

The Transformer

September 2011

717-866-4910

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

Jesus said, “Come follow me...”

In Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 19, we read the story about a man whose name we do not know. We learn that he is referred to as “The Rich Young Ruler.” He is following a path that leads to wealth and power. That’s the path many people are trying to find these days.

This man comes to Jesus with a question, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to inherit eternal life?” Notice how he phrases the question. He believes in the merit system and wonders what he must do to earn an inheritance. Oddly enough, we all know there is nothing anyone must do to earn an inheritance. An inheritance doesn’t work that way. At the same time, this man believes there is more to life than just the things in this world. He wants to know how to get into heaven. He seems to believe that his impressive resume will get him in. Jesus tells the man what he needs to do. Jesus says, “Sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven. Then come follow me.”



Jesus invites the man into a life-changing, life-giving, never-ending relationship with him. But first the man must sell everything and give to the poor. He has a choice. He can follow Jesus or keep his stuff, but he couldn’t do both. There is no way to follow Jesus without denying himself of his stuff.

Many people make this story about money and stuff but I believe it about a relationship with Jesus. The man stands at an intersection of life and must decide which way to go. He can follow the path that leads to money, or he can follow Jesus; but he can’t do both. He apparently wanted to follow Jesus but when faced with a choice, he chooses a relationship with his money and stuff instead of choosing a relationship with Jesus.

Here is what I have discovered over the years. The truth is – anyone and everyone who claims to follow Jesus will find himself or herself standing at this very intersection at one time or another. Maybe even multiple times. Point is – we can’t take the path of following Jesus without walking away from some other path.

(continued...)

In our world we tend to believe that if we deny ourselves we'll miss out, but in fact the opposite is true. We are told that the man went away sad because he was very rich. That sounds so strange. Perhaps he should be sad because he chose to follow the wrong direction for his life. He thought that denying himself of all his stuff would make him sad but in fact when we deny ourselves and our stuff we can truly find the joy of following Jesus.

I read the story about a guy named, Millard Fuller. He had become a millionaire by the age of 29. He describes how he had bought his wife everything she could possibly want. But one day he came home to a note that announced that she had left him. Millard went after her. He found her on a Saturday night in a hotel in NYC. They talked into the wee hours of the morning as she poured out her heart helping him see that the "things" that society says are supposed to be so satisfying had left her cold and empty. She was dead inside and wanted to live again. Kneeling at their bedside in that hotel room, Millard and Linda decided to sell everything they had and dedicated themselves to serving poor people.

The next day was Sunday so they found a church nearby and went there to worship and thank God for their new beginning. They shared their experience with the minister and the decision they had made. Ironically, the minister told them that such a radical decision was not really necessary. As Millard tells it, "He told us that it was not necessary to give up everything. He just didn't understand that we weren't giving up money and the things money can buy. We were giving up on that lifestyle, completely. We were giving up, period." Millard and Linda started an organization we're all familiar with – *Habitat for Humanity*.

That's a modern day story of the Rich Young Ruler. It's a story, not about just giving up money and the things it can buy, it's about giving up a dead-end lifestyle and truly finding life by giving it away.

Now... Jesus may not be calling you to sell everything (or maybe he is) but the point is -- he is calling you to put him first in your life. What does that look like for you? What does putting Jesus first in your life look like?

The Bible says that Jesus calls us his slaves. I struggle with that image. My pride and ego gets in the way. But the truth is I *am* his slave. He bought me with his life on the cross. And he bought you too.

When I remember what he has done and will do for me, I realize that I *am* his slave – nothing more and nothing less. That means Jesus *is* my master. That changes everything. He provides and he protects. He forgives and he forges onward. He gives rest to the worn out and weary. He offers a life worth living and dying for.

When I look around at the people in the church I see slaves who are on the path of life cleverly discussed as teachers, managers, business owners, labors, students, mothers, fathers, and children of God. What do you see?

Peace,

Pastor Miller

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9 AM— Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM— Traditional Worship	5  OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	8 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	9	10
11 9 AM— Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM— Traditional Worship	12	13 6:30 PM—Finance Committee 7 PM—Property committee	14 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	15 Deadline for Transformer article 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 6:45 PM—Church Council	16	17
18 9 AM— Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM— Traditional Worship 3 PM—New Members Class	19 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Parlor	20	21 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	22 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	23 6:30 PM— Children’s Ministry Dinner—Fellowship Hall	24
25 9 AM— Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM— Traditional Worship	26	27	28 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	29 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir 7 PM—Anniversary Committee	30	

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Someone once said “ The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good any way.” I really like that saying.... It’s a reminder. In the book of Acts, Luke sums up Jesus’ earthly ministry by saying that He went about doing good” (10:38)

Jesus did good by healing, teaching, comforting and feeding people. What a perfect example Christ gave us of “doing good”. You don’t have to look far to see people around Friedens Lutheran Church “doing good”, there are so many folks who are behind the scenes “doing good” week in and week out, not only in this place but in the world. To be like our savior and his disciples we should ask ourselves each day: What good thing can I do today in Jesus’ name? When we do what is pleasing and good we will be offering a sacrifice that pleases God. (Heb.13:16) and that draws people to Him.

Peace Valerie

Fall LIFE Groups are gearing up for our semester to begin the first week of October. This semester all groups will be sermon based (all groups will study the same topic or passage of scripture that was covered in the sermon), often delving deeper into areas not covered in detail by the Pastor. If you are not familiar with LIFE groups we encourage you to prayerfully consider joining one. Registration begins Sunday, September 18th.



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, September 18th from 3:00 to 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. New members will be received on Sunday, September 25th. 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.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday September 23rd - 6:30 P.M.

Fellowship Hall

Children's Ministry Dinner

An evening of fun and sharing and learning for Children's Ministry.

All current teachers, helpers, nursery and those interested in serving in this great mission are invited!

Bring your ideas and appetites.

Anyone who has an interest in serving the children of our church and helping them grow in their faith is welcome to join us.

Please RSVP: By September 5th (extended til September 12th)

To Lynn Appleby at appleby@comcast.net < > or 717-304-9580



PLEASE NOTE – Monday, September 5 the office is closed for observance of Labor Day.

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

September 2
 Mr. Lawrence Snyder
 338 W. Main Avenue
 Myerstown, PA 17067

September 19
 Mrs. Ellen Bucher
 130 E. Reistville Rd., Unit 1
 Myerstown, PA 17067

Church Photo Directory



Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? Are you a new member of Friedens and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way!

In October the anniversary committee will be producing a 200th anniversary pictorial album! Starting on August 22 visit our website to schedule your appointment. You will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating! Also if you sign-up on-line there is a \$10 off coupon. For families who do not have access to e-mail we will have sign-ups on Sunday, September 11 and September 25, between both church services



On Sunday, September 4, 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.

Dear Pastor Miller (Rob),

David and I would like to thank you so much for having us visit your congregation to meet people interested in our work, and also for entertaining us at your home for lunch. It was really fun to see how your children are growing so nicely, and to get caught up on all the events that have taken place in your church since we were there last. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of your church, both spiritual and financial, and look forward to a continuing relationship. We wish you and your family every blessing!

David and Mary Kuck

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

July 2011

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$29,428.00	Goal to Date	83%
\$353,139.00	Rec'd	\$25,132.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	104.00	Rec'd to Date	
Hunger	Rec'd	440.00	Rec'd to Date	



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to attend our W/ELCA meeting on Monday, September 19th, at 7 P.M. in the church parlor. For those of you who may not know, W/ELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) is intended to help women grow spiritually, have opportunities to serve, while enjoying fun and fellowship. We 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 September will be Sister Janice Ruch. There is no need to pre-register and if transportation is a problem, please call the church office and we will assist you. We hope you will join us.



Choir Rehearsal

Choir rehearsals start Wednesday, September 7 - Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the choir this fall! The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and performs at the 10:30 Traditional Worship service. If interested in joining the choir, please contact Mike Yeagley at 717-383-0951, mikeyeagley@flcmysterstown.com, or attend one of the rehearsals. We hope to see you there!



Find us on Facebook

NOTES FROM THE PRAISE & WORSHIP DIRECTOR



Whether you are a musician or a teacher or a cook, God gave you abilities to serve others. *"Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10 NIV).* They may be great or small in your eyes, but they matter to God. The question is: Are you using what He's given you for the benefit of others to make the world a better place? Or are you just using those talents to benefit yourself?

There are many ways that you can use your talents to serve in some capacity here at Friedens. The Contemporary Service is looking for individuals who could help run the video camera (to record the Children's Message and Pastor's Message), run the sound console in the back (we can train you; no experience necessary!), sing and/or play an instrument with the Band.

If you'd like to serve or have questions regarding how you could use your talents, please contact Gloria Horn Tice at gmhorn16@verizon.net or come on up and talk to me or any Band member after the 9:00 a.m. Service.

Peace,

Gloria Horn Tice
Praise & Worship Band Director

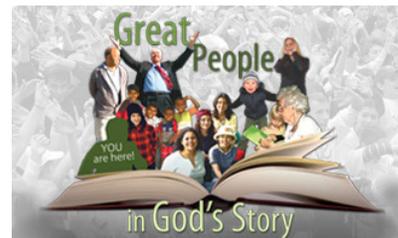


WORSHIP SERIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

We will finish our summer long series on Great People in God's story on September 4:

Ezekiel ... Repentance Leads to Reconciliation Ezekiel 33:7-21

Ezekiel's name literally means "God will strengthen." At age 25, he was one of the 3,000 Jews exiled to Babylon. His calling was to be a prophet, appointed by God to call the people back to God through repentance. The gift of repentance has the potential to lead to reconciliation, as wrongs are admitted and we turn around and live in a new direction. For this communion weekend, we will focus on repentance and respond to the call of Ezekiel.



On September 11 we will begin a three week long series as we consider our blessings and how we are called to be a blessing to others. No matter how you frame it, biblical stewardship runs against the grain of our culture. It challenges our assumptions about scarcity,



ownership and consumption, and turns our personal agendas upside down. Most of us are painfully aware that OUR way isn't working. OUR way leads to anxiety, envy, exhaustion, discontent and debt. We long for a different way of living, and God provides it in stewardship. In this series we'll lay out the basics and invite people to step onto a path that leads to peace, freedom, joy and abundance.

September 11: *Blessed to be a Blessing!* Genesis 12:1-3 & Matthew 18:21-35

Stewardship is God's call on our lives. We've been blessed through God's abundance to be a blessing to others. God's extravagance of forgiveness, love, time, skills and resources are given not only for our joy, but to be willingly and joyfully deployed for God's mission and ministry.

September 18: *It Isn't Fair! Isn't that Great?* Philippians 4:10-14 & Matthew 20:1-16

None of us gets what we deserve, and that's good news! In a culture that encourages a deep sense of competitiveness and entitlement, disciples are called to regard the abundance in our lives with deep gratitude, and to learn contentment.

September 25: *What Do We Do with What We've Been Given?* Deuteronomy 24:19-22 & 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

If we've been blessed to be a blessing, then each of us and all of us together are called to manage and spend what we have in ways that align with God's purposes. To the world, this sounds like a world of suffering, but disciples see it as a joyful endeavor.

Consider inviting someone to worship next Sunday!





Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a service project of Friedens' Women of the ELCA through which we hope to bring God's love to others through the warmth and comfort of a shawl. With a prayerful attitude, shawls are knitted or crocheted in members' homes. At our Women

of the ELCA meetings, we gather in a circle, touching the shawls and offering prayers on behalf of the knitters and those who will receive these gifts. When presented to a recipient, shawls become a reminder of God's presence and the love, concern, and prayers of our congregation.

How can you help to weave prayers and yarn into shawls?

Pray for this caring ministry.

Knit or crochet a shawl.

Provide a monetary gift for the purchase of yarn.

Donate yarn (3 skeins are needed.)

Questions can be answered by contacting:

Phyllis Rohland, Sr. Janice Ruch, Clara Grumbine, Janet Kehrl.



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your past gifts to Feed The Children. You have touched many young lives. But with

Thanksgiving just around the corner, millions more of our nation's children and their families are in real trouble. Many hard-hit parents are still without jobs and are having a hard time feeding their little ones.

For the sake of so many boys and girls who are going hungry this Thanksgiving, please send a gift today to help reach them. Remember, your past support has helped rush emergency food to hungry children from coast to coast. Please share your compassion once more this holiday season.

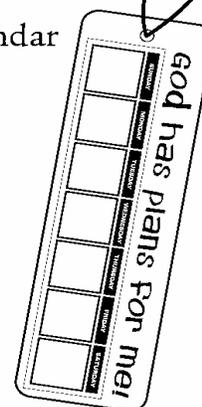
Rick England, Chairman of the Board
Chairman of the Board

A daily
reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

What you need:

- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.

