



The Transformer

October 2018

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace rest with you from the Triune God who through your baptism named you a child of “the heavenly Father,” a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

On this first weekend in October, Cheri and I are visiting family in Lockport, NY, and attending the 50th year reunion for the Lockport High School class of ’68. Having spent very little time in Lockport since I went back to college for the sophomore year, I anticipate the evening will be a curious mixture of awkwardness, discovery, awakened memory, and peering at name tags.

A recent addition to this weekend will be preaching and presiding at the congregation where I was first nurtured in the faith. Fondly, I recall Mrs. Pauley leading the primary department, Alice Dean directing the junior and youth choirs, Dr. Crump telling his sixth grade class about his “God moment” while dissecting an eyeball, Pastor Olin explaining the Apostles Creed to our confirmation class, and sitting with my Grandparents at worship - pulpit side, five rows back, next to the side aisle. I look forward to saying thank you to the current congregation, and to offering them encouragement.

MEMORIES AND MISSION

Memories help us both retrace the paths once followed and hold tight the lessons learned along the way. However, we cannot return to days now passed. Of course we know this; yet, are there not instances when one yearns to return to “how things were back then,” or to restrain a deed done or words spoken.

Thanks be to God for his great faithfulness that awakens us each day to the love that is *new every morning* (Lamentations 3:23).

Our good work at Friedens is to enable our children, each other, the Sunday guest, and the people we encounter every day to likewise come to know this love, receive this love, and live by this love.

Having listened to your memories, thoughts, hopes and concerns expressed at the Table Talk gatherings, a wonderful image arose in my mind that depicts our life together and our calling to serve God’s love in this community and beyond. I offer you this statement as a verbal description of our mission and ministry that I hope you find both inspirational and easy to remember:

***Called through the grace of God
Friedens congregation
gathers as a community of peace
grows in Christian faith and practice
engages the world in love and service***

I invite you to ponder these words. In your prayers ask God to help you see and understand how you are being called to gather, grow, and engage.

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ENDOWMENT PROJECT UPDATES

At a special congregational meeting held at the end of April, we approved the church council proposal to withdraw up to \$200,000 from the unrestricted endowment in order to fund several necessary projects. Here is a review of what has taken place and the work still pending.

Lawn Mower - Taking advantage of the sale, the congregation purchased a new lawn mower that has been in service throughout the summer.

Organ Repair - The organ company is not able to address our repairs until next year. In reviewing the evaluation, Jim Biever (our organist) recognizes items that are necessary, preferable, and low priority. He and the organ people will discuss this further in the spring and look towards summer of 2019 for having the work done.

Parking Lot - Prior to repaving the parking lot, the property committee brought in a firm to identify the cause for drainage problems. That work revealed broken drainage pipes underneath the parking lot. Repair work must precede the repaving. Also, the foundation near two doorways need repair. The repaving work will now happen in the spring, after repairs are completed. The total cost of the project is now greater than the original estimate.

Security - We are “waiting our turn” for Choice Communication to do the work of electronic controls on five entrance ways, internal “lock down” in four places, and updating our security camera system. Currently, Woodland Contractors is doing preparatory work repairing doors, installing glass panel at two doorways, and installing the desired internal doorways. Some of the additional work slightly increases the cost for this project. Some of the additional funding comes from the 2018-19 property budget and some from the endowment withdrawal.

Sign - The computerized sign is ready for installation. This will take place after the parking lot repair work provides opportunity for extending necessary electrical service. Some changes have taken place since the original proposal. Work by Horst Signs found that raising the sign could not take place without extensive foundation work. Since the desire was to improve the ability to see sign messaging, the alternative was to increase the “pixilation” of the sign making it easier to view while driving along Route 422. The additional cost is \$11,500. This is less than reworking the foundation. The increased pixilation will help us accomplish the reason for having this communication tool.

Sound System - New speakers are planned for the sanctuary to improve the amplification of voice and music. Currently, we wait our turn for installation. The hope is to have the work completed prior to Christmas worship.

Our primary focus with each of these project is the benefit gained in support of our mission and ministries. Those overseeing the work also monitor the costs. We hold to the \$200,000 ceiling approved by the congregation. If further work requires additional funding beyond this ceiling, then the matter would again come before the congregation.

Many volunteers are at work helping to guide these projects towards completion. Thank You.

Yours in kingdom prayer and service - Peace+

Pastor W

FRIEDENS MISSION UPDATES:

Lebanon Lutheran Mission Team Fundraiser for 2019 Missions (tentatively planned for Camp Kirchenwald)

Orders for Apple Dumplings will be taken from now until Thursday, October 25, when the total count for Dumplings MUST be called in to Sycamore Springs. The cost is 5 dollars per dumpling, regular or sugar free. Each Mission Trip member earns \$2 in their account for each regular dumpling sold and \$1.75 for each sugar free dumpling sold toward the participant cost of the 2019 Trip.

Pick up for orders is Saturday, November 3, at Holy Trinity, Lebanon, Luther's Place at 10 AM OR possibly at Friedens for your convenience.

Money is due before or NO LATER than November 3. See Jan DuBois (717-273-3463) to place order.

Any checks need to be made out to Joette Hollinger/ HTLC.

FYI, Apple Dumplings freeze very nicely and make a quick, easy meal.



Food Collection

On Sunday, October 7, 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, jelly, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, and 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 \$6.75 each. Your order will need to be placed by November 11. You have a choice of red, white, pink or marble.



Final count: Lutheran World Relief items sent from Friedens-

Quilts- 70

Fabric Kits- 18

Personal Care Kits- 70

Thank you to all who helped in any way, sewing, assembling, and transporting!



OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class	2 7 PM—10:45 Worship Group	3 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	4 6:30 PM—3 B Study The Hideaway	5	6 9 & 10 am - Blessing of Pets
7 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	8 5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class	9 7 PM—Property Committee	10 9 AM—Women Sew 1 PM—Life Group 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6 PM—Life Group 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	11	12	13
14 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	15 5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class 6:30 pm—Finance Committee 7 PM—WELCA 7:30 pm—Endowment Comm. 	16 7 PM—Vision to Mission	17 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	18 7 PM—Leadership Group	19	20 Wittel Harvest Clean-up & Festival
21 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	22 5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class	23	24 9 AM—Women Sew 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	25 7 PM—Church Council	26	27
28 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:45 AM - Traditional Service	29 5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class	30	31 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band			

**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
September 27, 2018**

Scott Stephenson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Present: Scott Stephenson (President), Brian Kleinfelter, Wendy Gilbert (Secretary), Richard Stoner, Lynn Appleby, Jim Kneasel, Amanda Klopp (Vice President), Kim Garhart, Rev. Robert Wallace, Jr. (Pastor), Elaine Lasch.

1. Elaine Lasch opened the meeting with prayer and scripture.
2. Richard Stoner made a motion to accept the August 30, 2018 Council Minutes. Lynn Appleby seconded the motion and the motion passed.
3. Questions 1 through 6 from the Table Talk surveys were reviewed and discussed. With a lot of ideas presented by the participating members, the need for helping hands and financial support remain real concerns. We will follow through with the remaining 6 questions at the October Council Meeting.
4. Video #10 from the Flourish study guide was viewed and discussion took place. We will continue with video #11 at the October Council Meeting.
5. Council reviewed the following reports: Communications, Discipleship, Family Youth and Children, Fellowship, Visions for Missions, Worship, Pastors report.
6. Over \$1,000.00 was raised from the Sunday morning Fellowship hour hosted by the Missions Team. This will provide support for school tuition and supplies for our sister parish in El Salvador.
7. Pastor Wallace made a motion to accept the request from the ELCO Girls Soccer Booster Club for the use of the church kitchen and Stauffer Hall for a spaghetti dinner on November 3, 2018. Brian Kleinfelter seconded the motion and the motion passed.
8. Elaine Lasch highlighted as part of the financial report that while there was an increase in giving the last two months, income was still not sufficient to meet expenses. Amanda Klopp made a motion to accept the August 2018 Financial report. Richard Stoner seconded the motion and the motion was passed.
9. Jim Kneasel from the Property committee reported that the pavilion air conditioning needs repair. New flooring in pavilion kitchen is needed. A baby changing station will be installed in the Parlor bathroom, as was requested by members of the congregation.
10. Endowment committee reported the following:
 - It was identified that some drainage plates have broken under the parking lot facing north on 422. These plates will need to be dug up and replaced before the lot can be paved. This work will be done this fall but moves the paving timeline to Spring 2019.
 - Security system for the church property remains at the current cost approved.
 - Due to the overage costs in other projects the organ repairs will be split into 2 fiscal years to ensure total costs of projects remain below the approved \$200,000. The organ will be repaired for \$15,000 this year and an approximate \$17,000 will be needed next year to finish the necessary work.
 - The cemetery mower is now paid.

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-It was identified that due to the foundation the new sign cannot be raised any higher than the current sign. To overcome the lack of height it was decided to make the sign higher pixel resolution. This will increase the cost of the sign by \$11,500.

- 11. Elaine Lasch closed with prayer.
 - 12. **Next Council meeting will be Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**
 - 13. Meeting adjourned
- Wendy Gilbert, Council Secretary



Luther Acres
A Luthercare Community

Independent Living . Personal Care
Memory Support . Healthcare . Rehab to Home

Explore Retirement Living 2018
Saturday, October 20 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Explore our vibrant senior living community during the 8th Annual Open House. Tour a variety of Cottages, Apartments and Personal Care.
No RSVP Required.

Annual Holiday Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 16 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 17 • 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Towne Center - Community Room
Get a head start on your holiday shopping. Wooden crafts, jewelry, handmade crafts, baked goods and more!
Sponsored by the Luther Acres Residents' Council

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, Nov. 17 • 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Towne Center - Katy's Grill
\$5 Pancakes, sausage and juice
Sponsored by Friends of Luther Acres Auxiliary

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Find Luthercare on:      