

The Transformer

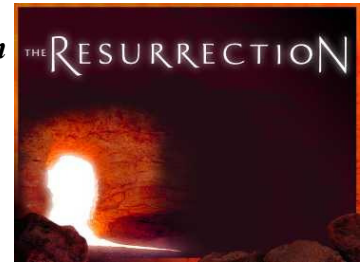
April 2012

717-866-4910

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

⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once and for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Hebrews 6:9-11 NIV)



Jesus lived! Jesus died! Jesus lives again – forever! That’s the story of Easter and it has made all the difference for life in this world and the next – forever!

Twenty years ago, a letter appeared in the national news that was sent to a deceased person by the Indiana Department of Social Services. It read as follows:

Your food stamps will be stopped effective March 1992 because we received notice that you passed away. May God bless you. You may reapply if there is a change in your circumstances.

Well, except for Lazarus (see John 11:1-43) and of course Jesus, there haven’t been too many people who have seen a change in those circumstances! But we will... someday! That’s the Easter promise.

It’s Easter and I find myself asking – why Easter and what difference does Easter make?

First, the why? Why do we do what we do at Easter? And while I think about it – why is it that doctors call what they do “practice”? Why is it that to stop Microsoft Windows, you have to click on “Start”? Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons? Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker? Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour? Why do we park on the driveway and drive on the parkway? Why isn’t there mouse-flavored cat food? Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections? Why don’t you ever see the headline, “Psychic Wins Lottery?” Why are there Braille labels at drive-up ATMs? Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together? Why can’t women put on mascara with their mouths closed? And why is the resurrection of Jesus such a big deal?

Now, the what? If Jesus rose from the dead then what difference does that make? And while I think about it – what difference does it make if Columbus had not said, “If the world is round, then I can get to the East by sailing west.” If Enrico Fermi had not said, “If we can just split the atom, then it’s gonna produce a whole lot of energy.” If Bill Gates had not said, “If I copied the Apple-Macintosh desktop, then people would use Microsoft Windows more.”

(continued next page)


So... if Jesus had not rose from the dead, then what? Since he did, now what? What are the implications? Does it affect my life more today than yesterday? If Jesus rose from the dead, does that Affect what time I get up in the morning? If Jesus rose from the dead, does that affect my situation at school or at work or what's going to happen in my life today or tomorrow? If Jesus rose from the dead, does that affect what happens as I'm driving down route 422 or 501? You bet it does! Jesus has made all the difference – forever!

The truth is... since Jesus conquered death that means anything and everything is possible. Since Jesus died for you and for me the question is this -- are we willing to live for him wherever we happen to be? And if so, how will we?

We are Easter people. We are new life people. We are transformed people. We are resurrection people. And we live for Jesus every day because he lives again for us everyday. We can make a difference in the world by the way we live our lives for him. Jesus lived! Jesus died! Jesus lives again and so too will we! We are alive in Christ Jesus – forever!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Miller



Worship for HOLY WEEK 2012

Palm Sunday, April 1:
9:00 A.M. Contemporary & 10:30 A.M. Traditional

Maundy Thursday, April 5: 7:30 P.M. Traditional

Good Friday, April 6: 7:30 P.M. Traditional

Easter Sunday, April 8: 9:00 A.M. Contemporary & 10:30 A.M. Traditional

Holy Week




A Special
THANK YOU


Thank you Pastor Miller for the time, prayers and encouragement shown to us in the loss of our dear sister Vicki.

Thank you to the Body of Christ at Friedens who shared, hugged and prayed for us. We love you and hope that Christ dwells in your hearts and minds. Keep the faith!

In Christ we live and move and have our being.

Kemble Family

With sincere gratitude and warmest thanks.

Thank you for the use of the beautiful sanctuary and social hall for our mother's memorial. We greatly appreciated you opening your church to our family.

Sincerely,
Steve Shepler
Shepler Family



MISSION WORK- Have you ever wanted to go on the mission trip but you can not travel? Well we have a mission right here in town. We will be helping out at the **Bahney House, every third Saturday of the morning of the month. We will post the project of the morning and a sign up sheet in the hall near the Mission board. Please consider this part of our church family being the hands and feet of Christ going over the fence in our community. Please see Jon Koller or Jan Dubois for more details.**

SUMMER MISSION TRIP 2012 - This summer's focus for an onsite mission will be in Bloomsburg, PA, helping with restoration after September 2011's flooding. Volunteers-skilled and unskilled-16 years or older can participate. Jobs include such things as cleanup, demolition, drywall, spackling. The 2012 team will be lodged in a local Bloomsburg church, Community of Christ Church, Market St. Signup sheet for prospective volunteers can be found on the bulletin board near the church parlor.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS







The church office is open from 9 AM—1 PM Monday-Friday.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES at 9 A.M. Worship: We are looking for folks to join the Sound & Video/Visual Worship Team – experience is nice, but not necessary – connect with Chris or Sharon Riegel or John Tice to learn more. Hmm, how is the spirit nudging you to use your time and talents?

APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1  <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM—Small Group Parlor-Kerry Keller</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 PM—Small Group Parlor-Jan DuBois Joanne Maurer's home</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>5  MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>7:30 PM—Maundy Thursday Holy Communion</p>	<p>6  GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>7:30 PM—Good Friday Worship</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8  RESURRECTION SUNDAY</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 PM—Small Group Parlor-Kerry Keller</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM—Small Group Parlor-Jan DuBois Joanne Maurer's home 7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 PM—Small Group-Parlor-John Flesher 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Deadline for newsletter articles 7 PM—Women of the ELCA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Noon—Senior Fest 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 PM—Visitation Team</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 PM—Anniversary Committee 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Worship 10:30 AM—Traditional Worship</p>	<p>30</p>					

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Many thanks to all the leaders of our Spring 2012 semester of LIFE groups!! There have been so many stories of how groups are touching the lives of others. The following are just some of the ways our groups have impacted the community.

Groups served meals for military families out at the Gap
 Prepared, supplied and served the morning meals at the Opportunity House (homeless shelter)
 Collected winter coats, hats & gloves and made a donation to local shelter
 Visited our church shut-ins.
 Made snacks & put together goodie bags for women & children at the Agape House Shelter
 Provided a Christmas party with gifts & food for a Sr. citizen group who had disabilities
 Delivered flowers to all residents at Spang Crest
 Provided manpower to members of the congregation who had odd jobs around the house that they needed help with.
 Contributed work days at the Bahney House Project.
 Baked goodies and visited not only our Church shut-ins but several in the community.
 Served the Lebanon Rescue Mission through serving a noon meal and helping to separate and pack clothes and blankets, etc;

Made a meal for all those who serve as leaders at the rescue mission of Lebanon
 Served the American House with coffee and travels mugs while singing with residents.
 Served nursing home residents with bingo and Easter baskets
 Helped a young family pay their rent
 Cooked and served meals to community shut-ins
 Collected gift cards for a needy family in the community
 Honored our local fire companies with baked goodies & snacks combined with a visit to both our local fire companies.
 Volunteered to serve at the Sharing Cupboard
 Hosted a Fair Trade Fair supporting Lutheran World Relief
 Purchased new clothing for needy families in the community

Thank you all... for making a difference in our world!

Friday May 4th 2012 will be our appreciation dinner for all Fall and Spring group leaders please mark your calendars accordingly. More details coming soon!!

The 2012 confirmation class will be on retreat at camp Kirchenwald the weekend of April 20th - 21st to complete the last portion of their study.

(Continued on next page)



The following students will be confirmed on May 20th 2012;

Bradley Gardner
 Ryan Kemmerling
 Elizabeth Kleinfelter
 Zachary Swanger
 Laura Umberger
 Jena Koppenhafer
 Alyssa Felli

May the spirit of hope that Easter brings,
 Help you find contentment in little things,
 And restore your faith in the Lord above,
 Who gave His life for the ones He loves.
 May you and your family have a Very Happy Easter!

Christ's Peace,
 Valerie

YOU ARE THERE, APRIL 2012 EDITION:

On March 30, 1812 a congregational meeting was held. The following were elected elders: Michael Ley, Leonard Immel, John George Winter and Christian Walborn; deacons elected were Henry Koppenhafer, Jacob Elchhold, John Lehman and Christian Artz. The trustees were elected for indefinite terms. Michael Ley and J. Andrew Schulze served 16 years and Leonard Immel 29 years.

The cornerstone was laid on April 23, 1812, "In honor of God in use for the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Myerstown Heidelberg Township of Pennsylvania, Frieden Kirchen (peace church) will use only a Lutheran pastor from the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania." Why the name Friedens (peace)? On June 1811 John Andrew Schulze recorded the following: "Peace and Unity is what we are looking for. "Peace—Psalms 120v 6- "too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace".

"We are looking for this peace. Bad feeling and Godless ways will distance from the gospel."

II Timothy 4v:3 "For the time is coming when people will not put with sound doctrine but have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desire".

First Pastor of Friedens 1811-1824 The William B. Beatis
 Rev. William B. Beatis was the first Pastor. He served from 1812-24. Residing and serving in Schaefferstown, he also served as pastor at Brickerville, Reinholds, and Womelsdorf. As there are no records of this pastorate at Friedens, it is possible they were entered in the records of his other churches.

During the time of Rev. Beatis pastorate the first pipe organ was installed in 1819.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year the sky is the limit as kids discover the word
of God in a fun and unforgettable way!

Monday, June 18th-Thursday, June 21st

6:00-8:00 PM

Ages 3- 5th Grade

There are many opportunities available on the VBS Flight Crew both behind the scenes preparing for VBS and hands-on during the week of VBS. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your gifts and talents to provide an amazing experience for the children of our community

Please feel free to contact Amber Miller 866-0447 or amiller70@comcast.net



PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us for the Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 1. Come before Sunday School or after church service as serving begins as early as 7:00 A.M. and continues through 10:30 A.M.

Menu consists of French toast, eggs, fruit cup, and beverage. Free will offering from this breakfast will support the 2012 Mission to Bloomsburg in June.



SENIOR FEST

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 19 at 12 noon, for the Senior Fest in Fellowship Hall. Members and friends are invited for a time of delicious food, congenial fellowship and entertainment.

The program will be Jim Biever speaking on Senior Fraud and a few musical numbers.

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.



OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS
February 2012

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,258.00	Goal to Date	\$ 52,516.00	98%
\$315,093.00	Rec'd	\$27,279.00	Rec'd to Date	51,626.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	49.00	Rec'd to Date	129.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	300.00	Rec'd to Date	540.00	

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
March 15, 2012

President Bruce Kauffman called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert, Chris Heft, Bruce Kauffman (President)
 Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer (Secretary), and Pastor Miller.

Excused: Greg Gardner (Vice President), Denise Noll.

Pastor Miller had an opening Prayer.

Bruce Kauffman (President) led devotional readings from Acts 6: 1-4, 7-8.

1. We are a Sent Church.....Getting Practical
 Discussion occurred.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 Jody Appleby motioned to accept February's minutes. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
 Jody Appleby motioned to accept Financial Secretary's reports. Jeff Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.
 Frank Armstrong motioned to accept Treasurer's reports. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.
 Communication from Living Water – International
3. Nominating Committee:
 The two people that fulfilled their commitment on Council as of the end of 2011, will be asked to be on the Nominating Committee for 2012.
4. Part Time Secretary:
 Jeff Gumpert motioned to accept the Job Description of the Part Time Secretary with the changes discussed.
 Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
5. Open Forum:
 Representatives for Synod Assembly will be Frank Armstrong and Joanne Maurer for June 2012.
6. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer, Council Secretary



"What could I say? They are her most Easter shoes."

New clothes

One night of bitter cold and pitiless storm, a mother was out in the wilds with her child in her arms. Unable to carry her precious burden and find a shelter, she took off her own outer clothing and, wrapping it about her little one, laid him in a cleft of the rock and hastened on, hoping to find help.

Next morning some shepherds heard the cry of a child and found the babe safe and warm in the rock's cleft. Then, not far away in the snow, they discovered the mother — dead! She had stripped off her own garments and died in the cold to save her child.

Did not Jesus do the same? He took off his raiment and hung naked on his cross, that we may stand in the final judgment arrayed in robes of beauty.

HONORING



OUR VETERANS

ALL MILITARY VETERANS OF FRIEDENS:

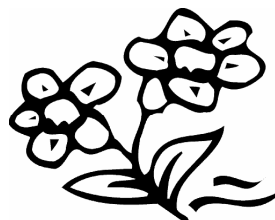
As part of our 200th Anniversary, we would like to display a montage of our veterans past and present, living or deceased.

Maximum size of picture is 3 1/2"x5 1/2" - they may be smaller. Picture may include other persons. Please identify branch of service. Please turn the pictures in to the office by **APRIL 15TH**. Put them in an envelope and identify the people on the picture and owner of picture.



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 instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

If you are interested in ordering geraniums for Pentecost, 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 \$4.30 each. The last day to order is **MAY 6**.

FRIEDENS GARDEN GROUP



Yard Work Volunteers

Objective: To maintain and beautify landscaping of the church.

Duties: Edge, mulch and weed existing landscaping. Trim and maintain shrubbery.

Option: Plant, water and deadhead annuals.

Time required: No monthly meeting. Work "as needed" when called by facilitator.

All work to be coordinated through Property Committee.

Sign up on sheet on bulletin board in the hallway.

Facilitator: Joel Zinn, 866-4420.



Volunteer Opportunities

LUTHERCARE—If

you are interested in volunteering or know someone who needs something to do, please check the bulletin board in the hall outside the parlor for a list of volunteer opportunities.



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
1812-2012

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF FRIEDENS 200 YEARS

2012 CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, May 6—Fumf Brass Quintet

Sunday, May 20—Lebanon County Choral Society

Saturday, August 4—Washington Band

Sunday, October 21—Friends of Friedens Concert
(Persons associated with Friedens past and present)

The purpose of the gospel

The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.

Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"... e ie e hat es s

is th es iah, the S n

of od, nd tha by

be ing ou m y

ha e lif i hi na e."

JOHN 20:31, NIV

!

Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Just Believe!

Worship for HOLY WEEK 2012

The events of Holy Week look different through the lens of the cross and the empty tomb. Why would Jesus journey to Jerusalem, knowing full well what awaits him there? Why would the Son of God wash dirty feet? Why would the King of kings choose a cross for throne? The answer lies in the cross and empty tomb and what God accomplishes through them. When we look at the events of our own life through the lens of the cross and the empty tomb everything looks different.

Palm Sunday, April 1: *Hope Dying* Mark 14-15

Maundy Thursday, April 5: *Descending into Greatness* John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday April 6: *Winning Through Losing* John 19:16b-30

Easter Sunday, April 8: *Hope Rising* John 20:1-18

FOLLOWING GOD'S PATH AND PLAN

Where are we going, and how will we get there? Those are the core questions we'll address in this series during the month of April. We'll seek to articulate answers to both questions in ways that invite disciples to align their lives with God's direction for us, and take their next step on the journey. We'll discover a path that presses out what it means to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. It's a path that we'll travel by inviting the Spirit to grow us up, and through our witness in word and deed, grow the Kingdom.



April 15 *Up... With God* John 15:5-11

We love because God first loved us. Deepening our love for God through heart-felt worship and a vibrant devotional life is a disciple's duty and delight. This is where the journey begins, each and every day. We cannot set the world on fire for the sake of the Kingdom if our passion for God does not burn brightly. In worship and devotion, the Spirit fans the flames of our faith.

April 22 *In... Through Community* 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

Being so completely loved by God in Christ sets us free to love one another, and loving one another begins in the body of Christ. We need one another on this faith journey, and one of the best environments to develop authentic, supportive, loving relationships is through small groups. And when life knocks us down, there are spiritual caregivers to lift us up and walk beside us.

April 29 *Out... for the Sake of the World* Matthew 25:31-46

We really have been blessed to be a blessing. Through acts of love and mercy, we serve the needs of others and work for justice and peace locally, nationally and globally. Responding to this call not only lays claim to our hearts, but to our time and money, as well.

