



# The Transformer

August 2015

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ at Friedens,

At this writing I am settled into the routine and the delight of being part of the Friedens community. Cheri and I are most grateful for the warmth of your welcome. Thank You. We look forward to the life journey we share with you as gospel pilgrims who bring good news to the world around us.

Our home is a muddle of boxes in the garage and in various places throughout the house. Paint splotches are on the wall as we make color decisions, the grass keeps growing, the weeds are thriving, and the need to fix list gets longer. We estimate being ready sometime before Christmas to host an open house.

Upcoming in our life together are cottage meetings and a time of discovery called “Vision for Mission.”

During the call process a key topic addressed by both the search committee and the congregation council was discerning our congregation’s vision for mission so that we might develop appropriate ministries in keeping with our unique mission.

The word “discernment” is used because we believe it is God’s mission. God created the Church as the means of grace, or the hearts and hands, through which God accomplishes the good work of the Gospel. As stewards of the good work, Friedens has the responsibility, along with other congregations, to discern, “How is God at work in our community?” We then ask, “How does God want us to participate?” Moreover, we believe when God calls us to participate, God also grants what is needed to do the good work.

Part One of the discernment process is crafting the Friedens’ Story. Each of us have observations to contribute. A series of “cottage meetings” are being scheduled to give everyone the opportunity to share their insight and understanding. The open meetings are for all to attend. The meetings with for particular groups are set because information of interest to these folk will be shared. All meetings, except the one scheduled for Stone Ridge, are held at Friedens.

I look forward to our time together sharing stories and “God sightings!”

Cottage Meeting Schedule:

Congregation Council	Thursday	August 20	7p
Open Meetings	Wednesday	August 26	2 – 3:30 p
	Saturday	August 29	10 – 11:30 a
	Sunday	September 27	3:30 – 5 p
	Monday	September 28	6:30 – 8 p
Youth Meeting			TBD
Stone Ridge Meeting			TBD
Young Adult Meetings: single persons and married persons without children	Sunday	September 27	7 – 8:30 p
	Monday	October 4	7 – 8:30

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Parents with pre-school and/or school age children	Saturday	August 22	9 – 10:30 a
	Sunday	August 23	5:30 – 7 p
	Follow-up:		
	Saturday	September 26	9– 10:30 a
	Sunday	September 27	5:30 – 7 p

Here are the sermon topics for the month of August:

August 2

Exodus 20:1-17 *Covenant of Human Responsibility*

Most often the Church receives the Ten Commandments as the way God attends to “law and order.” By beginning our Ten Commandment study with a focus upon verses one and two, we discover “Law and Gospel.”

August 9

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Colossians 3:1-17 *The Law and The Promise of God*

When speaking of the Ten Commandments a variety of voices address us: some with harsh warning; some with ironic mockery; some with sarcastic distrust; and some with benign indifference. How might we hear the Ten Commandments afresh and rediscover its role in God’s economy.

August 16

Joshua 5:13-6:7 *Joshua: When Trust Guides Your Step*

Moses handed over the leadership role to Joshua, who earlier had shown faith when others gave way to fear. Now on the eve of the appointed mission Joshua would learn more about trusting God.

August 23

1 Samuel 13:5-14 *Saul: When Fear Overcomes Faith*

Samuel anointed Saul to lead the people as God’s appointed prince. However, instead of acknowledging who rules as King, Saul, succumbing to fear, exercised authority not given to him.

August 30

2 Samuel 12:1-7a, Psalm 51:1-17 *David: When Repentance Resets Relationships*

When the prophet confronted David with the truth, the man repented of his wrongdoing. How does God work to create in us “clean hearts”?

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Robert





The church office hours are  
9 A.M.—1 P.M.  
Monday to Friday





Lutheran World Relief Update:  
 Ever wonder where the quilts, personal care kits,  
 and fabric kits that we assemble in September  
 every year end up? Here's where-

Quilts made by Friedens Sewing Group-  
 India-January 2015

Personal Care Kits assembled by  
 Children's Church-Angola and Yemen-February  
 2015

Fabric Kits assembled by Friedens  
 WELCA-Georgia-February 2015

Coming soon-Lutheran World Relief  
 InGathering, September 2015



On Sunday, August 2, food will be collected for  
 the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are  
 welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams,  
 bottles of juice, canned meats and stews,  
 canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups,  
 peanut butter, towels/wash cloths, paper towels,  
 baby wipes, and diapers.



Dear Friends,

My deepest appreciation to all of you  
 who shared their love and prayers with me and  
 my family through these most difficult years.  
 Your cares and concerns about my welfare has  
 been very comforting.

Special thanks for all the beautiful cards;  
 to Pastor Light for his special service; to Jim for  
 the awesome music, and to those who made and  
 served a super lunch.

I also want to take this opportunity to  
 thank the folks in charge of the parlor  
 renovations. It is beyond beautiful and very  
 tastefully done. It is very warm and inviting and  
 extremely useable for many years to come.

Alice Albert

**SHUT-IN BIRTHDAY**

August 10  
 Mrs. Martha Klein  
 StoneRidge Poplar Run  
 450 E. Lincoln Ave.  
 Myerstown, PA 17067

**OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**June 2015**

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$27,266.00	Goal to Date	\$163,597.00	86%
\$327,195.00	Rec'd	\$21,573.00	Rec'd to Date	140,941.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 232.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	220.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 1,195.00	

# AUGUST 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 SM— Traditional Service	3	4	5 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 SM— Traditional Service	10	11 7 PM—Property Committee	12 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	13	14  <b>DEADLINE:</b> Newsletter Articles	15
16 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 SM— Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth	17	18	19 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	20 7 PM—Church Council	21	22
23 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 SM— Traditional Service	24	25	26 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 SM— Traditional Service	31					



**Sunday, September 20, 2015**

9:00 am Breakfast

10:30 am Blended Installation Worship Service for  
Pastor Wallace



Dear Members of Friedens Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for all the hygiene items that were donated to the benevolent residents at Town Centre. The residents were very appreciative of your kindness in providing these products for them.

We are very grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. A thank you to Keith DuBois for bringing the items to StoneRidge.

Christine Khi



Hi to all.

We have some dates for you to mark on your calendars.

**August 23**, we will meet at 11:00 to go canoeing. Included will be a hotdog roast, games and possible swimming. More details to come.

**September 13** will begin the official start of youth. We have two curriculums, The Gospel Project which will take us on a two year journey through the Bible. Also Faith Commanders a video series done by Korie Robertson. Our first semester will run till December 13. We will then take our winter break until Mid January.

**October 24th or 17**, Team building challenge course more details to come.

**November 7**, Senior High Only, 6:00 to 11:00 PM, The Way Extreme, this will take our youth to a place where being a Christian is illegal????

Harrisburg Junior high Quake, **January 26,27 and 28**

VA Beach Senior High Zone, **February 26,27 and 28**

Valentine's Day dinner and a show **February 13th**.

We have a fantastic group of youth that have continued to grow with their evangelism. They give back with the efforts, they have raised close to \$2500.00 which has gone to aid in hunger and homelessness Globally, National and Locally.

What a blessing it is to be a part of this Ministry.

Guided by Christ.

Kerry, Kim and Eric

PS Could you please take photos of your child and the fruit of their harvest so we can share them. Please send them to Sharon and Myself. Also Please contact myself or Jess Sherk as the crops come in so we can get them to the food pantry.

**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Church Council Meeting  
July 16, 2015**

Janice DuBois called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Sharon Riegel (Secretary), John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr. (Pastor)

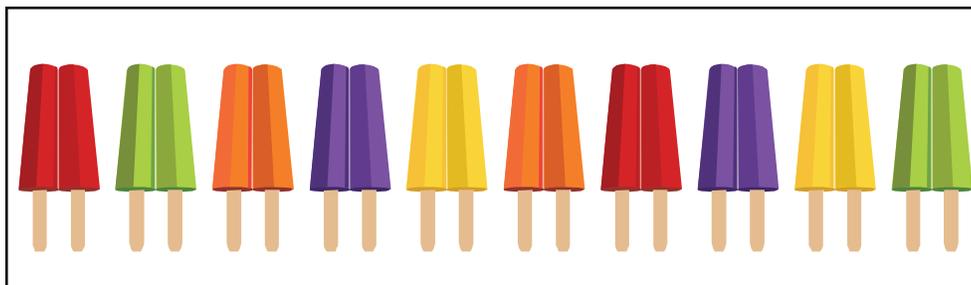
Excused: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Jim Kneasel, Bev Levensgood

1. Opening Reading/Prayer: Janice DuBois & Pastor Wallace opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
  - a. **Jon Koller made a motion to accept the June 25, 2015 Church Council Minutes. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**
  - b. **Chris Heft made a motion to accept the June 2015 Financial Secretary's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.**
  - c. **Valarie Herron made a motion to accept the June 2015 Treasurer's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.**
  - d. Pastor Wallace gave a verbal & written Pastor's Report.
  - e. Thank you letter from Peninsula-Delaware Conference of the United Methodist Church Hurricane Sandy Recovery for recent monetary gift & the work of the Mission Team who traveled to Crisfield, Maryland in June.
3. Finance Committee did not meet in June 2015.
4. Property Committee held a meeting in July 2015. Playground ground covering is currently a big issue. Pastor Wallace has a contact that has much knowledge in this area.
5. A Capital Campaign Report was available. As of June 2015 the Campaign Goal of \$149,000 is short \$4,751.21.
6. **Jon Koller made the motion to schedule a Blended Installation Worship Service for Pastor Wallace on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 10:30 am with breakfast served at 9:00 am. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion Carried.** Pastor Wallace will coordinate the Blended Installation Worship Service with Worship & Music Committee. Jon Koller will coordinate a group to plan the breakfast event.

(Continued next page)

7. Council agreed to restart Fellowship Time, which is held between services, on September 13, 2015. On September 20, 2015 the breakfast event will be held in place of Fellowship Time.
8. Council received a request from Lutheran Camping Corporation to have a rep make a presentation at a future Council Meeting. After discussion Council decided to decline a visit at this time.
- 9. Pastor Wallace made the motion to have the congregational council call the congregation to prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts, minds & imaginations to discern God's preferred future for Friedens Lutheran Church. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.**
- 10. Pastor Wallace made the motion to have the congregational council sponsor ten cottage meetings for the purpose of shaping a Friedens Lutheran Narrative from the collected stories. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
- 11. Pastor Wallace made the motion to have the congregational council identify and appoint persons to work together as a data collection team to locate, record and report the relevant data for assessing "where we have traveled, and where we are now." Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
- 12. Pastor Wallace made the motion to have congregational council identify three to five persons to work with the Pastor to fashion the preliminary Friedens narrative & the set of appreciative inquiry questions from the collected stories & data. The steering committee would make its report to the congregational council at the November 19 meeting. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
13. Annual Lutheran World Relief In Gathering Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2015. This is also ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.
- 14. Next Council Meeting will be held on August 20, 2015 at 7 pm. The Congregational Council Cottage Meeting will be held at this time.**
- 15. Jon Koller made the motion to adjourn. Valarie Herron seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of joys & concerns and prayer led by Janice DuBois.

Sharon Riegel  
Council Secretary





2015 Mission Trip to Crisfield, Maryland

Man cannot live by bread alone. Neither can he live by "crab" alone, but we tried. During the week of June 14-19, 2015, thirteen individuals from Friedens traveled to Crisfield, "Crab Capital of the World", to help restore homes damaged in Storm Sandy (2012).

At times, Friedens' team of 13 was split to enable it to complete varied jobs; construction of bathroom walls, removal of outside siding and replacement of termite-eaten boards, priming and painting, building of cat barriers. In all, five homeowners were provided our help. When we left Crisfield, improvement was visible. What wasn't visible was the bonding of 13 individuals, God's hands, heart, and sense of humor.

As for the crab-we left a few in the bay.



Lutheran World Relief-coming soon to Friedens!  
 Sunday, September 13th will be Friedens' LWR Ingathering-blessing of quilts, personal care kits, and fabric kits to be sent throughout the world. Follow your bulletin for details about contributing to delivery of these gifts of love.

