



# The Transformer

March 2013

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends,

Several of the commentaries I have been reading have referred to our imperfections and even our sense of brokenness. While I don't disagree with them, I am also very aware of the wonder of being children of God and the amazing things this God can do with such imperfect creatures. All of this reminded me of the story of the Cracked Pot. I'm sure some of you know the story; I hope you enjoy it again. It may be new to some others; I hope you enjoy it as well.

*A water bearer had two large pots, each hung on the end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.*

*After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."*

*"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"*

*"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.*

*The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.*

*The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."*

God loves us just as we are and God will use us just as we are – imperfections and all. Praise God.

Ken

**DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP**

Thank you for a February afternoon that felt like spring,  
 A person to talk to,  
 Friends to laugh with,  
 Music to listen to,  
 Movies to watch,  
 Food in my stomach,  
 Air in my lungs,  
 Knowledge in my mind,  
 Emotions in my heart,  
 Teach me through all my frustrations,  
 My angers,  
 My shames,  
 My sorrows,  
 To remember your grace  
 On a February afternoon that felt like spring.....



**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH GRADES 6-12**  
**PLEASE NOTE -** Beginning Sunday, March 3, 2013 we will be meeting Sunday evenings 6:30 -8pm for fellowship, study and times of prayer. We encourage you to invite a friend or two ...to join us. Everyone is welcome. Any question or concerns please contact Valerie Hauck 679-2945 or Kerry Keller... 866-7011



**LENTEN SERVICES**

Come join our Midweek Services every Wednesday starting at 6:30 P.M. with Soup/Bread and the Lenten Service at 7 P.M.



Like us on  
**Facebook**



The volunteer cleaning team will remain in action for 2013. Because of our budget deficit, nothing was proposed for professional cleaning service again.

I want to thank all the members who helped to keep our facility clean this year. We hope that others might join in whenever they can.

Please call Barb or Gene Lessig, at 866-2291 if you would like to help.



**MOVIE NIGHT AT FRIEDENS** – Ever thought you’d be a star on film? Ever thought you’d see friends and neighbors, members of your church family up in lights? Come to Friedens’ Second Annual Night at the Movies, Saturday, March 23, beginning at 6 p.m.

Spend part of your Saturday night viewing old pictures of church events from the past, presented as part of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Movie night will present some of the old footage.

Members of the Anniversary Committee found hundreds of slides, both in the church vault and in members’ personal collections. Some of that footage has been converted into DVD format.

Admission is free; drinks and popcorn will be provided. All ages are welcome.



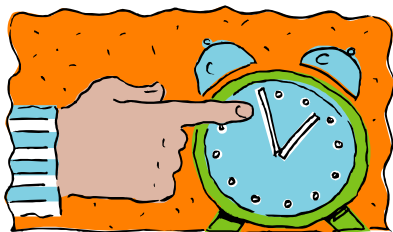
Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent surgery and recovery. A special thank you to Pastor Kehrl and all who visited me.

God bless you all.  
Jake Werner



## Food Collection

On Sunday, March 3, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. .





SET YOUR CLOCKS  
**Ahead!**

MARCH 10



The church office is open from 9 AM— 1 PM Monday-Friday.

# MARCH 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM Youth	4	5  7 PM—Property Committee	6 6:30 PM— Soup/Bread 7 PM—Lenten Ser. 8 PM—Adult Choir	7  6 PM—Parents & Youth Mtg.-Parlor 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	8	9
10 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM Youth	11	12  7 PM—Life Group —El Salvador— Parlor	13 9 AM— Women Sew 6:30 PM—Soup/ Bread 7 PM—Lenten Ser. 8 PM—Adult Choir	14  7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	15	16
17 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM Youth	18  7 PM—Women of ELCA	19  7 PM—Life Group —El Salvador— Parlor	20  6:30 PM—Soup/ Bread 7 PM—Lenten Ser. 8 PM—Adult Choir	21  6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	22	23    6 PM—Friedens Movie Night
24 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM Youth	25	26  7 PM—Life Group —El Salvador— Parlor	27 9 AM— Women Sew 6:30 PM—Soup/ Bread 7 PM—Lenten Ser. 8 PM—Adult Choir	28   Maundy Thursday SERVICE 7:30 PM	29   GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:30 PM	30
31 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM Youth						



**Be a part of the El Salvador Life Group Service Project to dig wells for clean water!**

From March 17th to March 24th drink only WATER-it's free! In El Salvador, however, clean water is NOT free. Wells must be dug to provide clean water.

1. Drink only water for 1 week, March 17-24.
2. Calculate what your beverages, other than WATER, would cost.
3. Total your calculations for 1 week, March 17-24.
4. Give your "total" in a donation to **Living Waters International** on March 24.

Donations will be collected on **March 24th** at the Palm Sunday Breakfast AND in the offering plate



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

**PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

March 24, 7:00 am-10:00 am. Enjoy eggs, french toast, fruit cup, and beverage.

At this breakfast you will have opportunity to turn in any donation to **Living Waters International's H2O Project**. See details about this project in the Transformer. Watch for weekly video announcements in your Sunday service

**TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN!**

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

Spang Crest Manor is a Lutheran Church affiliated nursing home in Lebanon.

Your membership does not involve meetings but shows your support of the Friends' activities that provide enrichment for the residents. In 2012, projects included: 4 summer band concerts, redecorating 3 whirlpool rooms, hydration carts for all 3 floors, and an Ipod system for the main dining room.

Please stop at the table in the narthex on April 14 to join or renew:

- \$2.00 - membership
- \$5.00 - contributing
- \$10.00 - sustaining
- \$25.00—patron

Checks may be made payable to: Friends of Spang Crest Manor. Contributions may also be dropped off at the church office.

Thanks for your support!



**BE A “TEMPORARY” CHOIR MEMBER!**

Here is a chance to join the choir – for just one rehearsal plus one performance!

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. Easter service. Anthem will be “Joy in the Morning” by Natalie Sleeth. One rehearsal only on Sunday, March 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

If you’re interested, please contact Mike Yeagley at [mikeyeagley@flcmyerstown.com](mailto:mikeyeagley@flcmyerstown.com) or 717-383-0951 (please leave a message).



Congregational Council is in search of folks to serve in the ministry areas listed below:

Chairman of Cemetery Board

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee)

Please connect with a Council Person for further info or if you are interested or know someone who might be interested in serving in these important ministry areas. Council Persons names/photos are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parlor.

How is the spirit nudging you to use your time & talents?



**OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**January 2013**

			% of
Budget			
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	99%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$21,504.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	220.00	

**SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS**

**March 13**

Mrs. Mary Gassert  
StoneRidge Poplar Run  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**March 14**

Annie C. Haag  
7 W. Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**March 21**

Mrs. Helen Morris  
StoneRidge Poplar Run  
Assisted Living, Rm. 247  
Myerstown, PA 17067

**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Church Council Meeting  
February 21, 2013**

Acting President Jeff Gumpert called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

**Present:** Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (Vice-President), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer ( Secretary), Denise Noll, Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor), and Sharon Riegel.

**Excused:** Chris Heft.

Pastor Osborne offered the opening prayer.

Jeff Gumpert led the devotional reading from Psalms 34: 1-14. Discussion followed.

1. Easter Egg Hunt: Nicole Snyder asked Council to have a backward Easter egg hunt. Frank Armstrong motioned to accept a backward Easter egg hunt. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
2. A. Election of President: Joanne Maurer motioned to nominate Jeff Gumpert for President. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.  
B. Sharon Riegel motioned to nominate Chris Heft as Vice-President. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.  
C. Joanne Maurer motioned to nominate Sharon Riegel for Council Secretary. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.  
D. Jeff Gumpert motioned to appoint Elaine Lasch as Treasurer, Sally Sholley as Asst.Treasurer, and Mildred Treat as Financial Secretary.
3. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
  - A. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept January Minutes. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
  - B. Denise Noll made a motion to accept January Financial Secretary's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
  - C. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept January Treasurer's Report. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

- A. Pastor Osborne made four hospital visits and three home visits in January. Attended The Memorial Service for John Rothenheber and visited Ione in February. Also attended a meeting of the Lebanon Lutheran Conference. Pastor Osborne will be taking a vacation from April 8-15, 2013.
- B. Jody Appleby made a motion for a Non-member Wedding in the Sanctuary, for a fee of \$250.00. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion Carried.

**Communications:**

- A. Thank you letter from Luthercare in January for a gift to Spang Crest for \$109.00.
- B. Thank you letter from Lower Susquehanna Synod for contribution to the Konde Diocese in November 2012, for \$500.00.

(cont'd next page)

4. One Service in the Sanctuary at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday April 7, 2013.  
A Congregational Meeting after the Service: for a proposal to have the Video Recording and Projection Equipment, upgraded in the Sanctuary.
5. Open Forum:
  - A. Discussion took place that whatever group would want to have a fund raising, need to be at Council meeting and present their plans, for approval.
  - B. Council is currently in search of people to serve in the following ministry areas:
    - \*Chairman of Cemetery Board.
    - \*Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee), this announcement will be placed in bulletin announcements, Transformer, video announcements and on church Facebook page.
6. Jeff Gumpert closed with a Prayer and Lords Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer  
Council Secretary

### Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday February 10, 2013

- I. Call to Order: Acting President Jeff Gumpert called the meeting to order at 12:20 P.M. A quorum was present.
- II. Prayer: Sister Janice Ruch offered an opening prayer.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Jody Appleby motioned to accept February 12, 2012 Congregational Meeting Minutes. Gene Lessig seconded. Motion carried.  
Carmela Deck motioned to accept January 8, 2012 Congregational Meeting Minutes. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. Election of Nominating Committee: There were none, this will be addressed by Council. John Smith motioned to elect Sharon Riegel for Council. Sally Sholley seconded. Motion carried.
- V. 2013 Endowment Budget: Jon Zinn Chairman of the Finance Committee, reviewed the 2013 Endowment Budget. Jeff Gumpert called question: Richard Stoner seconded motion to accept 2013 Endowment Budget. Motion carried.  
Gary Deck and Tad Achenbach will be going off of Finance Committee.
- VI. Video recording and projection equipment proposal: John Tice and Chris Riegel gave a presentation and proposals, to upgrade our video and screen system equipment in the Sanctuary. Finance will review the upgrade proposal.
- VII. Annual Reports: Denise Noll motioned to accept Annual reports for 2012. Kerry Keller seconded. Motion carried.
- VIII. Open Floor: No discussion occurred.
- IX. Adjournment: Acting President Jeff Gumpert, closed meeting with a Prayer.
- X. Meeting adjourned at 1:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer, Congregational Secretary .