible Study: The last unit in our confirmation program is an introduction to the bible. Called *See Through the Scriptures* this study covers the bible's central message from its first appearance told in Revelation to the fulfilled expression depicted in Revelation. The course is open to everyone and gets offered over six Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm – March 13, 20, April 3, 10, 17 and 24. The cost for materials is \$18.00 per participant.

Quiet Days: Opportunity for noon time prayer, reflection, anointing, and personal consolation will take place on Fridays, March 4, 11, and 18 from noon to 1 pm. A brief prayer liturgy is observed at 12:10 and 12: 50.

### SNOW REMOVAL, SPRING REVIVAL

The warmer temperatures and accompanying rainfall served to melt most of the snow covering our property. Revealed are the green shoots indicating flowers will soon hearken the arrival of spring. Being a person who enjoys flower gardening and getting my hands in the dirt, spring is always a time when personal renewal parallels seasonal renewal. I also see signs of God's landscape work in the lives of Friedens' parishioners and our life together as Friedens parish. Soon I will excavate a pathway through an area being designed to observe nature's beauty. May we receive the Lord's work in our lives so that we too would reflect God's image in creation. After all, the Lord is THE Master Gardener.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Robert





## Food Collection

On Sunday, March 6, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, bottles of juice, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, baby wipes, and diapers.



It's that time of year again, time for Frieden's Annual Egg Hunt. The hunt will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 9 A.M., tell a friend! Volunteers are needed for same day set up, and egg stuffers. We are also in need of empty plastic eggs as well as candy or little items such as toys, stickers etc. to stuff in the empty eggs. All donations are needed by Friday, March 11th. Please connect with Nicky Snyder if you have any questions.

### SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

March 13  
Mrs. Mary Gassert  
StoneRidge Poplar Run  
450 E. Lincoln Ave.  
Health Care Center  
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 13  
Mr. David Towers  
41 Arbor Drive  
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 21  
Mrs. Mildred Kline  
StoneRidge Poplar Run  
450 E. Lincoln Ave.  
Health Care Center  
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 27  
Mrs. Lois McCulley  
Masonic Village, Rm. 3600 (RO3)  
Roosevelt Bldg.  
Free Mason Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

### OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

#### January 2016

			% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,451.00	75%
\$365,409.00	Rec'd	\$22,941.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	55.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	240.00	



Print copies of Pastor Robert's recent sermons are available at the counter alongside the bulletin board in the corridor

# MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Adult Choir	3 7 PM—Midweek Worship and Life Group Study	4	5 
6 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth Group	7	8 7 PM—Property Committee	9 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Adult Choir	10 7 PM—Midweek Worship and Life Group Study	11	12 9 AM—Easter Egg Hunt
13 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth Group	14	15 	16 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Adult Choir	17 7 PM—Midweek Worship and Life Group Study	18	19
20 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth Group	21 7 PM—Women of the ELCA	22	23 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Adult Choir 8 PM—Handbell Choir	24 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>  7 PM—Maundy Thursday Worship	25 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  7 PM—Good Friday Worship	26 <i>Saturday Vigil</i>  7 PM—Easter Vigil Worship
27 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth Group	28	29	30 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Adult Choir	31 7 PM—Midweek Worship and Life Group Study		

**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Church Council Meeting  
February 17, 2016**

Janice DuBois called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**Present:** Janice DuBois, Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Tom Morrissey, Sharon Riegel (Secretary), Scott Stephenson, John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr. (Pastor)

**Excused:** Chris Heft, Jon Koller

1. Opening Reading/Prayer: Janice DuBois opened the meeting with a reading.
2. By a written vote Chris Heft was appointed to serve as President. By a written vote Scott Stephenson was appointed to serve as Vice President. **Tom Morrissey made a motion to appoint the following officers for 2016. Robert Wallace seconded. Motion Carried.**  
Sharon Riegel, Secretary  
Millie Treat, Financial Secretary  
Elaine Lasch, Treasurer  
**John Umberger made the motion to authorize Sally Sholley & Violet Schaeffer in the absence of the Treasurer. Scott Stephenson seconded. Motion carried.**
3. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
  - a. **Valarie Herron made a motion to accept the January 21, 2016 Church Council Minutes. Tom Morrissey seconded. Motion carried.**
  - b. **Tom Morrissey made a motion to accept the January 2016 Financial Secretary's Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**
  - c. **Jim Kneasel made a motion to accept the January 2016 Treasurer's Report. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**
  - d. Pastor Wallace gave a verbal & written Pastor's Report. **John Umberger made a motion to accept the February 2016 Pastor's Report. Scott Stephenson seconded. Motion carried.**
4. Elaine Lasch reported the Finance Committee did not meet in February 2016.
5. Jim Kneasel reported the Property Committee did not meet in February 2016.
6. Communications:
  - a. Council agreed for Friedens to once again host Life Line Screening preferably during the week of July 18.
7. A Capital Campaign Report was not available.

- 8. Annual Congregational Meeting (with breakfast) will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 9:00 am in Stauffer Hall. One Worship Service will be held at 10:30 am in Sanctuary.
- 9. Discussion on camperships was tabled until March meeting.
- 10. **Next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will provide devotion/opening prayer.**
- 11. **John Umberger made the motion to adjourn. Jim Kneasel seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of joys & concerns and prayer led by Robert Wallace.

Sharon Riegel  
 Council Secretary

**Sunday, April 10**

**FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST MANOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Time to join or rejoin!

Spang Crest Manor is Luthercare’s Senior Living Community in Lebanon, PA. The Friends of Spang Crest is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects that benefit the residents.

In 2015, the Friends donated over \$25,000 for programs, services and purchases including: Resident Christmas Presents, Patio Furniture, Bus Trips, Hearing Devices for Chapel, Halloween Party, Outdoor Band Concerts, Family Entertainment Nights, Picnic Tents, and Benevolent Care.

Your membership does not involve meetings. Your dues, combined with other fundraising events and the Gift Shop proceeds, will allow the Friends to continue with projects in 2016.

Member:	\$2.00	Sustaining:	\$10.00
Contributing:	\$5.00	Patron:	\$25.00

Checks may be made payable to: Friends of Spang Crest Manor.

Thank you for your support!



Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
Sunday, February 21, 2016

1. At 9:00 am Sharon Riegel shared a prayer before the breakfast meal.
2. Christ Heft, Council President, called the congregational meeting to order at 9:30 am & opened with a prayer. Chris Heft welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Chris Heft thanked those who prepared the meal.
3. Jeff Gumpert motioned to approve the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of February 8, 2015, the Congregational Meeting of May 31, 2015 & the Congregational Meeting of November 22, 2015. Seconded by Elaine Lasch. Motion carried.
4. Chris Heft reported the Nominating Committee consisting of himself & Jody Appleby recommends the following for Council beginning in 2016: Tom Morrissey (3 year term) and Scott Stephenson (3 year term). Seconded by Jeff Gumpert. Motion carried.
5. Jon Zinn, Chairman of Finance Team reviewed the Endowment Budget for 2016. Recommendation of Finance Team to approve the Endowment Budget for 2016. Seconded by Jody Appleby. Motion carried.
6. John Flesher made the motion to approve the 2015 Annual Reports of Staff, Church Council, Teams & Committees. Seconded by Chris Riegel. Motion carried.
7. Open floor discussion took place.
8. Pastoral encouragement was offered by Pastor Robert Wallace.
9. Carmela Deck made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sister Janice Ruch. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.
10. Pastor Robert Wallace made closing remarks and led the group in closing prayer.

Sharon Riegel  
Council Secretary

