



The Transformer

November 2016

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ

If I am still alive twenty-five years from now, I will read with great interest how historians and sociologists comment upon the election of 2016.

Grief is the dominant emotion I feel after living through the past eighteen months of vitriol and insult. Being a person who values the “oasis of grace” where persons of differing perspectives can engage in reasoned dialogue with the desire to listen and learn, I find the ever-present abusive language and absence of issue-oriented exchanges disheartening.

Maybe you have similar feelings and long for “it” to be over. Yes, the vote on November 8 will determine office holders. (And please vote as your expression of gratitude for the gift of democracy and what it represents to the world community.) However, core attitudes that generated the outpouring of unfiltered emotion and hateful language will not simply dissipate because the vote determines an office holder. As we learned over the past eight years, unless there is a desire to find the “common ground,” to seek the compromise for the good of the nation, then we have an unending battle for domination rather than democratic governance.

Where can we, people whose lives are marked by the sign of the cross and the seal of the Spirit, make a difference? How might you and I influence public and private conversations and bring together persons of differing persuasions for the good of all?

A pastoral letter written for the monthly newsletter cannot provide an exhaustive answer. Still, allow me to plant seeds that, upon Christian reflection, might germinate into behaviors that serve God’s preferred and promised future.

First, practice what Jesus taught when he encouraged his followers, “*In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets,*” (Matthew 7:12, NASB). Remember you will never meet a person for whom Christ did not die!

Second, listen until you understand before you respond. I find myself too often wanting to give my reply and make my point before I hear and appreciate the other person’s point of view. Yes, I may strongly disagree, but the common ground cannot be found if there is no mutual respect.

Third, make responses that are concise, clear, and connecting. Concise responses use a few sentences that express your point of view. This spares the conversions from an oppression of too many words. Clear responses stick to the matter being discussed and does not try to “win” by gathering other topics that get used to put down the other side. Connecting responses value being in right relationship more than being right. You and I can make our points in ways that build relationships with persons with whom we disagree.

Fourth, honor facts, even those that disagree with the stance you would take. This past week I read a fascinating article by a well-respected social historian who observed that a growing, pervasive, and destructive attitude is the reception of only those “facts” that agree with what I already believe. Fewer persons are willing to delve into a matter with

sufficient openness of mind to discover, reflect, and then craft an informed opinion.

Four seed thoughts for your consideration. Now to make it a hand full, I offer one more - prayer. Gather with the people of God to pray for the healing of our nation. The wondrous aspect of prayer is that when I come before God with a hungry spirit and open mind, then I am changed “from the inside out.” Paul put it this way:

Brothers and sisters, I appeal to you, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2, NRSV).

Please join me on election eve as we present ourselves to God through a service of prayer. We will gather November 7 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. The service will conclude before 7:30.

OTHER TOPICS

There are some ministry and mission updates I want to bring to your attention:

One, our congregational meeting is Sunday, November 20 at 10:05 in the sanctuary. We will act upon the council recommendation to:

- Adopt revisions to the constitution
- Set the council at eight members with a two-year term of office
- Set the church program and financial year from July 1 to June 30 (you will still receive personal financial reports at the end of the calendar year)
- Extend the current church budget, pro-rated, for six months

A question and answer dialogue is set for Saturday, November 12 from 8:30 to 10:30. Please come anytime during those two hours.

Two, the council appointed a search team who this month begins the work of identifying and recommending a person to join the Friedens’ staff as minister to families and youth.

Three, I attended an excellent conference on “Faith Formation through Families.” Much of what was presented will provide direction and content for our Faith Formation steering committee. The application and implication for our congregation is exciting. You will hear and see more emerge as we develop this ministry.

Four, the Myerstown Community Thanksgiving Worship takes place November 20, 7:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Stone Ridge auditorium. Our choral director Gloria Tice and organist Jim Biever will provide leadership for the community choir. They will also serve in this role for the “Service of Nine Lessons and Carols” held at Friedens on Saturday afternoon, December 17.

God bless you! I am thankful for the call to be among you as pastor and friend.

Together in Christ,

Pr Robert Wallace





Food Collection

On Sunday, November 6, 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.



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. You have a choice of red, white, pink or marble. The last day to order is **NOVEMBER 27**.

COMMUNION ASSISTANT, USHER, GREETER –

Sunday morning worship involves many folks working together to make the worship experience spiritually deepening, relationally engaging, and community uplifting. Would YOU help? Over the next couple of weeks, a table is set up near the office where folks might volunteer to serve as communion assistants, ushers, and greeters at either the 9:00 or the 10:45 worship services. For the 9:00 worship we particularly would like to have families serve together – older children and youth can hold the communion chalice, young children can stand by an older person and say the words, all ages can help pass the offering plate and help bring forward the communion elements, and all ages can greet and extend a word of welcome. Communion assistance, ushering, and greeting are vital aspects of our being a community who worships together and cares for each other. Would you please consider whether you can help with these ministries?



Our Float in the Parade!

FRIEDENS FLOAT – Is there someone able and willing to lead an effort to have a Friedens float in the Myerstown Christmas Parade, November 26? Please contact Pastor Robert.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

August 2016

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,450.00	Goal to Date	79%
\$365,409.00	Rec'd	\$20,652.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	49.00	Rec'd to date	434.00
Hunger	Rec'd	175.00	Rec'd to Date	2,140.80

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 PM—Worship Committee	2 9:45 AM—Pericope Study 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7 PM—Cemetery Board	3 7 PM—Chancel Choir	4	5
6  9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	7 6:30 PM—Prayer Service	8 7 PM—Property Committee	9 9 AM - Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	10 7 PM—Chancel Choir	11  VETERANS DAY	12
13 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	14	15 	16 9:45 AM—Pericope Study 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	17 7 PM—Chancel Choir 7 PM—Church Council	18	19
20 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:05—Congregational Mtg 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	21 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Library	22	23 9 AM - Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	24  <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	25	26
27 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service	28	29	30 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band			

Congregational Council invites you to join in their Service Project and experience the true joy in serving others

What:

We will deliver wish list items, sing Christmas carols, serve treats & drinks and enjoy fellowship with the residents of American House in Lebanon, PA

When:

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2016

Leave Friedens at 1:00 pm, arrive at 1:30 pm at American House in Lebanon

How:

How can you help? Its easy!

- Join us on Sunday, December 4 at the American House in Lebanon
- Donate any items from the Wish List (place unwrapped items in box in Stauffer Hall)

Wish List:

- Adult Coloring Books, Colored Pencils
- Lanyards
- Male Body Wash, Female Body Wash
- Light Perfume for females; Hand cream for females
- Warm Sox for males
- Bootie Sox for females (slipper type sox)
- Watches – male or female
- Puzzle Books (word searches, word fill ins, cross word)
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Underwear for males (size 32 to 5X)
- Underwear for females (size 7 to 13)
- Umbrellas

Where are we going:

American House Personal Care Home
 25 S. 9th Street , Lebanon PA 17042
 717-272-6678, Contact Persons: Kelly / Cindy / Melissa
 Parking: large lot on corner beside Farmers Market

Who are we serving:

- 73 residents
- 52 males (ages: 25 to 78)
- 21 females (ages: 40's to 50's)

Questions? Connect with:

Janice DuBois, Chris Heft, Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch, Tom Morrissey, Sharon Riegel, Scott Stephenson, John Umberger, Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr.



Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
October 13, 2016

Chris Heft, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Janice DuBois, Chris Heft (President), Valarie Herron, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller
Sharon Riegel (Secretary), Scott Stephenson (Vice President), Rev. Robert W. Wallace, Jr. (Pastor)

Excused: Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Tom Morrissey, John Umberger

1. Jon Koller opened the meeting with a liturgy.
2. Council received the book study "Pursuing God's Will Together – A Discernment Practice For Leadership Groups" at the April 21, 2016 meeting. A discussion was held on Chapter 5. For next month Council will review notes taken by Pastor Wallace at this meeting and again read Chapter 5.
3. **Scott Stephenson made a motion to accept the September 15, 2016, Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**
4. **Chris Heft made the motion to accept the Family and Youth Ministry Role Description for Staff Person (Minister for Family and Youth Faith Formation) dated October 13, 2016. Jon Koller seconded. Motion Carried.**
5. **Janice DuBois made the motion to approve the following to serve on Search Committee for Minister for Family and Youth Faith Formation: Pastor Wallace, Lynn Appleby, Holly Baim Swanson, Emma Flesher, Holly Krall-Heft, Kelly Stephenson, Jake Swanger and Jackie Hackman. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**
6. **Pastor Wallace made the motion to approve the following changes:**
 - **The church Council is composed of the pastor(s) under call and 8 persons elected by congregation.** (in transition the current body may be more than 9)
 - **The congregation extends the call to persons to serve on Council through ballot that happens at the November congregational meeting.**
 - **The term of office for persons called to serve on Council is 2 years.****A person may receive 3 successive calls to serve on Council and then take a Sabbath from such service for a minimum of 1 year.**
Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
7. **Janice DuBois made the motion to change from a calendar year to a program year (July 1 through June 30) and to hold 3 annual meetings:**
Mission Ministry Support Plan – held the Sunday before Memorial Day
 - **Spending Plan with ministry narrated budget**
 - **Endowment Fund**



- **Annual Reports and Celebration – held the last Sunday in August with Congregational Picnic Council Elections – held the Sunday before Thanksgiving**
Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.

8. **Jim Kneasel made the motion to extend the current budget, prorated for an additional 6 months. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**

9. **A Proposed Constitution was reviewed. Pastor Wallace made the motion to approve the constitutional changes recommended by Constitution Team with the exception of 12.01 “at least one member of the Congregational Council shall be a person under thirty five years of age”. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.**

10. **Jon Koller made the motion to hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016 beginning at 10:05 in the sanctuary to vote on constitutional changes. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**

11. Council agreed on the following notice regarding photographs on church website and Facebook: Photographs will be taken and used for website and social media of persons under the age of 18. No names will be used. If you desire not to have pictures of your child posted, please notify the church office in writing.

12. John R. Smith and Joel Zinn presented a request on behalf of the Myerstown/Elco Rotary. **Jon Koller made the motion to approve request of Myerstown/Elco Rotary to display “Flags for Heroes” on the church lawn over the Memorial Day weekend. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**

13. Discussion on New Pictorial Directory was tabled until **November meeting.**

14. Thank you received from First Lutheran Church in Lafayette, LA for our recent contribution towards flood relief.

15. Thank you received from Myerstown Community Library for use of pavilion for their Annual Book Sale.

16. Thank you received from Lutheran World Relief for recent contribution of \$25.00.

17. The Flourish Taster Event scheduled for October 15, 2016 has been cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Webinars produced by Metanoia Ministry will possibly be offered in the future.

18. Pastor Wallace continues seeking writing helpers for the church website.

19. Discussion on Friedens App and Constant Contact communication software was tabled until **November meeting.**



- 20. Pastor Wallace provided an update on Federal Regulations regarding employees effective December 1, 2016. In summary, employees will need to complete timecards and be paid hourly (no longer salaried).
- 21. Pastor Wallace gave a verbal & written Pastor’s Report. **Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the October 2016 Pastor’s Report. Sharon Riegel seconded. Motion carried.**
- 22. Council gave their consent to hold a Prayer Service on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm (the evening before the Presidential Election).
- 23. Jim Kneasel gave an update from the Property Committee Meeting of October 2016.
- 24. **Jon Koller made a motion to accept the September 2016 Financial Secretary’s Report. Valarie Herron seconded. Motion carried.**
- 25. **Chris Heft made a motion to accept the September 2016 Treasurer’s Report. Jan DuBois seconded. Motion carried.**
- 26. Pastor Wallace reported the Finance Committee did not meet in September 2016.
- 27. **Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7 pm. Jim Kneasel will be the worship leader.**
- 28. **Jon Koller made the motion to adjourn. Pastor Wallace seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Meeting closed with the sharing of joys & concerns and prayer led by Jon Koller.

Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary



PRAYER SERVICE - On Monday evening, November 7 - the eve before elections - Friedens will host a prayer service to bring the needs, failings, and hopes of our nation before God. Please come and ask your neighbor to join you as we open our heart, mind, soul, and strength to the Triune God. The service will begin at 6:30 and conclude before 7:20.



Let them eat cake...or cookies...or donuts!
Sunday Fellowship Hour has a new team-Carol Achenbach, Kathy Hoover, and Denise Noll. They would like your help to fill the Sunday slots throughout the year. One new Fellowship feature: The **LAST** Sunday of the month will be Birthday Sunday, celebrating the congregational birthdays of that month. Cakes will be provided for Birthday Sunday, coffee and drinks will need to be purchased. As always, join us for Fellowship between services-share some coffee and get to know how friendly Friedens is!





The church will be decorated on November 26 at 9 A.M. All volunteers appreciated.



When we work together we can do great things!
 Friedens Lutheran World Relief collection included 57 quilts/blankets, 11 school kits, 14 fabric kits, and 74 personal care kits. These items will be sent around the world wherever need occurs due to disasters and war.
 Thank you to the Friedens Sewing Group, Children's Church, and Women of Friedens Group for providing kits and quilts.
 Want to be a part of this effort for Lutheran World Relief? Monetary contributions for shipping of kits and quilts are still being accepted. Please use envelopes provided in pews, in the LWR display, right outside of the office.

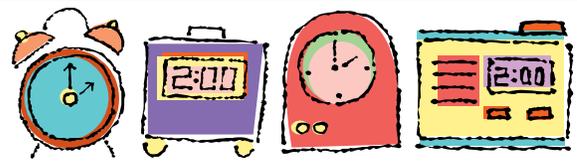


The Social Ministry Team will deliver your Christmas cards to the following nursing and retirement homes: Spang Crest, StoneRidge Poplar Run, StoneRidge Towne Centre, Cedar Haven, Juniper Village, Linden Village, Traditions, Brethren Home, Palmyra, and shut-ins in residence (as per church bulletin).
 Postage is not needed. There will be a box in the narthex to deposit cards from November 27 through December 18. The last day to deposit cards is **DECEMBER 18.**



SPANG CREST Birthday Party will be held December 5 at 2 P.M. Volunteers are needed. For more information call Barbara Grumbine (866-6218) or Janet Kehrli (866-6726).

BIBLE QUIZ
 Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the Lord, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."
 A. people B. soul
 C. Heart D. children
 (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)

DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 6