



The Transformer

December 2014

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends,

It always amazes me, as I read again the Christmas story, how many people were totally unaware of what was happening. Emperor Augustus and all the people in power were busy making decisions they assumed would shape the world and missed what was happening. They had no idea that anything important could possibly happen in some backwater village in a forgotten corner of a third-rate colony of the Roman Empire.

The innkeeper has been romanticized over the years but I have to believe that if he had known what was happening he would have gladly given his own room to make space for the birth of Christ. He wasn't being cruel sending Mary and Joseph out to the stable; he was simply unaware of the importance of that night.

For goodness sake, even Mary appeared blissfully unaware. After the shepherds came to see the child, Luke says that Mary treasured their words and pondered them in her heart.

It was the lowly shepherds who told the story; they "made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed." It was only because the shepherds had heard words from beyond their world that they understood just a little bit of what was taking place.

Remember, shepherds were not held in high regard. Shepherds stayed out all night, slept on the cold ground, and smelled badly as a result of associating with all those sheep. Shepherds were the ones everyone avoided. And yet, they were the ones God chose to reveal the "good news of great joy." They were the ones who brought the message of great joy to those who would listen.

The Christmas season is a good time to be reminded that God is often at work in the seemingly ordinary moments of life. Who are the least important people in your life; what is the most mundane task in the ministry of our church? Could it be that God is trying to speak through this person or this task that is so often overlooked? Maybe we need to stop and listen for God's Word in the most unusual of places.

Merry Christmas to all!

Ken



Food Collection

On Sunday, December 7, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for Juice, instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned chili, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, canned luncheon meat, 18 oz & 32 oz. jelly, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



*For the grace of
God has appeared,
bringing salvation
for all people.*

TITUS 2:11 ESV



Many
Eager
Ambassadors
Lending
Service...

Do you know anyone coming home from the hospital at Friedens, who will be homebound for one or two weeks and in need for meals?

Please call Joanne at 717/507-1997 to schedule the meals.

Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

McKenna Achenbach
Tad Achenbach
John Flesher
Chris Heft
Sister Janice Ruch
John R. Smith



The church office hours are
9 A.M.—1 P.M.
Monday to Friday.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

October 2014

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$268,482.00	88%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$22,327.00	Rec'd to Date	236,961.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	54.00	Rec'd to Date	583.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	210.00	Rec'd to Date	2,455.00	

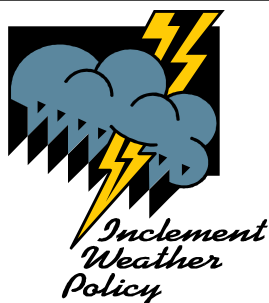


Thank you for all your prayers, sent cards, or calls during my illness.
 Thank you also to Pastor Ken for his visits in the hospital.

May God bless you all,
 John S. Brown, Jr.



We hope you are ready to join in with the social time between church services. Again we are asking for help to serve the coffee, drinks and goodies. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but coffee and snacks are provided, we just need help to prepare and serve. Find a friend and serve together. A sign-up sheet is in the Stauffer hall and we hope you will be able to help continue our social time together. If you have any questions please contact Annette Beamesderfer, Carmella Deck or Susie Harper.



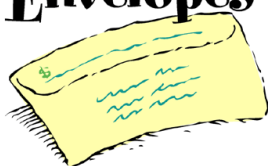
FOUL WEATHER POLICY

If worship needs to be cancelled due to foul weather, this info will be shared on:
 -1270 AM WLBR/100.1 FM WQIC
 -WGAL TV & website
 -Friedens Facebook page



THE FINANCIAL BOOKS of Friedens will close December 31, 2014. Persons who want their contributions to be credited to 2014 must have their offering in to the Financial Secretary on or before December 31.


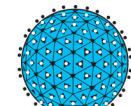
Offering Envelopes



CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2015 are prepared and are on tables in Stauffer Hall. Kindly pick them up. In case your name has been missed, please contact the church office.



DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor	3 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	4 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor/Library 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	5	6
7 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	8	9 7 PM—Property Committee 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor	10 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	11 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor/Library 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	12	13
14 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	15  DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles 6 PM—Women of ELCA—Christmas Dinner—Stoneridge Meier Room	16 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor	17 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	18 7 PM—Ch. Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	19	20
21 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	22	23 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor	24 4 PM—Contemporary Service 7:30 PM—Traditional Service	25	26	27
28 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	29	30 7 PM—Life Group—Parlor	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
November 20, 2014

Frank Armstrong, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong, (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft , Jim Kneasel, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor), and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

Excused: Jon Koller

1. Opening Prayer: Ken Osborne opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 - a. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the October 16, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the October 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the October 2014 Treasurer's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Janice DuBois made a motion to approve the October 2014 Pastor's Report. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.
 - e. Thank you letter from Bethany Children's Home for our recent gifts towards Helping Hands.
 - f. Thank you letter from Luthercare for our recent gift of \$56 to support Spang Crest.
 - g. Thank you letter from Luthercare for our recent gift of \$44 to support Spang Crest.
3. Council discussed the recent Finance Committee meeting of November 13, 2014. The following motion was recommended to Church Council: Finance recommends the review of all Certificate of Insurance (COI) for all current users of Friedens Lutheran Church for 2015. Jim Kneasel made a motion to approve finance recommendation. Chris Heft seconded. Vote on motion tabled until December 18, 2014 Council meeting pending clarification. Congregational Meeting to approve 2015 budget draft is scheduled for Sunday, November 23 at 10:15 am.
4. Jim Kneasel reported on the Property Committee meeting of November 11, 2014. Highlights included: tree cutting is scheduled for November 22, 2014 and painting of nursery school is scheduled for November 29, 2014.
5. A report on the Capital Fund Appeal was reviewed. Campaign Goal: \$155,500. Commitments: \$144,279. Sharon Riegel made a motion to approve the Capital Fund Appeal Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.

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6. Chris Heft provided a Pastoral Search Team Update.
7. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December 2013 meeting Pastor Osborne shared with the group his findings from Synod. At our February 20, 2014 meeting Pastor Osborne shared a sample policy/employee handbook from a local church. In the future Janice DuBois and a team will work on composing a draft Parental Leave Policy.
8. At our December 19, 2013 meeting Chris Heft shared an update on Clearances/Background Checks for Liability Purposes. Pastor Blezard of Synod provided Chris with a website for Council to review. Pastor Osborne & Janice DuBois contacted other churches for sample policies. Pastor Osborne provided info on a "Safe Church" program featuring various sessions which will be offered here in Myerstown. At the February 20, 2014 meeting Jim Biever shared his thoughts/insights with the group. It was agreed to form a team to work on a "Safe Church Policy" for Friedens. On August 21, 2014 Keith DuBois provided Council with a rough draft of a policy titled "Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program for Friedens Lutheran Church". Mr. DuBois reported the team met on 3 occasions and consisted of himself, Lynn Appleby, Jim Biever & Kerry Keller. At this meeting Council received an updated rough draft policy with their agenda packet. Ken Osborne reported he received new info on mandatory reporter, etc. and will share this info with Jim Biever and Keith DuBois. Approval of the draft policy was tabled.
9. At the February 9, 2014 Congregational Meeting no names were submitted for the Nominating Committee for Council. Pastor Osborne is currently working on this.
10. At the April 24, 2014 meeting Council received a recommendation to once again form a Worship & Music Committee. After discussion Council agreed with this recommendation. Pastor Osborne is currently working on this.
11. Staff Appreciation/Christmas Gift Letters have been sent to the congregation.
12. Christmas Eve Worship will be held on Wednesday, December 24, 2014: 4:00 pm Contemporary Worship and 7:30 pm Traditional Worship (prelude begins at 7:00 pm). An ad will be placed in the 2014 Worship Pages of Myerstown and Lebanon Merchandisers. The ads will run in the December 17, 2014 edition.
13. Parlor Remodel Team Leaders, Ralph Kaylor and Kerry Keller, provided Council with a proposal of parlor remodel costs. After discussion it was decided to table this item. Parlor Remodel Team Leaders will re propose with 2 options at a future Council meeting. Council greatly appreciates all the efforts of the entire Parlor Remodel Team.
14. Janice DuBois, Frank Armstrong and a team will coordinate the publishing of a Friedens 2015 Lenten Devotional.
15. Next Council Meeting will be held on December 18, 2014 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will prepare opening prayer/devotional.

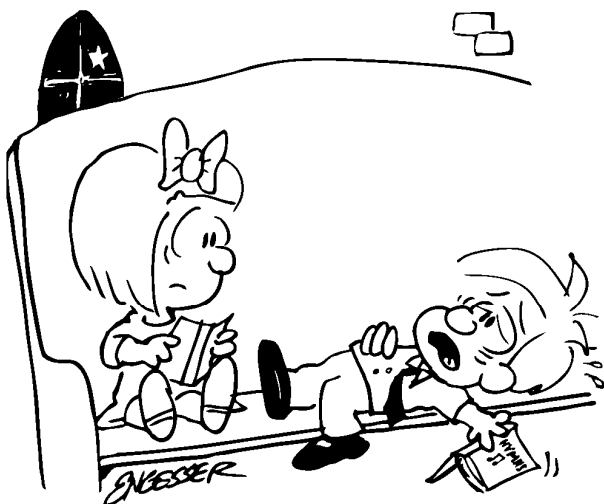
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16. Jim Kneasel made the motion to adjourn. Frank Armstrong seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. Meeting closed with sharing of joys and concerns and prayer lead by Ken Osborne.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary



CHRISTMAS CARDS – The Social Ministry Committee will once again deliver your Christmas cards to the following nursing and retirement homes: Spang Crest Manor, Stone Ridge Poplar Run, Manor Care, Linden Village, Juniper Village, Masonic Village and Tremont Nursing & Rehabilitation Home. No postage necessary, there is a box in the narthex to deposit your cards. Last day to deposit cards for Christmas delivery is **DECEMBER 14.**



"That last 'Glo-ooo-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-oooh-ooria' about did me in."

Bible Quiz



What's the name of the angel who told Mary she would give birth to God's Son?

- A. Gabriel
- B. Raphael
- C. Michael
- D. Jonathan

Answer: A (See Luke 1:26ff.)

