



The Transformer

November 2013

717-866-4910

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

I realized, just the other day, that this year the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's holidays are going to be very different because it will be the first year that I will celebrate them without my father. As I reflected on that, I came across this story titled "*Who's Packing Your Parachute.*"

Captain Charles Plumb graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and became a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 successful combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Fortunately, Plumb ejected from the plane and parachuted to the earth below. Unfortunately, he descended into enemy hands, where he was captured. He spent the next six years of his life in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and uses his experience as a motivational speaker.

He tells the story of years later sitting with his wife at a restaurant. A man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

Plumb was taken aback, "How in the world did you know that?" The man replied, "I packed your parachute." Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute on a long wooden table. Each time, this sailor held in his hands the fate of someone he didn't know.



SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

November 4
 Mrs. Rachel Hardy
 9 Brookside Circle
 Myerstown, PA 17067

November 29
 Mr. Rod Curry
 1300 E. Kercher Ave., Lot 144
 Myerstown, PA 17067



The church office is open from 9 AM— 1 PM Monday-Friday.



The volunteer cleaning team will remain in action for 2013. Because of our budget deficit, nothing was proposed for professional cleaning service again.

I want to thank all the members who helped to keep our facility clean this year. We hope that others might join in whenever they can.

Please call Barb or Gene Lessig, at 866-2291 if you would like to help.



Children's church is raising money to send a child to school in El Salvador. The children will be serving fellowship hour November 17th. Please plan to attend and give your support to this great mission.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

September 2013

					% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	Goal to Date	\$241,218.00	86%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$26,388.00	Rec'd to Date	206,596.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	55.00	Rec'd to Date	469.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	335.00	Rec'd to Date	2,355.00	





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 appreciated by coffee drinkers everywhere!



Food Collection

On Sunday, November 3, 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 luncheon meat, jelly, 18 oz & 32 oz., complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.

CAPITAL FUND APPEAL

Goal: \$121,000.00
Committed: \$99,000.00

We're almost there!! Still time for you to make your commitment.



Sunday, November 3



Congregational MEETING

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 24 between services to approve the Spending Plan (Budget.) Copies of the Spending Plan will be available on Sunday, November 17 to preview before the meeting.

Visitation Team



Meeting on
November 24
7 P.M.


Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Tad Achenbach
- John Flesher
- Chris Heft
- Sister Janice Ruch
- John R. Smith
- McKenna Achenbach

NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:15 AM—Youth Group 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	4	5 7 PM—Life Group	6 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	8	9
10 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:15 AM—Youth Group 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	11  VETERANS DAY	12 7 PM—Life Group 7 PM—Property Committee	13 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	15 	16
17 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:15 AM—Youth Group 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	18 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Parlor	19 7 PM—Life Group	20 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7:30 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal	21 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	22	23
24 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:15 AM—Youth Group 10:30 AM— Traditional Service	25	26 7 PM—Life Group	27 9 AM—Women Sew	28  Thanksgiving Day	29	30

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
October 17, 2013

Jeff Gumpert, President, called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Present: Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (President), Chris Heft, Joanne Maurer, Ken Osborne (Interim Pastor) and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Excused: Jody Appleby (Vice President), Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Denise Noll

1. Opening Prayer: Jeff Gumpert opened the meeting with prayer. Scripture: Psalm 128. Discussion followed.

2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

a. Chris Heft made a motion to accept the September 19, 2013 Church Council Minutes. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

b. Joanne Maurer made a motion to accept the September 25, 2013 Special Church Council Minutes. Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.

c. Frank Armstrong made the motion to accept the September Financial Secretary's Report. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

d. Joanne Maurer made a motion to accept September Treasurer's Report. Sharon Riegel seconded. Motion carried.

e. Ken Osborne shared a copy of his Pastor's Report for September 2013. Sharon Riegel made a motion to accept the September 2013 Pastor's Report. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

Highlights of Pastor's Report include:

- A dozen new disciples of Friedens will be welcomed on October 20, 2013.
- Pastor Osborne shared there is a possibility he may not be taking Continuing Ed from March 21-29, 2014 to serve with a mission team in Argentina.
- Pastor Osborne will be off January 27, 2014 through February 2, 2014. Pastor Sharron Blezard, Lower Susquehanna Synod will be our Supply Pastor on February 2, 2014.
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Community Service at Friedens will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2013, time of worship to be determined.
- Christmas Eve Worship will be held at Friedens on Tuesday, December 24, 2013. Contemporary Worship will be held at 4:00 pm and Traditional Worship will be held at 7:30 pm.
- Discussion regarding lectionary vs. toolkit in planning worship.
- Discussion regarding Stephen Ministry and using gifts of spiritual touch.
- Sharon Riegel made a motion to renew the contract of Pastor Osborne for 1 year (January 15, 2014 through January 14, 2015). Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried. It was noted this new contract includes nothing new or additional from the previous contract.

f. Thank you letter from LutherCare for recent gift of \$23.00 to Spang Crest.

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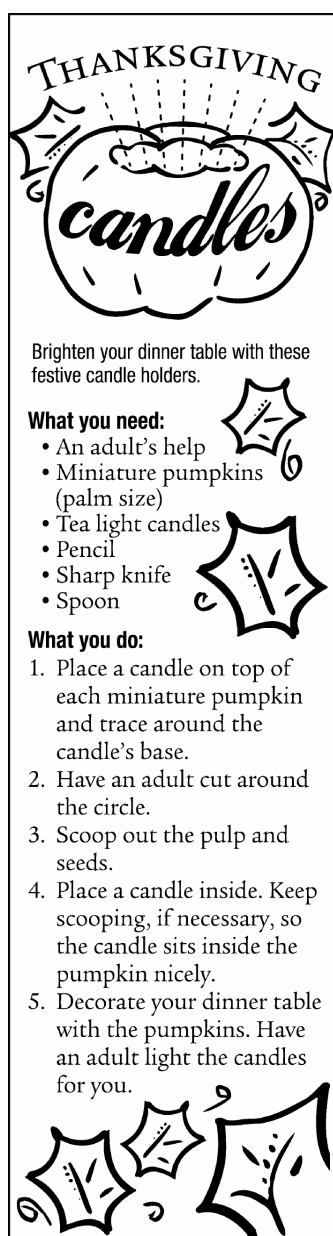
3. Jeff Gumpert gave a report of the October 15, 2013 Finance Committee. Joanne Maurer made the motion to schedule a Congregational Meeting on November 24, 2013 between services to approve the 2014 Congregational Spending Plan. Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried. Postcard reminders will need to be sent out by November 8, 2013. Copies of the 2014 Congregational Spending Plan will be available to pick up on November 17, 2013.
4. Joanne Maurer was not able to attend October 8, 2013 Property Committee meeting.
5. An update on the Pastoral Call Process was shared. The Lower Susquehanna Synod has received all the required paperwork from Friedens. The Bishop is working on reviewing potential candidates to refer to the Call Committee.
6. The group agreed to invite Bishop Dunlop to worship at Friedens after the new video/projection equipment has been installed.
7. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." Pastor Osborne and Jeff Gumpert will work on getting a sample copy from other congregations. Further discussion will continue at November meeting.
8. Council agreed to hold the discussion of the Director of Discipleship position until a new Pastor is called.
9. An update was shared on the Chairman of Cemetery Board. There is a candidate interested in serving as Chairman of Cemetery Board / Interior Sexton. Gene Lessig of Property Committee has been in contact with this candidate. It was noted Council would need to approve the hiring of this candidate.
10. Council continues to search for persons willing to serve on Council with 3-year terms beginning in 2014. Further discussion is a priority for the November 14, 2013 meeting.
11. Mike Youse of Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA recently met with Pastor Osborne at Camp Kirchenwald. Mr. Youse asked that we make our children aware of the programs offered at Camp Kirchenwald.
12. An update on Confirmation and Youth Group was given. Youth Group will begin meeting on October 20 for a 10 week session similar to a Life Group.
13. An update on Auditing of Books was not available at this time.
14. The Letter for Staff Christmas Gifts will need to be sent. Jeff Gumpert will connect with Janet Moyer regarding the letter.
15. Council agreed to the request of Joel Zinn to represent Friedens at the Synod events listed below.
 - Stewardship Education & Mission Support – Holy Trinity Lutheran, Lebanon - October 24
 - Conversation with Bishop Dunlop – St. Paul Lutheran, Lititz – November 10

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16. Next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 6:45 pm. Please note this change in date.

17. Chris Heft made the motion to adjourn. Joanne Maurer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. Meeting closed with prayer lead by Pastor Osborne.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary



THANKSGIVING
candles

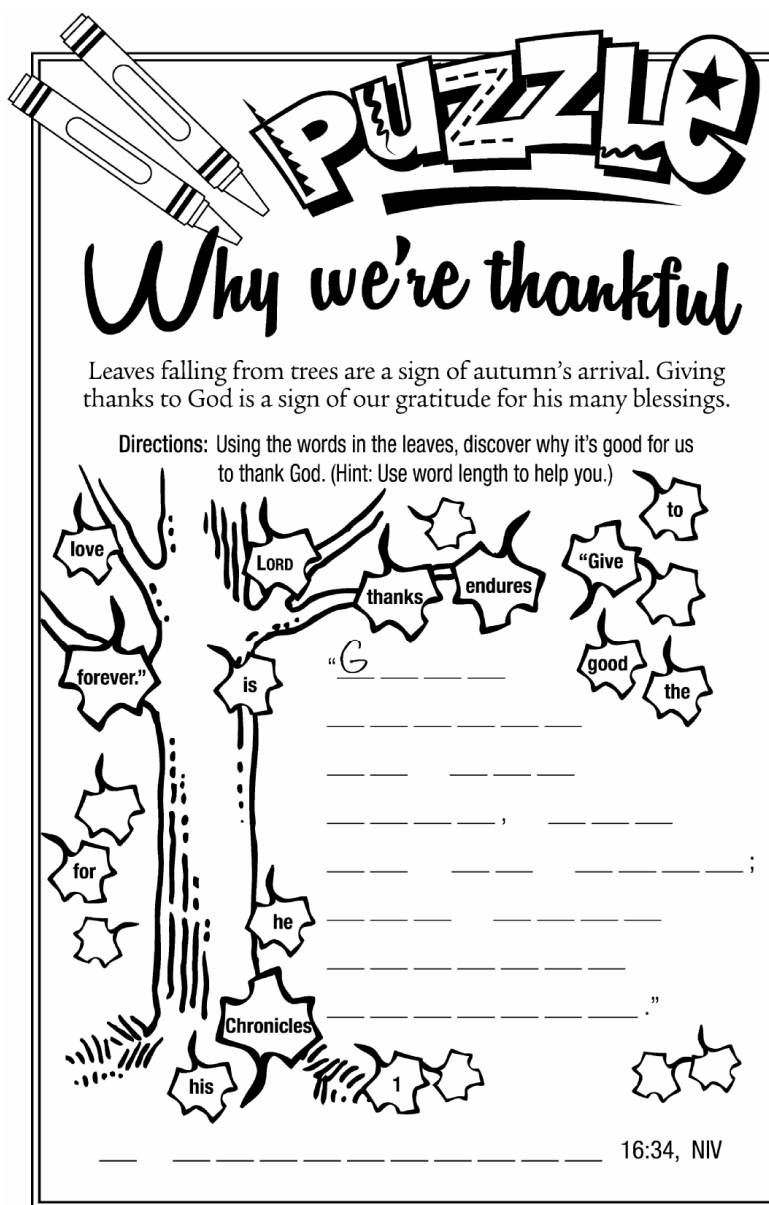
Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

What you do:

1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.



PUZZLE

Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)

Love LORD thanks endures Give to
forever." is "G _____ good the
for he
Chronicles his 1

_____ ;
_____ ;
_____ ;
_____ ;
_____ ;

16:34, NIV

Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV