

The Transformer

December 2010

717-866-4910

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

Christmas Message from Pastor Miller

Well it's that time of year again. It's time to wrestle with the BIG QUESTION – *what special Christmas gifts should I give this year to those special people in my life?*

On the one hand, I love Christmas and all the excitement that goes with it; the food, the fun, and the family time. On the other hand, I dread the fuss of the shopping and the searching and the spending that goes with getting the right gift for that special someone. I'm not a very good shopper. Truth be told, I strongly dislike shopping. (I would use the word "hate" instead of "strongly dislike" but my mother taught me at an early age never to use that word. And I always listened to my mother – especially at Christmas time.)



Amber – the mother of my children – did me a super-fantastic favor this year. She knows how I feel about shopping. I can turn into the biggest bah-humbug at the very thought of going shopping this time of year. She suggested that I/we make Christmas gifts this year, instead of buying them. Great idea! That I can do – happily. I have lots of ideas for that kind of gift giving. I love making gifts and giving them away. The wood shop in our basement has been calling to me for sometime now. The question is – what to make for people?

As I was pondering that question, it dawned on me; there are a few other gifts I would really like to share this year. These gifts won't cost me a thing and I don't have to make them. I already have them. Check out this list of gifts from Galatians 5:22-23.

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Generosity
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control



These gifts will never fade. These gifts will never cost us a thing (no batteries needed either). These gifts will always – I mean always – get better and better the more they are used and shared with others. These Christmas gifts everyone can use. And anyone can give them. How might you make Christmas 2010 a Christmas to remember. Giving the right gifts can make all the difference. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace, Pastor Miller

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

The FINANCING THE FAITH for 2011 (spending plan/budget) has been developed and approved by the Church Council. Copies of next year's line item spending plan will be available for your perusal and consideration in the church office beginning December 1, 2010.

PLEASE NOTE: The finance team will be available for your questions and suggestions in the Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour (9:30 -10:30) on December 5 and December 12. You are also invited to attend the next finance team meeting on December 14 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

We are using this format so that all concerns and questions can be addressed before the congregational meeting on December 19 at 9:45 A.M. At that congregational meeting we plan to celebrate our mission and ministry from 2010 and prepare for 2011 by voting on the narrative budget which will also be available in the church office.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the ongoing work we are called to do in and through Friedens Lutheran Church for the sake of God's kingdom work in this place.

ENDOWMENT BUDGET

Please submit requests for the 2011 Endowment budget to the office. Requests will be accepted until December 10. Any questions regarding endowment requests can be directed to Gary Deck @933-8317 or via email: gdeck8317@comcast.net.



On December 5, 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. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this outreach ministry.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends of Friedens,

Thank you so very much for the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and food during my hospitalization and time at home.

A special thank you to Pastor Miller and Sharon Riegel.


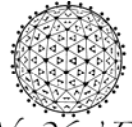
Words cannot express how much it meant to me.

God Bless,
Edith M. Grumbine

Wow! Did you know?

We now have over 400 pictures and 30+ videos on our church Facebook page. Videos include weekly adult and children sermons and various worship songs by our own Praise & Worship Band. Be sure to check us out on Facebook: Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA. The church also has its own website: flcmystown.com

DECEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>6 pm-Children's Choir</p> <p>7 pm-Small Groups</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor</p> <p>7 pm-Adult Choir</p>	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>9 am-Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am-Holy Communion</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>7 pm-Small Group at home of Joanne Maurer</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 am-Women Sew</p> <p>6 pm-Children's Choir</p> <p>7 pm-Small Groups</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm-Small Group-Amber Miller-Ch. Parlor</p> <p>7 pm-Adult Choir</p>	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>9 am-Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am-Holy Communion</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6 pm- Women of ELCA—Cornwall Manor</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 pm-Finance Committee</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6 pm-Children's Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:45 pm-Church Council</p> <p>7 pm-Adult Choir</p>	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>9 am-Holy Communion</p> <p>9:45 am-Congregational Mtg</p> <p>10:30 am-Holy Communion</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Deadline for Transformer articles</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>9 am-Women Sew</p> <p>6 pm-Children's Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm-Adult Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00 pm-Contemporary Worship-Holy Comm.</p> <p>7:30 pm-Traditional Worship—Holy Communion</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Merry Christmas</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9 am-Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30 am-Holy Communion</p>	27	28	29	30	<p>31</p>  <p>New Year's Eve</p>	



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Every morning and evening, the Levites sacrificed a thank offering to the Lord. This was to keep the people's focus on their true provider- God. Psalm 92:1-2 tells us, 'It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to your name O Most High; to declare your loving kindness in the morning and your faithfulness by night.' Wouldn't it be great if we were to imitate the Levites in this way, giving thanks in the morning and the evening so that we might keep our focus on being thankful to God for His everything in our lives? When I think about what I am thankful for each day I am of course thankful to be alive and a child of God and to be blessed with family and friends. If I think of nothing else to be thankful for, I can always praise God for these things.

But thanking the Lord our God goes far beyond appreciating what he gives us and does for us. When we thank Him, we honor Him. In Pastor's message on Sunday he talked about humility and the act of being humble. A humble attitude of gratefulness refocuses our attention on the things that really matter to us in this life. When we have this kind of focus, our energy moves away from self centeredness and anxiety to genuine contentment. I don't know about you but that certainly seems to be the better choice for our lives.

This Thanksgiving it is my prayer that we all try to be like the Levites in this way – and receive the blessing that comes from a grateful heart.

Christ's Peace Valerie

Thank you LIFE group leaders for being led by God to make a difference in someone else's life!!!
LIFE GROUPS- connecting you with God & others
Our next semester begins February 2011

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Financing the Faith for 2011
12/19/10

Time: 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9AM Contemporary Service
Election of Council Members
Approval of 2011 Budget



The Twenty-third Annual Christmas Tree lighting Ceremony and Carol Sing will be held on the Square at Main & Locust Streets, Myerstown, on Saturday, November 27th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The instrumental music will begin at 6:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the sanctuary of the Myerstown UCC.

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP

ALL WOMEN of Friedens are invited to attend an Advent Fellowship and Brunch on Saturday, December 11, 9 a.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, Lebanon. "A Christmas Tea" will be presented by Judith Smitley. If you plan to attend please call Phyllis Rohland, 273-3676, by Sunday, December 5.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON 2010

This Advent/Christmas series celebrates God's new creation. God's new creation is arriving upon a sleepy, surprised world in human flesh: Jesus Christ. This new creation is pointing the way to peace, justice and restoration.

DECEMBER 5 – Justice!

Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist calls for repentance and renewal in preparation for the One who is to come. This coming Messiah from the line of David will fulfill the words of the prophet Isaiah. This One will join heaven and earth, and bring about a new living reality of righteousness and justice. We are called to live into that vision today.

DECEMBER 12 – Restoration!

Isaiah 35:1-10 & Matthew 11:2-11

From a prison cell, John the Baptist wonders if Jesus can really bring the restoration promised by the prophet Isaiah. His vision pictures the Kingdom of heaven among God's people, a coming reign where all of creation is restored. In the coming reign of Christ, everything is straightened out and made right. We are called to live into that vision today.

DECEMBER 19 – Incarnation!

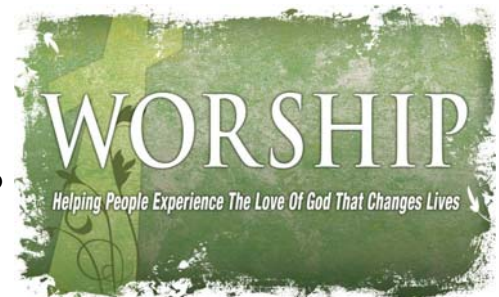
Isaiah 7:10-16 & Matthew 1:18-25

God is coming among us in the One envisioned by Isaiah: "the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." God is with us. God is near to us. The Kingdom of heaven comes to earth in the One named Immanuel, "God with us." Because Christ comes to be among us, everything is changed. We are called to live into that vision today.

DECEMBER 24 – Glory!

Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-20

The glory of God is revealed first to common shepherds, who then share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. Isaiah's vision of glory was the re-establishment of Jerusalem. God chose to reveal his glory in the newborn Savior, Jesus Christ. We are called to live into that vision today.



FAITH & FAMILY

Christmas is quickly approaching and the hurried holiday pace will soon begin. It is all too easy to jump from Thanksgiving to Christmas with little thought as to how we got there. In between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the church season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation—a time to prepare for Christmas, the birthday of our savior Jesus.

In our home we mark this time of expectant waiting with the tradition of the Jesse Tree. *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” Isaiah 11:1* The Jesse Tree retells the story of the family tree of Jesus—Jesse is the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. This retelling consists of daily readings beginning with the creation story on December 1st and ending with the birth of Jesus. Each reading has a corresponding symbol, in the form of an ornament that is placed on a branch or tree.

What does a Jesse Tree look like you may ask? In our home our Jesse Tree is a ficus named Fred Astaire. When we brought this tree home years ago Simon named it Fred Astaire. To be honest I can't really recall how or why we started using the name Fred Astaire in our household but we did, Simon named the tree and it has been so named ever since. The purchase of this ficus was not specifically to be used as a Jesse Tree but each year on December 1st, Fred Astaire is transformed into the Jesse Tree. If you don't happen to have a ficus or other tree/plant, you can simply bring in a bare branch from outside and place it in a large vase. The ornaments we currently use are paper cardstock purchased from a Christian bookstore. I'm thinking this year we will make some new ones using simple symbols that we will color, cut and paste to cardstock adding string for hanging. If you are really crafty or adventurous you could make 3D ornaments using fabric and other supplies. They can be fancy or simple. Make it an evening of family fun. Below are a few sites I've found with many more available using a Google search.

<http://www.shalfleet.net/advent/makeajessetree.htm>

<http://www.eriercd.org/jessetree.htm>

<http://www.osv.com/Portals/0/images/pdf/JesseTree.pdf>

<http://www.aholyexperience.com/2010/11/odds-ends-jesse-tree-devotionals-advent-wreath/>

At this time of year, it is all too easy to get caught up in the decorating, gift buying, wrapping, cookie baking, card sending, holiday gatherings, etc. It is all too easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. During this Advent season, I encourage you and your family to take a few moments each day, whether it be at the breakfast table or dinner table or right before bed, to incorporate your own Jesse Tree tradition. Take time as a family to read a daily devotion, hang an ornament and wait. Patiently and expectantly, wait and prepare for the true light of the world, Jesus.

As always I'd love to hear from you regarding your own ideas/traditions for family faith formation. amil-ler70@comcast.net or 866-0447

Blessings,
Amber Miller



A NOTE FROM THE PRAISE & WORSHIP BAND DIRECTOR

Considering giving a Christmas gift to Friedens? Why not consider giving the gift of music? I would love to have a Children's Choir join in singing with the Praise & Worship Band at the 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service. This Choir is open to children from 5-11 years of age. The first rehearsal will start on Sunday, November 28th during the Children's Message at the 9:00 A.M. Service. Other rehearsals are scheduled for December 1st, December 8th, December 15th, and December 22nd from 6:00-6:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call the church and leave a message for me. I will return your phone call.

But wait-- there's more! Calling all adults between the ages of 15-90! If you've ever had visions of singing in the Adult Traditional Choir but didn't know if you could really do this, why not consider giving it a try and lending your voice at the Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.? I am looking for sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. There will be four rehearsals (November 18th, December 2, December 16, and December 23rd) that will take place downstairs in the Choir Room from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Being able to read music is not necessary, although it helps. So dust off your singing pipes and join us on Thursday evenings at Friedens. If you have any questions please call the church office and leave me a message. I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Gloria Horn



Once again this year we are sponsoring the Angel tree to help needy families in the area. With the economy in such a flux, we have decided to donate grocery store gift cards as we did last year. Please stop in the narthex to pick up your envelope. We ask that all gift cards be back by December 12. If you have any questions, please call Tammy Koller at 717-228-9263.



Come hear Handel's Messiah, performed here at Friedens on Sunday, December 12 at 3 p.m. The 60 member Lebanon County Choral Society

will perform the centuries old work, accompanied by orchestra and members of the Lebanon County Youth Chorale. Praise God and hear the rafters ring!

Tickets are available before the concert for \$12 from Annette Beamesderfer or Doris Thompson. Tickets will be available at the door for \$15 the day of the concert.

Following the concert, the choral group will present a reception in the fellowship hall for those attending. Join us for an afternoon of music and praise!



Find us on
Facebook

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Nov. 18, 2010**

Council President, Bob Hauck, called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Greg Gardner (VP), Jeff Gumpert, Carol Hartlieb, Bob Hauck (Pres.), Dottie Kemble, Elaine Lasch, Joanne Maurer, Pastor Miller, and Denise Noll.
Excused: Jill Kreider

Bob Hauck opened with a scripture reading from 1Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:10-14 and a devotional called "Enduring Satanic Attacks." Discussion followed. Pastor Miller then offered the opening prayer.

1. Minutes: Oct 21, 2010 minutes reviewed. Greg Gardner motioned to accept minutes. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.
- 2.
2. Reports:
 - A. Financial Secretary Report from Oct. 2010 reviewed. Jeff Gumpert motioned to accept report. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
 - B. Treasurer Report from Oct. 2010 reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.
 - C.
3. Pastor Miller made the recommendation to have Gloria Horn serve as Choir Director until the end of 2010 and pay her a salary of \$500.00. She would rehearse 5 times with the Choir. Greg Gardner seconded . Motion Carried.
- 4.
4. Communications:
 - A. Thank You letter from Luthercare for \$104.00 in Oct. 2010.
 - B. Thank You letter from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for September food bank donation of 74 pounds.
 - C. Thank You letter from Habitat for Humanity of Lebanon for \$250.00 for month of Oct. 2010.
5. Spending Authorization Policy will be discussed at a later date.
6. 2011 Budget recommendation from Finance Committee reviewed and discussed. Denise Noll motioned to accept recommendation. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion Carried.
7. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Hartlieb
Congregational Council Member



Special Holiday Babysitting

Attention all parents: On Friday December 10th 2010, the Youth of Friedens and their leaders would like to serve you!!!! We will

be hosting an evening of Christmas crafts, games, stories and much, much more for your children. We hope that this will give you an opportunity to Christmas shop or have dinner with your significant other. This event will begin on Friday evening Dec 10th at 6pm in the fellowship hall and end at 9pm. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the narthex. Please sign your children up on the posted sheet so that we can plan accordingly. We look forward to serving you as we entertain your children in a Christ filled environment. Any questions or concerns you may contact any of the following; Chad Beiler, Greg Gardner or Lori Adams



Christmas Cards

Social Ministry will deliver your cards to the following nursing and retirement homes: Cornwall Manor, Manorcare, Hearthstone Manor, StoneRidge Poplar Run and Stone ridge Towne Centre. Postage is not needed. There will be a card collection box in fellowship hall from now through December 12.

Offering Envelopes



CHURCH OFFERING

ENVELOPES for 2011 are prepared and are on tables in the fellowship hall. Kindly pick them up. In case your name has been missed, please contact the

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS					
October 2010					
					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$287,280.00	85%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$26,708.00	Rec'd to Date	\$245,998.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	74.00	Rec'd to Date	944.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	365.00	Rec'd to Date	3,235.00	

Cleaning Crew Needed



**Caring
Loving
Eager
Ambassadors**

Needed...the more ambassadors, the less time to keep our church clean! Once or every other month for two or three hours? To schedule appointment, please call: Joanne at 717-628-1211 or e-mail—joannemaurer@comcast.net

CHRIST’S BELL

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

- I am God's child (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
- I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
- I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
- I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
- I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
- I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
- I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
- I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
- I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
- I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
- I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph.. 3: 12)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
- I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
- I am God's temple (1 Cor.. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
- I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
- I belong to God

