



The Transformer

May 2014

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends,

I've always been fascinated by the post-resurrections stories: after witnessing the empty tomb Peter said, "That's great. I guess it's time to go home." After Jesus talked with the disciples, Thomas would not believe until he had seen and touched the wounds in Jesus' hand and side. The friends and followers whom Jesus met on the road to Emmaus knew all that had happened to Jesus and even heard that the tomb was empty, but they did not recognize Jesus as he walked and talked with them.

I can't help but wonder how many of us have heard the story and even told the story of Jesus with great clarity, but do not understand. I think the Emmaus road incident is precisely where many of us find ourselves. We know the story of Jesus; we have studied the Bible and know the background and history of the Master; we even attend church on a regular basis and still, something is missing. Go back and read the story in Luke where Cleopas and his friend journeyed home after all the events on the first Easter. You will notice that there are two actions that happened before they recognized Jesus.

The first was that they offered hospitality to a stranger. It was the custom at the time of Jesus that hospitality was to be extended to strangers. Throughout the Old and New Testament there are stories where hospitality was extended to people traveling through only to discover that God had come into their home. By welcoming a stranger they opened themselves to the possibility of the presence of God. But this was not enough for Cleopas and his friend to recognize Jesus. Something else was needed.

The second thing was the breaking of bread. While this has overtones of Communion, it was actually just the three of them sitting down to a meal together. The lesson for God's church may be that if we truly want to encounter Christ in our midst: 1) we need to engage the scriptures; 2) we need to offer hospitality to strangers; and 3) we need to break bread together. It is the combination of study, ethics, and ritual that is critical for our faith.

He is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Ken



COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP

Ever wonder how coffee gets magically made in the morning for you nearly every Sunday? Well, all it takes is a few minutes of someone's time and a desire to help keep our social hour lively.

Members of the coffee hour committee are seeking helpers who are willing to volunteer to make it happen...we can't do it all ourselves!

Coffee, cookies and munchies are all purchased and waiting for someone each Sunday to pull together. We even have a new coffee pot! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BAKE OR PURCHASE TREATS BY YOURSELF.** Sign up on the list in Stauffer Hall or talk with Susan Harper, Carmela Deck or Annette Beamesderfer. Your help is



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.



The Women of ELCA will meet Monday, May 19.

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

March 2014

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$ 80,545.00	89%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$28,400.00	Rec'd to Date	72,087.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	50.00	Rec'd to Date	198.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	300.00	Rec'd to Date	735.00	





"SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School is coming to Friedens Sun, July 13th - Wed, July 16th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Come and join the wild, wacky, one-of-a-kind Jungle Habitat! WEIRD ANIMALS... Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind! For more info, please see Holly Heft or Kelly Stephenson."



Food Collection

On Sunday, May 4, 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.



CEMETERY WORK NIGHTS will be held Tuesday evenings in May starting at 6 P.M. **Bring shovels, rakes, etc.**



GERANIUMS for Pentecost – If you are interested in ordering geraniums for Pentecost, 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 \$4.25 each. The last day to order is **May 15**.

Mission Project



May 19th is the deadline to sign up to help with this summer's mission, June 15-21-take part in some or all of the week. We will travel to the New Jersey shoreline counties.



I wish to thank Pastors Osborne and Kehrl and Friedens family for their prayers, visits, and cards during my surgery and healing of my knee.

Yours in Christ,
Roger Kauffman



FRIEDENS GARDEN CLUB

In the coming weeks we will need volunteers for mulching and other landscaping duties. Contact Joel Zinn at 866-4429 if you can help.

Thanks to Friedens' congregation for an overwhelming response to our Palm Sunday Breakfast! Your free will offering of \$500.00 (yes, it was that much!) will enable our missions team to travel to Storm Sandy areas this June to help brothers and sisters recover.

MAY 2014

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



Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
April 24, 2014

Sharon Riegel, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

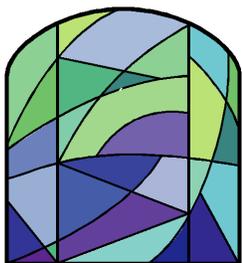
Present: Janice DuBois, Jim Kneasel, Jon Koller, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Excused: Jody Appleby (President), Frank Armstrong (Vice President) and Chris Heft

1. Opening Prayer: Sharon Riegel opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 - a. Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the March 20, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Jon Koller made a motion to accept the March 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Janice DuBois seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Janice DuBois made a motion to accept the March 2014 Treasurer's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Ken Osborne shared his Pastor's Report for March 2014. Highlights of Pastor's Report include:
 - Pastor Osborne will be taking Continuing Education from May 7 - 9, 2014 (3 days) to attend classes at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. The classes he will attend will focus on Ministry to those with Special Needs. Jon Koller made a motion to approve the March 2014 Pastor's Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - An update on Confirmation Class was not available at this time.
 - Pastor Osborne will be on vacation Sunday, May 25, 2014 (after worship services) through Sunday, June 1, 2014. Joel Zinn is coordinating a Supply Pastor for worship services on Sunday, June 1, 2014.
 - e. Thank you from Lutheran World Relief for recent donation of 26 Mission Quilts, 8 Personal Care Kits and 14 Fabric Kits.
 - f. Thank you from Janet Moyer for flowers for Administrative Professionals Day.
3. Finance Committee met on April 8, 2014. Janice DuBois gave a report of the meeting. Future meetings will be scheduled "as needed". The Council Rep at Finance Committee future meetings will be rotated.
4. Property Committee met on April 8, 2014. Jim Kneasel gave a report of the meeting.

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. This discussion was again tabled due to absences. Council will review the sample policy and further discussion will continue at May meeting.
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 agreed to serve on this team. Keith DuBois will be contacted to see if he will agree to serve on this team. Other names of persons for this team were also discussed.
7. Joel Zinn provided a written monthly update on the Capital Fund Appeal. Campaign Goal: \$155,500. Commitments: \$143,514.
8. At the February 9, 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting no names were submitted for the Nominating Committee for Council. Council is to give suggestions of persons for Nominating Committee to Pastor Osborne & he will connect with them.
9. Council discussed the ongoing Cemetery concerns: chairman for cemetery and truck for cemetery.
10. Council received a recommendation to once again form a Worship & Music Committee. After discussion Council agreed with this recommendation. Pastor Osborne will connect with the staff to serve on this committee: Praise & Worship Leader, Adult Choir Director, Bell Choir Director and Organist. Council is prayerfully considering congregational members to serve on this committee. Further discussion will continue at May meeting.
11. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7 pm.
12. Janice DuBois made the motion to adjourn. Jon Koller seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer lead by Janice DuBois.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary





Visiting Pastor

Welcome Guadalupe' Cortez, pastor of Nueva Esperanza, El Salvador. Guadalupe' serves our sister parish there.

On Thursday, May 1st, Guadalupe' will be treated to Sight and Sounds' showing of "Moses". Anyone interested in a 2:45 pm matinee, \$52.00 per seat, is welcome to join Guadalupe'. Please contact Janice DuBois for information.

On Friday, May 2nd, Guadalupe' will leave our area and return to El Salvador. Any gifts for the children of our sister parish in El Salvador or tokens of our appreciation for Guadalupe's ministry to Nueva Esperanza can be given to Guadalupe' if brought to Friedens' church office by noon on May 2nd.

CERTAINTY

The tendency to use the sciences such as psychology (the science of mind and behavior) for direction in faith (a belief and trust in God) is causing much consternation. How or why should certainty be put in any science when epistemology (the science of the limits and validity of knowledge) testifies to the vagarious nature of knowledge. If there is no certainty in man's accumulated knowledge, where then is certainty?

Remember being taught there are three states of matter...liquid, solid and gas. That's not so anymore. There now is a fourth state of matter...plasma. It is not wholly solid, liquid or gas. Recall being taught there are nine planets. That too is not so anymore. There are now only eight planets. Pluto does not meet the requirements necessary to be called a planet. Also it is now theorized that space is not an empty vacuum as previously thought but is made of a thing called dark matter. These are examples of facts no longer acceptable as true. These certainties of science are no longer so certain. With the evolution of the Quantum Theory of physics there are many more facts of science coming into question. With the present day proofs of this theory, physicists theorize there are parallel universes. There could be duplicates of everything in our universe including our selves.

It's amazing how much we are certain of our facts only to be proven wrong. It only proves the old saying...the more we know, the more we find we don't know. Possibly we should realize the answer to one question leads to another question. Answers also lead to new facts which increase our accumulated knowledge of our physical world. Stay around long enough, though, and these facts will also come into question. Looking to science for certainties than proves very uncertain. Where are the certainties on which we can rely? It is no wonder that relying on a science such as psychology to direct faith is a practice in consternation.

We don't have to wallow in confusion and speculation. There is a certainty for us on which to build. A certainty not rooted in the knowledge of our physical existence but rooted in the truth of our spiritual existence. Have no worries, no confusion, no speculations. Rather have a strong uplifting belief, an unwavering trust and reliance on these words, never proven false by any branch of science. He is the way, the truth and the light. That if we just believe in Him we shall have countless blessings, unquestionable wisdom and life from everlasting to everlasting. Now there's certainty.

Respectfully,
F. A. Armstrong