

The Transformer

August 2010

717-866-4910

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

Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

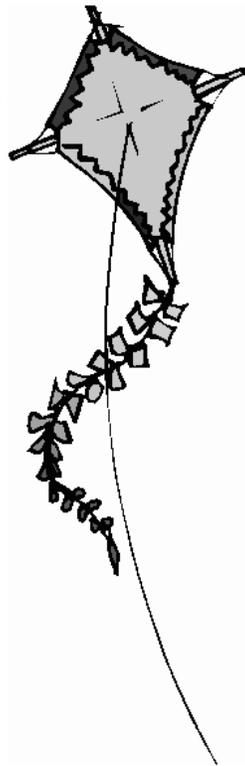
(Jonah 2:8)

One day, while on our family vacation to Cape Cod, Simon and I decided to go fly a kite on the beach. The conditions were perfect with a slight breeze blowing in from the ocean. The morning fog was still in the air. The kite took off soaring with little or no effort. As the string was let out further and further the kite continued to soar higher and higher.

Simon pointed out to me that the string was pretty thin and that it could barely be seen from a distance. "People might think the kite is flying by itself," he suggested.

We then talked about kite-flying-dynamics. We talked about how the kite needed to be tied to the string and the string needs to be tied to the handle and the handle needed to be held firmly and a breeze was needed to keep the kite flying high in the sky.

Simon then let go of the handle to see what would happen. The kite began to lose altitude and started drifting towards the ground dragging the string and handle across the sand.



We ran after them and grabbing the handle, we pulled the string tight. Suddenly, the kite soared once again high into the sky. We had a great time together flying a kite on the beach.

Later that day I found myself reflecting on flying a kite as a metaphor for a life of faith. Each one of us is a kite. The string is Jesus. We need to be tied to him and not cling to worthless idols as Jonah reminds us. The one holding the handle is God to which the string is connected. And the wind is the Holy Spirit blowing in our lives with the grace that is ours.

Those who soar higher and higher, those living the good life, are filled with joy and contentment while being tied to Jesus. From a distance you may not see the "string" that connects them to the Lord (prayer, scripture reading, worship, service, and giving to others) but the "string" is there keeping them connected to him. And Jesus is tied to God, one with God. Jesus and the Father are one, according to John's Gospel. God is holding firmly to the "handle" of our lives. And God will never, ever let go. You and I are too precious to be left drifting through life, alone. The Holy Spirit is the wind lifting us up and up to soar higher and higher in the faith.

"Go fly a kite." What a great metaphor to live by. The conditions are perfect for us to do so at Friedens.

Peace,
Pastor Miller

**Caring
Loving
Eager
Ambassadors**

Needed...the more ambassadors, the less time to keep our church clean! Only two or three hours and ambassadors needed once a month...or every two months?

To schedule teams, please call:
Joanne @717-628-1211.



HELP WANTED...comb your attics, empty those boxes, move those dust bunnies! No, we don't need you to help clean the church, we need you to sweep your home and look for old photos and memorabilia from years past at Friedens. Members of the anniversary committee could use any memento or old photo you can find. Uncover those hidden church memories and call Brian Beamesderfer at 866-2975 or 866-2022. No, he won't help you clean the attic, but he can come and pick up items you find!

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On August 1, 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.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations, if you are going into the hospital and would like someone from the church to visit to offer pastoral care please call the church office, 866-4910. We will gladly accommodate you.



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OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

June 2010

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$172,368.00	87%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$21,796.00	Rec'd to Date	\$150,074.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	94.00	Rec'd to Date	667.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	270.00	Rec'd to Date	1,795.00	



AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9am — Holy Communion 10:30am — Holy Communion</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>9am — Service of the Word 10:30am — Holy Communion</p>	9	10	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Women Sew</p>	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9am — Holy Communion 10:30am — Holy Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm – Women of the ELCA</p>	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>6:45pm — Church Council</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Deadline for Transformer articles</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>9am — Service of the Word 10:30am — Holy Communion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm—Visitation Team</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>9am - Women Sew 7pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm -Anniversary Committee</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9am — Holy Communion 10:30am — Holy Communion</p>	30	31				



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Have you ever found yourself praying about a situation in your life or you find yourself waiting for a breakthrough or a change? You may be wondering why the answer hasn't come yet? Or maybe you feel as though life is passing you by?? I was talking with Pastor a few weeks ago and I was sharing with him that I've been in deep prayer over some things in my life and it just seems like God is being so silent..... and that His silence was difficult for me. Sometimes when we pray long and hard about a situation in our life without receiving any answers, we just learn to live with it. We go on about our business, wondering if or when God will send the answer. But I'm learning that God does hear those prayers, and He's working out the answers even though I may not know all the details. Sometimes our situation can change suddenly and quickly without warning! But one thing is certain: Before God moves suddenly, we will wait. Waiting for answers is a fact of life—nobody gets out of it. So the question is not if we'll wait, but rather how we'll wait. So..... I've been taking some time to reflect on what God may be trying to show me in His silence??? It has encouraged me to seek Him all that much more.

We know the word wait means "to expect" or "to look for." But remember, it also means "to serve". Our act of waiting isn't supposed to be spent sitting around passively hoping that something will happen sometime soon. Once we've asked God to answer a question or solve a problem, we need to be eagerly awaiting His answer. We need to be serving actively, aggressively and expectantly. When our hearts are eager to hear from God, He loves to rush in suddenly with His solution. :) In my case this waiting period has actually served as a time of preparation for the answer. If God answered right away, I would have been more than likely ill-prepared to handle His solution. Sometimes we find ourselves in such horrible messes that it's hard to image waiting one more second. But we need to keep waiting on God and trusting Him with a sweet and simple faith. Then, in a way we never could've figured out—God gives us *His* answer to our prayer.

Christ's peace
Valerie

YOU ARE INVITED...

Mission Team Reunion—August 29, following the second worship service (11:30 am) in the pavilion. Hot dogs and beverage provided.

The entire congregation is invited to attend to share in the fellowship as mission team members reunite to remember missions from the past and present. Persons attending are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Please sign up on the church bulletin board to give us an idea of the numbers attending.



CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendar for Friedens Church Family Picnic to be held on *September 12, 2010* at the pavilion at **Noon**. A hot meat dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. Bring out your classic or antique cars for a “Car Show”. Adult and children’s games will be provided. Donations for the cake walk would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome, so please come and join us for a day of fellowship and fun!

COFFEE HOUR

It is truly amazing how the Coffee Hour has grown. It is also great to see people gathering together, and sharing their lives with love and caring for each other, members getting to know each other better.

We are so grateful the way our members have responded to helping serve, and getting involved. Thanks to all.

If you would like to be part of our fellowship, call Shirley Kline at 866-9490 or www.skline75@verizon.net or Viole Schaeffer at 866-4196.

RELEASED TIME BIBLE PROGRAM

Have you heard the news? Joy El Minisatries’ Released time Bible Program is coming to the new ELCO intermediate elementary school this fall! Released Time is Bible based religious instruction for third through fifth grade public school students that takes place (with parental permission and off school property) during the school day. Want to be involved in what God is doing through Released Time? Call ELCO RT Coordinator, Beth Superdock at 949-8261, or Sharon Keller, Assistant Coordinator at 949-2045. Want your elementary student to be involved? Watch for information coming home from school in early September!

THANK YOU

Words are inadequate to thank the kind guys (and one gal) who moved me to Cornwall Manor on Friday, July 9. They included John Smith (and truck), David Grumbine, Len Schott, John Koller and brother, Roger Kauffman, and Jake and Judy Werner.

What a wonderful example of mission work for our loving Friedens Church and a blessing for me. Thank you all very much and God bless you all.

Madelyn Himmelberger

Thank you to the ladies who cooked such tasty meals for me. It was a big help. I really appreciate their efforts.

Barbara Andrews

HOLY BAPTISM

If you are interested in Baptism either as an adult or children please call the church office, 866-4910.

Worship Themes for July 18 – August 8 God's Great Good News Revealed: Revelation

While considered to be controversial and difficult, the last book in the New Testament is a message of hope to seven churches in Asia Minor: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. In this 4 week series we will attempt to demystify these writings and see if the revelation contains a word of promise and warning for the times in which we live. This is a book of letters, seals, trumpets, angels, dragons, beasts and bowls. It is filled with mystery, metaphor, judgment, triumph and God's great good news for us today.



Bitter and Sweet AUGUST 1 REVELATION 10:1-11 (PSALM 49)

A voice from heaven interrupts the final catastrophic judgment of the world. This message is good news for everyone who hears it.

All Things New AUGUST 8 REVELATION 21:1-8 (PSALM 105)

The holy city is revealed. God's will is for the final redemption of the nations. The garden of Genesis has grown into a city. God's work is culminating.

WANTED: Men, women and youth who want to have fun being on the "Decorating Committee" especially for Christmas which is done the 1st Saturday in December. Needed are a good number of people (the more the merrier and faster it gets done) to be on a list to basically help bring up and return the decorations from the basement, decorate and un-decorate (usually done the 2nd Saturday in January), and to water the trees for Christmas. Also people are needed to help decorate with the flowers during Easter, Pentecost, Fall and Christmas and to transfer the remaining flowers after the 10:30 AM services to the fellowship hall. Men would come in real handy to transport (with a pick up truck) and set up the Christmas trees, and to pick up the flowers at the florist for the different seasons. If you are interested please contact Carol Hartlieb at 717-866-2641, or hain1@verizon.net or facebook for further details.

DONATE YOUR OLD CAR—GIVE A SMILE TO A CHILD BATTLING CANCER— RECEIVE TAX DEDUCATION OF \$500+

It's fast, it's easy, and it requires only one phone call or visit to our website. Cars For Help, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity, is making child cancer patients wishes turn into reality through our "Cars 2 Beat Cancer" program. If you would like to donate a vehicle *in any condition*, or if you would like to register a child diagnosed with cancer who could use a boost in spirits, please visit us at www.Cars2BeatCancer.com. You can also call us directly to donate a vehicle at (630)595-9272. Together we can make a difference!

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
July 15, 2010**

Council President, Bob Hauck, Called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Greg Gardner(Vice President), Jeffrey Gumpert, Carol Hartlieb, Bob Hauck (President), Jill Kreider (Secretary), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer, Pastor Miller and Denise Noll.

Excused: Dottie Kemble.

Bob Hauck opened with scripture reading from Amos 7: 10-17 and a devotional called "Are we as Faithful as We Think?" Discussion followed. Pastor Miller offered the opening prayer.

1. Minutes reviewed: Jody Appleby motioned to accept May 20, 2010 minutes. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.

2. Communications

Jill Kreider communicated:

- A. Thank You letters from Luthercare for May 2010 gift of \$204.00 and June 2010 gift of \$24.00.

Bob Hauck communicated:

- A. Finance Committee Chairman, Gary Deck, recommended \$4,000.00 allocation to 2010 operating budget for building and maintenance fund be approved. Greg Gardner motioned to proceed with Finance Committee Chairman's recommendation. Jeffrey Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

3. Reports:

- A. Treasurer Reports from May and June reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept reports. Carol Hartlieb seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Financial Secretary reports from May and June reviewed. Jeffrey Gumpert motioned to accept reports. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Miller reported:

- A. Will be attending continuing education class on Global Leadership Summit with Val Hauck, Aug. 5-6 done by Willow Creek at LCBC. They have decided to attend this class rather than a class they were going to attend July 28-Aug. 3 on Mission.
- B. Attended a church in Hempfield last Sunday to experience their services.
- C. Looking to raise money to compensate some of the musicians at 9:00 service.

4. Open Forum: Discussion occurred.

5. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

6.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jill Kreider
Congregational Council Secretary



Upcoming Worship Series: “There’s an App for That!”

This 5 Week Worship Series will conclude our Reading through the New Testament. We’ve been on quite a journey since September 2009. In John’s Gospel we encounter the God-story, the broad-stroke narrative of God’s plan for us and the world. John’s Gospel calls us to the journey of faith, believing the story of God that becomes our own story. Throughout John, Jesus demonstrates that he is the long-awaited Messiah, has encountered every human need in his own life, and can meet every human need in the life of the believer. Whatever we may encounter, Jesus is the “application,” or to use the new technical term, “the app.”

AUGUST 15 – *Anxious? There’s an App for That!* JOHN 2:1-11

Throwing a party can make the host very anxious if everything doesn’t go just right. The wedding in Cana becomes the setting for great social anxiety when the wine runs out. Jesus is able to intervene, and in doing so, reveals himself, and his disciples believe in him.

AUGUST 22 – *Broken? There’s an App for That!* JOHN 5:1-18

Jesus heals on the Sabbath. It seems like nothing will stand in the way of Jesus reaching out and healing the broken people around him. Jesus’ compassion for a man who had been ill for 38 years stands in stark contrast to the religious authorities, who were more concerned that he was working on the Sabbath.

AUGUST 29 – *In the Dark? There’s an App for That!* JOHN 9:1-12

Jesus is the light of the world, but to the man born blind, the world was simply darkness. There are plenty of dark places in our world and in each of our

lives. Jesus is able to open our eyes and shine his light into any situation or circumstance we might face.

SEPTEMBER 5 – *Dead? There’s an App for That!* JOHN 11:17-27; 38-44

He was dead; really dead. Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days and yet, resurrection life happens there because Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We are dead in our sin, yet resurrection life happens for us, as well.

SEPTEMBER 12 – *Hungry? There’s an App for That!* JOHN 21:1-14

Breakfast on the beach; what could be better? Not only did the disciples get to eat with Jesus, they encountered the risen Christ, and what could have been an ordinary day of fishing turns into an extraordinary interaction with the Lord of all creation. Jesus not only addresses our immediate needs, but he is able to satisfy the deep spiritual hunger of all people.

Daily Readings for AUGUST

1 Psalm 49	11 Revelation 22	22 Psalm 144
2 Revelation 16	12 John 1	23 John 6:60-71
3 Revelation 17	13 John 2	24 John 7:1-24
4 Revelation 18:1-14	14 John 3	25 John 7:25-52
5 Revelation 18:15-24	15 Psalm 127	26 John 8:1-30
6 Revelation 19	16 John 4:1-42	27 John 8:31-59
7 Revelation 20	17 John 4:43-54	28 John 9
8 Psalm 105	18 John 5:1-18	29 Psalm 112
9 Revelation 21:1-14	19 John 5:19-47	30 John 10
10 Revelation 21:15-27	20 John 6:1-21	31 John 11
	21 John 6:22-59	