



The Transformer

August 2014

717-866-4910

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

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27

There was once a little boy who did not know how to pray. He asked one of his friends about it and his friend said, "It's really very easy. Each night you must kneel down beside your bed and say, "God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, and God bless me. Amen." That is all there is to it." So, the little boy tried it that night, but somehow it didn't seem to be enough. "There must be more to prayer than this," he thought.

The next morning at breakfast he asked his mom to show him how to pray. "But you know how to pray," his mom told him. "Just fold your hands, close your eyes, and say, 'Dear God, please bless this food that we are about to eat.'" The little boy prayed as his mother said, but that didn't seem to be enough either.

That same afternoon, he asked his father to show him how to pray. "It is very simple," his father said. "When you pray, go to church, bow your head, and say, 'Thank you, God, for all the blessings of life.'" The next time they were in church, the little boy prayed as his father said, but still he wasn't sure that he really knew how to pray. Something was missing. He was sure there must be something more to prayer, something crucial that they had forgotten to tell him.

That night his grandmother came to visit. After supper, when they were alone, the little boy climbed up onto her lap and said, "Grandma, will you teach me to pray? I know about kneeling down beside my bed and folding my hands and bowing my head. I even know some of the right words to say. But, still, I wonder if I really and truly know how to pray."

His grandmother smiled and said, "I think you are ready to learn about the most important part of prayer – listening to God."

"What do you mean?" the little boy asked. "What should I listen for? Does God talk back? How will I know God is talking to me?"

"Shhhhh," his grandmother said. "You will know. Just sit and listen." And so the two of them sat very quietly together and began to pray.

Ken

Five gifts from God

Love makes our friends a little dearer.
 Joy makes our hearts a little lighter.
 Faith makes our paths a little clearer.
 Hope makes our lives a little brighter.
 Peace brings us all a little nearer.

—Author unknown



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.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



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

Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

June 2014

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$161,088.00	92%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$26,723.00	Rec'd to Date	147,819.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	53.00	Rec'd to Date	354.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	270.00	Rec'd to Date	1,500.00	





August 9
 Mrs. Millard Hamilton
 170 StoneRidge Poplar Run
 Myerstown, PA 17067

August 10
 Mrs. Martha Klein
 StoneRidge Poplar Run
 450 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

August 30
 Mr. Paul Albert
 Manor Care
 900 Tuck Street
 Lebanon, PA 17042



Food Collection

On Sunday, August 3, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned chili, soups, canned luncheon meat, 18 oz & 32 oz. jelly, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



Chicken Barbecue

Let's support the Friends of Spang Crest—have chicken for dinner on **Friday, September 5.**

The cost is \$7.00 for Kauffman chicken, baked potato and applesauce.

Order from Barbara Grumbine or Janet Kehrl. (payable in advance) and we will deliver your chicken to Friedens Church kitchen for pick-up between 4:30 and 5:00 on September 5th. Thank You!



Thank you for all of your prayers and concerns during my recent surgery and recovery. They worked and I am blessed. Also thanks to Pastor Ken for his visit. It's nice to know others care.

Laurie Moody

AUGUST 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	4	5	6 6:45m pm—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	11	12 7 PM—Property Committee	13 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45m pm—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	14	15  DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles	16
17 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	18	19	20 6:45m pm—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	21 7 PM—Church Council	22	23
24 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	25	26	27 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45m pm—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal	28	29	30
31 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service						

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
July 17, 2014

Frank Armstrong (Vice President), called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

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

1. Opening Prayer: Jim Kneasel opened the meeting with prayer and the reading "Looking Good". Discussion followed.

2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the June 26, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.

b. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the June 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.

c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the June 2014 Treasurer's Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.

d. Pastor Osborne shared his Pastor's Report for June 2014. Chris Heft made a motion to approve the June 2014 Pastor's Report. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried. Highlights of Pastor's Report include:

- Pastor Osborne and Sister Janice Ruch attended this year's Synod Assembly. Pastor Osborne requested Council Members give serious consideration to attending the Synod Assembly in 2015. It is held the first week in June.

- Pastor Osborne will be on vacation August 11 through 25, 2014. Pastor Kehrlri will cover leading worship services on August 17 and August 24.

e. Thank you letters from LutherCare for recent donations of \$49 and \$54 to support Spang Crest.

3. Finance Committee did not meet in July. Future meetings will be scheduled "as needed". The Council Rep at Finance Committee future meetings will be rotated.

4. Jim Kneasel reported on the Property Committee meeting of July 8, 2014.

5. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December 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. Chris Heft, a person from the Pastoral Search Team and Janice DuBois will work on composing a draft Parental Leave Policy.

6. 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 of approximately 6 people to work on a "Safe Church Policy" for Friedens. Jim Biever and Keith DuBois have agreed to serve on this team. Mr. DuBois has contacted other persons to serve on this team. The team will have a Safe Church Policy drafted by the August Council Meeting.
7. A report on the Capital Fund Appeal was not available.
8. At the February 9, 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting no names were submitted for the Nominating Committee for Council. Pastor Osborne will work on this in the Fall.
9. Council discussed the ongoing Cemetery concerns: chairman for cemetery and truck for cemetery.
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.
11. Jody Appleby, Chris Heft & Pastor Osborne provided the group with a report on the recent "Weird Animals" Vacation Bible School. There were 70+ children in attendance at VBS. Many thanks to one and all who helped make our VBS a great success.
12. David & Mary Kuck, ELCA Missionaries in Jamaica, will be retiring. At the June 26, 2014 meeting, Council agreed to have Janice DuBois pursue connecting our church with missionaries in El Salvador. Council would like more detailed info on possibly sponsoring the training of a Salvadoran minister within their country. Connecting with Jim and Dina Hess or Pastor Lupe may help us in this process. Further discussion will continue at August meeting.
13. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 7 pm. Frank Armstrong will prepare opening prayer/devotional.
14. Jim Kneasel made the motion to adjourn. Chris Heft seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer lead by Pastor Osborne.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary

Unanswered prayer?

One day a little boy asked his pastor-mom why she always bowed her head for a moment before starting to preach. The mother, delighted that her son was so aware of what went on during worship, answered, "I pray for God to help me deliver a good sermon to the people."

Alas, her delight was short-lived and fizzled at the child's response: "So why doesn't God ever answer?"

TO LEAD IS TO FOLLOW

Doing things yourself because no one else can or will is a self-rewarding exercise that reinforces your independence and your self confidence. You notice others recognize your abilities and ask you to assist in their endeavors. The help you give is not appreciated if it is not reciprocated and if it is forgotten as soon as their endeavors are completed. This experience may leave you feeling used and irrelevant.

Ever notice, the users in this world are very gregarious and move with ease in social gatherings. They ooze with confidence and are charismatic. Yet if stranded and abandoned these character types become emotional wrecks. With no one to use, they abuse themselves. Instead of advancing society, they become a burden on society. Their meteoric rise blinds them to their inevitable and catastrophic end.

Instead of a charismatic flash, society should desire a person who teaches from experience, demonstrates by doing and is considerate of the dignity in everyone. Society needs people who can lead and inspire others, but more important, a person who will also follow. A true leader realizes at some point in time, the first shall be last and the last shall be first. They understand that too much of anything can be a blessing or a curse.

Have you ever read the memoirs of any successful person? They begin with their achievements which provided satisfaction, security and affluence. They end by confessing a longing for the days of hard work and steadfast friendships that provided the lifestyle they now enjoy. It is similar to a married couple that worked, scraped and saved to own a home and raise a successful family. When they reflect on those days of working and scraping and saving, they see clearly those were the “Happy Days.” Most assuredly they realized it was not the destination but the journey that proved most rewarding.

Therefore, when searching for a leader, be cognizant that he or she uses judiciously, acts unselfishly and follows faithfully. Be aware that this person knows that it is not always the destination but the journey that is important. Remember a leader/follower is not an oxymoron. It is not contradictory or incongruous to lead and follow. The greatest leader/follower, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proves this awesomely.

Respectfully,

F. A. Armstrong

