



The Transformer

May 2010

717-866-4910

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

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them (Luke 24:50).

This is the image Luke leaves with his readers after the resurrection just before Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus is blessing his disciples at the end of Luke's gospel.

When I think of this scene, I picture Jesus in a flowing white robe, arms out stretched and gracefully being lifted up into a cloud. I find comfort in this image and verse from Luke's gospel. When ministry gets hard or we find ourselves struggling in the church, I think of Jesus blessing his disciples.

Just think: the last thing Jesus did on this earth was to bless the disciples – to bless us. No wonder the Christian movement has survived and thrived over the past 2000 years! The blessing of Jesus still stands and is at work in us and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are blessed by our relationship with Jesus to be a blessing to others. This doesn't mean that the form of the church in any given age will remain. It does mean that God's Spirit will be at work confirming Christ's blessing on those who follow him no matter what shape that fellowship or worship or discipleship takes.

I'm convinced that God loves making things fresh and new. That's exactly what Jesus brought – a new teaching, a new way of life, a new relationship with God and each other.

Isaiah reminds us that God has new things planned for us and our lives together in and through the church. "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

I love serving Jesus as a leader in his church because I know he is always ready to do something new. And I don't want to miss it. Do you?

I've been reading the book "Killing Cockroaches" by Tony Morgan. Tony points out that as church leaders we need to focus not on the urgent (like killing cockroaches) but on the essentials (like leading the church forward in faithfulness to the one who died and ascended into heaven – Jesus). I wonder what new things God has planned for us next?

I believe God is ready to do a new thing and achieve exciting results in us and through us like never before. We have an opportunity to impact our community by offering people a transforming life through the grace and love of Christ Jesus. Are we willing to do whatever it takes for that to happen and share in God's blessings?

Some people (social scientists, commentators, and even scientists) have predicted over the years that the Christian church is dying. History has proved these predictions short-sighted and wrong every time. The blessing of the ascending Christ will continue... the opinions of the "experts" will not.

(continued on page 2...)



I see these predictions as an invitation for self-examination and to make the necessary changes for new life. These death predictions help us clarify why we believe what we believe, and why we value what we value. The form of our faith may change but the fruit of our faith remains the same (see Galatians 5:22-23).

Question: How might you be a blessing to someone today producing good fruit for the kingdom of God?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, as you bless and continue to bless your universal church, empower me to value what you value -- being strong in faith and humble in self examination that I might be a blessing in your name to some one today. Amen.*

*Peace,
Pastor Miller*

SHUT-IN BIRTHDAYS

May 2
Mr. Herbert Fredrickson
StoneRidge health Care Center
Room 145
Myerstown, PA 17067

May 8
Mr. Philip Stauderman
369 StoneRidge Village
Myerstown, PA 17067

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

March 2010

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$28,728.00	Goal to Date	\$86,184.00	88%
\$344,737.00	Rec'd	\$25,361.00	Rec'd to Date	\$75,904.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	204.00	Rec'd to Date	419.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	285.00	Rec'd to Date	945.00	

COMPEER AND FRIENDS CONCERT

THANK YOU – On behalf of Compeer of Lebanon County, I would like to thank the people of Friedens for the wonderful response to the concert last Sunday. This was truly a great night of music and fellowship. The energy and spirit in the building that evening was truly inspiring. As a result of donations accepted following the concert, over \$3,000.00 was raised for Compeer, and more donations continue to come in. Thanks be to God for this congregation and their discipleship. We're already talking about next year!

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.

STUDENT LOAN applications are available in the church office. Please return them by or before **JUNE 15**.



MAY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	3 9am-Strong Women	4 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	5 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Adult Choir	6	7 Wedding Rehearsal	8 2pm-Wedding Jamie Rokosky Terry Gerhart, Jr.
9 9am-Service of the Word 10:30am-Holy Communion	10 9am-Strong Women	11 7pm-Property Committee	12 9am-Strong Women 9am-Women Sew 7pm-Adult Choir	13	14 Wedding Rehearsal	15 2pm Wedding Jennifer Manbeck Joshua Bowers
16 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	17 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Women of ELCA	18 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	19 9am-Strong Women 7pm-Adult Choir	20 Deadline for Transformer articles 6:30pm-Church Council	21	22
23 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	24 9am-Strong Women	25 6pm-Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	26 9am-Strong Women 9am-Women Sew 7pm-Adult Choir	27 7pm-Anniversary Comm—Parlor	28	29
30 9am-Holy Communion 10:30am-Holy Communion	31 9am-Strong Women					



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Just saying thank you seems hardly enough for all the love and support you have given our family over the past 4 years and especially this past year. We appreciate all the prayers said on our behalf and all the kindnesses extended to us. Just when I thought things could not get any worse, they did.

Thanks you for all the cards you have sent, the gifts you have given, the flowers you have sent and especially your prayers. We prayed for a miracle and the miracle was that we had Jimmy for 4 years and some of that time was definitely quality time. Not long ago, his diagnoses would have given him only 6 months. We are truly grateful for every day that he had with us.

Jimmy was particularly in awe of the prayer shawl that was made for him. He kept it with him all the time. He really didn't get the chance to thank you himself.

Thank you to pastor Miller for all his visits and especially a big thanks for the beautiful memorial service. It was absolutely perfect. Thank you to Joel Zinn who took time out from his busy life to see to it that Jimmy got communion. Again, many many thanks for everything. Without the caring love you have expressed to us in so many ways, I would not be able to move forward with my own life at this very difficult time.

Love in Christ, Alice Albert

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (held at 9 a.m. only) All children age 3 and up to and including 4th grade are invited to participate in children's Church. An age appropriate lesson based on the gospel or one the readings is presented along with a craft, activity or game relating to the theme. You are welcome to accompany your child if he or she feels uncomfortable attending themselves. If your child elects not to join the group on any particular day, that is ok too. Children will be called up front with the Pastor and be dismissed to go back to Children's Church. Children's Church is located next to the nursery. Children's Church and Nursery are a **FOOD FREE ZONE**, no food is allowed due to allergies.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

On May 2, 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE is still in need of 3 members to serve on the committee. If you would like to share your time and talents by serving, please contact Gary Deck at 933-8317 or via email at gdeck8317@comcast.net.





DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Thank you Spring LIFE group leaders, you did an excellent job of facilitating our spring semester. The feed back from those involved in LIFE groups has been very positive and heart felt. It’s amazing to see how God is at work in the lives of those involved not only during our meetings but also through the out-reach given to the community. What a great example of being the hands and feet of Christ. The following are some of the comments collected from members when asked the question

“ What is one of the things you enjoyed most about being in a LIFE group this semester?

- To be in a group growing closer to Jesus
- The fellowship we shared
- The settings & the organization of the meetings
- Prayer
- The honesty, trust & growth within the group
- Fellowship, deep conversation & study
- Getting to know fellow Christians and sharing our faith struggles
- Learning more about myself and others
- Sharing and growing in my faith
- Feeling comfortable to share
- I have never been a part of a group that flowed and meshed as well as this one It has truly been a joy
- The Friendships developed
- The fellowship of sisters in Christ
- It has been so nice to take time for myself coming to this group & having Christian fellowship with all the women in the group.
- Getting to know each other on a NEW level
- The lovely personalities in the group
- Getting to know persons who were only faces before our group
- Making friends with women I see every Sunday in church
- The interaction and sharing – the lessons were great – thought provoking

Our next LIFE group semester (summer) begins June 6th and runs till August 16th signups begin May 16th in the fellowship hall or online at flcmyerstown.com

More information to come.....

Our next Leaders huddle training is May 15th 10-12 leaders will receive details closer to our event.

If you would be interested in allowing God to use you in service to others, being a LIFE group leader may be your calling. If you would like to explore this possibility I would love to talk with you.

Valerie

Call the church office 866-4910 or drop me an e-mail

valerie@lmf.net

vhauck@flcmyerstown.com





Vacation Bible School News

High Seas Expedition Exploring the Mighty Love of God!
June 20-24th 6:00-8:00PM Ages 3-5th Grade

This summer we are setting sail on the high seas! Get ready for a swashbuckling adventure through God’s Word, and discover that God shows his powerful love throughout Scripture. Don’t miss the ship...

Registration

The registration website is now up and running. You can register your child through June 6th by logging onto www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/friedenslc There will also be opportunities to register in the fellowship hall during coffee hour on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 866-4910.

Team Members

We are always looking for a few more hands on deck. If you would like to be part of the VBS ministry team please contact Amber Miller 866-0447 or amiller70@comcast.net We are especially in need of a few more crew leaders. The role of a crew leader is to escort small groups of children to the various stations. Once there, the station leader will direct the activities and the crew leader will assist the children in completing the activities. If you enjoy working with children, share a love for the Lord and like to have fun this is the job for you!

Donations

There are a variety of items needed to make VBS a successful program. In a few weeks a list of those items will be posted in the fellowship hall. Please take a moment to look at the list and see if there are any items you would like to donate. Also, to help enhance the atmosphere of the high seas we will be looking for nautical themed decorations to borrow. Possible ideas include fishing nets, sea captain statues, ship's steering wheel, barrels/crates, palm trees, ropes, hammocks, shells, large maps, etc... let your imagination run wild!

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, visits, cards with encouraging words, books, puzzles and the transportation to the hospital. Jim and I were deeply touched by the love and concern you had for us.

Special thanks to pastor Rob Miller for his visits and Sr. Janice Ruch and Joanne Maurer for giving us communion.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

God Bless You,
Jim & Jackie Wolfe

THANK YOU

To all Friedens friends:

Thank you for making Gene’s birthday and Easter enjoyable. His bulletin board was full of cards from the nicest people we know. He still enjoys looking at pictures and your choices were good for him. Puppy dogs, pussy cats, birds, cows on the farm, horses & ponies, and then cakes and candles, even teddy bears and good smelling before shave and chocolates and mints. He laughed and spoke Dutch to me all evening.

Love you all and God bless all of you!
Louise C. Miller



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

Council President, Bob Hauck, opened with scripture reading from 2 Corinthians 3:15-18 and a devotional called "Purpose of Life." Dottie Kemble offered the opening prayer.

Bob Hauck called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

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

Excused: Elaine Lasch

1. Minutes: Denise Noll motioned to accept Feb. 18, 2010 minutes. Jeffrey Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

2. Communications: Jill Kreider communicated:

a. Thank You from Lower Susquehanna Synod for gift of \$48,675 to the Meeting your mission Support Plan.

b. Thank You from Luthercare for March gift of \$116.00.

c. Thank You from Lower Susquehanna Synod for \$500.00 November 2009 contribution to the Konde Diocese earmarked for Tanzania Synod.

d. Thank You from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for February food bank donation of 42 pounds and March food bank donation of 69 pounds.

3. Reports:

a. Treasurer Report from January - February 2010 reviewed. Joanne Maurer motioned to accept report. Carol Hartlieb seconded. Motion carried.

b. Treasurer Report from March 2010 reviewed. Joanne Maurer motioned to accept report. Greg Gardner seconded. Motion carried.

c. Financial Secretary Report from February 2010 reviewed. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

d. Financial Secretary Report from March 2010 reviewed. Carol Hartlieb motioned to accept report. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.

e. Property Committee Report from February reviewed. Denise Noll motioned to accept report. Jeffrey Gumpert seconded. Motion carried.

f. Pastor Miller reported:

I. Lights and ceiling in the Library need to be replaced. Estimate to come from Blatt and Myer.

II. Final Meeting with the Synod discussing the Transformation Presentation was held on April 14.

III. Pastor Miller and Val Hauck went to Continuing Ed class on April 14 for dealing with difficult people.

IV. Pastor Miller is raising questions for the congregation for the next few Sundays.

6. Council Retreat: Will be scheduled for the fall.

7. Synod Assembly Participants: Looking for a male and a female to attend the Synod Assembly June 10-12, 2010 at Messiah College.

8. Open Forum: Discussion held.

9. Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Jill Kreider

Congregational Council Secretary