



The Transformer

April 2010

717-866-4910

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

We are living in strange times. Nothing seems certain anymore. Since 9/11 and 2008 all bets are off. The things of this world are not what they used to be. Life is not what it used to be. If you don't agree with me then read no further... If you do agree (and I haven't scared you too much yet) then read on...

Before those two events (9/11 & 2008) we used to live in a world of probabilities. Life was pretty predictable. There are people who go to great lengths to use statistics, science, and philosophy to draw certain conclusions about the likelihood of some potential event happening with some certainty. We used to make educated guesses at to what would happen in the future by looking at the past. And we were pretty good at it. We now live in a wildcard world and nothing is certain except, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "death and taxes."

Today the world is filled with more wildcards than probabilities. Here are just a few of them in order of their potential negative impact...

- Terrorism
- Global warming & climate change
- Nuclear war
- U.S. decline as a world power
- Rising of China and Iran
- Pakistan
- Uncertainty of the world stock market
- Oil prices

Any one of these wildcards could change the course of the world overnight. There is a high probability that a major wildcard will be played in the near future. It's the

reality of the world we live in now. There is also a high probability that more than one wildcard will be played at a time causing major havoc throughout the world.

In a wildcard world we need some thing (or some things) to hang on to – an anchor or two to keep us grounded. Here are some thoughts about the kind of anchors we have in the church that we can offer to people in the world today.

People need certainty in a world based on uncertainty. Jesus is the same today, yesterday, and forever. Jesus is a sure thing and through him we have life in this world and the next. We can say that because Jesus conquered death – the ultimate wildcard and through him we have the certainty of life after death. We are resurrection people.

People need direction in a world tossed around by wildcards. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We need direction for living and that direction involves relationships – healthy life-giving relationship with Jesus in and through the church. We can say that because Jesus conquered death – the ultimate wildcard and through him we have the certainty of life after death. We are resurrection people.

People need hope in a world that is basically broken. Every day the news shares some story about the brokenness of our society. Jesus is our hope in a broken world. We live with hope because with Jesus anything and everything is possible. We can say that because Jesus conquered death – the ultimate wildcard and through him we have the certainty of life after death. We are resurrection people.

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As resurrection people we gather every Sunday morning (and especially on Easter morning – April 4) to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. He is our certainty, and our direction, and our hope in a very uncertain, wildcard world. We live by faith, not fear, because we are resurrection people. See you in worship!

MOTHER & DAUGHTER TEA

April 25, 2010 3-5 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Menu: Fresh fruit, Vegetables, Cream of broccoli soup, Assortment of petite sandwiches, Sweet treats, Coffee, tea & punch.

Entertainment: Gospel chalk talk by Elva Horst

Tickets: Adults (Age 13 & Up) - \$6.00

Children (Ages 5-12) - \$3.00



Peace,

Pastor Miller

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

February 2010

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$57,456.00	88%
\$344,737.00					
Spang Crest	Rec'd	89.00	Rec'd to Date	215.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	280.00	Rec'd to Date	660.00	

COMPEER AND FRIENDS CONCERT

The "Compeer and Friends" concert will be held on Sunday April 11, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at Friedens. Compeer is an organization that matches people with mental illness with a friend in the community so that they will not be alone. This is the fifth year for the concert and the first time that Friedens will be hosting. Organist Jim Bieber, flutist Kateyn Umberger and pianist Doris Thompson will be among those performing in this years concert. Also performing will be a choir comprised of members of the Friedens, Quentin UCC, and St. Marks UCC choirs. You are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this choir. We will be practicing on Saturday April 10 2010 at 2:00 P.M. here at Friedens. PLEASE COME AND HELP. This concert was started by Jim's brother John Bieber as a fund raiser for Compeer. Let's make this year the best year ever for the concert. A free will offering will be taken at the door. For more information,



APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:15pm-Prelude Music 7:30 pm—Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Worship	2 7:30 pm—Good Friday Worship	3
4 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	5 9am-Strong Women 7pm-LIFE Group-Haucks 7pm-Mens LIFE Group-Parlor	6 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-Parlor	7 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Adult Choir	8 7pm-Womens LIFE Group-V. Hauck	9	10
11 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion 7pm-Compeer Concert	12 9am-Strong Women	13 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	14 9am-Strong Women 9am-Women Sew 7pm-Adult Choir	15 6:45pm-Church Council	16	17 Wedding Bobby Rozo & Jason George 3 pm
18 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion	19 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Women of ELCA	20 Deadline for Transformer articles 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	21 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Adult Choir	22 7pm-Anniversary Comm—Parlor	23	24
25 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion 3pm-Ladies Tea Fellowship Hall	26 9am-Strong Women	27 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	28 9am-Strong Women 9am-Women Sew 7pm-Adult Choir	29	30	





Vacation Bible School News

“Let’s Go!” This summer we will set sail on a high seas expedition to explore the mighty love of God. The week will be filled with Bible adventures, cool crafts, fun games and awesome music. Grab your friends, hop on board and prepare to set sail on an amazing voyage!

June 20-24th 6-8 PM
Ages 3 years-5th grade

Registration

We will again be offering online registration. The website will be up and running in the next few weeks to accept registrations. Web address to follow.

Thank-you

Thank you to everyone who has already committed to serving on the VBS team. It takes many individuals to make this ministry a success and your service is deeply appreciated. Of course, there is always room for more on the team. It really is an awesome week that touches the hearts of both children and adults with the love of Jesus. If you are considering serving as part of this ministry, either behind the scenes or hands on during the week, and would like more information, please contact Amber Miller 866-0447 or amiller70@comcast.net.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH (held at 9 a.m. only) All children **age 3 and up to and including 4th grade** are invited to participate in children's Church. An age appropriate lesson based on the gospel or one the readings is presented along with a craft, activity or game relating to the theme. You are welcome to accompany your child if he or she feels uncomfortable attending themselves. If your child elects not to join the group on any particular day, that is ok too. Children will be called up front with the Pastor and be dismissed to go back to Children's Church. Children's Church is located next to the nursery. Children's Church and Nursery are a **FOOD FREE ZONE**, no food is allowed due to allergies.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On April 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.

THANK YOU

Dear Friedens Family:

Thank you for the prayers, cards, phone calls, e-mails and flowers in the loss of our dear granddaughter, Diane. She faced many health issues over the years but was still able to become a nurse and raise two beautiful daughters. She is missed by her entire family, but we know she is at peace with Jesus.

Gene & Barb Lessig





DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

We have been studying love and God’s grace in our LIFE groups this semester , and in our group, The Chocolate Boutique, we often use the expression “extravagant grace”. As a group we have begun to recognize that mostly what God does is love you. If you spend time with Him you learn a life of love and His love is not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us, but to give everything of Himself to us.

I'm thankful for this extravagant love. It's because of Easter and the resurrection of Christ that I have been able to experience true, extravagant love. And through this love, I can reach out and give of myself to others. I can take this amazing love and let all expectations die. In order to give, I don't have to always look for something in return. We are supposed to love extravagantly. Not just on Easter, but every day.

As we race toward the finish line, trying to prepare for our Easter plans, how can we make sure we don't confuse extravagant love with the trappings that so often come with a holiday? How can we welcome others into our homes in a way that truly conveys the message of Easter? Our family has learned to plan ahead while also letting go of all perfectionism placing special value on the precious time we have together as a family. We all count the cost of Jesus Christ who died on the cross and rose again in 3 days. For the secular world, Easter is about new clothes, hidden eggs, and bunnies. But to those that really understand all that was accomplished on that first Easter morning, this is the greatest day in all of history. I thank God for his extravagant love which surrounds me in every way. May you and your family experience extravagant love this Easter season!

Christ’s Peace
Valerie

Holy Week Worship 2010

Maundy Thursday – April 1 Worship 7:30 P.M. (Prelude 7:15)
Laying of Hands and The Forgiveness of Sins/Stripping of the Altar
Drama – Nicodemus (Rod Curry)

Good Friday – April 2 Worship 7:30 P.M.
Nailing of sins on the cross
Drama – Mary, Mother of Jesus (Judy Zinn)

Easter – April 4
9:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship
10:30 A.M. Traditional Worship

