



The Transformer

April 2017

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the last Saturday in March our intermediate youth got together to bake cookies with a purpose. Several Moms provided guidance; a couple of dads took responsibility for clean-up duties. But the kids provided the hands and hearts to carry the project from mixing dough, to putting cookies into pouches, to Sunday morning distribution.

While all this fun activity was going on, I was in the parlor working on the Sunday message. I overheard these youngsters talk about the good work being done by several ministries before they decided to support the ELCA Hunger Appeal with the cookie donations. The postscript to this splendid story of youth engaged in ministry is donations exceeded \$350.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY

During the call process two years ago, followed by the first set of cottage meetings, our congregation made clear its desire to support and grow ministry with families, youth and children. Last summer we entered a process of discernment that included reviewing our setting, resources, and opportunities along with dialogue and prayer.

Council determined the best way to enhance our work with family, youth and children is to hire a person whose full time work would be directing these ministries. A search team was appointed and a role description set forth. Interviews are now taking place and we hope to have this person as our ministry partner this summer.

Of course a necessary aspect of calling a ministry partner for family, youth and children's ministries is having the necessary financial support. Having such a staff person is not new to Friedens. Although the position has been vacant for four years, we kept a line-item in our spending plan, thus acknowledging the importance of this work. However, without the person in place we did not feel the need to fully support our spending plan.

The spending plan being drafted to support the Friedens ministry during the year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 includes line items supporting a full-time family, youth and children's minister. Adopting this spending plan means each of us must consider our personal stewardship and how we can "step-up" with increased contributions to support all the work we believe God places before us. Please allow me to say the obvious - the ministry we undertake belongs to every one of us as the Friedens community of faith. While some aspects of the ministry affect particular populations, it is work we all support because we believe it is what God would have us do.

Because Cheri and I are committed to the mission and ministry God would accomplish through Friedens, we are increasing our regular giving so that it will be ten per cent greater beginning in July. How might God be placing upon you the call and responsibility to make an increased contribution to support the mission and ministry taking place through Friedens?

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Yes, the needed increase in financial contributions is significant, but more compelling is the potential harvest of lives devoted to following Jesus.

Your pastor and friend,
Robert Wallace

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most significant eight days of the church year.

Gathering with fellow congregants, other believers, and visitors we hear the Passion Story through liturgy, song, and message - from the procession of palms to the walk to Calvary, at the Last Supper and in the Garden, Peter’s denial and Judas’ betrayal, the horrific crucifixion and words of absolution, a stone sealing the tomb and resurrection appearance. For some this is merely the old, old, story, however, the Holy Spirit would call and gather us together for these five services in order to fill our imaginations with new enlightenment. We not only hear “The Story”; we are drawn into the drama. The Spirit personally addresses us - as individuals and as the Christian movement here and around the world.

This one week addresses “heart, mind, soul, and strength” in ways that set the foundation for our life in Christ, for LIFE itself.

Worship at Friedens on both Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday occurs at the usual 9:00 am and 10:45 am. On Palm/Passion Sunday we also gather for the annual breakfast. Worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil (Saturday) begins at 6:00 pm.



A BIG Thank you for your many donations of materials of many kinds. While you are Spring cleaning you might come across fabric we could probably use.

We welcome anyone interested in joining us to help sew the second and fourth Wednesday of the month 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If time is a problem another time could be selected afternoon or evening. Please consider helping us!

God Bless you,
Friedens Sewing Ladies





Food Collection

On Sunday, April 2, 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.



Chicken Barbecue

Friends of Spang Crest Chicken Bar-b-que
 Friday, May 5, 2017
 2:30—6 P.M.
 At Spang Crest, 945 Duke St., Lebanon
 Cost—\$7.00 includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato and applesauce.
 For tickets see Barbara Grumbine (717-821-6993)
 Or Janet Kehrli (717-866-6726).



Easter Egg Hunt

Join Us April 8th at 10am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This is open to all congregation and community members. Spread the word!

Donations of candy, plastic eggs and other prizes are needed. Donations a due by April 2nd. Anyone willing to help in stuffing eggs please join us in Stauffer Hall, Thursday April 6th at 7:00pm.

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

April 28
 Mr. Ernest Brightbill
 Juniper Village
 1125 Birch Road
 Lebanon, PA 17042

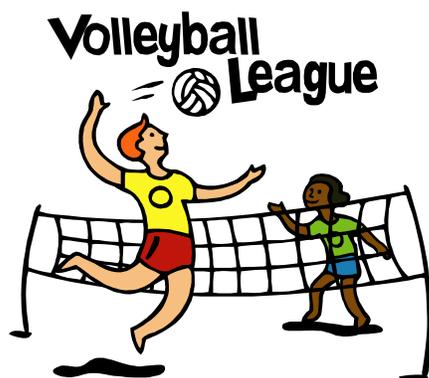
OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

February 2017

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$30,451.00	Goal to Date	80%
\$548,114.00	Rec'd	\$22,712.00	Rec'd to Date	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	Rec'd to date	616.00
Hunger	Rec'd	220.00	Rec'd to Date	3,360.00

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service 5 PM—Bible Study	3	4 7 PM—Cemetery Board	5 5 PM—Lenten Meal 6 PM—Lenten Service 7:05 PM—Praise & Worship Band	6 7 PM—Easter Egg preparation - Stauffer Hall 7 PM—Chancel Choir	7	8 9 AM—Easter Egg Hunt—Pavilion
9 9 AM— Contemporary Ser- vice 10:45 AM— Traditional Service 5 PM—Bible Study	10	11 7 PM—Property Committee	12 9 AM—Women Sew 5 PM—Lenten Meal 6 PM—Lenten Ser 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	13  Maundy Thursday SERVICE 6 PM	14  GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6 PM	15  Saturday VIGIL 6 PM 
16 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:45 AM— Traditional Service	17 7 PM—Women of ELCA	18	19 5 PM—Lenten Meal 6 PM—Lenten Service 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band	20 7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Chancel Choir	21	22
23 9 AM— Contemporary Ser- vice 10:45 AM— Traditional Service 5 PM—Bible Study	24 7 PM—Visitation Team	25	26 Noon— Bible Study 9 AM—Women Sew 5 PM—Lenten Meal 6 PM—Lenten Ser 6:45 PM—Praise &	27 7 PM—Chancel Choir	28	29
30 9 AM— Contemporary Ser- vice 10:45 AM— Traditional Service 5 PM—Bible Study						



Summer Volleyball League

Are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Do you enjoy playing volleyball? If so, then become a part of the Friedens Summer Volleyball Team! Games are played every Monday and Thursday night at 7pm either here at the sand court or away at near-by churches at their court. Games start early May and continue through the summer until the tournament on a Saturday in August! This year we have a strong need for female players since rules require us to have both men and woman on the team. If we don't have enough woman players, then we may need to forfeit our summer volleyball team! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office by Sunday, April 16th! More information to come when I receive it! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Laura Umberger, at [\(717\) 679-1979](tel:7176791979)!



MISSION OPPORTUNITY:

Friedens is planning its own 2017 mission trip for **June 11-18, 2017 to West Virginia**. This mission field is being compared to Katrina (2005) in devastation and duration. Details coming soon in Friedens' bulletins and Transformers. Volunteers ages 15-up are welcome!



Save the date!! VBS 2017 is coming to Friedens! It will be **Sunday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 12, 6-8:00 pm**. More info to follow!

Palm Sunday Breakfast

April 9th

Global Missions Committee will sponsor a Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 9th. Breakfast casseroles, fruit and beverage will be provided for a freewill donation, donations to help fund Friedens' June 2017 mission.

Congregation members are welcome to share favorite breakfast casseroles-egg or sweet casseroles-for this event.

A buffet of all casseroles will be offered from 7:00 am to 10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Casseroles should be labelled with recipe's name, member's name and directions for baking/reheating. Empty permanent, personal containers can be claimed following the breakfast at the kitchen window.

For planning purposes, please contact Jan DuBois if you intend to contribute a casserole (273-3463).

