



The Transformer

June 2017

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month the pastoral letter addressed our life together as church and the importance of our engaging in a season of intentionally looking at church practices and routines while reflecting upon the question, “How would God want us engaged in mission and ministry?”

Four interrelated dimensions compose our process of reflection and discernment:

Flourish - a comprehensive training designed to equip the council and others in how to build unity, trust, and the essential skills for mission and ministry.

reForm, reNew, reVision - a six-part Synodical program guiding congregations to recognize how God would have them build relational/missional bridges into their communities.

Disciple-Making - developing multiple ways to engage persons of every age in a process of discovering their unique identity in Christ, place among other apprentices of Jesus Christ, and role in God’s good work in the world today.

Stewardship - receiving teaching and holding conversation on how God would have us manage God-given assets.

With this letter I provide further details about Flourish and invite your participation.

In many ways Flourish functions similar to a Life Group. The difference is the participants gather once a month rather than weekly.

Prior to the group meeting each Flourish participant views a twelve-minute video presentation on the computer. The video surfaces questions and insights about our life together as a congregation that we think before the group session. Then, when participants come together they gather in small groups for a guided exchange that occurs over an hour and a half to two hours. There is an opening checking-in, a reflection upon a passage of scripture, a guided dialogue covering that month’s topic, prayer, and next steps.

Over three years Flourish covers these key topics:

- Engaging Conflict Redemptively
- Making Decisions Collaboratively
- Leading Changing Organically

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Each topic takes a small group through ten sessions of team-based learning where participants can discover new ways of being church together, particularly in how we think, feel, and respond to change. Overall the goal is to make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit’s work of building the Friedens church community as a gathering of women and men who are committed to “speaking the truth in Love” and to embodying the one another commands of scripture. The desired outcome of the process is our character and understanding gets transformed by the gospel, thus building our:

- Unity in friendship with Jesus Christ
- Capacity in cultivating spiritual fruit that will last
- Clarity in setting the mission the ministry that will glorify God

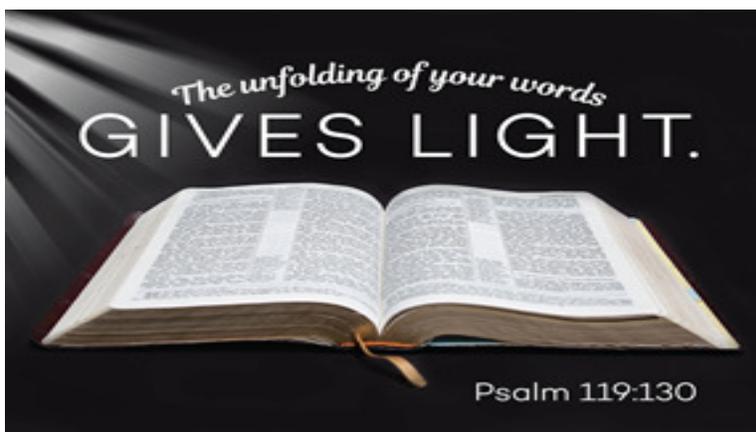
Obviously, for our congregation to experience such splendid work of the Spirit means our personal lives are being further formed as apprentices of Jesus.

Would you please prayerfully consider whether God is urging your participation in year one of Flourish. Your investment of time each month would involve watching a twelve-minute video, participating in an hour and a half to two-hour small group session, and daily opening your life to what God reveals to you.

Several opportunities for small group participation will be offered. They include: Sunday evening, Tuesday morning, Thursday evening, and online. Commitment to the year one sequence of ten sessions does not mean you have committed yourself to year two and year three. Of course there is an invitation to do so, but for right now we are only considering what gets started in September 2017, occurs once a month, and concludes in June 2018.

Please let me know if this is an investment God would have you make so we might better embody the spiritual fruits of a people committed to God’s preferred and promised future.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Robert





Food Collection

On Sunday, June 4, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, reusable plastic containers.



Congregational Meeting

The congregation's annual meeting to act upon the spending plan for 2017-2018 will take place on Sunday, June 11.



Become Part of Our Church Family

NEW MEMBER DESSERT - Pastor Wallace will host a dessert on Sunday evening June 11 for folks who would like to learn more about Friedens Lutheran Church and possibly considering membership. We would like to know who to welcome that night, so please RSVP with Janet at the church office (717-866-4910).

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

June 22

Mr. Keith Steffen
42 Arbor Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067

June 23

Mr. Samuel Ruoss
StoneRidge Poplar Run
Health Care Center
450 E. Lincoln Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

June 28

Mrs. Roberta Sitler
Linden Village
100 Tuck Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

April 2017

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,451.00	Goal to Date	81%
\$548,114.00	Rec'd	\$34,544.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	29.00	Rec'd to date	692.00
Hunger	Rec'd	260.00	Rec'd to Date	4,166.00

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 PM—Chancel Choir	2	3
4 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service 5 PM—Confirmation	5	6	7 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	8 6:30 PM—Finance Committee	9	10
11  TRINITY SUNDAY 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service 5 PM—Confirmation	12	13 7 PM—Property Committee	14  FLAG DAY 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	15  DEADLINE: Newspaper Articles 7 PM—Church Council	16	17
18  FATHER'S DAY! 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	19 6 PM—Women of ELCA—Potluck Picnic Pavilion	20  First Day of Summer	21 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	22	23	24
25 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	26	27	28 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	29	30 Deadline for Annual Reports	



Marissa Kemmerling will graduate from ELCO High School. She will continue studying at Marywood University in Scranton, PA to be an Art Therapist.

Kyle Kneasel will graduate from Cedar Crest High School and plans to attend Penn State for IST.

Shawn Price graduate from ELCO High School and plans to join the Marines.

Lauren Levengood graduated summa cum laude from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor's degree in speech audiology and a minor in psychology. She plans to attend graduate school at Central Michigan.

Mackenzie Smith will graduate from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY - The annual Lower Susquehanna Synod assembly takes place June 2nd and 3rd at Messiah College. The Friday morning keynote address from Pastor Dave Daubert, a leading teacher of church renewal, and the afternoon workshops are open to all free of costs. Richard and Nancy Stoner will represent Friedens at the assembly along with Pastor Wallace. All are invited to join us on Friday.



VBS 2017 is coming to Friedens on Sun., July 9th through Wed, July 12th from 6-8:00pm! If you are willing to help with this event, please see Kelly Stephenson or Holly Heft. Registration is now open online at www.vbspro.events/p/friedensmyerstown (tool bar, not Google) Open to ages 3 thru 6th grade. Bring a friend!



Friedens is planning its **mission trip** for **June 11-18, 2017 to West Virginia**. This mission field is being compared to Katrina (2005) in devastation and duration. Volunteers ages 15-up are welcome for the full or partial week.

Mission work will take place in Webster County, West Virginia. Anticipated distance/travel time to Webster County is 342 miles/51/2 hours. The main town in the county is Webster Springs. The mission team will live in a church parsonage for the duration of the work week. 21 beds, 5 showers, and a full kitchen.

Mission work will consist of dry walling/finishing, painting, basic construction, plumbing, and electrical work.

Signup sheet is on the bulletin board outside the parlor.

Questions-see Jan DuBois (717) 926-1392 or Jon Koller (717) 228-9265.