

# The Transformer

October 2011

717-866-4910

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

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another all the more... (Hebrews 10:24-25)

There seems to be some misunderstanding about our LIFE Group ministry at Friedens and its effectiveness for our life together. As the name suggests... a **LIFE Group** is a group of people who meet regularly in love to encourage one another in our faith journey as we Live In Faith Everyday together. Each LIFE Group has a trained facilitator (not a leader) who helps guide the group in learning and sharing in the joys and struggles of life together for a 10 week period. It is a life-transforming time as participants encourage one another in the habits of faith by applying the faith to our everyday lives.

Since starting this small group ministry two years ago there still seems to be some misunderstanding about why we continue to offer them at Friedens. Some people think that small groups are a way to grow the church – usually they aren't. Instead they help to retain and support people for growing in the faith. Some people think that small groups are basically a Bible study group – they aren't. The Bible is the basis for each weekly study but it is so much more than simply studying the Bible. It's about applying the Bible to one's life daily as a disciple of Jesus.

As I reflect on our LIFE Group ministry at Friedens I realize there are three things that make this small group ministry so effective.

1. They are small (10 – 15 people) providing a safe environment where people can share their life journey together around God's Word. This is far more than just getting biblical information - it is people sharing their hopes and dreams and fears with one another in the context of the Bible.
2. They are groups where the facilitator understands that his/her main role is to identify an apprentice who will leave that group to start another group, or take the present group, or move on to lead in another ministry. Rather than seeing the primary role as being the leader of the group, the small group leader sees his/her role as a mentor of an apprentice.
3. They are groups that have a specific service ministry to the community outside of the church by going and sharing the gospel with others. They share by serving. This is where the real personal growth happens.



I want to personally invite you to join a LIFE Group this month, you will be glad you did. Give it a try for 10 weeks. Check out the information about LIFE Groups being offered this fall on our church webpage [www.flcmeyerstown.com](http://www.flcmeyerstown.com). Sign-ups can be made in person in the fellowship hall, or by calling the church office at 866-4910. LIFE Groups begin on October 2.

Peace,

Pastor Miller

# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 AM– Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM– Traditional Worship	3	4	5 6:45 pm –Praise & Worship Band  7:30 PM–Adult Choir	6 7 PM–Cemetery Board 7 PM–Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	7	8
9 9 AM– Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM– Traditional Worship	10	11  7 PM–Property Committee	12 9 AM–Women Sew 6:45 pm –Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM–Adult Choir	13  7 PM–Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	14  Deadline for newsletter articles	15
16 9 AM– Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM– Traditional Worship	17  7 PM–Women of the ELCA	18  6:30 PM–Finance Committee	19 6:45 pm –Praise & Worship Band  7:30 PM–Adult Choir	20  7 PM–Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	21	22
23 9 AM– Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM– Traditional Worship	24	25	26 9 AM–Women Sew 6:45 pm –Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM–Adult Choir	27  7 PM–Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	28	29
30 9 AM– Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM– Traditional Worship	31					

**DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP**

**The Fall 2011 Semester of LIFE groups begins October 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs till December 10<sup>th</sup>. The following is a list of groups facilitating and their meeting times and locations.**

Pastor Robert Miller (Men's group) Monday evenings 6:30- 8:00 pm (Church Parlor) 301 West Washington Ave

Bob & Val Hauck (General group) Monday evenings 7-8:30 pm Location : (Home) 21 Manor Dr. Lebanon.

Amber Miller – (Women's group) Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 p.m. Location : (Church Parlor) 301 West Washington Ave

Joanne Maurer – (General group) Wednesday evenings 7- 8:30 pm Location : (Arbor Gate) 3 Springhouse Dr., Myerstown

Jon Koller – (General group) Wednesday evenings 7- 8:30 pm Location : (Church Parlor) 301 West Washington Ave

Youth – (Sr & Jr High) Sunday evenings 6:30 -8:00 pm Location : (Youth Room) 301 West Washington Ave

***You can sign up Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall from 10 am – 10:30 am. Group signups close On October 9<sup>th</sup>***

***A few reasons you may want to consider joining a group.....***

**You will understand the Bible better in LIFE groups.**

If you've ever listened to the Pastor and wanted to stop him and say, " But what about....?" Or " I don't understand ," then a LIFE group is for you! Preaching is..... one way of communication. You listen and the sermon is taught. This is an effective way for imparting knowledge but not as effective for personal application. In a LIFE group setting, you can ask questions, participate in discussion of the text, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp. In this setting, you will be better able to apply the Bible to your own personal life situations.

**You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.**

LIFE groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change, and stress. You will feel a sense of stability and security knowing that there are people who really care for you and are committed to standing with you. When a family member has an extended illness, the loss of a loved one, or a need just simply arises- these are practical needs of love and care that can come from your group.

**You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!**

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain gifts to benefit others. As you share and participate in LIFE groups , you will discover your confidence and self-esteem grows. This has the potential to help you at work, at church, and in every other relationship.

(continued next page)

**DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP (cont'd)**

**You will deepen your understanding of worship.**

Many of us mistakenly think that worship can only happen on a Sunday morning during our times of worship here at Friedens Lutheran Church. In reality, worship happens anytime we focus on God. Sometimes.....that happens best in a smaller group as we pray, discuss and apply scripture. The book of Acts is very clear about how God intends for His people to grow and have their needs met in the church. We will never be able to hire enough professional staff to meet all the individual needs in our family. God NEVER intended it to be that way!

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Everyday they continued to meet together.....they broke bread in their homes and ate together.....And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42,44 46-47*

If you are not involved in a LIFE group, Why not join one now ??? you have nothing to lose and everything to gain!!!

Christ’s Peace, Valerie

**Church Photo Directory**



Attention from the Anniversary Committee: **Feed the Need** program from *LifeTouch*, our directory photographer, means that each family bringing in a bag of nonperishable food to their photo session October 5-8 will receive a \$5 off coupon on

a photo purchase. Food will be donated to our local food bank. Let us fill the fellowship hall with this great post-flood service project.



Dear Friedens Family,  
I can’t say thanks enough for God’s wonderful people who cleaned my basement after the flood. I appreciate it! God bless all who helped.

Thanks again.

Love Arabelle Yarnall

**OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**August 2011**

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$29,428.00	Goal to Date	\$235,424.00	80%
\$353,139.00	Rec’d	\$19,045.00	Rec’d to Date	190,155.00	
Spang Crest	Rec’d	59.00	Rec’d to Date	588.00	
Hunger	Rec’d	265.00	Rec’d to Date	2,853.00	

## FAITH AND FAMILY

The days are cooler and shorter now. Summer seems but a distant memory at this point. So before the snow flies I wanted to take a moment to highlight a wonderful summer experience that plays a significant role in faith formation-- church camp. We are so blessed to have a wonderful Lutheran camp right down the road. Camp Kirchenwald is like a magical place. It is the "church in the woods." Campers participate in bible studies, crafts, sports, swimming, games, nature hikes and a whole host of other exciting activities. What sets Kirchenwald apart from the typical soccer or gymnastics camp, is that all of the activities are offered in a loving, Christ-centered community. Whereas sports and science camps challenge youngsters to grow physically, emotionally and intellectually, camps such as Kirchenwald provide the added opportunity to grow spiritually. The theme this past summer at Kirchenwald was: *Jesus Chooses US* "You did not choose Me but I chose you." *John 15:16* So while the kids were enjoying campfires and capture the flag, canoeing and hiking, farm visits and crafts, they were also building upon the foundation of Christ's love for them and for all people. They developed new relationships with counselors and campers strengthened by the love of Christ in a Christ-centered environment. Over the summer 5 kiddos from our congregation spent time at Kirchenwald. There were day campers, mini campers and week long campers. Simon has participated in day camp the past two summers and really wanted to stay for a whole week this year. Well.... I was not quite ready for that so we agreed on mini camp. Mini camp is a 3 night camping experience with low camper to staff ratios and the accommodations are in the lodge complete with electricity, running water and full bathroom facilities. It is a great way to introduce sleepover camp to the kids and probably more so to the parents. Sidebar: Simon was more than ready for camp.... I was not. I waited quite awhile before registering him thinking just maybe there would be no room left. At drop off time, he was excited to meet new friends and get the activities started. We said our goodbyes and I made it to the van before the tears started. Mine not his. Ironically, the song playing on the radio as we drove away was The Eagles "There's gonna be a heartache tonight." Hmm... God sure does have a sense of humor. To be honest my heart did ache but not because I thought something terrible was going to happen to him while he was away. No it was heartache because I couldn't believe my little guy was old enough to be staying away from home for 3 nights. Yet, I felt really good that this experience was going to be at a place like Kirchenwald. It was a long 3 days here in Myerstown. At pick-up time, I waited anxiously to see what the response would be. A huge smile and open arms greeted us. On the way home he said "Can I go back next week?" Many of us make summer plans way before summer begins. Perhaps you and your child might consider time at church camp during summer 2012. Often times grandparents and family members are looking for Christmas ideas. Funds for church camp could be a great gift. Also, our congregation does provide partial funds for those children who attend Kirchenwald. The camp brochures will be coming out late winter. Please take a moment, look them over and consider adding time at church camp to your Summer 2012 to do list.

Blessings,  
Amber Miller



**ADVENT FELLOWSHIP INVITATION**

Women of the ELCA of St. Luke, Schaefferstown and Friedens, Myerstown invite all women of your church to join us for an Advent Fellowship on Saturday, November 19th at Friedens Lutheran Church.

8:45—Registration

9:00-11:30—Breakfast

Program—Season of Light

Cathleen Sauber—Celtic Harpist

Please pre-register by signing on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

**FRIEDENS WOMEN OF ELCA**

Meet the third Monday of the month. This year, our Bible Study is entitled, TO FOLLOW AND TO SERVE, based on the book of Mark. Our leader for October will be Judy Zinn.

**THANKS FOR THE NEW SOUND BOOTH**

WOW! Did you see the new sound booth in worship? It looks great and it works great too — thanks to Jake and Judy Werner, David Werner, Ron Haag, Chad Beiler, Dustin Degler, Gene Lessig, and Chris Riegel. What a gift they have all given the congregation by sharing their talents to make the ministry improvement possible. Job well done!



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
during 9:00 A.M. Worship - -  
October has five Sundays-one  
for each finger of the hand.  
Elementary age children will use  
their hands in Children's Church  
as they learn the basics of  
"puppetry." Be sure to have  
your elementary age child attend  
these five sessions throughout October, learning  
how to spread God's Word through the actions of  
puppets while having fun!



Dear Council,  
Thank you for  
allowing the Library to  
use your pavilion. It is  
an ideal place to hold our  
Book and Bake Sale.

The Sale was successful and we  
appreciate your willingness to help.

Sincerely,  
Mary Smith

**SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS**

October 8  
 Mrs. Anna Horst  
 101 E. Reistville Road  
 Myerstown, PA 17067

October 16  
 Mr. Isaac Villanueva  
 215 S. Cherry Street  
 Myerstown, PA 170967

**“BONHOEFFER” MOVIE**

Lebanon County Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will present a free showing of the movie “Bonhoeffer” on Monday, October 24th at 5:30 pm at the Allen Theater in Annville.



If you are interested in taking the next step in your faith journey and becoming an active participant in the mission and ministry at Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, you are cordially invited to a New Members Class on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. New members will be received on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up for this class by calling the church office at 866-4910 and speak with Janet or email her at [janetmoyer@flcmystown.com](mailto:janetmoyer@flcmystown.com).

**A COOKIE SMILE**

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



**What you do:**

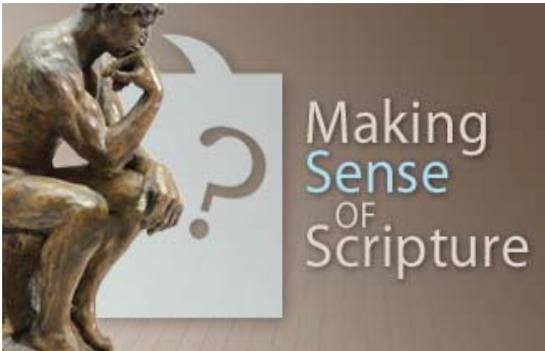
1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a “face” on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!



**Food Collection**

On Sunday, October 2, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. Please place your contributions in the narthex.

## Worship Series for October 2011



We know we should read the Bible, and maybe we've even tried, but somehow we don't find ourselves pulled into its pages the way we have been by other books. We hope this sermon series will change that. By offering new perspectives and tools, we want to equip people to not only read the Bible, but discover life and light and love through its pages.

### **October 2: *What Is the Bible?* Mark 16:1-8**

We probably all own a Bible. But do we know what kind of a book it is? While some view the Bible as a divine reference book and others treat it as a supernatural history or science text book, Lutherans value it as the story of God's historic and ongoing work in the world, a story that seeks to draw us into its pages today.

### **October 9: *Is the Bible True?* Luke 14:15-24**

As Christians, we affirm that the Bible is true. The question is, *how* is the Bible true? And what do we mean when we say that the Bible is true? Do we mean that it's factually accurate, or do we mean something else? As we read the Bible, God speaks and the Spirit leads us to know ourselves and to know Jesus, the Truth.

### **October 16: *How is the Bible the Word of God?* John 1:1-18**

When Lutherans affirm that the Bible is the Word of God, we begin, not with the Bible as such, but with Jesus, God's Word made flesh. The Bible is the Word of God because it witnesses to Jesus Christ. If the Bible did not point us to Christ, it would cease to be the Word of God.

### **October 23: *Where Did the Bible Come From?* Luke 1:1-4**

The Bible is God's book, through which God accomplishes divine purposes. At the same time, the Bible is a very human book, written by inspired witnesses in a particular time, to a particular people and for a particular purpose.

### **October 30: *How Can I Read the Bible With Greater Understanding?***

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

The gap between reading and understanding the Bible can sometimes feel like a chasm that's too wide to cross! But just as the right tools can make any job easier, the right interpretive tools can break open the meaning of the Bible in ways that enlighten our mind and feed our soul. While there are certainly skills to be learned, the Holy Spirit is ultimately the One who opens our eyes and our minds to understanding.

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
September 15, 2011**

Council President Bob Hauck, called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Bob Hauck (President), Bruce Kauffman, Dottie Kemble, Joanne Maurer (Secretary), and Pastor Miller.

Excused: Frank Armstrong, Greg Gardner (Vice President), Jeff Gumpert, Denise Noll.

Bob Hauck opened the meeting with a devotional “The Value of Obedience” and scripture reading from Proverbs 2: 1-6 and Luke 5: 1-7. Opening prayer: by Pastor Miller.

1. Minutes: Dottie Kemble motioned to accept July 21, 2011 minutes. Jody Appleby Seconded. Motion carried.
2. Reports:
  - A. Financial Secretary report from July and August 2011 reviewed. Pastor Miller motioned to accept reports. Bruce Kauffman seconded. Motion carried.
  - B. Treasurer report from July and August, 2011 reviewed. Jody Appleby motioned to accept reports. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.
  - C. Property report from August, 2011 reviewed. Dottie Kemble motioned to accept report. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.  
Property report from September, 2011 reviewed. Bruce Kauffman motioned to accept report. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.
3. Pastors reports:
 

Reviewed New Membership/Discipleship Class agenda.

  - A. Update on Janet Moyer.
  - B. New Members to be received on Sunday, September 25, 2011.  
(Others to be received on October 16)
  - C. Two Weddings on Saturday, September 24, 2011.  
Nicole Adams and Craig Snyder – 2:00 pm.  
Clint Althouse and Julie Ritchie – 3:30 pm.
  - D. Pastor at Continuing Ed – Leadership Event September 19-20, 2011.
  - E. Pastor Miller’s Vacation – September 28 – October 1, 2011. Pastor Kehrli Preaching Sunday, October 2, 2011.  
Jody Appleby motioned to accept report. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.
4. Communications:
 

Joanne Maurer communicated:

  - A. Thank You letter from Lebanon County Christian Ministries August food bank donation of 225 pounds.
  - B. Thank You letter from Luthercare for August gift of \$28.00.
5. Open Forum: Discussion occurred.  
Meeting closed with Lord’s Prayer.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer, Congregational Council Secretary