



# The Transformer

September 2016

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

School is back in session. So, on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> we observed blessing the backpacks – those our children carry and those our children sent to peers in El Salvador. We also prayed for all who serve in education work.

More than a decade has passed since Cheri and I sent a child to school, but there remains the sense that with September arrives the “new year”. We party and change the calendar on January 1, but our culturally infused sensibilities give the feeling that after summer break, both school and the new year begin.

That being said, I bring several “new year” items to your attention.

## **CONGREGATION-COMMUNITY-PARISH**

Our identity as Friedens Lutheran Church includes being together as congregation, community, and parish.

As congregation, we have an institutional attachment. We are a people organized as an expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and under the aegis of a state charter.

As community we are a people whom the Holy Spirit calls into the salvation life, gathers into a body of persons who care for one another, and enlightens with the gospel.

As parish we identify with Eastern Lebanon County and all of our neighbors. We pay close attention to how God would engage us – as individuals and as a community – to live the good news.

Each expression is a facet of our belonging to each other. Sometimes we give particular attention to one or another, but always in dynamic relationship to the other two.

On Sunday, August 21, we held our congregational picnic. What a glorious day. Thank you to Jackie Hackman for coordinating the event and to the many other volunteers who made this possible. The rain damped the ground and the children playing outside the shelter, but smiles abounded.

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP MATTERS**

For the picnic day we blended elements of our contemporary and traditional worship services. We did this as a convenience, but also as a celebration of our shared identity as Friedens congregation, community, and parish.

I value both of our worship expressions, and find myself being joined together in communion with other worshippers and together uplifted.

At the same time, I appreciate the strong preference most have for either the informal style of the band led worship or the traditional style of the organ/choir led worship. Please know your pastor and council intend to continue holding both contemporary and traditional worship each week

Two or three times during the year we will hold ONE service. We do so because we are one people gathered together as congregation, community, and parish. Therefore, for the sake of claiming and celebrating our shared identity, the occasion of a picnic or a congregational meeting gives reason to worship together.

I am thankful to all of our worship leaders who commit their best efforts every week to worship

Have you heard that one of our worship leaders will now serve both contemporary and traditional services? Gloria Tice, who leads our worship band, now also directs our chancel choir. Her musical gifts are many. Choir rehearsals begin Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> with the choir returning to the chancel on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. I am

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thankful and feel really good to expand the ministry partnership I have with Gloria. The enthusiasm and love she brings to worship are beautiful gifts.

Since it is vital for the choir to rehearse with accompaniment (provided by Jim Biever) prior to worship, the traditional service will begin at 10:45 beginning September 4. The question of whether to create a full hour between services by also changing the start of the earlier services remains open.

### **BISHOP VISITS**

On Sunday, September 11, the Rev. James Dunlap, Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, will gather with us for worship. He will give the sermon and preside at the Lord's Table. Since he desires to have dialogue with us, we will move the early service to 8:45 that day in order to provide a full hour between the services. After the second service our church council will meet with the bishop for a noon meal.

### **COMPASSION AND FLOOD RELIEF**

Back to school brings with it certain expense. At the same time, God presents us with two ways to help those in dire need.

First, we are part of a coalition of congregations who support the Lebanon County Christian Ministries. A vital work of LCCM is providing a safe sleeping environment for homeless persons. Our youth group is going to engage in an experiential learning the evening of September 4 when they spend the night sleeping outside in boxes. Prior to the "sleepover" they will delve into the plight of homeless and hungry persons. Along with their learning lab, the youth invite your donations to support the work of LCCM on behalf of the homeless.

Second, you probably heard about the floods that devastated Louisiana. Although Pastor Rob Miller and the church building did not sustain flood damage, many area residents did. His congregation serves as a center for relief efforts. Would you also consider making a contribution to support this good work?

Cash donations may be placed in an envelop marked for either project. Checks are made out to Friedens Lutheran Church with the notation of either "homeless relief" or "flood relief."

### **GOD'S LOVE SUPPORTS US**

And so the new school year commences. We carry on with the ministries we plan as congregation-community-parish and attend to the unexpected ministries the Lord presents. We know God's love inspires us and God's strength makes us able.

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Robert

### **BREAK MY HEART**

While traveling with Youth for Christ in Asia in the 1940s, Baptist minister Robert Pierce saw many orphans and suffering children. He wrote in his Bible, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Pierce then dedicated his life to relief work, eventually founding World Vision International and Samaritan's Purse. He believed the church had to meet people's physical needs before it could share the gospel message with them.

The work Pierce began continues today: World Vision is now active in 90 countries and Samaritan's Purse in more than 100.



## Food Collection

On Sunday, September 4, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, baby wipes, and diapers

### SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

September 6  
Mrs. Dawn Sell  
Linden Village  
100 Tuck Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

September 25  
Mr. Ronald Sadler  
Spang Crest Manor  
945 Duke Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042



To Friedens family & friends,  
Many thanks for your contributions to the celebration of Kerry's life and the donations to the Memorial

Fund in his memory. Thank you for your love and support throughout our journey.

I continue to feel your love and support and thank you for the cards, calls, conversation and offers of help. I am truly blessed.

Sincerely,  
Tammy

Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls, flowers, food, cards and visits, they were greatly appreciated. Also a special thank you to Pastor Wallace and Sister Janice for their visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. I am deeply touched by all the care and support that was given to me.

Carol Hartlieb

Grandparents Day



September 11

### OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

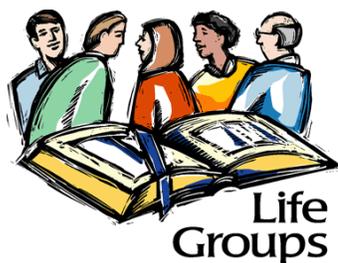
July 2016

|                |       |             |               |              | % of Budget |
|----------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Current Budget | Goal  | \$30,450.00 | Goal to Date  | \$213,150.00 | 80%         |
| \$365,409.00   | Rec'd | \$25,087.00 | Rec'd to Date | 171,560.00   |             |
| Spang Crest    | Rec'd | 55.00       | Rec'd to date | 361.00       |             |
| Hunger         | Rec'd | 270.00      | Rec'd to Date | 1,715.00     |             |

# SEPTEMBER 2016

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat       |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|-----------|
|   |   |   |  | 1  | 2  | 3         |
| <b>4</b> HYMN SING<br>9 AM—<br>Contemporary<br>Service<br>10:30 AM—<br>Traditional Service<br>6 PM—Youth Sleep<br>Out | <b>5</b><br> | <b>6</b><br>7 PM—Worship<br>Committee<br><br>7 PM—Faith<br>Formation—Parlor   | <b>7</b><br>9:45 AM—Pericope<br>Study<br><br>6:45 PM—Praise &<br>Worship Band  | <b>8</b><br>7 PM—Chancel<br>Choir rehearsal  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b><br>Bishop Dunlap<br>9 AM—<br>Contemporary<br>Service<br>10:30 AM—<br>Traditional Service                    | <b>12</b><br>7 PM— Reimagine<br>Faith Formation in<br>The parlor                                | <b>13</b><br>7 PM—Faith<br>Formation—Parlor<br><br>7 PM—Property<br>Committee | <b>14</b><br>9 AM—Women Sew<br><br>6:45 PM—Praise &<br>Worship Band            | <b>15</b> <br>6:45 PM—Life<br>Group—Stauffer<br>Hall<br>7 PM—Church<br>Council | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b> 9 AM—<br>Contemporary<br>Service<br>10:30 AM—<br>Traditional Service<br><br>6 AM—CONNECT-<br>Youth          | <b>19</b><br>7 PM—Women of<br>ELCA  | <b>20</b><br><br>7 PM—Faith<br>Formation—Parlor                               | <b>21</b><br>9:45 AM—Pericope<br>Study<br><br>6:45 PM—Praise &<br>Worship Band | <b>22</b> <br>6:45 PM—Life<br>Group—Stauffer<br>Hall                           | <b>23</b><br>9/23-9/25— Youth -<br>“Alive” at Camp<br>Nawakwa for Middle<br>School | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b> 9 AM—<br>Contemporary<br>Service<br>10:30 AM—<br>Traditional Service<br>6 PM—CONNECT-<br>High School        | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b><br><br>7 PM—Faith<br>Formation—Parlor                               | <b>28</b><br>9 AM—Women Sew<br><br>6:45 PM—Praise &<br>Worship Band            | <b>29</b><br>6:45 PM—Life<br>Group—Stauffer<br>Hall  | <b>30</b>  |           |

**GO BEYOND CITY-WIDE CLEAN UP** Labor Day, Monday September 5 9 AM - 12 PM Sign in/Registration at Harvest Bible Chapel (Old Myerstown Elementary School) Show up early to register, receive a work zone, etc. We will clean up all of Myerstown Borough and continue outside the Borough if we get enough volunteers After Clean Up, Lunch on the Lawn (free) for all volunteers, 12 PM - 2 PM, bring a lawn chair, yard games (ladder golf, corn hole, bocce ball, etc.)



**Life Groups**

Topic: The Good and Beautiful Life  
Sign-ups begin Sunday August 21st and will conclude Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is available in Stauffer Hall. Meeting night will be Thursday night in Stauffer Hall. Book distribution will be Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please connect with John Flesher.



Friends of Spang Crest Chicken Bar-B-Que by Kauffman's will be held on Friday, September 9 from 2:30—6 PM. Cost is \$7.00 and includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato and applesauce. For tickets see Barbara Grumbine, 717-821-6993 or Janet Kehrli, 717-866-6726.

**FAITH FORMATION: “Basics in Luther and Lutheranism”** – With the approach of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, Lutherans and many others want to know what the big deal was – and is! – about Martin Luther’s understanding of the gospel and its application to everyday life. This course will provide an overview of Martin Luther’s (and Lutheranism’s) basic teachings, including Justification by Faith Alone; Distinguishing Law and Gospel; the Theology of the Cross; The Word and Sacraments; the Event Called Church; and Christian vocations in the World.

World renowned Lutheran teacher and writer, Dr. Timothy Wengert, will teach the course live at Philadelphia Seminary and broadcast at Friedens in the parlor meeting room on Tuesdays, September 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 7 pm. Cost is \$10.00 for the course and you can register with the church office or with Pastor Robert.



Friedens Family: Many thanks for your prayers, visits, cards and phone calls during my recent back surgery and healing progress. Thanks also to Pastor Wallace and Sister Janice for their words of encouragement. My special thanks to Janet Kehrli and Clara Grumbine for the beautiful prayer shawl and for serving my family Holy Communion.

Len Schott

## **Congregational Council invites you to join in their Service Project and experience the true joy in serving others**

### **What:**

We will deliver wish list items, sing Christmas carols, serve treats & drinks and enjoy fellowship with the residents of American House in Lebanon, PA

### **When:**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016**

Leave Friedens at 1:00 pm, arrive at 1:30 pm at American House in Lebanon

### **How:**

How can you help? Its easy!

- Join us on Sunday, December 4 at the American House in Lebanon
- Donate any items from the Wish List (place unwrapped items in box in Stauffer Hall)

### **Wish List:**

- Adult Coloring Books, Colored Pencils
- Lanyards
- Male Body Wash, Female Body Wash
- Light Perfume for females
- Hand cream for females
- Warm Sox for males
- Bootie Sox for females (slipper type sox)
- Watches – male or female
- Puzzle Books (word searches, word fill ins, cross word)
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Underwear for males (size 32 to 5X)
- Underwear for females (size 7 to 13)
- Umbrellas

### **Where are we going:**

American House Personal Care Home  
 25 S. 9th Street  
 Lebanon PA 17042  
 717-272-6678, Contact Persons: Kelly / Cindy / Melissa  
 Parking: large lot on corner beside Farmers Market

### **Who are we serving:**

73 residents  
 52 males (ages: 25 to 78)  
 21 females (ages: 40's to 50's)

### **Questions? Connect with:**

Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch, Tom Morrissey, Sharon Riegel, Scott Stephenson, John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr.



Lift Up Lafayette Campaign

Please consider a donation for First Lutheran Church, Lafayette, LA, affected by the recent flooding.

First Lutheran Church is the home church of Reverend Rob Miller and family. Members of this parish have been directly devastated by this flooding.

- \*Cash donations can be placed in an envelope marked **First Lutheran Church Flood Disaster**
- \*Make check donations payable to Friedens Lutheran Church, memo: **First Lutheran Church Flood Disaster**

**Deadline for one collective donation to be sent from Friedens: September 18, 2016**



Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies for the Children's Church school back pack project through Lutheran World Relief. The only supplies we still need are about 24 notebooks and 40 pens. We would like to have the back packs filled by 9 am on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> so that Pastor can bless the packs during the early service. And again thanks for your support



"The Chancel Choir will hold its first rehearsal of the year on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm downstairs in the Choir Room. Interested in seeing what we do? Then this night is for YOU!!! Several open rehearsals will be held so you can see what being in the Choir is all about. Better yet—why not sing with us a Sunday or two?? No experience necessary. All you need is a willingness to praise God in song! Any questions, please email Gloria Tice at [glotice@gmail.com](mailto:glotice@gmail.com).

