



The Transformer

April 2018

717-866-4910

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

Easter 2018

Friends in Christ,

Together we join the chorus spanning creation,

“Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

God bless you this Easter season.

Over the weeks between celebrating the Nativity and Resurrection Day, we delved into the gospel of John. The writer addressed dear friends in the community he served, and readers in succeeding generations. John depicted Jesus as the “I Am”, the Word of God, who took on human flesh to live among the world’s people in order to be for us the “way, truth, and life.” He alone makes possible the new life that is abundant and everlasting.

Among the acts of the Passion Story, this year I am particularly captivated by the prayer Jesus spoke in the Gethsemane just prior to his arrest. Here is an excerpt:

... I’m not praying only for (these disciples) but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me (John 17:20-23, CEB)

Against the individualism so prevalent in our day, John shows us how the relationship we have with God through Jesus places us in community with fellow congregants, believers all over the world, and those who’ve named Jesus as Savior and Lord in every place and time. As John showed through stories from Jesus life on earth, and Paul declared through his letters (see Gal. 3:28), an apprentice of Jesus discovers how our Lord tears down all barriers that separate - ethnic, racial, economic, and gender.

A place where people come together in mutual service, rejecting barriers that divide, is Wittel Farm. A bequest assigned the farm to the Lutheran Camping Association of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. In recent years, an increasing number of acres have been cultivated to grow fruits and vegetables that are then distributed among persons working the farm and through area food pantries. In order to expand this work two things are needed: equipment and more workers.

The Lutheran Camping Association has made a request to our endowment for a grant to purchase the needed equipment. What I wonder is whether there is group of folks at Friedens who want to form a mission team to help with the farm work. You would be involved with preparing the fields, planting, weeding, harvesting and distribution.

My hunch is many of us at Friedens would want to join the community “who work the farm.” And you probably have a bunch of questions. So, we’ve invited Pastor Matt Lenahan, to tell the story of the “Wittel Farm Project.” His presentation will happen on Monday evening, April 9 at 6:30 pm in Stauffer Hall. Pastor Matt serves Zion Lutheran Church in Akron and coordinates the work at Wittel Farm.

I will be there and I would like you to join me. Maybe your schedule is too full to add anything else. That is understandable. But still come to the meeting for the inspiration arising from stories about God’s people coming together to work side by side, worship at this outdoor setting, and provide fresh food to those who wouldn’t have this nourishment otherwise.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Robert Wallace



Food Collection

On Sunday, April 1, 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.



THANK YOU to all who supported the recent Fair Trade Fair and the Palm Sunday Breakfast! Much appreciation to everyone who helped with either event.

God is Good-Friedens Fair Trade Fair collected about \$5,000 for third world artisans AND Friedens Missions was generously gifted with \$410 freewill offering.



Chicken Barbecue

FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST SPRING CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE BY KAUFFMANS

Friday, May 4 from 2:30 to 6 PM at Spang Crest, 945 Duke St., Lebanon. Cost is \$7.50 which includes ½ chicken, baked potato, roll and applesauce. For tickets see Janet Kehrl, 717-866-6726.



APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	2	3 7 PM—10:45 Worship Group	4 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	5 7 PM—Choir	6 7 PM—Cemetery Board	7
8 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	9	10 7 PM—Life Group 7 PM—Property Committee	11 9 AM—Women Sew 1 PM—Life Group 6 PM—Life Group 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	12 6:30 pm—Ministry Coordination Meeting	13	14
15 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	16  7 PM—WELCA	17 7 PM—Vision For Mission	18 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	19 7 PM—Church Council	20	21
22 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	23	24	25 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	26	27	28
29 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	30					

