

The Transformer

February 2011

717-866-4910

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

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

On New Years Day our seven-year-old son, Simon, asked me to teach him how to play chess. He found a chess set in the toy closet. I patiently explained to him that it's a game of strategy with sixteen pieces per person - one king, one queen, two bishops, two knights, two rooks, and eight pawns. I pointed out the 64 black and white squares on the board with the king side and the queen side. I carefully explained to him where each piece goes on the board at the start of the game, how each piece moves throughout the game, and that the object of the game is to "checkmate" the king - to get the king to a point where he would be captured no matter what move the opponent would make.



Simon caught onto the game in no time. And he loves playing it with me. He said it's better than playing checkers. I stopped counting how many games of chess we've played since January 1st.

The chessboard has not been put away since that first day we started playing. As soon as one game ends, we set the board up again and start the next game. The phrase I hear most often when I get home and walk through the

door is, "Dad, it's your move." Sometimes we will play a game for days. At other times we can play four or five games in one day.

The joy for me is not winning the game but playing the game with my son. It's quality time together. It's helping him learn the game of strategy. And it's helping him learn how to win and lose gracefully. For now, I *help* him win - pointing out which piece to move and which piece not to move. I'm sure in time he will be winning without me coaching him. The neat thing is, when I help him win, I win too. For both of us it's not about winning or losing. It's about playing the game - together.

According to www.thegameofchess.com playing chess helps people grow and learn and develop excellent problem solving skills. Here are 10 reasons to play chess:

- It will increase your IQ.
- It will enhance your decision making skills.
- Logical reasoning is very important in day to day activities and playing chess definitely increases it.
- It helps improve your concentration.
- It opens paths to socialization.
- It improves your creative thinking and it enriches your creativity.
- It increases your memory related skills which ultimately increases your comprehension skills.
- In chess you need to make good, quick decisions which helps you in making decisions about your life.
- It helps you to analyze situations and changes you into a pro-active person.
- Chess is the real fun

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Here are a few fun facts about the game of chess:

1. The famous Ray Charles learned the game of chess when he was hospitalized for heroin addiction. He ended up kicking the drug completely!

2. The word "Checkmate" is used in chess. The word comes from the phrase "Shah Mat", which means "the King is dead."

3. At one time the church actually forbade priests from playing chess. In 1125, a chess playing monk invented the folding chess board. This way they could hide the board and it would look like a book.

4. Chess has even been played in space.

I can't help but think how church is somewhat like playing chess. Of course, church is not about winning or losing. And yet, it is about helping each other win at life. It's about problem solving, strategizing, and helping each other become our best selves. It's about being humble and gentle with each other as we learn about the "game of life. It's about bearing with one another in love, keeping the unity of the Spirit through the gift of peace. It's about living a life worthy of the calling we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Church really isn't about winning or losing. It's about being together, doing life together, growing in the faith together, solving the problems of our church, and lives, and the world together. It's about keeping each other in "check" when it comes to growing in the faith.

I could list a lot of reasons to participate in the church. Perhaps the most important reason is because church can increase your faith IQ. It has for me. And I've seen it happen with so many people who participate in our church life at Friedens.

I know that church isn't a game. But in many ways it can be a lot of fun like playing chess with my seven-year-old son. How might we help, coach, and encourage one another in our next faith move?

I've got to go...
Simon just informed me that it's my move and he has me in "check."

Peace,
Pastor Miller



SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

February 27
Mrs. Esther Yeakley
450 Yeagley Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

Be a disciple

A girl returning home from Sunday school expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the day's lesson. "We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat!"

Wow! Did you know?

We now have over 500+ pictures and 50+ 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: flcmysterstown.com



FEBRUARY 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | <p>2 1 Pastor Continuing Ed (Feb. 3-6) 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p> | <p>2 Pastor Continuing Ed (Feb. 3-6) 6:45pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7pm-Senior Choir</p> | <p>3 Pastor Continuing Ed. (Feb. 3-6)</p> | <p>4 Pastor Continuing Ed. (Feb. 3-6)</p> | <p>5 Pastor Continuing Ed. (Feb. 3-6)</p> |
| <p>6 Pastor Co. Ed. (Feb. 3-6) 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship</p> | <p>7 6 pm- Confirmation class at Kerry's home</p> | <p>8 6pm- Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 6:30pm-Finance Committee 7pm-Property Comm</p> | <p>9 9am-Women Sew 6:45pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7pm-Senior Choir</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> |
| <p>13 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship</p> | <p>14  6 pm- Confirmation class at Val's home</p> | <p>15 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p> | <p>16 6:45pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7pm-Senior Choir</p> | <p>17 6:45pm-Church Council</p> | <p>18 Deadline for Transformer articles</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>20 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship</p> | <p>21 6 pm- Confirmation class at Kerry's home 7pm-Women of ELCA</p> | <p>22 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p> | <p>23 9am-Women Sew 6:45pm-Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7pm-Senior Choir</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 9 am- Contemporary Worship 10:30-Traditional Worship</p> | <p>28 6 pm- Confirmation class at Val's home</p> | | | | | |



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

We hope you are prayerfully consider joining a “LIFE Group”. LIFE Groups are groups of 10-15 people who gather weekly in convenient locations all over the Myerstown and surrounding areas to make new friends, serve others, and grow spiritually. Our spring semester will begin the first full week of February (6th – 12th). If you decide to participate in a group we would ask you to make a commitment to the group for 10 weeks. So what can you expect at a typical gathering??? Groups will meet weekly with a time of fellowship followed by joys and concerns & a time of study which will encourage you to become involved in group discussions. You will have a social gathering and an outreach event during your semester. We have been praying for you to take a leap of faith and make 2011 the year you get connected!! The following are the groups we are offering this Semester. You may register for groups each Sunday now through Sunday Feb 6th, 10 am -10:30 am in the fellowship hall.

John & Phyllis Flesher

(General Group) Open to all, Monday Evenings, 7pm-8:30pm

Location: (home) 8 Cricket Lane, Myerstown. (Wheatland Manor)

Our study will be: “Crazy Love” by Francis Chan. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. — it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, you will never be the same.

Jon Koller

(General Group) Open to all, Monday Evenings, 7pm-8:30pm

Location: Church Parlor

Our study will be: “Sermon based curriculum” This study links a church’s small group ministry with the weekly sermon and worship service. Group members study the same topic or scripture that was covered in the sermon, often delving deeper into areas not covered in detail by the pastor

Bob & Val Hauck

(General Group) Open to all, Tuesday evenings, 7pm -8:30pm

Location: (home) 21 Manor Drive Lebanon

Our study will be: “Remembering the Forgotten God” by Francis Chan. Today's church *admires* the gift of the Holy Spirit, but have we neglected to open it? This study tears away the wrapping paper and the ribbons to uncover the source of the believing community's true power for witness and service. Chan issues a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Spirit of the living God.

Janice Dubois–

(Women’s Group) Open to all, Tuesday evenings, 7pm-8:30pm

Location: Church Parlor

Our study will be: “12 Extraordinary Women”. They were ordinary, common, and in some cases shockingly low-caste, yet each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God. Readers will be challenged and motivated by Twelve Extraordinary Women, a poignant and personal look into the lives of some of the Bible's most faithful women. Their struggles and temptations are the same trials faced by all believers at all ages. Inside this book, best-selling author and Bible teacher John MacArthur shows that the God to whom they were so committed is the same God who continues to mold and use ordinary people today.

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Kerry Keller –

(Young Adults Group) Open to adults 18-30 yrs, Thursday evenings, 7pm-8:30pm

Location: (home) 30 Eisenhower Rd Myerstown.

Our study will be: 20/30 book study, you know how important it is to have a sense of support and roots; to have friends and a life partner. This group will be focused on the many challenges young adults face each day. *They will be* introduced to Scriptures and life examples that delve into intimacy, work, and family relationships, and more

Sparkie Gardner

(Junior High Youth) – Due to some youth sporting conflicts with our junior high youth the day and location has changed on this group. The tentative date will be Tuesday evenings in the church youth room 7- 8:30pm.

Our study will be: Serving others in love.

Serving Others in Love helps students understand their role in the body of Christ. This study of the *Life Together* series challenges students to use their unique, God-given gifts to make a real difference in the lives around them. Inside this book are sessions leading to discoveries about the joy of serving, and encouragement to find opportunities to exercise gifts. They will learn that "ministry" isn't just a job that a pastor does - it's also you, serving others in love.

Chad Beiler

(Senior High Youth) - Sunday evenings, 6:45pm-8:15pm

Location: home 163 E. Kercher Ave, Lebanon

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For more information on any of these groups you can visit our promotional area located in the fellowship hall or contact Valerie @ valeriehauck@flcmystown.com



**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? Please call: Joanne at 717-628-1211 or e-mail—joannemaurer@comcast.net if you have any questions. On the bulletin board outside the office is a sheet for you to let us know when you cleaned and where you cleaned (sanctuary, rest rooms, fellowship hall, classrooms, hallway, kitchen, library).

FAITH & FAMILY

Last Easter we purchased new Bible story books for each of the children. For Simon, we purchased "The Jesus Storybook Bible- Every Story Whispers His Name" by Sally Lloyd-Jones. I did not go with the intention of purchasing this particular book. I was browsing through the various Bibles at J.O.Y. Bookstore when I came across this one. I leafed through the pages, read one of the stories and was immediately drawn in. I think it is an absolutely lovely book. It is not a traditional Bible with books, chapters and verses. It is a storybook Bible so the author has taken some liberties. The language is very easy to understand and engaging for both children and adults. I think what sets this book apart from the others is that, beginning with the story of creation, it is written as a love story-- the wonderful story of God's love for us. God's love is described as *"Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love."* Another aspect that sets this book apart from others is that Jesus is central to all of the stories, both old and new testament, although not specifically named until the story of his birth. For example, at the end of the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den the author writes: *"The king made a new law. Daniel's God is the true God. The God who rescues! Pray to him instead. God would keep on rescuing his people. And the time was coming when God would send another brave Hero, like Daniel, who would love God and do what God said- whatever it cost him, even if it meant he would die. And together they would pull off the Greatest Rescue the world has ever known."* This reference to Jesus in each story illustrates that from the very beginning God has always had a plan and that plan is Jesus. Each story comes full circle to Jesus. I believe this is key for both adults and children to understand that Jesus really is the story "beneath all the stories in the Bible." I enjoy reading this book, perhaps more than the kids and will be purchasing the audio book to listen to while traveling. I will be happy to place my copy in the fellowship hall for the next few Sunday mornings if you would like to browse through it. Take a peek and let me know what you think. I will close with the ending of "The Jesus Storybook Bible." The last story is entitled "A dream of heaven" and is from John's writing of the book of Revelation. *"And he (John) knew that the ending of The Story was going to be so great, it would make all the sadness and tears and everything seem like just a shadow that is chased away by the morning sun." "I'm on my way," said Jesus. "I'll be there soon." " John came to the end of his book. But he didn't write "The End". Because of course, that's how stories finish. (And this one's not over yet.) So instead he wrote: "Come quickly, Jesus!" Which, perhaps, is really just another way of saying....To be continued..."*

Blessings,
Amber

COMPEER – A LIFE-CHANGING OUTREACH MINISTRY

Would you like to make a positive influence on someone's life? Do you like making new friends? Do you have the gifts of listening, caring, and sharing life experiences with others? Are you looking for a way to share your life with someone special? Do you have one hour a week to share? Compeer of Lebanon County may be just the place for you to serve. Compeer connects caring adults in one-on-one supportive friendships with people of the same gender recovering from a mental illness. Compeer provides comprehensive training, help, and support every step of the way. If you would like to learn more about this life changing outreach ministry. Please call the church office (866-4910) or speak with Sister Janice Ruch.

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
January 20, 2011**

Bob Hauck offered a scripture reading from Luke 15:11-24 and a devotional called " God is Our Loving Father"

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Miller.

1. New council members members Frank Armstrong, Bruce Kauffman and returning Council Members Greg Gardner and Joanne Maurer, were welcomed.

2. Minutes: Dec.16, 2010 reviewed. Frank Armstrong motioned to accept minutes. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

a. Pastor Miller motioned to nominate Bob Hauck for Council President. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.

b. Bob Hauck motioned to nominate Greg Gardner for Council Vice President Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

c. Jody Appleby motioned to nominate Joanne Maurer for Council Secretary. Bob Hauck seconded. Motion carried.

d. Denise Noll motioned to nominate Millie Treat for appointment as Financial Secretary. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

e. Bruce Kauffman motioned to nominate Elaine Lasch for appointment as Treasurer. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.

f. Dottie Kemble motioned to nominate Sally Sholley for appointment as Assistant Treasurer. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.

g. Greg Gardner agreed to represent Council at the financial meetings.

h. Joanne Maurer agreed to represent Council at property meetings.

3. Communications Reports:

Bob Hauck reported:

a. Luthercare Child Care Programs say thank you for the gift cards.

b. Lebanon County Christian Ministries say thank you for October Food Bank donations, totaling 74 pounds.

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- c. Lebanon County Christian Ministries say thank you for December Food Bank donations, totaling 120 pounds.
- d. Living Water say thank you for Decembers Gift, of \$2,000.00 for El Salvador.
- e. Lower Susquehanna Synod say thank you for contribution to the Konde Diocese dated 2010 for \$500.00.
- f. Gettysburg Seminary Fund thank you for the Gift of \$2000.00 for December 2010.
- g. Luthercare thank you for Decembers Gift of \$1500.00 (Child Care Scholarship). And Gift of \$2,624.00 (Spang Crest Manor).

4. Update on Life Groups.

5. Pastor Miller Reports:
Shared letters on his reports.

6. Found one correction to Financial Reports concerning the attendance in 2009. Dottie Kemble motioned to accept report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer report reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

8. Reviewed report from Property Committee:

9. Spending Authorization Policy from Finance Committee. Denise motioned to accept report. Dottie Kemble seconded. Motion carried.

10. Memorial Policy will be tabled at this time.

11. Endowment Budget for 2011 reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

12. Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Feb. 13th, 2011 after 2nd service.

13. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:
Joanne Maurer
Congregational Council Secretary





Food Collection

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY – LCCM FOOD BANK

Each month we touch the lives of needy families in our area by sending an average of 80 pounds of food to the Lebanon County Christian Ministry (LCCM). Our goal for February is to gather **225 pounds** of nonperishable food items especially: *plastic bags, cleaning supplies, instant mashed potatoes, jelly, canned fruit or other nonperishable food items.* Please place your gift/gifts for this outreach ministry outside the church office by **Sunday, February 6.** Together we can make a difference!



A special thank you to Pastor Miller for his hospital visit and beautiful prayer. Also thank you to Joel Zinn for his home visit and communion. Thank you to all of our church family members for your cards, calls and concerns for my knee replacement surgery on December 1st.

Deeply appreciated,
Alice Haldeman

We wish to thank all our church members for all their kindness to Issac and I. Wishing you all a blessed holiday.

Isaac & Jean



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship

What a great time it is to fellowship from 10 to 10:30 on Sunday morning between church services. Coffee, goodies and catching up with friends on the happenings in their lives, is a big part of this time. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday to set up for the fellowship hour, just sign the sheet in the fellowship hall on the tables next to the stage. It is fun to serve in this way, if you have never done so before and would like to serve see one of us during the fellowship time. If you are not comfortable with serving, you might possibly make an extra dozen or two of cookies the next time you bake. Put them in a container, along with what they are (and if they contain nuts) and place them in the freezer in the church kitchen. A big thanks to those that have served in this ministry and also to those who would like to do so.

Carmela Deck, Annette Beamesderfer and Susie Harper



Congregational Meeting

February 13, 2011
Following 10:30 A.M. Worship



PUZZLE

A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| lives 3 | in 3 | us 3 | Since 1 | and 3 | God 1 | so 1 | loved 1 | his 3 |
| us 1 | love 3 | we 1 | If 2 | also 1 | is 3 | made 3 | we 2 | ought 1 |
| to 1 | love 2 | love 1 | one 1 | complete 3 | one 2 | another 1 | in 3 | us 3 |
| another 2 | God 2 | | | | | | | |

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

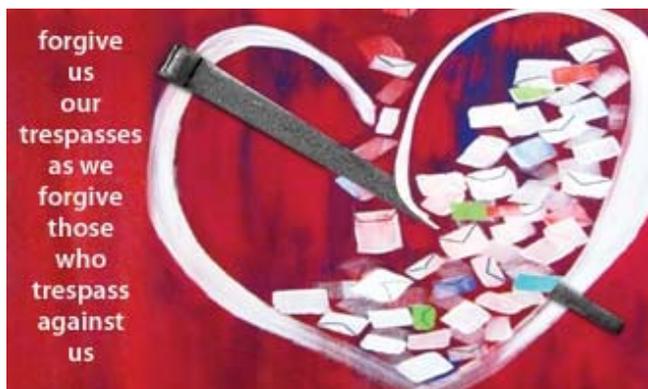
What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

December 2010

| | | | | % of Budget |
|----------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Current Budget | Goal | \$28,728.00 | Goal to Date | \$344,737.00 |
| \$344,737.00 | Rec'd | \$34,080.00 | Rec'd to Date | \$301,105.00 |
| Spang Crest | Rec'd | 24.00 | Rec'd to Date | 1,022.00 |
| Hunger | Rec'd | 396.00 | Rec'd to Date | 4,026.00 |



Forgive Us

Overview:

Why does the Bible spend so much time talking about relationships? How do we love our neighbor well? How do we truly forgive?

For most of us, relationships are both the source of our greatest joy and our greatest pain. In this series, we'll explore relational health, glean God's wisdom, surrendering our pain and our failures, and claiming God's healing.

Art for this series:

A themed logo for this series is a heart filled with letters (the type that you mail to one another) and a nail (an illustration of how much God loves us). Letters are a symbol of relationships, and as we open the letters they offer encouragement and wisdom. The Bible is filled with letters to us, as well, and they offer us new insight each time we open them. The nail will constantly remind us of the pursuing love of God that would go to a cross to conquer sin and death for us and all peoples.

Loved **JANUARY 30**

PSALM 103:8-17 & EPHESIANS 3:14-19

Hurting people hurt people. So often our inability to love others well stems from the reality that we, ourselves, don't feel loved. God's radical love in Jesus is the embrace our hearts long for and the foundation for loving others well.

Loving **FEBRUARY 6**

JOHN 13:34-35 & COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

"All you need is love." While this is true, it isn't always easy to know what real love looks like in real life.

Forgiving **FEBRUARY 13**

PSALM 32 & MATTHEW 18:21-35

"An eye for an eye" will only create a blind society. Jesus empowers us to extend forgiveness, initiating reconciliation and setting both parties truly free.

Encouraging **FEBRUARY 20**

ISAIAH 41:8-13 & EPHESIANS 4:25-32

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me" is one of the greatest lies ever told! Words have the power to give life or destroy it.

Caring **FEBRUARY 27**

ISAIAH 58:6-10 & LUKE 25:37

Ben Franklin once said, "want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge." Care is love in action. Learning how to effectively care for people when they're hurting is a critical ministry for our time.

Befriending **MARCH 6**

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-16 & LUKE 19:1-10

"To the world, you may just be one person, but to one person you may be the world." Friendship has the power to change lives, ours and others. Building genuine friendships for the sake of the Kingdom is also the foundation of Planting Seeds.