



The Transformer

June 2016

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wow! June is almost here.

With the few sunny days that interspersed our rainy May weather, I continued landscape gardening and almost have the fire pit area finished. A May highlight for me has been attending the end-of-year concerts, school plays, and art festival held in the ELCO School District. I also applauded the May recital presented by a local dance studio. A shout-out goes to the talented and energetic youth of our congregation. Please keep me informed of the various concerts, sports contests, and other activities in which our youth are engaged. Obviously, attending all events is not possible, but I would like to attend as many as possible.

Right now, we are in a season of remembrance and transition. With this letter I will touch upon a few things happening at Friedens during the coming weeks and summer.

Pastor Lose

Pastor “Jack” Lose faithful served Friedens congregation from 1980 until retirement in 1994. The congregation bestowed upon him the title of pastor emeritus. This summer is the 60th anniversary of Pastor Jack’s ordination. We will mark the occasion on Sunday, June 19th and honor Pastor Jack and wife Susan at a reception following the 10:30 worship. The Rev. Dr. David Lose will preach at both services that day, while Pastor Jack and I will serve as the assisting ministers.

I invite you to write notes to Pastor and Susan. You may either send them to the church office or place them in a basket placed outside the office on Sunday mornings. They will be presented on the 19th.

The legacy of faithful leaders, mentors, and parents continue to gift the faith community for generations to come.

(The Lord) planted a witness in Jacob, set his Word firmly in Israel, then commanded our parents to teach it to their children so the next generation would know, and all the generations to come — Know the truth and tell the stories so their children can trust in God... (Psalm 78:5-6, MSG).

Kerry Keller

As a congregation our prayers were many and persistent for Kerry during his successive encounters with cancer. Because he faced this unwelcomed intruder with such steadfast faith, and demonstrated courage, calm, persistence, and love, his death Sunday afternoon May 22nd stunned us all. Like with most people, Kerry felt the physical and emotional drain caused by cancer and the treatments used to put the disease into remission. Yet, Kerry remained in touch with the many folks who sought his counsel and prayers. Time and again he reemerged from a cancer low point to rejoin congregation and the beloved youth group. Maybe you, like me, expected yet another rebound.

Our love and prayers go out to Tammy, their children, work colleagues, neighbors, friends, the Friedens youth and all who mourn his passing from this life to the resurrection with Jesus and all the saints.

The week before his death, Kerry participated in the “Relay for Life.” The Friedens effort, at this annual event to raise money for cancer research, was organized by the youth. That night Kerry took four laps – one with Tammy, one with cancer survivors, one with the youth, and one in communion with God.

Yes, our youth group will be different without Kerry, but we will build upon the foundation he built with the assistance of other leaders, parents, and youth. On Sunday, June 12, Cheri and I invite the youth – from this year’s 5th grade graduates to 12th grade graduates – to our home for an important time together. The evening’s fare includes games, pool, sharing, planning, camp fire and more... We begin at 5 pm and conclude around 8:30. Our home, “Peace Cottage”, is located at 130 Valley Road, Lebanon (Mount Gretna).

Mission Trips

An ongoing witness of our congregation is responding to needs other people have according to the way God leads us. Already this year we have prepared and served meals at the Lebanon Rescue Mission, provided two weeks' coverage at the homeless shelter, received food for the local food bank, collected \$1300 for the Synod-sponsored "Hunger J.A.M.", received shoes and aluminum cans as part of a joint effort by the congregations in Myerstown, participated in "Relay for Life", and sewn quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This month Friedens' congregants will help with the Habitat for Humanity to build in Lebanon, and a team of folks will travel to Columbia, SC to help families recover from the devastating fall flood.

On June 12 we will have prayers of commissioning for our people engaged in service and prayers of thanksgiving to God for calling us into the good work of loving other people.

Please mark on your calendar Thursday, August 4. That is the evening for our Mission Reunion and Celebration event. Everyone who has participated or in any way supported Friedens' many mission endeavors is invited to the meal and evening filled with stories and rededication.

VBS

The annual Vacation Bible School at Friedens takes place July 10th – 13th. Holly Krall-Heft and Kelly Stephenson are handling the overall planning, while Gloria Tice directs the whole school gatherings that begins each night and concludes the final night. Please pray for this vital ministry that, through the VBS efforts, God's love will touch the lives of many children. Also, check the needs list posted on the bulletin board to see if there are resources you might provide. Finally, please consider attending the closing celebration. When we who do not have children or grandchildren attend, we convey to the kids the importance of the experience they enjoyed and our hope for their living in relationship with Jesus Christ and his church.

The closing celebration will take place in the sanctuary. Afterwards, a happy gathering for games, snacks, and lots of conversations will take place in Stauffer Hall and outside. Since many participants are not families currently associated with Friedens, this is a marvelous opportunity to meet new folks who live in our community.

Summer Series

Through the summer the Sunday messages will focus upon the ways God nurtures us into the life that we are created to live. Part one examines what it means for God to name and claim us. Part two considers the everyday life of a person who follows Jesus. Part three takes up the topic of Christian character and the practice of making our lives open to the work of God's Spirit.

Three guests will also preach this summer. On June 5 we will listen to the address Bishop Dunlap prepared for the Synod Assembly; on June 19th Dr. David Lose, former Friedens' youth participant, will be the guest preacher; and on June 26th Pastor Bob Kehrl, retired Lutheran pastor and Friedens member will preach and lead worship. Also, on July 3, my message will focus upon our dual citizenship as child of God and citizen of the United States.

God bless you and our life together in Christ during these June days.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Robert Wallace

Greetings Colleagues!

I would like to invite your parishioners to a sacred concert here on the campus of Luther Acres. Charles Johnson, a renowned baritone soloist, and Dale Neihaus, pianist, will present the Bible in sacred song. It is a beautiful concert and one that your people will enjoy, I'm sure. It will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 12th, in the Community Room here at Luther Acres. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for the listing of what Charles intends to perform that day.



Food Collection

On Sunday, June 5, 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.



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



Thank you is extended to all responsible for the handicapped renovation to the sidewalk. It is much appreciated!
Sr. Janice



May 10, 2016

Dear Friedens Friends, your cards, visits, prayers and good wishes have been, and continue to be a blessing during my surgery and recuperation at home. I am improving each day and hope to be back in church soon.

With my thanks to all for your concern on my behalf.

Sincerely,
Pastor Kehrl

Our Friedens family,
Our heartfelt thanks for all your prayers, calls, visits, gifts, meals and cards. Thank you Pastor Wallace for your hospital visits.
With your prayers and God's healing I will continue to recover.



Henry & Karen Lindermuth

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

April 2016

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,450.00	Goal to Date	\$120,964.00	81%
\$365,409.00	Rec'd	\$23,241.00	Rec'd to Date	97,810.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	48.00	Rec'd to date	201.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	270.00	Rec'd to Date	975.00	

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 PM—Kerry Keller Memorial Service	2	3	4
5 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	6	7 7 PM—Worship Committee	8 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	9 7 PM—Church Council	10	11
12 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	13	14  7 PM—Property Committee	15  6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	16	17	18
19 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	20  6 PM—Women of ELCA Potluck Picnic—Pavilion	21	22 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	23	24	25
26 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	27	28	29 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	30		

Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
May 19, 2016

Chris Heft, President, called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Present: Janice DuBois, Chris Heft (President), Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Sharon Riegel (Secretary), Scott Stephenson (Vice President), John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr. (Pastor)

Excused: Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Tom Morrissey

1. Chris Heft opened the meeting with a liturgy.
2. Council viewed a Faith Formation webinar entitled “Flourish – Part Three” by Metanoia Ministries. “Flourish Taster Event” will be held at Friedens on October 15, 2016.
3. Council received the book study “Pursuing God’s Will Together – A Discernment Practice For Leadership Groups” at the April 21, 2016 meeting. A discussion was held on chapter 2. For next month Council will hold on Chapter 3 & focus on the spiritual practice of solitude and silence and reflect on Psalm 131 and Luke 1: 46-55.
4. **John Umberger made a motion to accept the April 21, 2016, Church Council Minutes. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.**
5. **Scott Stephenson made the motion to hold one worship service (times of day to be determined) on August 21, 2016 (picnic), November 20, 2016 (Advent workshop) and June 11, 2017 (picnic). Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
6. Council agreed to Friedens participating in the Myerstown Holiday Parade which will be held Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 3:30 pm. Point leadership to be determined.
7. Pastor Wallace would like to offer a series of bible studies. This would be offered in addition to Life Groups.
8. Pastor Wallace & Janice DuBois gave an updated on the plans for Sunday, June 19, 2016, to honor Pastor Lose upon his 60th Anniversary of Ordination.
9. Council agreed on the importance of personally connecting & following up with guest families who attend Friedens VBS. Council also agreed on the importance of developing an electronic file of guests & community participants. Point leadership to be determined.
10. Pastor Wallace confirmed the Adult Choir Director & Bell Choir Director Search Group will consist of: Jim Biever, Doris Thompson, Joel Zinn, Pastor Wallace & Janice DuBois (Council Rep).
11. Council set the date of Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 6 pm for a "One Year Review". Participants will include Pastor, Council, Call Committee & Pastor Robert Blezard of Synod.

12. On Sunday, June 5, 2016 in place of the sermon at both services an address from the Rev. James S. Dunlop (Bishop) will be shared via video.
13. Thank you was received from Janet Moyer for flowers & card for Administrative Professionals Day.
14. Pastor Wallace gave a verbal & written Pastor's Report. **Jon Koller made a motion to accept the May 2016 Pastor's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
15. Sharon Riegel shared the highlights of the Property Committee meeting of May 2016.
16. **John Umberger made a motion to accept the April 2016 Financial Secretary's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
17. **Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the April 2016 Treasurer's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.**
18. Elaine Lasch reported the Finance Committee did not meet in May 2016.
19. **Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7 pm (please note this is the second Thursday of June).**
20. **Jon Koller made the motion to adjourn. Janice DuBois seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of joys & concerns and prayer led by Chris Heft.

Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary





"CAVEQUEST VBS is coming Sunday, July 10 - Wednesday, July 13, 6-8:00 pm! Registration is now OPEN!"

Go to (tool bar, not Google)

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/FriedensMyerstown

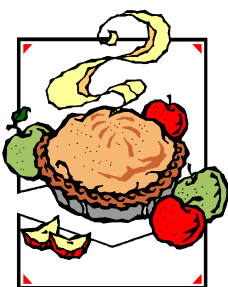
or call the church office to register. Ages 3 (potty trained) thru 6th grade are welcome! We are in need of adult and teen volunteers, so please see Kelly Stephenson or Holly Heft if you are willing to donate your time and energy!"

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

June 6
Mrs. Doris Towers
41 Arbor Gate
Myerstown, PA 17067

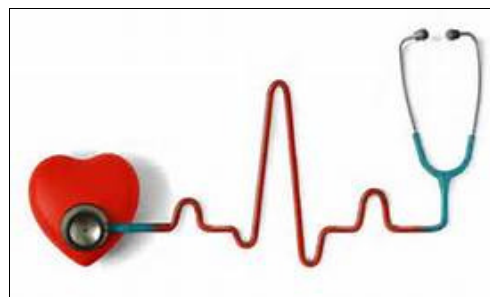
June 23
Mr. Samuel Ruoss
StoneRidge Poplar Run
Health Care Center
450 E. Lincoln Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

June 28
Mrs. Roberta Sitler
Linden Village
100 Tuck Street
Lebanon, PA 17042



When the PIE is opened,
The birds begin to sing;
Won't that be a dainty dish,
Fit for celebrate-ing??!

Homemade pies are needed for Pastor Lose's 60th Ordination celebration on June 19, 2016. Any kind of pie is welcome. Please deliver to Friedens' kitchen on the morning of June 19th. Pies will be the finale to a light luncheon following the 10:30 am service.



LIFE LINE SCREENING preventative checkups will again be held at Friedens on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. Two (2) courtesy checkup certificates have been provided in appreciation for Friedens' participation. Any Friedens' member interested in such a health screening can contact the church office for a certificate (first-come, first-serve) 866-4910. For more information see lifelinescreening.com

