



The Transformer

June 2010

717-866-4910

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

New wine into old wine skins... doesn't work.
(see Mark 2:21-23)

WOW! Have you noticed how many children are bringing their parents to worship at Friedens lately?

I enjoy seeing our young people come forward for the children's message and having that special time with them (at 9:00 because that's when our children tend to bring their parents to worship). I also enjoy watching our children walk hand-in-hand, or run, or skip out of worship to participate in their own children's church – their own age appropriate worship experience – using a weekly theme which includes; songs, prayer, Bible study, crafts, and hands-on activities.

This past Sunday (May 23) we had 15 children participating in children's church. We usually have between 12 and 20 children each week participating in that ministry. For those who are wondering about our children's education at Friedens rest assured we have more children participating in our children's educational ministry now than we did during the last year we offered traditional Sunday School.

Additionally, our VBS (Vacation Bible School) continues to grow each year. It's an exciting ministry for everyone involved. Parents have shared with me that their children get so much out of that one week of VBS. Children want to come to VBS and they bring their friends with them. Isn't that how it should be?

In the past, attendance in all of our Sunday School classes (grades 1 through 12)

would be in decline before Christmas. I would personally walk the halls during our Sunday School hour to check on the classes. I found that many classes only had a few students in them for a majority of the year. The traditional Sunday School model wasn't working for us at Friedens.

The decline of Friedens' Sunday School ministry was part of our conversation in the call process. I asked the leaders at that time, if the congregation was ready to do whatever it takes to address the Sunday School issue. It seems to me we still have work to do to address our education ministry.

In my life if something isn't working, I stop using it and/or I replace it. Don't you? I would love to see a healthy, vibrant children's education ministry at Friedens. But it takes committed adults – growing in the faith – doing whatever it takes to make that ministry successful.

I know that many of you mourn the fact that we are no longer offering traditional Sunday School at Friedens. At one time that model served us well. I'm also aware that this issue is being discussed in various circles inside and outside the church. Complaining to others (inside and outside the church) really doesn't help this situation. It may help the complainer feel better but it tends to make the situation even worse.

I'm asking you to look around and see that God is doing a new thing with our children through worship, children's church, and VBS. The children want to participate in these ministries. That's a good thing and that's what we want to see happening.

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The question I ponder is this, what are we willing to do next to build on the children’s church model or the VBS model for our older children’s education? What new things can we do to help all ages want to grow in the faith at Friedens? Maybe we will go back to using the traditional Sunday School model or maybe we’ll find a model that works even better.

In the past five years I have come to learn that whatever we offer by way of children’s ministry (or any ministry) we need adults who are growing in the faith to lead that ministry. Growing leaders produce growing churches.

I look forward to the new blessings God has in store for us and all of our ministries at Friedens especially our children’s ministries. I believe that our children are both the present and the future of the Church.

If you are interested in talking proactively with me about our children’s education ministry (or about any of our ministries), call me (866-4910) or email me robmiller@FLCmyerstown.com. I would enjoy the opportunity for a proactive conversation with you.

Peace,
Pastor Miller

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

June 16
Mr. Charles Kieffer
133 Arbor Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067

June 25
Mrs. Margaret Fessler
Elmcroft of Lebanon
860 Norman Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

June 28
Mrs. Rhoda Leshner
450 E. Lincoln Avenue
StoneRidge Health Center, Rm. 147A
Myerstown, PA 17067

HOSPITAL VISITS

Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations, if you are going into the hospital and would like someone from the church to visit to offer pastoral care please call the church office, 866-4910. We will gladly accommodate you.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

April 2010

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$114,797.00	90%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$26,918.00	Rec'd to Date	\$102,862.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	Rec'd to Date	443.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	260.00	Rec'd to Date	1,205.00	



JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9am-Holy Com- munion 10:30am-Holy Communion	7	8 7:00pm-Property Committee	9	10 Synod Assembly	11 Synod Assembly	12 Synod Assembly
13 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion	14	15	16	17 6:45pm-Church Council	18	19
20 9am-Holy Com- munion 10:30am-Holy Communion VBS 6-8 pm	21 6:00pm-Women of ELCA-Pavilion VBS 6-8 pm	22 VBS 6-8 pm	23 VBS 6-8 pm	24 VBS 6-8 pm 7pm-Anniversdary Committee	25	26
27 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion	28	29	30			



Signups for our summer LIFE groups have begun! You may signup Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall at our LIFE groups information table from 10am to 10:30 am or you may also register online. www.flcmysterstown.com . Below you will find the groups, their location & time.

Summer Semester LIFE Group Leaders 2010
(June 6th – August 14th 10 weeks)

Faye Bishop & Valerie Hauck

(Women's Group) Open to all, Tuesday mornings 10:00am -11:30am

Location: Home-1009 Horseshoe Circle, Lebanon

Our study will be: “ Captivating ” by; John and Stasi Eldredge

Did your childhood dreams involve a beautiful princess (you), a dashing hero, and great adventure? Share unique insights on the core desires of women. Invite your friends to join us on a journey of spiritual self-discovery and deep community. Rediscover your feminine heart! As a young girl did you want to be a beautiful princess, rescued on a horse by a dashing prince charming, or step into the pages of a fascinating adventure? This Study of *Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul* encourages women to connect with their deepest feminine desires and learn to see God as their ultimate lover and hero of their souls.

Child care not provided for this group

Robert & Valerie Hauck

(General Group) Open to all, Tuesday evenings 7 -8:30pm

Location: Home 21 Manor Drive, Lebanon

Our study will be: Remembering the Forgotten God by; Francis Chan

Today's church *admires* the gift of the Holy Spirit, but have we neglected to open it? This study tears away the wrapping paper and the ribbons to uncover the source of the believing community's true power for witness and service. Chan issues a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Spirit of the living God.

Child care can be provided for this group

David Grumbine

(General Group) Open to all, Wednesday evenings 7pm -8:30pm

Location: The church Parlor

Our study will be: “ Fearless ” by; Max Lucado

Can you imagine your life without fear? Life that offers hope and calm in a time of unprecedented fear in our nation and the world. *Fearless* draws from Jesus' encounters with people in frightening situations giving evidence that we can trust God through these scary times. Fear is like an invisible prison. It holds you captive, influencing your choices and perceptions about life, God, and other people. Can you imagine what your life would be like without fear? With so much going wrong in the world it can seem hard to picture. In *Fearless*, Max, shows you how life can be lived with confidence and joy, when you replace your fear with faith. Let this inspiring and timely message encourage your heart today!

Child care not provided for this group

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Kerry Keller & Susie Harper

(General Group) Open to all, Wednesday evenings 7 -8:30pm

Location: Home- 30 Eisenhower Rd, Myerstown

Our study will be: “The life you’ve always wanted “ by; John Ortburg

The heart of Christianity is transformation, a relationship with God that impacts not just our "spiritual lives," but every aspect of living. This study calls you back to the dynamic heartbeat of Christianity, God's power to bring change and growth, and reveals both the how and why of transformation. The Life You've Always Wanted offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines, and serves as a road map toward true transformation that starts not with the individual but with the object of the journey, Jesus Christ. As with a marathon runner, the secret to winning the race lies not in trying harder, but in training consistently---training with the spiritual disciplines.

Child care not provided for this group

Joanne Maurer

(General Group) Open to all, Thursday evenings 7pm- 8:30pm

Location: Home- 3 Springhouse Dr., Myerstown

Our study will be: Gospel in Life by; Tim Keller

In a video- based study of the gospel and how to live it out in everyday life. Our group will study the city, our home now— and the world, that is. This study closes with the theme of the eternal city, our heavenly home—the world that is to come. In between, you’ll learn how the gospel changes our hearts, our community, and how we live in this world. *Gospel in Life* is an invitation to all who seek to live the message of Jesus right here and right now...in our hearts, in our homes, and in the community around us.

Child care not provided for this group

“LIFE GROUPS-connecting you with God & others”

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On June 6, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts will be welcomed. There is a need for cold cereal, instant mashed potatoes, Spam, corned beef, canned chicken, canned pasta, vegetable soup, jams & jellies, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, combs, hair brushes, facial tissues and toilet paper. Please put all donations in the narthex.

STUDENT LOAN applications are available in the church office. Please return them by or before **JUNE 15**.



JUNE 14



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

High Seas Expedition Exploring the Mighty Love of God!
June 20-24th, 6:00-8:00 PM, Ages 3-5th grade

This summer we are setting sail on the high seas! Get ready for a swashbuckling adventure through God’s Word, and discover that God shows his powerful love throughout Scripture. Don’t miss the ship...

Registration

The registration website is now up and running. You can register your child by logging onto www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/friedenslc, in the fellowship hall during coffee hour on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 866-4910.

Donations

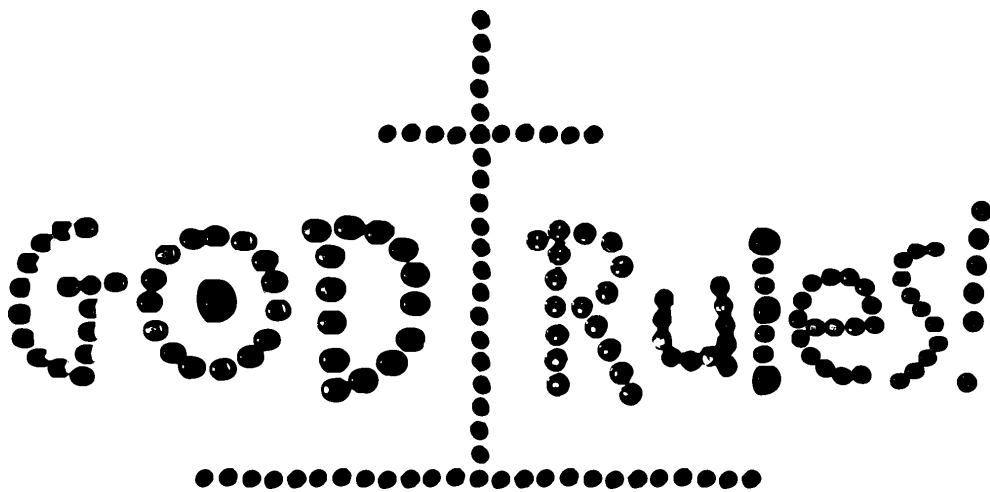
Possible ideas include fishing nets, sea captain statues, ship’s steering wheel, barrels/crates, palm trees, ropes, hammocks, shells, large maps, etc... let your imagination run wild!

Outreach Project

Each year, during VBS, the children participate in the Operation Kid-to-Kid outreach project. This year the children will be making "God Loves Me" blankets that will be distributed to children in Africa. The cost of the blankets is \$10. If you are interested in sponsoring a blanket, please place your money in an envelope marked "VBS blanket" and place it in the offering plate.

All Hands on Deck

It takes many hands to make our VBS program a success. If you are feeling called to serve as part of this ministry team please contact Amber Miller 866-0447 or amiller70@comcast.net



Worship Series for June 2010

Matthew paints for us a “family portrait” of a community deeply rooted in its ancestral beliefs and scriptures. However, due to the fulfillment of that scriptural heritage by Jesus’ proclamation of the kingdom of God, Matthew expands the family portrait to include new communities that had been previously excluded from the family. This is the tension that grips Matthew, and grips us today. This tension calls us to live into a number of questions: Why this family? Who is in this family? How does one become a part of the family? What’s my role in this family? What is this family’s purpose? Matthew’s family portrait calls us to actively live out our family’s story from generation to generation.

May 30 *Family Tree* MATTHEW 3:13-17

Jesus is the fulfillment of the scriptures, yet through baptism we are incorporated/adopted/brought into God’s family and take our place in the family tree.

June 6 *Family News* MATTHEW 10:1-16

Jesus sends his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God as representatives of the one who has come to fulfill the scripture.

June 13 *Family Identity* MATTHEW 16:13-21

The tradition of this family is to confess and profess Jesus as Lord, placing ourselves under his Lordship. This family has a “head of household.”

June 20 *Family Dynamics* MATTHEW 20:1-16

This is not a family that should be concerned with birth order. This is a family established by God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. No greater favors are offered to some in the family, but each family member receives an equal share of God’s gifts.

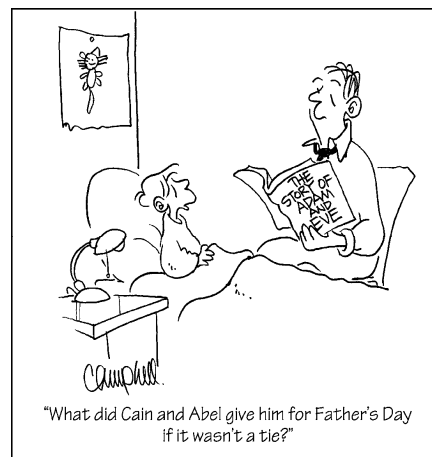
June 27 *Family Matters* MATTHEW 25:34-40

Certain things matter to God and to God’s family. The family of faith matters.



Father's Day

June 20



**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
May 20, 2010**

Council President, Bob Hauck, called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Greg Gardner (Vice President), Bob Hauck (President), Dottie Kemble, Jill Kreider (Secretary), Joanne Maurer, and Pastor Miller.

Excused: Carol Hartlieb, Jeffrey Gumpert and Denise Noll.

Bob opened the meeting with a devotional called “How to Have a Daniel-like Faith” and scripture reading from Hebrews 11:1-34. Discussion followed. Bob then offered the opening prayer.

1. Minutes: Jody Appleby motioned to accept April 15, 2010 minutes. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

2. Communications:

Jill Kreider communicated:

- A. Thank You from Janet Moyer for the Flowers for Secretary’s Day.
- B. Thank You letter from Luthercare for April gift of \$99.00.
- C. Thank You letters from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for March food bank donation of 58 pounds and April food bank donation of 50 pounds.
- D. Informative letter from Luthercare explaining they have decided not to purchase land adjacent to Luther Acres campus. They are planning major reconstruction and expansion of the Hershey wing of Luther Acres community campus and also plan to continue making improvements at St. John’s Herr Estate. They have just recently celebrated the completion of renovations to the Assisted Living residence.
- E. Certificate of Appreciation from Feed the Children for helping to provide 3,000 Lifesaving meals for our country’s hungriest children in the past 12 months.

Bob Hauck communicated:

- A. Joanne Maurer, David Grumbine, and Pastor Miller will be attending the Synod Assembly June 10-12 at Messiah College.
- B. Life Groups will be starting week of June 6th. Five different groups are being offered.
 - I. Womens’s group led by Faye Bishop and Val Hauck.
 - II. Men’s group led by David Grumbine.
 - III. General group led by Kerry Keller and Susie Harper.
 - IV. General group led by Val and Bob Hauck.
 - V. General group led by Joanne Maurer.
- C. A letter was received from Myerstown Church of the Brethren offering local church bodies a chance to purchase some land they own on Stracks Dam road, that they have utilized as their “Church Grove.” Discussion followed about Friedens purchasing this land. We decided to pass on the offer.
- D. Joanne Maurer attended Property Committee meeting this month.
- E. July Council Meeting will not be held.

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Pastor Miller communicated:

- A. He will be on Vacation May 27-30th and June 30 - July 12th.
- B. Pastor Miller and Val Hauck will be going on Mission Trip week of June 14th.
- C. Vacation Bible School is week of June 20th.
- D. July 28 – Aug. 3 Pastor Miller will be attending continuing ed classes on Mission and reaching out to the unchurched.

3. Reports:

- A. Property Committee reports from April and May 2010 reviewed. Jody Appleby motioned to accept reports. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports from April 2010 reviewed. Greg Gardner motioned to accept reports. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

4. Three Questions that congregation has been asked I believe Friedens Lutheran Church exists to (what is our purpose?)?...The one word that best describes Friedens Lutheran Church right now is?...I believe that over the next 5 years God is calling us as a congregation to? Responses reviewed and discussion occurred.

5. Open forum: Discussion occurred.

6. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

7.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jill Kreider
Congregational Council Secretary



SUMMER'S HERE!

JUNE 21

