



# The Transformer

November 2014

717-866-4910

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

Dear friends,

As I'm sure you are aware, I am searching for my next call just as you and your search committee are searching for your next pastor. The interviews have been interesting because there is one question that has been asked during each of my interviews, "What are you doing in a Lutheran Church?" I tell them what I have told you – it is important to understand what you believe and why you believe it. It is also important to understand that God is a whole lot bigger than what we think we know and believe.

Think of all the arguments about doctrine and ethics that have torn the church apart since the very beginning of the church and then read Matthew 22:34-46. I think what Jesus is trying to say is that all of the things that make the church important and all the things we think are essential to our faith are actually mere commentary on the love of God and the love of neighbor. Out of everything we think we believe about God, the church, and our faith the two most important things are to love God and love one another. That's it; the essence of our faith is experienced in our relationships with God and with one another.

If that's all there is then why do we make things so blessedly difficult? If the essence of our faith is expressed in the two-fold commandment to love God and love our neighbor, then the true test of all the things that we argue about and all the things that divide us should be whether they result in more love of God and one another. If they don't then we are arguing over something that isn't important!

How many conflicts in the church could have been resolved if each side asked the question "does this make me more loving toward God or my neighbor?" If it does then keep on doing it; if it doesn't then drop it and move on to something really important.

Having said all that I do have to admit it's not always easy to be more loving. Several years ago I attended the General Assembly of the PC(USA) where we voted on the person who would be our Moderator for the upcoming year (that's the Presbyterian variation of a Bishop). We were embroiled in an argument that has since divided the church, but I remember the man who became the Moderator said that he had talked with people on all sides of the issue and what he discovered was that all sides loved Jesus 100%. What we have to work on is our love for one another.

You see, sometimes loving requires sacrificing what is important to us on behalf of our neighbor; loving asks us to put our neighbors' interests ahead of our own. It does not ask us to sacrifice the truth about anything, but it does ask us to express the truth in a way that uplifts rather than demeans our neighbor.

Love God and love one another. Whoopee!

Joyfully, Ken

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## Food Collection

On Sunday, November 2, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for Juice, instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned chili, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, canned luncheon meat, 18 oz & 32 oz. jelly, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



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.

### Searching for a New Pastor



#### CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

*O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good.*

PSALM 136:1, KJV



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

### OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

#### September 2014

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$241,634.00	89%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$21,322.00	Rec'd to Date	214,634.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	44.00	Rec'd to Date	529.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	230.00	Rec'd to Date	2,245.00	

# NOVEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 November 2						1
2 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	3	4 7 PM—Life Group - Parlor	5 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	6 7 PM—Life Group Parlor/Library 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	7	8
9 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	10	11  7 PM—Property Committee 7 PM—Life Group - Parlor	12 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	13 7 PM—Life Group Parlor/Library 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	14	15 
16 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	17 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Parlor	18 7 PM—Life Group - Parlor	19 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	20 7 PM—Ch. Council 7 PM—Life Group Parlor/Library 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell	21	22
23 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	24	25 7 PM—Life Group - Parlor	26 9AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	27  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	28	29
30 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service						



November 29  
 Mr. Rod Curry  
 1300 E. Kercher Ave., Lot 144  
 Myerstown, PA 17067



Fall is in the air and that means its time for a good cup of coffee. After a relaxing summer 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. Coffee hour has started, 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.



We are looking for a few helpers for our Worship Tech Team for our 9:00 am & 10:30 am services. It's quite easy, not hard at all. Stop in the back of the sanctuary at the booth & see what it's all about! Connect with Brian Beamesderfer, John Tice, Jim Kneasel or Chris Riegel.



If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia to place in the church for Christmas, now is the time to do so. To order, please use the envelopes provided on the narthex bulletin board and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$6.50 each. Your order will need to be placed by **NOVEMBER 26**. You have a choice of red, white, pink or marble.



**NOVEMBER 2**



November 30<sup>th</sup> will be the Sunday that we raise money for El Salvador by hosting Fellowship hour. Please help us by donating baked goods for this event. See any of the following:  
 Pre school Beth Kneasel & Jill Kreider  
 Kindergarten Kristen Hummer & Joya Morrissey  
 Elementary Lynn Appleby



Thank you, Friedens' congregation! On October 6th and 7th deliveries were made-for Lutheran World Relief and for Bethany Children's Home.

Lutheran World Relief delivery-  
 62 Quilts  
 50 Personal Care Kits  
 14 Fabric Kits

Bethany Children's Home:  
 Clothing, bedding, crafts, and sport items for the Immigrant Campaign, benefiting the Latin American child victims of 2014's immigration into the United States.



On **Sunday November 2nd**, the Lebanon Valley College organ students will give a Halloween concert at Palmyra First United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. No tickets needed! A free will offering will be taken as a fundraiser for their trip to Alabama in the spring.

On **Wednesday November 19th**, Katelyn Umberger will give a recital on flute in conjunction with her classmate Amy Karnes (flute) at Lebanon Valley College. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Zimmerman Recital Hall located on the west side of Route 934 just north of the square.



**Date: Sunday, November 23, 2014**

**Time: 10:15 A.M.** in the sanctuary

**Agenda:** Approval of 2015 Congregational Spending Plan

Copies of the budget will be available in the narthex Sunday, November 16.

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Special Church Council Meeting  
August 25, 2014

Jody Appleby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Church Council Present:

Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) Present: Tad Achenbach, John Flesher, Chris Heft, John R. Smith  
Excused: McKenna Achenbach, Sister Janice Ruch

Special Guest: Jon Zinn, Chairman, Finance Committee

1. Chris Heft, Chairman, Pastoral Search Team welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. The group held a discussion concerning the compensatory package for a pastoral candidate.
3. Jim Kneasel made the motion to adjourn. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer by Jon Koller.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Special Church Council Meeting  
August 26, 2014

Jody Appleby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Church Council Present:

Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) Present:

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

Special Guest: Pastoral Candidate

1. Chris Heft, Chairman, Pastoral Search Team, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Chris Heft made the recommendation from the Pastoral Search Team of a Pastoral Candidate to Council.



2. Sister Janice Ruch opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. The group held a discussion with the Pastoral Candidate. It was agreed by the group and the Pastoral Candidate to schedule a second meeting for further discussion.
4. Janice DuBois made the motion to adjourn. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer by Sister Janice Ruch.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Special Church Council Meeting  
September 4, 2014

Jody Appleby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Church Council Present:

Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) Present:

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

Excused: McKenna Achenbach

Special Guest: Pastoral Candidate

1. Jody Appleby, President, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Janice DuBois opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. The group held a second discussion with the Pastoral Candidate.
4. The next Special Church Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm.
5. Frank Armstrong made the motion to adjourn. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer by Janice DuBois.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Special Church Council Meeting  
September 11, 2014

Frank Armstrong, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Church Council Present:

Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

Excused: Jody Appleby (President), Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer)

Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) Present:

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

Excused: McKenna Achenbach

Special Guest: Pastoral Candidate

1. Frank Armstrong, Vice President, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. The Pastoral Candidate opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. The group held a third discussion with the Pastoral Candidate.
4. Jim Kneasel made the motion to adjourn. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer by Sister Janice Ruch.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Special Church Council Meeting  
September 15, 2014

Jody Appleby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Church Council Present:

Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary).

1. Chris Heft, Chairman, Pastoral Search Team welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Jody Appleby opened the meeting with a prayer.

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3. Pastoral Search Team recommends a Pastoral Candidate. Congregational Council voted to recommend the Pastoral Candidate to the congregation of Friedens, with a tally of 5 yeas and 2 no.
4. Council President, Chairman of Pastoral Search Team and Treasurer will conference with Pastoral Candidate to inform them of the results of the vote and to outline the details of the compensatory package.
5. Jon Koller made the motion to adjourn. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer by Jody Appleby, President.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

### SPANG CREST 2014-2015 VOLUNTEER NEEDS

#### ONGOING NEEDS

1. Chapel Pianist: One Sunday a month. 2:30—3:30 PM
2. Gift Shop Worker:
  - Fill in a shift:
  - Mornings: 9:30 AM—1 PM
  - Afternoons: 1 PM—4 PM
  - Saturdays: 11 AM—1PM

Shifts available include: 1st Monday afternoon  
3rd Monday morning  
3rd Friday morning  
4th Monday morning  
4th Friday morning
3. Provide Entertainment: Your church, ladies group or youth group could sponsor a Bingo game, sing-a-long or monthly birthday party. Afternoons, evenings or weekends.

#### SHORT TERM:

1. Craft Show: Sell Weaver Bologna products at the PA Christmas Craft Show at the Farm Show Complex. Dec. 3-7, 2014
2. Farm Show: Sell Weaver Bologna products at the annual Farm Show In Harrisburg. January 10-17, 2015.

Appropriate orientation for all volunteer tasks will be provided. If interested in these or any other volunteer opportunity, contact Karen Kreiser at 274-1495 or [kkreiser@luthercare.org](mailto:kkreiser@luthercare.org).

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA  
Church Council Meeting  
October 16, 2014

Jody Appleby, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President), Janice DuBois, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Excused: Chris Heft, Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor).

1. Opening Prayer: Janice DuBois opened the meeting with prayer and scripture from Isaiah 6. Discussion followed.

2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the September 18, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.

b. Jim Kneasel made a motion to accept the September 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the September 2014 Treasurer's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.

d. Jon Koller made a motion to approve the September 2014 Pastor's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.

e. Thank you letter from Jubilee Ministries for our recent gift of \$217.

f. Thank you letter from Myerstown First Aid Unit for our recent gift of \$750.

g. Thank you letter from Living Waters International for our recent gift of \$2,000.

h. Thank you letter from Keystone Hook & Ladder for our recent gift of \$750.

3. Council discussed the recent Finance Committee meetings of September 25 and October 9. Janice DuBois made a motion to approve 2015 budget draft as corrected and to set Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 10:15 am as the date for a congregational meeting to approve 2015 budget draft. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.

4. Jim Kneasel reported on the Property Committee meeting of October 14, 2014.

5. A report on the Capital Fund Appeal was not available.

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6. On September 15, 2014 Council President, Chairman of Pastoral Search Team and Treasurer conferenced with the Pastoral Candidate to inform them of the results of the council vote and to outline the details of a compensatory package. On September 24, 2014 the Pastoral Candidate declined.
7. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December 2013 meeting Pastor Osborne shared with the group his findings from Synod. At our February 20, 2014 meeting Pastor Osborne shared a sample policy/employee handbook from a local church. In the future Chris Heft, a person from the Pastoral Search Team and Janice DuBois will work on composing a draft Parental Leave Policy.
8. 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. Council will receive an updated rough draft policy with their November 20 agenda packet. Jim Biever and Keith DuBois will be invited to attend December 18 Council meeting to further discuss and answer any questions from Council.
9. At the February 9, 2014 Congregational Meeting no names were submitted for the Nominating Committee for Council. Pastor Osborne will work on this in the Fall. Jody Appleby will connect with Pastor Osborne for an update.
10. 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 will work on this in the Fall. Jody Appleby will connect with Pastor Osborne for an update.
11. Council discussed the annual Staff Appreciation/Christmas Gift Letter. Sharon Riegel will connect with Janet Moyer.
12. Pastor Osborne's Interim with us will be finished the end of January 2015/beginning of February 2015. Jody Appleby will connect with Synod/District Rep regarding a new Interim.
13. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will prepare opening prayer/devotional.
14. Jon Koller made the motion to adjourn. Janice DuBois seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Meeting closed with sharing of joys and concerns and Lord's Prayer lead by Jody Appleby.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary