



The Transformer

June 2018

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Wow... the month of May is already giving way to June! Cheri and I spent the first half of May visiting Gregg and Katie in Spain. We had a glorious time visiting sites, enjoying food, and sipping wine. Then after being present with you for ten days, we traveled to Omaha to join Matt, Maegen and the grandchildren for Memorial Day weekend and birthday celebrations (all three grandchildren have May birthdays). I then ended the month attending the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly at Messiah College.

We now enter June, which for us marks the conclusion of one ministry year and the beginning of the next. That is why we hold our congregational meeting on Sunday the third for the purpose of acting upon both our spending plan for the coming year (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019), and the assigned disbursements from the endowment. As you read the narrative for the spending plan and look through the list of endowment recipients, I hope you recognize how our community life and ministries are rooted in a missional identity.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

National Youth Gathering, June 26-July 1

Vacation Bible School, July 8-11

Outdoor Worship for the 9:00 Worship, the month of August

Congregational Picnic, August 26, one worship service at 10:00

Also, during the summer we are carrying out property improvements, planning for ministry efforts intended for the coming year. Please hold these efforts in your prayers.

SUMMER SERMONS

Three preaching series are planned for the summer.

During June, we delve into Romans chapter twelve with a four-part message, I am calling "Affirming Faith by How We Live." With chapter twelve the apostle Paul shifts from instruction on the basics of the Christian faith to guidance on "how then do we live."

For the Sundays in July, the sermon series looks at the delightful story of Jonah. Too often we never get beyond the tale of the big fish swallowing hapless Jonah. There is much more to this funny yet poignant narrative. Spoiler Alert! The Jonah story uses humor to address how God's mercy extends to "all the people of the world."

Then in August, we consider our life in Christ as “Image Bearers! The titles provide insight to the topics we address: Faith over Fear; Valuing What God Treasures; Blessed to Bless Others; and, Freedom from Want, Freedom to Share.

PRAYER SERVICE

Something I wonder is whether others, like me, feel the urging to hold a regular prayer service at Friedens. Prior to conversation with you, I only have a sketch to offer. What I imagine is Friedens holding a regular prayer service where through prayer we open ourselves to God’s good work through expressions of adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication. We would also welcome persons who request prayer and desire “anointing and laying on of hands.”

I anticipate details regarding type of service, where and when we would meet, etc. will develop through our dialogue and practice. I will be at Friedens on Wednesday, June 6 at 7 pm to connect with others who sense a nudge to pursue this ministry. If you cannot make the meeting but have thoughts, desires and suggestions, then please send an email to me.

TABLE TALK

I also want to meet with you to hear your thoughts and attend to your feelings about the mission and ministry we do together. Since becoming your pastor we have held other Table Talk/Cottage Meeting sessions. The council and I want to do this on a regular basis. Five “Table Talk” sessions are scheduled through the summer. Would you please reserve one of these dates as a time you will join with me for both guided and open dialogue? Each session will involve an hour to an hour and a half participation. The dates are:

Thursday, June 14 at 7 pm

Saturday, June 16 at 9 am

Sunday, July 16 at 7 pm

Thursday, August 2 at 9:30 am

Thursday, August 16 at 7 pm

BEING HOME

Last week a congregant sent an email message welcoming Cheri and me home and rehearsing how holidays are nice, but coming home is always sweet. The adage, in its various expressions, is well-worn because it is so true. We are glad to be home with you our church family. God bless you.

Together in Christ,

Pastor W.



Food Collection

On Sunday, June 3, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, jelly, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, and reusable plastic containers, twin sheets, T-shirts, socks and underwear.



Time for thinking about the Church Picnic.

Date: August 26th after church

Come and have fun with games and fellowship and lots of food!

Watch for sign-up sheets!

Have any questions see or call:
 Carol Achenbach — 610-589-5863
 Denise Noll — 717-269-2817
 Kathy Hoover — 717-866-5461

Hope to see everyone at the picnic for a fun afternoon!



Please register your kiddos at www.vbspro.events/p/friedenslcmysterstown (tool bar, not Google), or call into the office. The deadline to register is July 1st. The dates are Sun, July 8th through Wed July 11th, from 6-8:00pm. Ages 3 (potty trained) thru 6th grade are welcome!







We are in need of volunteers for VBS 2018! Teens and adults welcome! Please see Holly Heft, Kelly Stephenson, or Chuck Bissell if you are willing to donate your time and talents!

Attention VBS Volunteers - As we approach this year's VBS, we must make sure all volunteers have their clearances on file with the church prior to July 8. Volunteers who received their Child Abuse Clearance prior to 7/1/15 must request an updated clearance. Those who received their clearance after 7/1/15 have 57 months before a renewal is required. There are 27 people from last year who must request a new clearance if they are volunteering again this year. All Criminal Record Checks on file are good. All new volunteers must have both the Child Abuse Clearance and Criminal Record Check **on file with the church** prior to working with the youth (VBS or Children's Church). Child Abuse Clearance (www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS) and PSP Criminal Record Check (www.psp.pa.gov). For questions about your records see Keith DuBois or call 717-273-3463.



**SUNDAY
 JUNE 17**

JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service Congregational Meeting	4 5:45 PM—Women’s Yoga Class	5 7:00 PM—10:45 Worship Group	6 5:45 PM— Men’s Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:00 pm – Conversation about holding prayer service	7	8	9
10 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service Council Cookout	11 5:45 PM—Women’s Yoga Class 6:30 PM—“3 -B” Night at Franklin Inn	12 7:00 PM—Life Group 7:00 PM— Property Committee	13 9 AM—Women Sew 1:00 PM—Life Group 5:45 PM—Men’s Yoga Class 6:00 PM—Life Group 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	14  7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—“Table Talk” Session	15 	16 9 AM—“Table Talk” session
17  9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	18 5:45 PM—Women’s Yoga Class 6:00 PM—WELCA 6:30 PM—Finance Committee	19 7:00 PM—Vision to Mission	20 5:45 PM—Men’s Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	21 	22	23
24 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	25 5:45 PM—Women’s Yoga Class	26 6/26-7/1—National Youth Gathering	27 9 AM—Women Sew 5:45 PM—Men’s Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	28 7:00 PM—Church Council	29	30



Friedens will be hosting the HOPES Homeless Shelter at our facility from Monday July 16 through Sunday July 29. That's right, we are hosting the shelter in our own backyard! We need two volunteers each night to assist with check-in (8:15 – 10:00 P.M.) and two volunteers to sleep overnight (9:45 P.M. – 7:15 A.M.) This is our opportunity to help those who are in temporary need of a safe place to sleep. Most of the guests are typically children. We are also in need of a coordinator who will oversee the shelter for one of the weeks. You can also help by being a snack sponsor for a day by donating \$20.00. Please sign-up on the schedule in the narthex. Please contact Jim Biever at 717-821-0130 or jbiever5543@comcast.net with any questions.



Bringing Help and Hope

The North Lancaster Conference Lutheran Disaster Response Team recently

completed its 18th disaster response trip! They will be reuniting on Sunday, June 3rd at the Community Room at Luther Acres. You are invited to come and hear our stories and see the pictures from our trip. We will also be sharing information about the plans for our next trip which we hope to will be to Puerto Rico in November. Desserts and beverages will be served! We hope to see you!

DADS are a BLESSING

Surprise your dad or another special man with this Father's Day gift.



What you need:

- Photos of you and your loved one (together, if possible)
- Scissors
- 8.5" x 11" paper
- Glue stick
- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame



What you do:

1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
3. Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best _____ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
4. Place your picture message in the frame.
5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.

**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, Pa
Church Council Meeting
May 24, 2018**

We could not hold an official council meeting on Thursday the 24th of May because there was not a quorum attending. Five in attendance represents a quorum.

Present: Scott Stephenson (President), Rev. Robert Wallace Jr. (Pastor), Wendy Gilbert (Secretary, Jim Kneasel

We could hold a discussion without taking official action. We reviewed the following items on the agenda and watched the Flourish #8 video.

1. The April 19, 2018 Council minutes will be approved at the June 3rd Congregational meeting.
2. Chuck Bissell will represent Friedens at the Synod Assembly May 31, 2018.
3. Discussion took place and consensus was to proceed with the Finance committee proposal for improvements to the church property. This proposal was presented, voted on and approved at the April 29, 2018 Congregational meeting.
4. Reports from Communications, Discipleship, Endowment, Family, Youth and Children, Fellowship, Finance, Missions, Property, Visions for Mission, and Pastor's report were reviewed.
5. Summer outside Worship for the 9am services will take place by the pavilion on July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 26, 2018.
6. Myerstown Borough requested use of the land facing north along the highway to display a banner advertising the 250th anniversary of the town.
7. Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:05am, June 3, 2018 to approve the 2018-2019 budget.
8. Pastor would like to invite congregants to come and hold discussions about our life together at Friedens. Dialogue would take place in order to open the space for free discussion while insuring everyone had an opportunity to speak. The dates would include Thursday, June 14, 7 to 8:30pm, Saturday, June 16, 9 to 10:30am, Sunday, July 16, 7 to 8:30pm, Thursday, August 2, 9:30 to 11am, and Thursday, August 16, 7 to 8:30pm. Council will be represented.
9. Council will continue with session 8 video from the Flourish Training Series followed with discussion.
10. **Next Council meeting will be Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:00pm.**
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Wendy Gilbert, Secretary
