



The Transformer

October 2015

717-866-4910

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

October 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the day of celebration we observed September 20. The breakfast, joint worship, service of installation, and many words of welcome placed an exclamation point onto what Cheri and I already felt, “We are at home.”

The thought I would offer this month and invite your comments is how our unity in Christ provides us with the oasis of grace that allows for diversity in practice. What does this mean?

First, through our baptism, God chose us to be among those who have had “a foretaste of the feast to come.” Through Jesus Christ, our crucified and resurrected Lord and Savior, God declares you and I have a right relationship with the Triune God and are bound eternally with all who have received the seal of the Spirit and mark of the cross. We are, according to divine declaration, sisters and brothers.

Second, our baptismal identity means we are in communal relationship with one another and in personal relationship with the Triune God. In a recent sermon I mentioned Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s writing *Life Together* – a Christian classic. He makes the case that a believer cannot grow in solidarity with God apart from life in community with other believers, and a person cannot enter a communal life with other believers apart from spending time alone with God. The two are inseparable – solidarity with God and communal life with sisters and brothers of the faith. It is what the first century Christians called, “The Way.”

Third, while bound together we are different. A broad overview sees the differences as ethnic, denominational, geographic, and cultural. A close-up view at Friedens sees the differences as worship preference, background, age, skills, and interests. Our unity as members of Friedens congregation does not require uniformity. However, for us to function as a congregation, as fellow pilgrims devoted to Jesus, and as people who individually and communally give witness to the gospel, we who have received the love of Jesus will also live the love of Jesus. This is what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit and identifies these qualities as *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV). This kind of fruit grows in us (individually / communally) when we spend time alone with God and engage in communal acts of worship, fellowship and mission. These are the qualities we want to show each other

Fourth, in every community issues emerge where persons hold different perspectives. There are several helpful practices that when observed help to not only resolve the matter at hand but to grow closer together as we mutually engage in finding the resolution.

We speak to the issue and show the love to all persons involved (that again shows the importance of cultivating fruit of the spirit).

The problem is, not the person. In our culture people readily points fingers and assess blame. Let's not do that. Instead let us own our questions and concerns and give voice to it as an "I" statement. For instance, "I prefer to have my toast light brown," instead of saying, "You burnt the toast."

Third, today is today and not yesterday. Everyone can look back and identify ways certain ministries happened, community observations took place, and people behaved. Pleasant and special are most of those memories. However, I am not the first to say, "We cannot go back to reclaim a day and a culture that no longer exists." In the same way, I cannot return to the day when I did not need glasses to see clearly. Instead, I put on the glasses each morning and give thanks to God for having them to see clearly.

Fourth, God has a preferred and promised future. In the larger view of things this holds the promise that, when this life is complete, we enter the fulfilled life with our Lord and with all the saints who have gone before. In the close-up view, God would have us work through questions and mission opportunities according to the good work God would have us engage in together. Yes, this may mean doing something other than the way I would prefer, because in the moment another way best serves the mission and ministry of Christ's church. And maybe, to paraphrase a yesteryear commercial, *if I try it, I'll like it!*

Now, having read this far, you may wonder, "Why is Pastor saying these things?" Or maybe you fear, "He is going to change such and such!" Please, receive the assurance that these thoughts come from the love I have for you and the life together God has given us. Moreover, when changes come they will emerge organically with opportunity for dialogue prior to putting them into practice. Yes, little changes happen as the need appears. Big changes get instituted after appreciative inquiry, prayer, deliberation and discernment.

We engage in ministry *not knowing where it all leads, but trusting God's hand guides us and God's love sustains us.*

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Robert

REFORMATION CELEBRATION - MARTIN LUTHER STYLE

Dear fellow Lutherans,

A number of churches are coming together for a Reformation Beverage and Hymns event. There is plenty of room for you to join us. Come, bring a friend, and join the festive voices.

Sunday, October 25

Downtown Lounge, 734 Cumberland Street, Lebanon (event is in back room)

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Participants gather (light snacks available at 4:30 PM)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Singing.

Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase at back room bar.

Table service available for participants to order and purchase sandwiches and/or meals.





"Winter church volleyball league starts soon! If you enjoy volleyball and are looking for fellowship, fun and exercise, please consider joining our Friedens team. Games are played Tuesday nights. Additional details and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex."



On Sunday, October 4, 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.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Lutheran World Relief this year. Due to the efforts of Children's Church, the Sewing Group, and WELCA (Friedens Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), Friedens will be sending 53 quilts, 20 fabric kits, and 56 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief. This year the relief effort is especially poignant with the number of immigrants fleeing to European countries.

You may still contribute to the relief effort with your dollars. Lutheran World Relief envelopes can be found in pews and in the narthex. Monetary contributions assist in shipping quilts and kits throughout the world..



OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

August 2015

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$27,266.00	Goal to Date	\$218,128.00	86%
\$327,195.00	Rec'd	\$26,672.00	Rec'd to Date	187,093.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	55.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 360.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	275.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 1,935.00	

OCTOBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:45 PM—Life Group	2	3
4 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 5:30 PM—Confirmation Class	5	6 7 PM—Worship Committee	7 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir 8 PM—Handbell Choir	8 6:45 PM—Life Group 7 PM—Cemetery Board	9	10
11 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 5:30 PM—Confirmation Class	12 Columbus Day 	13 6 PM—Confirmation Parents Meeting 7 PM—Property Committee	14 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir 8 PM—Handbell Choir	15  6:45 PM—Life Group 7 PM—Church Council	16	17
18 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 5:30 PM—Confirmation Class	19	20	21 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir 8 PM—Handbell Choir	22 6:45 PM—Life Group	23	24
25 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service 5:30 PM—Confirmation Class	26	27	28 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir 8 PM—Handbell Choir	29 6:45 PM—Life Group	30	31





Home-Delivered Meals

A meal schedule has been created using TakeThemAMeal.com, and you've been invited to participate!

Meals are needed for: **Kerry and Tammy Keller**
If you would like to sign up, you can access the meal schedule by [clicking here](#), or by visiting TakeThemAMeal.com and locating the schedule by recipient last name (Keller) and password (1752).

I have included additional notes about this meal schedule below

Additional Notes: We would like to make Kerry's treatment a little less stressful by providing meals and or/giftcards for food/grocery stores/ gas stations. Since Kerry has a weakened immune system here are some neutropenic diet recommendations when thinking about what meal to prepare for Tammy and him.

Avoid all fresh fruits and vegetables, including all fresh garnishes. Cooked vegetables, canned fruits, and juices are fine.

Avoid salad bars, fruit bars, and deli counters.

Avoid raw nuts. You may make baked products with these ingredients.

Make sure all of the dairy products are pasteurized.

Avoid yogurt and yogurt products with live and active cultures.

They are not picky eaters and like anything!

Deliver the meals to 30 Eisenhower Rd, Myerstown. Meals can be dropped off between 5:30 and 6 PM. At this point Kerry can not have visitors, so we are asking people to not feel bad if you can't visit when dropping off meals, but it is to protect Kerry from getting sick. If you can not get it there please email Heidi (dumbla@comcast.net) or Janelle (janellesalem@comcast.net) to make arrangements for one of us to help.

Thank you for helping make this time for Kerry and Tammy a little easier!!!



We've saved a place for you in our Music Program! We're looking for folks to join the Praise Band, Choir and Handbell choir. Please visit the church's website www.flcmysterstown.com and click on the link on the home page.



“Members of Friedens will serve the evening meal at the Lebanon Rescue Mission on Sunday November 15, 2015. This is part of the free meal site program sponsored by the Lebanon County Christian Ministries. We need 15 people to help prepare and serve the meal. Please see the bulletin board for more details and for a list of items we need to provide for the meal. Please contact Jim Biever at 717-821-0130 or jbiever5543@comcast.net if you are able to help. Thank you





COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ADDRESSES

The organization of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church here at Friedens wish to maintain communication with the members of the church that are spending the first year at college or university. We are asking the parents to supply the address of their residence and Email address along with the birthday of their son or daughter. We would like to be aware of when they will be having mid-term and final exams. This may be done by either phoning Sr Janice Ruch at 866-3427 or via email @ jer04free@yahoo.com. We want these young people to know that their church has not forgotten them.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH & YOUTH GROUP

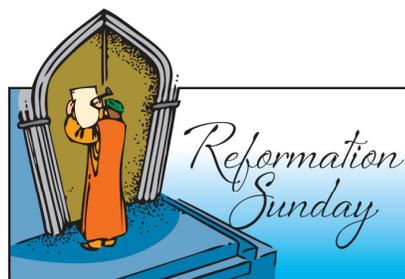
Reminder that Children’s Church and Youth Group are collecting for the Lebanon Heart and Stroke Walk. There are two posters with collection boxes at church; one in the fellowship hall and one outside the sanctuary. Thanks for your support.



Print copies of Pastor Robert’s recent sermons are available at the counter alongside the bulletin board in the corridor between the sanctuary and the social hall.



The Coffee/Social time has started up. We ask that you consider hosting a Sunday to make the coffee and set up for social time. Coffee and snacks are provided. Team up with a friend and host together. The sign up sheet is in the social hall. If you have any questions please see Annette Beamesderfer, Carmela Deck or Susie Harper for help



Visit with Martin Luther...Why was the Reformation important? What was the history behind it, and why did it happen? Dr. Pry from Lebanon Valley College will answer these questions and more during his Martin Luther living history presentation. Following Martin Luther’s visit there will be a question and answer time.

When: 2 P.M. on Sunday, October 18th
Where: Zoar Evengelical Lutheran Church, 560 Freeport Rd., Lebanon, PA 17046

Admission: A canned or boxed food item. These items will be donated to the Joy Food Pantry.

Light refreshments will be available after the presentation. Come join us!

Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
September 17, 2015

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Jody Appleby, President called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr. (Pastor)

Excused: Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Bev Levengood, Sharon Riegel (Secretary)

1. Opening Reading/Prayer: Valarie Herron opened the meeting by reading “Faltering Steps” from God Calling by A. J. Russell.

2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. **John Umberger made a motion to accept the August 20, 2015 Church Council Minutes. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**

b. **Chris Heft made a motion to accept the August 2015 Financial Secretary’s Report. John Umberger seconded. Motion carried.**

c. **Valarie Herron made a motion to accept the August 2015 Treasurer’s Report. John Umberger seconded. Motion carried.**

d. Pastor Wallace gave a verbal & written Pastor’s Report. **Chris Heft made a motion to accept the September 2015 Pastor’s Report. John Umberger seconded. Motion carried.**

e. Thank you from On Fire Youth Ministry for gifts of \$500 and \$1,000.

f. Thank you from Jubilee Ministries for gift of \$200.

g. Thank you from Children’s Chorus of Lebanon County Choral Society for use of facility for music camp this past summer.

h. Thank you and donation from Myerstown Community Library for use of pavilion for their annual book & bake sale in September.

i. Received notice of volunteer banquet from Keystone Hook & Ladder Co., No. 1, Myerstown.

j. Thank you from Borough of Myerstown for contribution of \$500 to PILOT program.

3. Elaine Lasch gave a verbal report of the Finance Committee meeting of September 2015.



4. Jim Kneasel sent a Property Committee report of the meeting of September 2015, read by Janice DuBois.
5. A Capital Campaign Report was available. As of August 2015 the Campaign Goal of \$149,000 is short \$2,761.21.
6. Blended Installation Worship Service for Pastor Wallace is planned for Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 10:30 am with breakfast served at 9:00 am. Elaine's Catering has been contracted to provide breakfast. 118 adults and 16 children have responded so far. The library will be used if extra seating is needed.
7. At the August 20, 2015 meeting, Council discussed the current rental cost & policy for the Pavilion and Stauffer Hall. Jody Appleby and Jim Kneasel will connect with Gene Lessig of Property Committee for further info and discussion. Council recommendation will be NO charge for members. Nonmembers charge will be \$175, \$100 of which will be considered security deposit and will be returned pending inspection after event. Donations will ALWAYS be welcomed. **The recommendation was formulated into a motion by Pastor Wallace, seconded by John Umberger. Motion carried.**
8. Jody Appleby (whose second 3-year term is fulfilled end of 2015) and Chris Heft will serve on the Nomination Team for new Council Members in 2016.
9. Pastor Wallace asked that marriage guidelines be amended to read that there is no charge for the officiating of weddings by Pastor Wallace.
10. Council discussed the child abuse/protection policy. Clarifications: Elaine Lasch holds clearances at this time. Policy needs to be revisited with monitoring/obtaining clearances. Council representatives will notify leaders of child oriented programs: Jody Appleby will inform Lynn Appleby, Chris Heft will inform Holly Krall Heft, Elaine Lasch will inform Kerry Keller, also to be informed: Karate Class, Dance Class, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Preschool.
11. Janice DuBois reported on status of Chalcacoyo Church in El Salvador. Request has been received for \$2,500 for windows for the church. **Jody Appleby made the motion to wire \$2,500 to Pastor Lupe' for windows for this new church. Seconded by Pastor Wallace. Motion carried.**
12. **Next Council Meeting will be held on October 15, 2015 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will provide devotion/opening prayer.**
13. **Jody Appleby made the motion to adjourn. Chris Heft seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of joys & concerns and prayer led by Pastor Wallace.

Janice DuBois
Acting Council Secretary
