

# The Transformer

November 2010

717-866-4910

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

November is Thanksgiving month, which reminds me of worship, which reminds me of God, which reminds me to always be thankful – daily. I wonder... why do we need a national holiday to remind us to be thankful? God is good all the time! Everyday is a day for giving thanks – is it not?

Consider the following:

The first story of Thanksgiving goes something like this. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. By fall, they had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed aboard the Mayflower. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one. And the remaining colonists decided to celebrate with a feast-including 91 Indians who had helped the Pilgrims to survive their first year. The feast lasted three days and was quite extravagant. The menu included wild fowl, boiled pumpkin, fried corn fritters, fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums.



More than fifty years later, on June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how best to express thanks for the good fortune that had seen their community securely established. By unanimous vote, they instructed Edward Rawson, the town clerk, to proclaim June 29 as a day of thanksgiving.

It was another hundred years, however, before all 13 colonies joined in a thanksgiving celebration. This Thanksgiving Day, held in October 1777, while associated with the pilgrim holiday, commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. Like the Charlestown Thanksgiving, it too was a one-time affair.

George Washington wanted to proclaim a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789, but discord among the colonies prevented it. Many felt that the hardships suffered by a few pilgrims 150 years before did not warrant a national holiday. And later, President Thomas Jefferson scoffed at the idea of having a day of national thanksgiving.

It was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, whose efforts beginning in the 1820s eventually led to what we recognize today as Thanksgiving. Hale wrote many editorials championing her cause in her Boston Ladies' Magazine and, later, in Godey's Lady's Book. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, Hale's obsession became a reality when, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving.

Since then, the date was changed only once, by Franklin Roosevelt, who moved it forward one week to the third Thursday in November in order to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move Thanksgiving back to its original date two years later.<sup>1</sup>

We are truly blessed in so many ways. God *is* good all the time!

This year, we might consider giving thanks to those who worked faithfully to create this special holiday giving it its current status in our lives. *The pilgrims of Plymouth, the township of Charlestown, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Sarah Josepha Hale* who all wanted us all to feast with our families and friends and to remember that being thankful is more than a feeling. It's a lifestyle. Through the power of this one date on the calendar, Giving Thanks has become an invitation for us to pause and consider the blessings in our lives – daily.

Peace,

Pastor Miller

<sup>1</sup>This story was adapted from "Spirits and Story" web page at [www.clal.org/ss6.html](http://www.clal.org/ss6.html)

**CELEBRATION SERVICE**

Mark your calendar for the Rededication Service of our church building, November 7 following the 11:30 a.m. worship service. Please bring a covered dish to share.

**THE BIBLE STUDY CLASS** will be starting a new course on November 7, Making Sense Out of Scripture by David Lose. We meet in the church library at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome.



**Become Part of Our Church Family**

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS** will be held on Sunday, November 14 from 2-4 p.m. If you are interested in participating in this class and joining Friedens Lutheran Church, please call the church office, 866-4910 or e-mail the church at [friedens@lmf.net](mailto:friedens@lmf.net).



**Food Collection**

On November 7, 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 in advance for your generous support of this outreach ministry.

**Wow! Did you know?**

We now have over 400 pictures and 30+ videos on our church Facebook page. Videos include weekly adult and children sermons and various worship songs by our own Praise & Worship Band. Be sure to check us out on Facebook: Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA. The church also has its own website: [fclmyerstown.com](http://fclmyerstown.com)



# NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 pm-Confirmation Class	2 6 pm-Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	3 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church Parlor Bruce Kauffman - Church Library	4 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor 7 pm-Leadership Team Meeting	5 Wedding Rehearsal	6 1:30 pm -Wedding Ashley Gardner Eric Hauck
7 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion	8 7 pm-Confirmation Class	9 6 pm-Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Property Committee 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	10 9 am-Women Sew 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church Parlor Bruce Kauffman - Church Library	11 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor	12	13
14 10:30 am-Holy Communion 2 pm-New Members Class	15 6:30 pm-Finance Committee 7 pm-Women of ELCA 7 pm-Confirmation Class	16 6 pm-Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	17 7 pm-Small Groups* Jeff Gumpert – Church Parlor Bruce Kauffman - Church Library	18 6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor 6:45 pm-Church Council	19	20 Deadline for Transformer articles
21 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion	22 7 pm-Visitation Committee 7 pm-Confirmation Class	23 6 pm-Handbell Ensemble 7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer	24 9 am-Women Sew	25 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9 am-Holy Communion 10:30 am-Holy Communion	29	30 6 pm-Handbell Ensemble	*Home of Larry Kemble			



### DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Isn't it great the way God gives us gifts to use all according to his plan?? Bob and I are not exactly what you would call "handy" or the fix it type so from time to time things go on the fritz in our house. We are however blessed with fathers who are great at fixing almost anything. Recently I called my Dad for some much needed help on a home repair. When he arrived I showed him what I thought needed to be done and handed him my "To Do" list. But to my surprise, he told me I would be the one doing the repairs myself! He modeled for me how to do it, instructed me along the way, and stayed with me. I followed his example and successfully made the repairs. (He did have to help me a little) This modeling seems close to what Jesus did when He called His first disciples.

When Jesus called those men to follow Him, He wanted them to be with Him and to teach the good news of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14, 39; 6:12). The first job would require being under the immediate supervision of Jesus, learning His words and interpretation of the scriptures and watching His behavior. For the second task, Jesus sent them out to preach (Mark 3:14-15) they were now saying what He said and doing what He did. As they carried out these tasks they were to be dependant on Jesus.

I had a conversation the other day with a dear friend who attends Friedens, as we were talking my friend shared with me how they would be willing to help out in any way I saw fit. I thanked my friend and said "let me give that statement some prayerful thought" A few days later during my time with the Lord I felt Him speaking to my heart that what was really needed was for more people to be open to making an investment in others just like Jesus had made an investment in His disciples. It was like a light bulb went off!! I phoned my friend to share with them how God had spoken to my heart..... and that if they really wanted to do something to help me and our church they could prayerfully consider mentoring one other person. Today, Jesus is still calling His followers to this simple yet powerful process of discipleship- being with Him, following His instructions, and living His example. Making the decision to model Christ for another person is definitely time consuming and not always the easiest thing that God calls and equips us to do, but I have found that the rewards far out weigh the task. Who is it that God may be calling you to invest in???

Christ's Peace  
Valerie



### Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service

Myerstown UCC has invited all the churches in Myerstown to join them for a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 24, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. with a reenactment of the Plymouth Plantation Thanksgiving Service (1600's) The Rev. Dr. Bruce Farrell will preach and dress in the style of the era. Offering to support the local food pantry at The Sharing Cupboard at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren. Friedens Lutheran Church will not be offering Thanksgiving worship this year – encouraging one and all to join our brothers and sisters at the UCC Church.

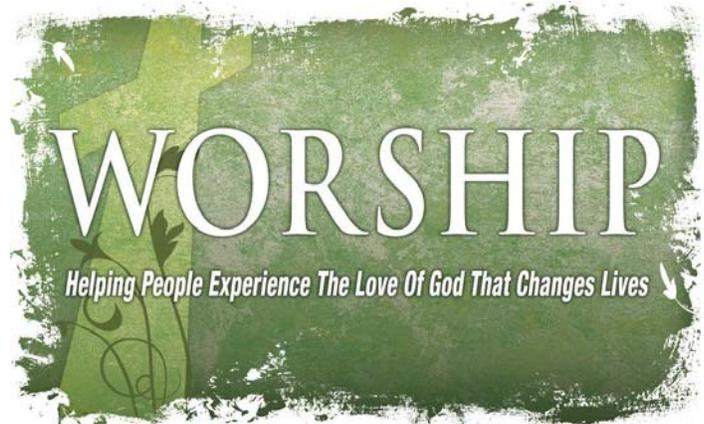
## Worship Series for November and December 2010

### Thy Will Be Done...

What is God's will? While there are many answers to this question, in this series we will focus on the answer provided by the prophet Micah:

*"God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

What might that look like in our lives?



When we pray the words of Jesus, "thy will be done," we are voicing a number of Jesus' commands found throughout the New Testament. As Jesus tells his disciples in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:20, "teach them to obey all that I command you."

We will look at three broad categories that most of Jesus' commands fall into: **missional commands** on behalf of those who are less fortunate in order to provide justice for them; **relational commands** to love our neighbors as ourselves, causing us to love kindness; and **sacrificial commands** that we carry out in obedience as we walk humbly with our God. All of these commands have a direct relationship to how we steward the resources we've been given and how we prepare for the Christmas season.

**November 7 – *Do Justice* – Micah 6:8; 2 Corinthians 8:7-9**

**November 14 – *Love Kindness* – Micah 6:8; 1 John 4:7-21**

**November 21 – *Walk Humbly With God* – Micah 6:8; Philippians 2:1-13**

### On Earth as it is in Heaven...

This advent series celebrates God's new creation. God's new creation is arriving upon a sleepy, surprised world in human flesh: Jesus Christ. This new creation is pointing the way to peace, justice, and restoration.

**November 28 – *Peace!* Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-49**

**December 5 – *Justice!* Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12**

**December 12 – *Restoration!* Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11**

**December 19 – *Incarnation!* Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25**

**December 26 – *Glory!* Isaiah 62:6-12, Luke 2:8-20**



## FAITH AND FAMILY

I believe one of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of compassion towards others. Unfortunately, this can be a rather difficult task. Through society and media our children are bombarded with ego centric messages of "look out for number one." Yet Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Matthew 22:39. Of course young children take the neighbor concept rather literally and assume that "our neighbor" is simply Mrs. Jones next door. In reality all people are our neighbors.

The holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas provide many opportunities to involve children in showing compassion towards others locally and globally. There are numerous programs available and I will highlight a few of those.

\*Turkey Hill Cares Rescue Mission Food Drive, which benefits Lebanon Rescue Mission as well as two others in central PA, is taking place until December 18th. A brown paper bag with a list of items needed was included in the Sunday paper last week or you can find that list on their website <http://www.turkeyhillcares.com/rescue-mission-food-drive.asp>. Donations are accepted at all Turkey Hill markets in Lebanon county and central PA.

\*The Toys for Tots campaign will also be starting soon with drop boxes all across the area.

\*Each month Friedens does a collection for the Lebanon County Food Bank. A list of requested items can be found in the bulletin and transformer. In the past, Friedens has also sponsored a Christmas Angel Tree through Luthercare.

\*A good source for alternative gift giving which helps those in need is the ELCA Good Gifts program. A variety of gifts can be given in honor of a friend or loved one. There are programs to assist people living around the world as well as in the United States. For example, \$10 will purchase 10 chicks whose eggs provide nutrition for children and the extra eggs can then be sold to generate income for the family. Or \$10 provides a family of four with warm blankets. Or \$10 buys a mosquito net to help protect those living in malaria prone areas. There are a variety of gifts and a variety of price points. What a wonderful way to honor someone special and offer life giving support to a neighbor in need! For more information and to browse the catalog you can visit their website at <https://community.elca.org/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=469>.

A vital piece to the learning of compassion is to include your child. If you decide to participate in a program such as those listed above, involve your child as an active participant. Make a special trip to the grocery store with your child to get just the items to fill the grocery bag for the rescue mission. Allow your child to choose the toy to place in the Toys for Tots box. Look through the gift catalog together and let your child decide which item they want to purchase for a loved one. When age appropriate, compassion can be taken to the next level with parent and child serving a meal at the rescue mission. Engage with them in conversation about what life may be like for other families who are not as financially blessed as we may be. Include Jesus in that conversation. Help them to understand that we aren't doing these things to simply be nice. It goes much deeper than that. We are Christians. As followers of Jesus, we try to be Christ like. A simple statement such as "We have been so blessed by God who gives us way more

(continued on next page)

than we really need so we are going to be like Jesus and share with others" helps the child to understand the deeper connection to Jesus. Connecting with Jesus helps grow the faith. By words and by example we can teach our children to show compassion the way Christ shows compassion to us.

Blessings,  
Amber

### PRAISE & WORSHIP BAND

You may have noticed a couple of new faces leading worship with the Praise & Worship Band during the 9:00 A.M. Service. Friedens extends a warm welcome to Matt Miskie and Craig Rankin. Matt comes to us from Cleona, PA. He is a songwriter, guitarist, vocalist, and percussionist. Outside of worship Matt is the Activity Services Director for the Caron Foundation. Craig has been lending his talents as a drummer and makes the drive from Lancaster, PA. Craig has played drums for many groups and venues for a number of years, but his true love is playing in church. We are so fortunate to have them join us.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our drummer, Steve Snyder, who retired from the Praise & Worship Band a couple of weeks ago. Steve was with us from the beginning when the Praise and Worship Band as well as a Contemporary Service offered at Friedens was in its infancy. We thank Steve for his faithfulness to the Band. Steve was the type of member who was always the first one to arrive for rehearsal. He did a lot of "behind the scenes" jobs that needed to be done, like setting up and turning on microphones, and plugging in cords. He never expected any accolades, nor did he like attention on himself. Steve did it just because he wanted to. Thanks, Steve!

Gloria Horn



**REMEMBER**

Sunday  
November 7  
Set your clocks  
back one hour.

**TURN YOUR  
CLOCKS  
BACK!**



Find us on  
Facebook

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting  
October 21, 2010

Council Vice President, Greg Gardner, called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Greg Gardner (VP), Jeff Gumpert, Carol Hartlieb, Bob Hauck (Pres.), Dottie Kemble, Jill Kreider (Sec.), Joanne Maurer, and Pastor Miller.

Excused: Jody Appleby, Elaine Lasch (Treas.), and Denise Noll.

Opening prayer was offered by Jill Kreider.

Bob Hauck offered a scripture reading from 1 Peter 1:6-7 and a devotional called "Are You a Threat to Satan?" Discussion followed.

1. Minutes: Sept 16, 2010 minutes reviewed. Correction made to Pastor Millers report under item d.: position spelled wrong. Dottie Kemble motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

2. Communications:

Jill Kreider communicated:

A. Thank you letters from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for June/July Food Bank donation of 144 pounds and Aug. donation of 208 pounds.

B. Thank you letter from Luthercare for September donation of \$49.00.

C. Thank you letter from Keystone Hook & Ladder Co. #1 for \$1,000.00 donation.

3. Reports:

A. Financial Secretary Report from September 2010 reviewed. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

B. Treasurer Report from September 2010 reviewed. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Miller reported:

A. First Communion on Sunday Oct. 17th for Jordan Atz, Emma Flesher, Kelsie Salem, and Jacob Swanger. A make-up class will be offered for 2 additional students that missed the first classes.

B. Wedding: Nov. 6th, 2010 at 1:30 for Eric Hauck and Ashley Gardner.

C. Leadership Meetings will continue once monthly with the following key lay leaders: Jim Biever and Gloria Horn - Worship; Val Hauck - Discipleship; Jan Dubois - Mission; Janet Moyer - Administration; Bob Hauck - Council President; Elaine Lasch and Gary Deck - Finances; Todd Blouch and Gene Lesig - Building/Grounds; Janice Ruch - Shut-in Visitation; Roger Kauffman - Cemetery. Next meeting scheduled for Nov. 4th.

D. Rededication of Friedens Building scheduled for Nov. 7th at 11:30 (following 10:30 Worship).

E. Myerstown UCC has invited all the churches to join them for a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wed., Nov. 24th, 2010 at 7:30 PM with a reenactment of the Plymouth Plantation Thanksgiving Service (1600's). The Rev. Dr. Bruce Farrell will preach and dress in the style of the era. Offering to support the local food pantry at the Sharing Cupboard at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren. Friedens Lutheran

(continued next page)

Church will not be offering thanksgiving worship this year and would encourage one and all to join our brothers and sisters at the UCC Church.

F. Two candidates have been interviewed for the Adult Choir Director position.

Bob Hauck reported that he had met with the Audit Committee.

4. Council Member Terms reviewed. Members whose 3 year terms are up at the end of 2010 and are able to be re-elected are to prayerfully consider being re-elected.

5. Open Forum: Discussion followed.

6. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jill Kreider

Congregational Council Secretary

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS		September 2010			% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$258,552.00	84%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$21,378.00	Rec'd to Date	\$219,290.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	50.00	Rec'd to Date	870.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	305.00	Rec'd to Date	2,870.00	



**Caring  
Loving  
Eager  
Ambassadors  
Needed...**the more ambassadors, the less time to keep our church clean! Once or every other month for two or three hours? To schedule appointment, please call: Joanne at 717-628-1211 or e-mail—[joannemaurer@comcast.net](mailto:joannemaurer@comcast.net)

