



# The Transformer

April 2015

717-866-4910

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

## HAPPY EASTER

It has been a long time since I have written a newsletter article, but I am very happy to be able to do so now that I am the new interim Pastor at Friedens church.

I want to thank so many of you for your gracious welcoming to the church. It is not easy coming out of retirement to minister to such a large institution, but so many of you have made me feel welcome and have been very helpful to me.

We are now coming to the end of the Lenten Season which is the season of spiritual preparation for the queen of all church seasons—Easter. In our day and age, Lent has lost some of the penitential meaning it used to have for people. However we cannot have the joy and celebration of Easter without the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus. Some Christians today want to act as if we can, but we cannot. Suffering and death are part of our everyday life. We all deal with it constantly. The answer the Christian faith gives to it is found in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He took our sin upon himself. He suffered personal humiliation, physical pain, and death for each and everyone of us. He did not have to do this, but he chose to do this so we can find meaning today in suffering and death which we all experience. When we are lying in a hospital room, and we are wondering does our God really understand our pain. The answer is “YES” because he himself experienced it personally.

When we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the greatest festival of the church year, Easter is not just a day, but an entire seven week celebration of the miracle of the resurrection. In fact without the resurrection, the Church has no message. We are only then just another social service agency like so many others. The resurrection is the power of the church. Today some theologians dismiss the importance of the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. To believe Jesus did not rise from the dead is to so thoroughly weaken the church’s message as to make it meaningless.

Why should we believe this message? Well, in the ancient world the resurrection has more witnesses to it than any other historical event. The Scriptures remind us that over 500 people saw the risen Lord. Those of us who like history know that Socrates drank poison hemlock and died. Well, there is only one witness to this occurring in the ancient world, and that was Socrates’s student Plato. Yet many people will believe one man over 500 very easily.

Most of the early Christians were Jewish. We know the Jewish Sabbath day is Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. Yet the early church changed its day of worship from the Sabbath to the Lord’s Day or Sunday. They would not have done this unless they truly believed that Christ had risen on Sunday.

Then we must consider another aspect of the truth of the Resurrection. We all know that many of the disciples and early followers of Jesus, both men and women were martyred for their faith. People do not sacrifice their lives for a lie. They faced death by singing and asking God to forgive their killers as Jesus did on the Cross. In 30 years after Jesus left this physical world, Christianity had conquered a good portion of the known world at that time. They did this because they had the passion and true belief that in following Jesus and witnessing to his resurrection to others they were doing God’s work.

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During my forty years plus of ministry, people have often asked me "How do you handle death?" It is an important question because it is very much a part of a pastor's ministry. We deal with suffering and death all the time. Yes, sometimes the premature death of younger people is unfair. Sometimes faithful people suffer undeserving pain. A mature believer must readily understand life is not fair. That is part of the distortion to life sin brings us. But having said that, I am thoroughly convinced that without my faith in Christ and in His resurrection I could not do my job. Despite all the sadness, grief, pain, and suffering we go through in life, God in Christ is there to welcome us to eternity and a new life. Many times when people are very ill, we pray for God's healing. What we want is for the person to be completely healed and back on their feet. When that does not come, we feel God has let us down or is not listening. I believe sincerely that death can be the healing that we are asking for someone. They are no longer suffering or in pain. They are with God. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we celebrate death unlike other faiths.

This is why I encourage all Christians to consider a Christian funeral in the church where we can celebrate the life of that person and witness to others of the truth of the resurrection. For myself the great music of the church has always been with me when losing members of my family, friends or those I serve as Pastor. I surround myself with the message of resurrection so I do not forget what I am doing and why. This is also why I always look forward to the Easter Season because of the joyful and praiseworthy hymns and music that the Church uses to proclaim the message of Easter.

Amidst all the darkness of this present world of ours, I hope all of us will never take our eyes off of that bare Cross this Easter. And always we must never forget that God set us free from the bondage of suffering and death. That is our message today and until the Lord returns in His glory. May everyone have a blessed Easter Season.

Rev. Thomas Light





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

<b>OUR TITHES &amp; OFFERINGS</b>					
<b>February 2015</b>					
					% of Budget
Current Budget \$327,195.00	Goal Rec'd	\$27,266.00 \$16,947.00	Goal to Date Rec'd to Date	\$54,532.00 37,290.00	68%
Spang Crest	Rec'd	25.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 98.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	175.00	Rec'd to Date	\$ 385.00	





### SHUT-IN BIRTHDAY

April 26  
Mrs. Ione Rothenheber  
Juniper Village  
1125 Birch Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

April 28  
Mr. Ernest Brightbill  
Juniper Village  
1125 Birch Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042



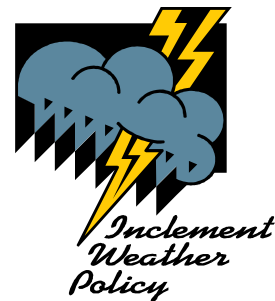
We hope you are ready to join in with the social time between church services. Again we are asking for help to serve the coffee, drinks and goodies. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but coffee and snacks are provided, we just need help to prepare and serve. Find a friend and serve together. A sign-up sheet is in the Stauffer hall and we hope you will be able to help continue our social time together. If you have any questions please contact Annette Beamesderfer, Carmella Deck or Susie Harper.



### Spaghetti Dinner

Two of our Friedens Youth, Haley Sherk and Kelsie Salem will be traveling to Italy in June for 12 days with the ELCO United Girls Soccer Club Team to play in 4 friendly matches with different Italian Clubs from Milan to Rome. This will be an awesome cultural

experience for the girls as well as the parents going along. Please keep them in your prayers. The group will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at Friedens 3:30-5:00 pm for Take-Outs and 4:30-6:30 pm to Dine In. Adults \$9.00, Children 10 and under \$5.00, includes Spaghetti w/homemade sauce, salad, bread, drink and dessert. Please see the girls for tickets. They will have a table set up between services in Stauffer Hall if anyone is interested in supporting them.



### FOUL WEATHER POLICY

If worship needs to be cancelled due to foul weather, this info will be shared on:  
-1270 AM WLBR/100.1 FM WQIC  
-WGAL TV & website  
-Friedens Facebook page

# APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 6:30 pm—Life Group 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday SERVICE 7:30 PM</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Good Friday Service 7:30PM</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Easter Egg Hunt 2 PM</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>6:45 PM—Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 PM—Women of ELCA</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 PM—Visitation Committee</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise &amp; Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble</p>		



**WOESHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE**

**Friedens Church** is establishing a Worship and Music Committee to help plan the worship activities of the church. Besides the Pastor and our Church Musicians, we would like two lay members. Two from those who attend the Contemporary Service and two from those who attend the Traditional Service. The committee will meet quarterly each year. If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Light or a Council Member know. The first meeting of the Committee will be after Easter Day.



**Easter Egg Hunt**

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**

Friedens is hosting a community egg hunt, Saturday, April 4th at 2:00 pm. Volunteers and donations are needed. Please connect with Nicole Snyder (717-644-5188) for more information. Hope to see you there!!!!



**“SAVE THE DATE!** Vacation Bible School is coming to Friedens on Sunday, July 12 thru Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:00 P.M. More details will follow on this exciting event for age 3 (potty trained) thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade!”



Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Church Council Meeting  
March 19, 2015

Jody Appleby, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Bev Levensgood, Pastor Tom Light (Interim Pastor), John Umberger. Excused: Sharon Riegel (Secretary)  
Guests: Lynn Appleby, Keith DuBois, Holly Krall Heft

1. Opening Prayer: Jody Appleby opened the meeting with a reading from Friedens Lenten Devotional Booklet for March 19, 2015, written by Shirley Smith.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
  - a. **Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the February 19, 2015 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**
  - b. **Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the February 2015 Financial Secretary's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.**
  - c. **Jon Koller made a motion to accept the February 2015 Treasurer's Report. Bev Levensgood seconded. Motion carried.**
  - d. **Jim Kneasel made the motion to accept the February 2015 Pastor's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried. Motion included stipulation that Pastor Light will conduct instruction accordingly for Baptism and/or Membership.**
3. Elaine Lasch reported the Finance Committee did not meet in March 2015.
4. Jim Kneasel reported the Property Committee met in March 2015 with the following items of business discussed:
  - a. the former kitchenette cabinets & appliances will be offered for sale due to its antique/material value
  - b. A Knox Box will be purchased for Friedens to accommodate the local fire department
  - c. electrical repairs are needed for: parlor ceiling, light pole on south side of church, light above organ pit
  - d. floor stripping & finishing will be done by Gerry Zimmerman
5. A Capital Campaign Report was not available.
6. A Pastoral Search Team Update was provided by Chris Heft. The Pastoral Search Team asks that the congregation continue to keep them in prayer as they continue the search process. Chris Heft reiterated how grateful and impressed he is for such a great team who are dedicated and knowledgeable.



7. At our **December 19, 2013** meeting Chris Heft shared an update on Clearances/Background Checks for Liability Purposes. Pastor Blezard of Synod provided Chris with a website for Council to review. Pastor Osborne & Janice DuBois contacted other churches for sample policies. Pastor Osborne provided info on a "Safe Church" program featuring various sessions which will be offered here in Myerstown. At the **February 20, 2014** meeting Jim Biever shared his thoughts/insights with the group. It was agreed to form a team to work on a "Safe Church Policy" for Friedens. On **August 21, 2014** Keith DuBois provided Council with a rough draft of a policy titled "Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program for Friedens Lutheran Church". Mr. DuBois reported the team met on 3 occasions and consisted of himself, Lynn Appleby, Jim Biever & Kerry Keller. At the **November 20, 2014** meeting Council received an updated rough draft policy with their agenda packet. At the **November 20, 2014** meeting Ken Osborne reported he received new info on mandatory reporter, etc. and will share this info with Jim Biever and Keith DuBois. At the **December 18, 2014** meeting Keith DuBois provided Council with another rough draft of a policy including the info from House Bill 435. Mr. DuBois will have the draft policy reviewed by the church insurance carrier and a lawyer. At the **January 15, 2015** meeting Council reviewed the approval of the Safe Church Policy for Friedens by our insurer, Cincinnati Insurance. The legal department of Cincinnati Insurance also approved the policy. At the **January 15, 2015** Council meeting **Chris Heft made the motion to accept the Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program Policy for Friedens Lutheran Church. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.** Discussion continued on this subject at the **February 19, 2015** Council meeting. A list of "who" needs clearances must be compiled. A step by step "procedure" for clearance processing/payment/etc. for these individuals needs to be outlined. Jody Appleby will connect with the Synod for further guidance. Janice DuBois will ask Keith DuBois to connect with Sterling (a clearance processing agency). At the **March 19, 2015**, Council meeting after a brief update by Keith DuBois, chair of the team to research and develop a policy, the following recommendations were given to Council: 1) Regular youth instructors should obtain clearance (Youth Group, Children's Church, etc.) and 2) The Lower Susquehanna Youth Event form has been verified for use by volunteers by Cincinnati Insurance, Friedens' insurance carrier. After much discussion, with significant input from Friedens' youth leaders, the following motion and amendment to the CYAPP for Friedens Lutheran Church were approved. **Janice DuBois made the motion paid staff and adult volunteers for youth events will be required to complete both criminal background check and child abuse history documents, with reimbursement for said documents from Friedens' representative upon submission of copies of said clearances. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.** Announcement of this requirement should appear in Friedens' bulletin, Transformer, and Facebook. VBS Director, Holly Krall Heft, and Children's Church Leader, Lynn Appleby, propose to inform all volunteers they lead within the month, prior to the **April 2015** council meeting, at which time council will have the advantage of measuring the congregation's and nonmember volunteers' response to the policy. **Valarie Herron made the motion to amend Friedens' CYAPP: In cases such as, but not exclusive to, VBS and Mission Trips, the sixth month attendance rule for volunteers (see p. 4, item #7 of policy) may be waived at the discretion of congregational council, upon submission of background clearances. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**

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8. At the April 24, 2014 meeting Council received a recommendation to once again form a Worship & Music Committee. After discussion Council agreed with this recommendation. Pastor Osborne was working on this. At the February 19, 2015, Council meeting Jim Biever expressed a great interest in coordinating the reformation of a Worship & Music Committee. Council and Mr. Biever agreed the Committee should meet at least quarterly. The committee will consist of Jim Biever, Pastor Tom Light, Gloria Tice, Kaitlyn Umberger, Mike Yeagley, 2 members who worship regularly at 9:00 am worship and 2 members who worship regularly at 10:30 am worship. At the March 19, 2015 meeting it was reported (2) individuals from the 10:30 am Traditional Service and (0) individuals from the 9:00 am Contemporary Service have been procured for the Worship and Music Committee. The committee will meet on a quarterly basis. No date for the first meeting has been set at this time.

9. Plans for Installation of New Council Members, Bev Levensgood and John Umberger have been made for March 22, 2015, with Bev installed at 9:00 am service and John installed at 10:30 am service, in agreement with their choice.

10. The Lower Susquehanna Synod's 28th Annual Assembly themed "Hungry For The Word" will be held Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7, 2015 at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Council members were asked to prayerfully consider attending this assembly. At the March 19, 2015 Council meeting it was agreed attendance to this event will be opened up to the congregation.

**11. Jon Koller made the motion to appoint Len Schott, Jocelyn Whitmoyer, and Judy Zinn as auditors for the 2014 financial books. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.**

12. After checking the calendar in church office, dates for request from company to have Life Line Screening at church will be Wednesday, July 22, 2015 with alternate date of Thursday, July 23, 2015.

13. Next Council Meeting will be held on April 16, 2015 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will prepare opening prayer/devotional.

**14. Jody Appleby made the motion to adjourn. Jim Kneasel seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of concerns and praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Janice DuBois  
Acting Council Secretary

THANK YOU  
Dear Friends,  
God knew what I needed most, and He called on your kind heart. Thank you for answering—He used you in a very special way. You're truly a blessing.  
This card says it so well. From the bottom of my heart and with great appreciation I thank you for your prayers.  
God bless you!  
Janet Sheaffer





### The Winter of Our Discontent

Has this winter caused a great anxiety within your spirit? Has perceiving a landscape of coldness, rawness and bleakness made your spirit sense a horizon that is nothing but barren and swept by the cold winds of unpredictability? Do you see only the glare of white snow so incompatible with human comfort? Has your spirit become immobilized in a constricting layer of seemingly impregnable ice?

Winter has these affects on us and in turn effects within us an anticipation of eventual thaw. The anxiety of our spirit, the bleak landscape, the barren horizon, the cold winds of unpredictability, the glare of snow and the constricting ice are our own spiritual trials in what would seem the desert of hopelessness. Winter for us is akin to the trials put before Jesus in the wilderness. With the faith of Jesus and our faith in Him these trials, these discontents will surely pass.

Could it be that winter's purpose is to prepare our spirits for a resurrection that is Spring...a season of hope, warmth and renewal. May we forgo our discontents with the warm comfort of our faith. Let us remember what a popular song some years ago stated — "Far below the winter snow lies a seed that with the sun's love becomes the rose."

Look for the rose!

Peace be with you,  
F. A. Armstrong



### Food Collection

On Sunday, April 5, 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.



Many  
Eager  
Ambassadors  
Lending  
Service...

Do you know anyone coming home from the hospital at Friedens, who will be homebound for one or two weeks and in need for meals?  
Please call Joanne at 717/507-1997 to schedule the meals.



### CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

McKenna Achenbach  
Tad Achenbach  
John Flesher  
Chris Heft  
Sister Janice Ruch  
John R. Smith