



The Transformer

October 2010

717-866-4910

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

Jesus speaking to Peter... *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it”* (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus speaking to his disciples... *“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well”* (Matthew 6:33).

One Saturday, a few weeks ago, we decided to take a family trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. As we were zooming down the turnpike our son, Simon, asked inquisitively, “Mom and dad, ‘Why do we take the time to go on these family trips together?’”

Amber and I looked at each other for a moment and then she answered by saying something like, “Because we enjoy doing things together as a family. And doing things together is important to us. We thought it would be fun to go to the Zoo together.”

“Oh, okay!” He said, “I was just wondering...”

Amber and I then had a lengthy conversation about how we invest in things that are important to us. We talked about how we invest in our family because family is important to us. We talked about how we invest in Friedens because Friedens is important to us. We talked about how we invest in our faith because our faith is important to us. We talked about all the things that are important to us right now in our lives. And we talked about how we make sacrifices for those things that are important to us.

That conversation sent my mind spinning. I began to ponder how we humans truly do invest in things that are important to us. We invest our time, treasures, prayers, and presence in the things that are important to us.

If something isn't important to us then we don't invest in it. If we don't value something then it doesn't get our positive attention. On the other hand it might get our negative attention, but that's a topic for another time.

Bottom line for us is this -- our family is important so we invest in it. Our church home, Friedens, is important so we invest in it. If something is important to us, we invest in it. We make sacrifices for it. If it isn't important, we don't.

Question: where are you currently investing your time, your treasures, your prayers, and your presence? Take a moment and ponder that question... What (or who) do you make sacrifices for? And why?

For Jesus the church was and still is important to him. For Jesus the church was and still is the means for God's Kingdom to come to earth.

Sometimes I wonder if we confuse the two. In my experiences I've come to realize that the church is not the Kingdom. As Matthew reminds us, it is not our responsibility to build the church. That is Christ's responsibility. It is not even our church. It is Christ's church and the church is very important to him (Matthew 16:18). Our task is to be faithful and follow him and his sacrificial ways.

I've also come to learn that if we could somehow see the role of the church in the Kingdom of God then we de-emphasize the church and emphasize what we should be prioritizing – namely life-giving relationship with Jesus and one another within and through the church (Matthew 6:33) for the sake of the world God loves (John 3:16).

Our focus then becomes bigger than the organized church. Our focus become a life lived according to Jesus – who sacrificed everything for a relationship
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with me and you (and the world) so that we could live together in a life-giving community.

I've come to learn that the Kingdom of God is bigger than the church. And I've come to learn that the church is to be God's vehicle to bring the Kingdom of God into reality on earth.

For the next month or so, our worship series will invite (challenge) us to see to how a Kingdom of God approach to life reveals what is truly important. We will consider what Jesus told us to prioritize for the sake of the Kingdom of God – things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22). In the church and in the Kingdom of God we belong to something far bigger than ourselves...

Where are you currently investing your time, your treasures, your prayers, and your presence? What (or who) do you make sacrifices for? And why?

I would love to hear your answer to these questions. Email me at robmiller@FLCMyerstown.com or give me a call...

You are important to me!

Peace,

Pastor Miller

SHUT-IN BIRTH-DAYS

October 8

Mrs. Anna Horst
101 E. Reistville Road
Myerstown, PA 17067



Happy Birthday!

October 16

Mr. Isaac Villanueva
215 S. Cherry Street
Myerstown, PA 17067



Food Collection

On October 3, 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.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

August 2010

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$229,824.00	86%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$26,792.00	Rec'd to Date	\$197,912.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	104.00	Rec'd to Date	820.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	440.00	Rec'd to Date	2,565.00	

OCTOBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			*Home of Larry Kemble		1	2
3 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion	4	5 6 pm- Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	6 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church parlor Bruce Kauffman- Church Library	7 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor 7 pm-Leadership Meeting	8	9
10 9 am- Service of the Word 10:30 am-Holy Communion	11	12 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	13 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church parlor Bruce Kauffman- Church Library	14 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor	15	16
17 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion	18 7 pm-Women of ELCA	19 6 pm- Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	20 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church parlor Bruce Kauffman- Church Library	21 Noon-Sr Fest 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor 6:45 pm-Church Council	22	23
24 9 am- Service of the Word 10:30 am-Holy Communion	25 6:30 pm-Finance Committee	26 6 pm- Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	27 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church parlor Bruce Kauffman- Church Library	28 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor 7 pm-Anniversary Committee	29	30
31 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion						



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP**What is a Sermon Based Semester???????**

Sermon Based LIFE groups links a church's small groups ministry with the weekly service. Group members study the same topic or passage of scripture that was covered in the sermon, often delving deeper into areas not covered in detail by the Pastor.

Advantages....

Strength 1. Combining the weekend sermon with a LIFE group study provides repeated exposure to the material covered, which can help it “stick” with group members.

Strength 2. Group leaders are freed from the burden of hunting down new curriculum ideas (or writing their own).

Strength 3. Having all LIFE groups study the same material creates a wider sense of unity and common direction

Our LIFE group training huddle for Fall leaders is scheduled for Friday September 24th, 6-8 pm, location 21 Manor Drive. This training is also available to all youth leaders.

Our sermon based semester of LIFE groups begins the week of October 3rd and runs 10 weeks, ending the week of December 11th. You may register every Sunday now till October 10th from 10 am -10:30 am in the fellowship hall or you can register on line at www.flcmyerstown.com

The following is a list of the 5 groups that will be meeting along with their location

*Fall Semester LIFE group leaders
(October 3rd - December 11th)*

Joanne Maurer –

(General Group) Open to all, Tuesday evenings 7pm - 8:30pm Location in home
3 Springhouse Dr., Myerstown (Arbor Gate)
Childcare is not provided for this group

Bruce Kauffman –

(Men's Group) Open to all
Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8:30pm
Location the church Library, 301 West Washington Ave, Myerstown
Childcare is not provided for this group

Larry & Dottie Kemble –

(General Group) Open to all, Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8:30 pm Location in home
2 Perri Ave Myerstown
Childcare is not provided for this group

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Amber Miller –


(Women's Group) – Open to all
 Thursday evenings 6:30pm - 8:00pm
 Location the church parlor, 301 West Washington Ave, Myerstown
 Childcare is not provided for this group

Jeff Gumpert –

(General group)- Open to all
 Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8:30pm
 Location the church parlor, 301 West Washington Ave, Myerstown
 Childcare is not provided for this group

LIFE GROUPS – connecting you with God & others!

We are VERY excited to share with you that we are going to be taking a brand new direction in our youth ministry at FLC. This fall we will be launching small groups for our Sr and Jr high youth. We have selected a fantastic curriculum that we are excited to share with our youth; it is entitled “Doing Life Together” by Doug Fields. The month of September we will be promoting this new direction in worship and other forms of promotion. Our First semester will officially begin facilitating Sunday October 3rd. The Swanger family has graciously opened their home for our first semester. (Oct 3 – Dec 11th) We hope and pray that no matter what your experience has been you will be open to joining us, as we invite God to guide us in this life giving & life changing opportunity to grow as Disciples of Jesus Christ. We will be intentionally creating an environment where our youth will be challenged to worship, grow, serve, pray, and play. We ask you to pray for our youth and their leaders as together we begin this NEW and EXCITING journey of faith.

 <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>Attention: All Confirmation students grades 9-10. We will begin classes starting the week of October 10th. If for some reason you missed our parent /student meeting scheduled for September 21st but would like to participate in the confirmation classes scheduled for 2010-2011 please contact Valerie Hauck at 866-4910 or 679-2945 there is still time to register for the classes.</p>
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**Reformation
 Sunday**

OCTOBER 31

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
 Congregational Council Meeting
 September 16, 2010

Council Vice President, Greg Gardner , called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Greg Gardner (VP), Jeff Gumpert, Carol Hartlieb, Dottie Kemble, Jill Kreider (Sec.), Joanne Maurer, Pastor Miller, and Denise Noll.

Excused: Bob Hauck (Pres.) and Elaine Lasch (Treas.).

Pastor Miller opened with scripture reading from Romans 12: 1-2. Discussion followed. He then offered the opening prayer.

1. Minutes: Aug. 19, 2010 minutes reviewed. Correction made to Ron and Sandy Swangers name... misspelled in Aug. minutes as Swonger. Carol Harlieb motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

2. Communications

Jill Kreider communicated:

- A. Thank you letter from Myerstown Community Library Board of Trustees, for use of pavilion for annual book sale.
- B. Thank you letter from Lebanon Rescue Mission for \$500.00 donation.
- C. Thank you letter from Myerstown First Aid Unit for \$1,000.00 donation.
- D. Thank you letter from Good Will Fire Company, No. 1 for \$1,000.00 donation.

3. Reports

- A. Financial Secretary report from Aug. 2010 reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Treasurer report from Aug. 2010 reviewed. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.
- C. Internal Audit report for year ending 12/31/08 received. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.

Council wants to Thank the Audit Committee (Jocelyn Whitmoyer, Leonard Schott, and Judy Zinn) for their hard work and commitment to this project.

Pastor Miller Reports:

- a. Audit for 2008 and recommendations from finance committee.
- b. Audit for 2009 underway.
- c. Policies for Memorial Monies and Authorization for Spending.
- d. List of Leaders in key leadership postions = budget
- e. Budget process for 2011 has begun.
- f. Adult Choir Leader position still to be filled.
- g. Shriley Kline resigned from Fellowship Chairperson, effective immediately.
- h. Met with key leaders on September 7th and will continue to meet monthly. (continued next page)

- i. Celebration/Rededication of Church Building being considered for November.
- j. First Communion Classes to start Oct. 17th for three students (Emma Flesher, Kelsie Salem, and Jordan Lengle).
- k. Web page statistics reviewed.
4. Open forum: Discussion occurred.
5. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jill Kreider

Congregational Council Secretary

FAITH & FAMILY

As a parent, I am always looking for ways to incorporate faith development into the every day routine of our family life. I thought it might be fun to write about some of the ideas/resources that I've come across via a newsletter column called "Faith & Family".

For this first edition I'd like to share with you a great little radio program that our family enjoys. It is the Kids Cookie Break which airs live Saturday mornings 9-Noon on FM 90.3 WJTL. The KCB mission statement is as follows:

"The KCB aims to entertain, educate & empower kids 14 and under with a music/talk atmosphere welcoming to listeners of all ages. The KCB plays positive music reflecting a Christian world view."

The Kids Cookie Break has become part of our Saturday morning routine when we are at home or in the car. If we miss it live we can also listen 24/7 online at www.kidscookiebreak.com. The program includes jokes, educational pieces, puzzlers and a variety of music including kids Bible favorites with a new twist, contemporary Christian like we sing at the 9:00 service and silly songs sure to make you laugh. We each have our favorites and enjoy this weekly sing-a-long. Give a listen and enjoy! It's sure to make you smile.

I'd love to hear from you about the things you are doing in your homes to encourage family faith formation. I'd be happy to share those ideas in this column so that we might learn from each other and grow together in the faith.

Blessings,

Amber Miller

amiller70@comcast.net

“Thy Kingdom Come”

We have started a new worship series on God’s kingdom. The heart of the Gospel that Jesus proclaims is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. So much broader than the proclamation of personal salvation from hell, this good news both invites us and empowers us to live into the movement of God in this world: to reconcile, redeem and restore all of creation. This is good news for today, and tomorrow, and eternity, and it invites us to participate in our own prayer, “thy Kingdom come ...”



Even an old, worn out clock can be restored to look like new ... the **Kingdom Agenda** (October 3).

If there’s conflict, if something is broken or stuck in the gears, the clock doesn’t function ... **Kingdom Conflict** (October 10).

A power mechanism needs to drive a clock, and often that power is unseen ... **Kingdom Power** (October 17).

On a Kingdom clock, the face reads times from all over the world ... **Kingdom Inclusion** (October 24).

The hands of a Kingdom clock are never static; they are dynamic and always moving ... **Kingdom Reforming** (October 31).

Throughout this series we will echo the words of Jesus, “**thy Kingdom come.**”

CELEBRATION SERVICE

Mark your calendar for the Rededication Service of our church building, November 7 following the 11:30 a.m. worship service. Please bring a covered dish to share.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

November 24
7:30 p.m.
Friedens (Peace)
Lutheran Church



REMEMBER

Sunday

November 7

Set your clocks

back one hour.

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK!

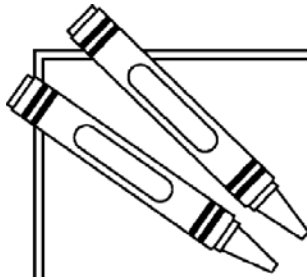


Find us on
Facebook



Senior Adult Fellowship

Please mark your calendars for Senior Fest scheduled for Thursday, October 21 at 12 noon. Entertainment will be provided by the Music and Drama Division of the Woman's Club of Myerstown. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.



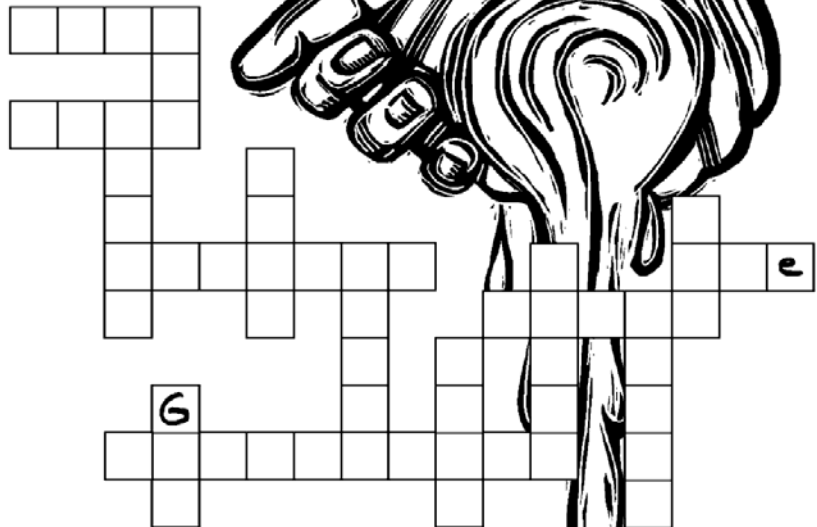
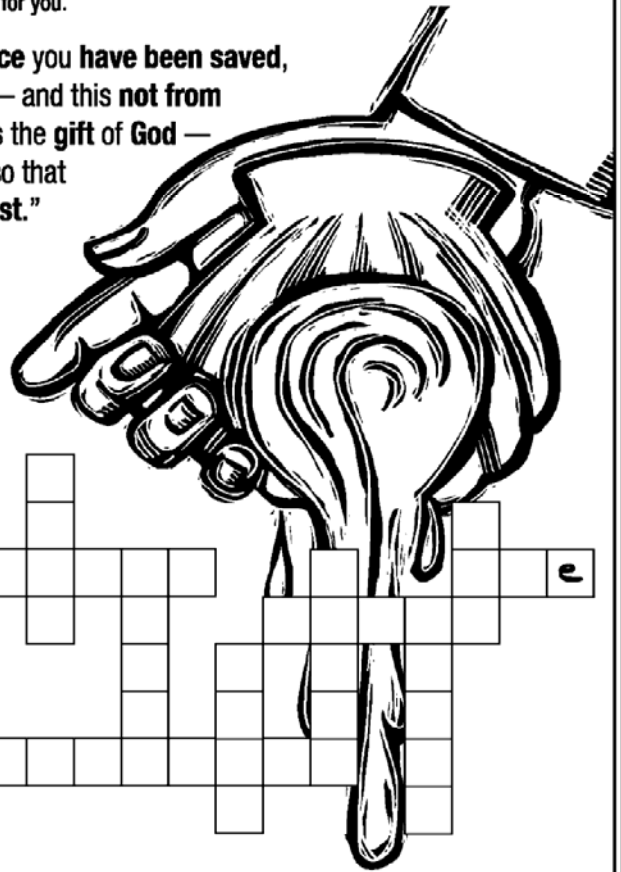
Just for KIDS

THE GIFT

God has given us a gift that we can't work for or buy. Discover what this gift is by reading Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV.

Fit the words in bold into the word puzzle below. We've provided two letters for you.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."



200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELP WANTED...

comb your attics, empty those boxes, move those dust bunnies! No, we don't need you to help clean the church, we need you to sweep your home and look for old photos and memorabilia from years past at Friedens. Members of the anniversary committee could use any memento or old photo you can find. Uncover those hidden church memories and call Brian Beamesderfer at 866-2975 or 866-2022. No, he won't help you clean the attic, but he can come and pick up items you find!

Cleaning Crew Needed



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—joannemaurer@comcast.net