

The Transformer

July 2012

717-866-4910

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

A Modern-day Parable for the Church

Jesus used parables to teach us about the faith and what it means to be his disciples in the world. I enjoy reading and reflecting on the parables. I often glean something life-giving and at times something challenging to my current faith perspective.

According to Wikipedia, *A parable is a succinct story, in prose or verse, which illustrates one or more instructive principles, or lessons, or (sometimes) a normalize principle. It differs from a fable in that fables use animals, plants, inanimate objects, and forces of nature as characters, while parables generally feature human characters. It is a type of analogy. The word "parable" comes from the Greek παραβολή (parabolē), meaning "comparison, illustration, analogy." It was the name given by Greek rhetoricians to any fictive illustration in the form of a brief narrative. Later it came to mean a fictitious narrative generally referring to something that might naturally occur, by which spiritual and moral matters might be conveyed.*¹

I found this modern-day parable and invite you to reflect on its message for us at Friedens in Myerstown. I would love to hear your thoughts and comments. Please feel free to email me at robmiller@FLCMyerstown.com.

“There was an ambitious businessman in a certain city who had built a huge grease factory. People from all over the world came to view this factory once it was completed and in full production and the ambitious businessman was only too pleased to show the visitors the entire process, from the point where coal was offloaded from ships to the point where the grease was eventually pumped into huge tanks.

One day a visitor arrived and asked whether he could be taken on a guided tour through the factory. The owner of the factory escorted the visitor to the outside of the factory where coal from a ship was being offloaded, making use of enormous machines. The coal was then placed onto conveyor belts running on thousands of rollers. From there the coal was dropped into a mill where the large pieces of coal were broken up into smaller pieces. From there the coal ran on lengthy conveyor belts, once again supported by thousands of rollers to the next process and from there to the next and then to the next. The visitor marveled at the conveyor belts crisscrossing throughout the factory with millions of rollers on which these long belts ran.

He also marveled at the huge machines used to break the coal into increasingly smaller particles and the other chemical processes used to eventually convert the coal into usable grease and he marveled at the size of the tanks used to store the grease. He had never seen anything like that in his life. It was mind-boggling.

Afterwards, having a cup of coffee with the owner, the visitor was however puzzled by something. *I've seen how the coal is offloaded. I've seen the processes through which the coal had to go until it finally became grease. I've seen the tanks into which the grease is pumped. The only thing I haven't seen is your facility from where the grease is dispatched to the consumers.*

You clearly don't understand, the ambitious businessman answered him. Didn't you see those huge machines and the millions of rollers on which the conveyor belts run? They need to be greased often to keep them running efficiently. We don't have any grease left to dispatch!”²



Peace,
Pastor Miller

¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable>

²<http://missionissues.wordpress.com/2010/03/15/a-modern-say-parable-for-the-church/>



All children, ages 3 through 5th grade, are invited to attend Children's Church following the children's sermon during the 9:00 worship service. This time of Christian education is held in the Children's Church rooms located through the

fellowship hall and to the right. Children's Church is a food free area in order to provide a safe environment for those children who have food allergies.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The Anniversary Committee has extra copies of the new church directory. The cost is \$5 a copy. Please see Brian Beamesderfer, or contact the Church Office.

A Musical Celebration of Friedens 200 years, 2012 Concert Series. Our next concert is Saturday, August 4—Featuring the Washington Band directed by Michael Yeagley. The concert will start at 6:30 P.M. at the Friedens Lutheran Church Pavilion. Please bring your lawn chairs and blankets.



MISSION WORK- Have you ever wanted to go on the mission trip but you can not travel? Well we have a mission right here in town. We will be helping out at the **Bahney House, every third Saturday of the morning of the month. We will post the project of the morning and a sign up sheet in the hall near the Mission board. Please consider this part of our church family being the hands and feet of Christ going over the fence in our community. Please see Jon Koller or Jan Dubois for more details.**

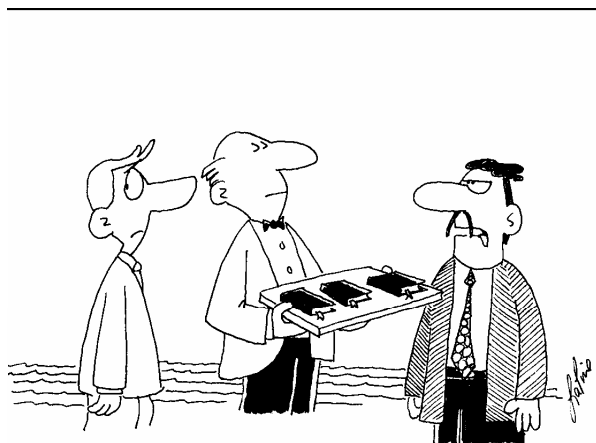


Musicians needed

CALLING MUSICIANS

As summer approaches we are looking for musicians for our 10:30 Traditional Worship.

Should you wish to provide special music during a service or if you know someone who could provide music please speak with Jim Biever, or email him at mbiever625@comcast.net.



"Choose your weapon - King James, NIV or New Revised Standard Version."



The church office is open from 9 AM—1 PM Monday-Friday.

JULY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Pastor's Vacation</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>2 Pastor's Vacation</p>	<p>3 Pastor's Vacation</p>	<p>4 Pastor's Vacation</p>  <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5 Pastor's Vacation</p>	<p>6 Pastor's Vacation</p>	<p>7 Pastor's Vacation</p>
<p>8 Pastor's Vacation</p> <p>9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9 AM—Women Sew</p>	<p>12 6 PM—Youth Informational Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>16 7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6:45 PM—Church Council</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9 AM—Women Sew</p>	<p>26 7 PM—Anniversary Committee</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Life Groups are off and running...thank you to all our leaders willing to serve God and others. May your time together this summer be a blessing not only to those you gather with but to those lives you will touch in service to our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

We ask that you keep our youth and their leaders in your prayers in the month of July as they continue preparations for the 2012 ECA National Gathering. The theme for this event is "Citizens with the Saints" based on Ephesians 2:14-20. Our group of 11 youth and 4 adults will be traveling to the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18-22, 2012. The city is expecting 24,000 participants for this once of a life time experience! To learn more about this event you may go online to www.elca.org/gathering.

A Summer Prayer

Take time to claim your strength;
They are gifts of God.

Take time to have fun;
It's God's way of teaching you your strengths.

Take time to grow yourself;
Only you can grow you.

Take time to trust yourself;
God trusts you.

Take time to be self-reliant;
It is better than being dependent.

Take time to share with others;
They will bless you, and you will bless them.

Take time to have hope,
You are a child of God.

Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves but helping others enjoy the blessings of a summertime.

Lord God, Creator of all things, Guide our steps and strengthen our hearts, during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Author unknown.

Blessing, Valerie Hauck

JULY EDITION OF YOU ARE THERE

Minister recalls scenes from Gettysburg

CHRIS SHOLLY Lebanon Daily News
Updated: 07/02/2010 01:03:056 PM EDT

When the Rev. Franklin J.F. Schantz arrived in Gettysburg in early July 1863, he saw broken fences, bullet-ridden houses and trees, and dead soldiers and horses, not yet buried. It was a scene he would never forget.

The Myerstown preacher kept a journal of his Gettysburg visits — he made three during that year — and shared his story with fellow historians at the Lebanon County historical Society nearly 30 years later.

In July 1867, Schantz became pastor of Friedens Lutheran Church in Myerstown and served until his death 40 years later.

On June 16, 1863, Schantz wrote in his journal that there was “great excitement today on account of the advance of the rebels in Penna.” News traveled slowly in those days, so he didn’t learn of the outcome of the actual battle until three days later.

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1-3, 1863, and featured the largest number of casualties in the Civil War. It is considered a turning point in the war, the Union’s repulsion of the Confederacy’s deepest foray into the North.

Schantz, who was then living in Lehigh Valley, left for Gettysburg at midnight on July 6, traveling first to Reading then to Harrisburg, where he and several companions engaged a butcher wagon to drive them to Gettysburg. It took them 11 hours to reach the southern Pennsylvania community where the great battle had taken place.

Schantz was familiar with Gettysburg, graduating from Gettysburg Theological Seminary in the 1850s. He stayed with friends in Gettysburg, who gave him a tour of the battlefield and the makeshift hospitals that had been set up afterward throughout the town.

“We saw the effects of bullets and shells on professors’ houses and seminary buildings as also on fences and trees,” he wrote. “We returned to the town and visited the churches, which we found filled with wounded soldiers. ...We walked to Cemetery Hill. Broken fences and railings, injured monuments and tombstones, the many rifle pits and scattered accoutrements, the injured cemetery plots and trampled fields bore evidence of the fierce conflict. We found some dead soldiers not yet removed from the battlefield. Houses and barns, outbuildings and tents were filled with the sick and wounded.”

Schantz was at Gettysburg as a minister, praying with the wounded soldiers and assessing what hospital and other supplies were needed. On his return trip to Harrisburg, he said guards stopped travelers coming from Gettysburg to examine their wagons for relics carried from the battlefield. The guards ordered some travelers to return the relics.

(Continued next page)

Schantz admitted that he took a few mementos of the battle himself, including a Bible without a cover and an envelope that appeared to have been pierced by a bullet. It was addressed to a lady. He later forwarded the letter to her and learned from her that her brother had addressed it to her. Fortunately, he had not been hurt in the battle. Apparently, the guards let him keep those relics.

On July 20, Schantz returned to Gettysburg with hospital and food supplies he had collected from the Lehigh Valley community for the sick and wounded soldiers. On this particular trip, he spent four days in Gettysburg, ministering to the soldiers, and saw the terrible consequences of war on men.

“I distributed many articles myself from tent to tent,” he wrote. “The men were delighted with what I brought.”

In the evenings, he preached, in both German and English, to the Pennsylvania soldiers.

“I shall never forget the sad scenes in the barn (which was a make-shift hospital),” he wrote. “I heard many of the wounded soldiers speak of home, of their mothers and other friends. I remember the sad plaintive utterances of many of the poor sufferers.”

He met a soldier by the name of Louis Bishop, who during the battle refused to give up his flag after one of his legs was shot off and stuck to his flag until he was wounded in the other leg.

“I was by the bedside of dying men, who departed this life away from their homes and friends, with no mother, no father, no sister or brothers nor children near to hear the last word of their beloved,” he wrote.

In November 1863, Schantz was invited to attend the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, which took place November 19. The night before the dedication, he witnessed a “fine review of troops by Major General (Darius) Couch. In the evening there was a large gathering of people before a private residence. We heard President (Abraham) Lincoln, Secretary of State W. H. Seward, and Hon. M. McPherson speak to the large assembly of people,” he recalled.

The next day, thousands of people turned out for the dedication.

“People came from all parts in great numbers,” he wrote.

“I saw the military, the President and others of Washington, the Marshalls of different states, Oddfellows, and many civilians in ranks,” he wrote. After the service, people “tarried long on the grounds.”

Schantz said he never forgot his experiences during his three trips to Gettysburg. And he wrote: “American citizens should never grow tired of speaking and hearing of what it cost the brave soldiers to secure the preservation of the Union.”



THOUGHTS ON THE 2012 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

You know how we all look for wondrous experiences, novel ideas, a touch of reverence, and down-to-earth friendship? Well I didn't think an Assembly of everyday, ordinary Lutherans would or could supply any of these wants. You'd think at my age I'd know better. Experience, if it does anything, teaches you that life can unexpectedly surprise you.

I attended the Assembly meeting with the expectation they would teach "this old dog" some new tricks—only to discover there really aren't any new tricks—just the same old tricks in new wrappers.

Then it dawned on me with an awesome revelation—Eureka! The truths of life have stayed the same for centuries. Those before us and those after us have lived and will live with the same "old tricks". But—Hurrah for the new wrappers! It is those wrappers that make the old tricks have a rebirth and a surprisingly new future.

Therefore, I believe the Synod Assembly, behind the wielding of Robert's Rules, motions, resolutions, and discussions, is saying we are ordinary Lutherans now being called to do extraordinary things—Because of that -

Wrap yourself in wondrous experiences.

Wrap yourself in novel ideas.

Wrap yourself in a touch of reverence.

Wrap yourself in down-to-earth friendship.

You'll find you are reborn, refreshed and excitingly new again.

You'll find you're no ordinary Lutheran but an extraordinary Lutheran who knows God lives and all is well.

Frank Armstrong

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

May 2012

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,258.00	Goal to Date	\$ 131,290.00	100%
\$315,093.00	Rec'd	\$22,148.00	Rec'd to Date	131,751.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	74.00	Rec'd to Date	332.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	250.00	Rec'd to Date	1,245.00	



**Yard Work
Volunteers**

FRIEDENS GARDEN GROUP

Objective: To maintain and beautify landscaping of the church.

Duties: Edge, mulch and weed existing landscaping.
Trim and maintain shrubbery.

Option: Plant, water and deadhead annuals.

Time required: No monthly meeting.
Work “as needed” when called by facilitator.

All work to be coordinated through Property Committee.

Sign up on sheet on bulletin board in the hallway.

Facilitator: Joel Zinn, 866-4420.



**Food
Collection**

On Sunday, July 1, 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. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. In honor of our 200th Anniversary our goal each month is 200 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. We collected 132 pounds of food in June.



It was a soaring week of SKY vacation bible school! Nearly 60 children from our church and community gathered to experience the love of God through drama, music, games, experiments and crafts. They also participated in a community outreach project by making sun catchers and delivering them to residents of StoneRidge Towne Centre. This exciting ministry would not be possible without the many individuals who offer their time and talents before and during bible school. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one who helped to make this ministry a success! Philippians 1:3 “Every time I think of you I thank my God.”



Nursery

For your convenience, a staffed nursery room is available during the 9:00 worship service. The nursery is located through the fellowship hall and to the right. The nursery is a food free area in order to provide a safe environment for those children who have food allergies.

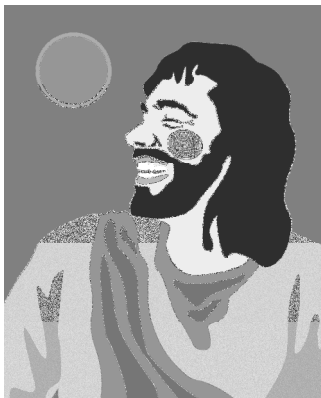




Fun discipleship

We often imagine Jesus straight-faced because he came to do such serious work. Yet he also enjoyed fun times. One was the wedding celebration at Cana, which had wine in abundance. When it ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more (see John 2:1-11).

Jesus also welcomed children (see Matthew 19:13-15). Picture Jesus lifting an



infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Because summer allows more time for fun and play, use it to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came in love so our “joy may be complete” (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are all part of living as faithful disciples.

The water’s fine?

While a tourist vacationed on the Florida coast, his boat capsized. Although he could swim, his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft and praying aloud. Spotting an old beachcomber on shore, the tourist shouted, “Are there any gators around here?”

“No,” the man hollered. “They haven’t been around for years!”

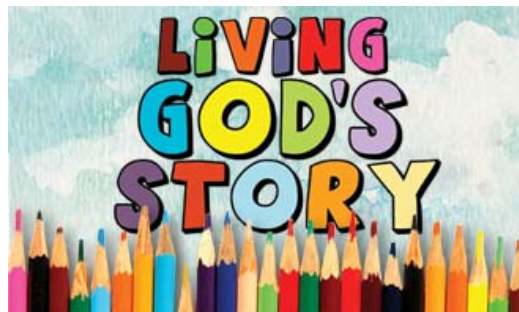
Relieved, the tourist began swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there, he asked, “How’d you get rid of the gators?”

“We didn’t do anything,” the beachcomber replied. “The sharks got ’em.”



Summer Worship Series - July 2012

One thing that makes a great story even better is the potential to find ourselves in it. It becomes our story. That's certainly true of God's story! We continue our summer worship series as we consider some of the best known and least known stories found in the pages of the Bible. In them, we'll discover the truth about God and the truth about ourselves. Because these stories shape our lives and fire our imaginations, each week we'll be challenged to not only hear them, but live them! See you in worship and invite a friend to join you!



July 1, 2012 Blessing Abraham and Sarah Genesis 18:1-15

Three visitors come to Abraham and Sarah. They bring God's promises that are far beyond anything they can comprehend. These promises create a covenant relationship between the people of Israel and God. How can we live as if we're blessed to be a blessing?

July 8, 2012 Cheering for Queen Esther Esther 2:5-18; 3:1-6; 8:1-17

Queen Esther is able to use her influence to save the people of Israel from destruction by Haman. When Mordecai faces the command to bow before Haman, he refuses. How can we be loyal to God and not bow to false royalty?

July 15, 2012 Visiting Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42

Sisters Mary and Martha have very different personality types, and we see this vividly in this story. Sitting and listening to Jesus can be as good a decision as working hard to make Jesus' visit comfortable. How can we strike a balance between worship and service?

July 22, 2012 Marching Around Jericho Joshua 6:1-20

There are many troublesome texts throughout the scriptures. In this text, God tells Joshua that it's time to take over the city. What do we do when texts seem to say that God will destroy others on our behalf? Does God really kill our enemies?

July 29, 2012 Feeding Five Thousand John 6:1-21

This is one of many "signs" that Jesus performs in the Gospel of John. These signs reveal who Jesus is, and the nature of the One who sent him. How could this miracle take place today?