



The Transformer

July 2010

717-866-4910

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

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me” *Matthew 10:40*.

Betty (not her real name) was dropped from our church membership in 1992 for inactivity. One day recently I received a call from Hospice informing us that Betty is now under their care and that she had listed “Friedens” as her church home. So I went to visit her the same day I got the call.

Betty has not been to any church since she left Friedens over 10 years ago but she still has the love of Jesus in her heart. And it shows in her words and in her smile.

We had a mutually edifying visit even though she is now bedridden and “not long for this world” as she put it. I asked her, as I do at the end of my visits, if I could pray before I left. She said, “Oh yes! Please do pastor!” So I did. I took her by the hand and she placed her other hand on top of mine and we prayed. And then with a smile that could light up the darkest room, she thanked me for a beautiful prayer and for “touching her life with my visit.” I touched her life and she touched mine.

The gift of touch is a wonderful gift to share. Every time we gather for worship we welcome one another by greeting each other with a handshake or a hug at the beginning of our contemporary worship and in our traditional worship we touch one another when we share the peace. This is one way we celebrate the gift of touch in worship.

I read about a story where one Sunday a pastor suddenly stopped shaking hands and/

or giving hugs to anyone before, during, or after worship. He said that he was concerned about “appropriate touch” and began to distance himself from the members. One day an older widow approached him and asked why he suddenly changed. Upon hearing his response she said, “But pastor, your handshake or hug is often the only human contact I have all week. I miss it. But I understand.”

I wonder how we would respond to one another as members in the family of God (and especially to our visitors and guests) if we kept in mind the words from Jesus above. When we welcome one another we are really welcoming Jesus. Likewise, when we refuse to welcome one another in the church we are really shutting out Jesus. I don’t know about you but I really don’t want to do that.

An appropriate handshake, genuine smile, and words of welcome can make all the difference in another person’s life – especially someone who comes walking into the church for the first time. As we welcome one another we are in fact welcoming Jesus himself.

In a society that is becoming more and more self-centered and individualistic – loneliness prevails. A simple welcome can breathe fresh air into people lives and into the life of the congregation. The greatest complement someone could give us is to say that “Friedens is the place that welcomes anyone and everyone.”

Indeed – whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at Friedens. So be it in Jesus’ name.

Peace,
Pastor Miller

Caring
Loving
Eager
Ambassadors



Needed...the more ambassadors, the less time to keep our church clean! Only two or three hours and ambassadors needed once a month...or every two months?

To schedule teams, please call:
Joanne @717-628-1211.

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!

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On July 4, 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.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations, if you are going into the hospital and would like someone from the church to visit to offer pastoral care please call the church office, 866-4910. We will gladly accommodate you.

CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendar for Friedens Church Family Picnic to be held on *September 12th, 2010*.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS		May 2010		% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	89%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$25,406.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	130.00	Rec'd to Date	573.00
Hunger	Rec'd	320.00	Rec'd to Date	1,525.00



JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>9am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</i>	5	6	7 <i>9am - Women Sew</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>9am - Service of the Word 10:30am - Holy Communion</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>6:45pm - Church Council</i>	16	17
18 <i>9am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion</i>	19 <i>7pm - Women of ELCA</i>	20 <i>Deadline for Transformer articles</i>	21 <i>9am - Women Sew</i>	22	23	24
25 <i>9am - Service of the Word 10:30am - Holy Communion</i>	26	27	28	29 <i>7pm - Anniversary Committee</i>	30	31







THOUGHTS ON A MISSION TRIP TO RHODE ISLAND

As a novice, I didn't know what I was getting into. Basically I'm just a retiree from Arbor Gate.
A retiree who sleeps till it's time to watch "The Price Is Right."

A retiree who shares his abode with a quiet cocker spaniel named Sam.

A retiree who relishes the peace and quiet and who jumps when the phone rings.

A retiree who walks into a room and forgets why he came into the room to begin with.

A retiree who in one of those "senior moments" must have signed his name on a list to join others on a mission.

Well, you can't guess how shocked I was to find out —

1. I'd be sleeping on a cot or an air mattress. Nothing like my comfortable "sleep number" bed.
2. That my bedroom would be a meeting room filled with about a dozen other men.
3. That those men, at night, sang an "off key lullaby" of all sorts of wheezes, snorts, and groans.
4. That my privacy when disrobing was—GONE! GONE! GONE!
5. That my usual bathing routine was aborted by a bumpy ride to a YMCA, where my jacousey was replaced by a large tiled room with shower heads and filled with other men of various sizes, shapes, and ages. Gosh, I thought modesty was gone when I visited my Urologist!

Next, to my astonishment, I was not on this mission only to cheer-up and give hope to the afflicted—not so—they actually wanted me to do physical work. And work me they did. My body ached, my body bruised, and my body bled—the result of hitting the wrong nail—a number of times.

I guess that's what I get for years of restful, inactive, lazy, and might I say, blissful retirement.

Now, to my amazement, I find myself looking back with pride and elation at what this mission has accomplished. Astonishingly, I find myself saying, "I'll go again."

Maybe because there are houses waiting to be homes again.

Maybe because there are displaced people waiting to go home again.

Maybe it's just my sinful pride, but this mission has made me feel proud, and I feel, and the Pennsylvania Dutch say, "Wonderful Good!"

Perhaps why I'll go again is best edified by the word of a beautiful old hymn—that says -

"Here I am Lord
It is I Lord
I heard you calling in the night."

Thank you team members for putting up with me.

Thank you Friedens for sending me.

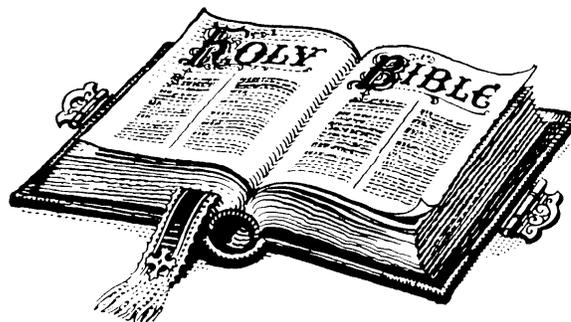
Thank you God for the experience.

Frank Armstrong



Worship Themes for July 18 – August 8 God's Great Good News Revealed: Revelation

While considered to be controversial and difficult, the last book in the New Testament is a message of hope to seven churches in Asia Minor: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. In this 4 week series we will attempt to demystify these writings and see if the revelation contains a word of promise and warning for the times in which we live. This is a book of letters, seals, trumpets, angels, dragons, beasts and bowls. It is filled with mystery, metaphor, judgment, triumph and God's great good news for us today.



Mysterious Visions JULY 18 REVELATION 4 (PSALM 100)

Two great visions: one for the seven churches and one of the presence of God.

Silence is Golden JULY 25 REVELATION 8:1-5 (PSALM 36)

Six seals have been broken. It's time for the seventh seal, the opening of the book and a picture of the end.

Bitter and Sweet AUGUST 1 REVELATION 10:1-11 (PSALM 49)

A voice from heaven interrupts the final catastrophic judgment of the world. This message is good news for everyone who hears it.

All Things New AUGUST 8 REVELATION 21:1-8 (PSALM 105)

The holy city is revealed. God's will is for the final redemption of the nations. The garden of Genesis has grown into a city. God's work is culminating.





Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Annual Assembly Wrap Up

The 23rd annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod was held June 10 – 12 at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Nearly 750 people attended the assembly as voting members or visitors.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson was welcomed as the churchwide representative to the assembly. Bishop Hanson presided at the Thursday evening service of Word and Sacrament, presented the keynote address, led Bible study, moderated a question and answer forum Friday evening and preached at the Saturday morning service of Word and Sacrament.

Worship, Commissioning and Installations

Word and Sacrament worship was held on Thursday evening and Saturday morning. Friday, a service of Evening Prayer with Remembrance of the Faithfully Departed was held to recognize those rostered leaders who have died since the last assembly. During the Thursday service, Ellen Doughty was commissioned as a diaconal minister.

The Rev. Virginia Cover was installed as an assistant to the bishop at the Thursday night service. Newly elected officers of the Lutheran Youth Organization were installed during the Friday morning session. On Saturday morning, newly elected conference secretaries were installed. Newly elected members of Synod Council were installed at the conclusion of the assembly.

Assembly Actions

Elected: members to the Synod Council, Gettysburg Seminary board, Susquehanna University board, and at-large voting members to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Referred: to the Synod Council for study were three resolutions. The first deals with the issuing of calls to rostered leaders who might serve in their call below the minimum salary guidelines set by the Synod Assembly. The second referral is to study the funding of conference ministries in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

And the third resolution asks the council to create a task force to study the procedures for the election of the synod bishop. The task force will be charged with making a report to the 2011 assembly.

Rejected: by a vote of 311 to 190 a memorial which would have asked the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to rescind its actions of 2009 regarding the implementation of ministry polices to permit people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA.

Adopted: a fiscal year 2011 synod budget of \$3,503,000 with 46% of that total going to the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

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Recognition of Good and Faithful Servants

The assembly recognized the 75th anniversary of ordination of the Rev. William C. Karns. Also honored for fifty years of ordained ministry were the Rev. Jay M. Bohn, the Rev. Gerald Christianson, the Rev. Alvin C. Ellerbusch, the Rev. David T. Hinkley, the Rev. Dwight A. Huseman, the Rev. S. Alan Ruby and the Rev. Ronald G. VanBlargan.

Ministry Moments

A series of DVD "Ministry Highlights" were shown to the assembly. These videos highlight the local and international mission and witness of congregations, conferences and individuals in the synod.

Treasurer's Report

Synod treasurer Bruce Seagrist announced that the Synod Council has approved a plan to allocate funds acquired as the result of restitution and insurance proceeds received from the 2008 case of embezzlement against this synod. The allocation will be divided among the Konde Diocese in Tanzania, missionary Richard Sarker who serves in south Asia, seminary scholarships for this synod's emerging Sudanese ministry, the medical ministry at Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, the synod endowment fund, and the synod operating fund.

Assembly Offering

An offering totaling \$6,493.44 was received which will be equally divided between scholarships for the Manow Junior Lutheran Secondary School in the Konde Diocese and Marie-Claire Charles a college student from Haiti, currently studying at Harrisburg Area Community College, who is being sponsored by the youth, young adult and family ministries of the synod.

Looking Ahead

The 2011 synod assembly will return to Messiah College, but will be held one week earlier, June 2 – 4.



Vacation Bible School News

Let's Go! That was the rousing response heard throughout the week of vacation bible school as we set sail and explored the mighty love of God. What an exciting week it was! Throughout the week 63 children and many of Frieden's disciples gathered to experience energetic music, lively games, moving bible stories, fun crafts, the joy of reaching out to others and most importantly the might love of God! We sincerely appreciate you sharing your time, talents, resources and enthusiasm. This week would not have been possible without your help including: donating items, setting-up/cleaning-up, decorating, copying, cutting, organizing, registering, greeting, leading, singing, dancing, playing, story telling, crafting, gaming, evangelizing and most importantly sharing your faith. It is our belief that although this was just one week in the lives of these young people, they have been touched by the love of Christ forever. God is definitely at work in this place and it shows! Thank you again for your help in making vacation bible school a great success.

Let's Go,
The VBS Team

Thank you to those who loaned us decorations. Please pick up those items on the stage in the fellowship hall

WANTED: Men, women and youth who want to have fun being on the "Decorating Committee" especially for Christmas which is done the 1st Saturday in December. Needed are a good number of people (the more the merrier and faster it gets done) to be on a list to basically help bring up and return the decorations from the basement, decorate and un-decorate (usually done the 2nd Saturday in January), and to water the trees for Christmas. Also people are needed to help decorate with the flowers during Easter, Pentecost, Fall and Christmas and to transfer the remaining flowers after the 10:30 AM services to the fellowship hall. Men would come in real handy to transport (with a pick up truck) and set up the Christmas trees, and to pick up the flowers at the florist for the different seasons. If you are interested please contact Carol Hartlieb at 717-866-2641, or hain1@verizon.net or facebook for further details.