



The Transformer

January 2015

717-866-4910

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

Dear friends,

For those of you not in church on Sunday, I want to make sure everyone has the same information. I have accepted a call to be the pastor of two churches in southern Lancaster county. Actually, one of the churches is in Maryland and the other is three miles into Pennsylvania. I have jumped through the hoops necessary in order to be approved to become a member of Donegal Presbytery again.

On Sunday, January the 4th, I will be candidating at the Slateville church. After the service there will be a Congregational meeting to approve the work of the search committee in extending the call to me. If all of that happens then, knock on wood, I will begin serving these churches in February.

Council and I have agreed not to extend my contract past the January 27th end date; which is also the date I go before Presbytery for final approval. All of this means that my last Sunday at Friedens will be January 25th. We will have one service on the 25th because I do not want to try to say goodbye twice. After the service we will have a good goodbye, whatever that is. I'm sure your Council members would be happy for any help.

The last thing I mentioned on Sunday is that my taking this call puts no more pressure on your search committee to hurry up and call your next pastor than they are already under. No one needs to tell them to hurry up and get it done; God is already working with them. You need to continue to uphold them in prayer as you have been doing all along.

The Bishop's office has been told of my leaving and they are looking for someone to cover once I'm gone.

That's about all I have at this point. I do ask for your prayers on Sunday. I'm not all that worried about it; I just need to trust the process. God has been present from the beginning and God will see us through it all.

Have a Happy New Year

Ken



Food Collection

On Sunday, January 4, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for Juice, instant mashed potatoes, 5 oz. canned chicken, canned chili, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, canned luncheon meat, 18 oz & 32 oz. jelly, complete pancake mix, hamburger helper, shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries.



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.

Searching for a New Pastor



CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



Like us on
Facebook



The church office hours are
9 A.M.—1 P.M.
Monday to Friday.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 2014

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,848.00	Goal to Date	\$295,328.00	89%
\$322,179.00	Rec'd	\$27,347.00	Rec'd to Date	264,308.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	50.00	Rec'd to Date	633.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	295.00	Rec'd to Date	2,750.00	

Big Thank You!

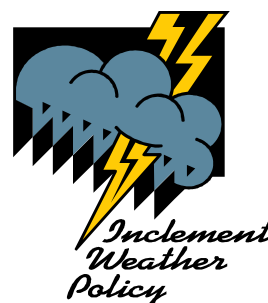
When you see these people give them a great big Thank You for helping to put up the Christmas trees and decorating the Church on Saturday morning.

Jim Biever, Keith DuBois, Barb & Gene Lessig, Sylvia Pohronezny, Chris Riegel, Jake & Judy Werner, a big "Thank You" to all for making our church look so nice.

Plus a big "Thank You" to our anonymous donors for the beautiful Christmas swags decorating the outside of the church again this year and Stracks Tree Farm for the Christmas trees beautifying our altar area.





We hope you are ready to join in with the social time between church services. Again we are asking for help to serve the coffee, drinks and goodies. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but coffee and snacks are provided, we just need help to prepare and serve. Find a friend and serve together. A sign-up sheet is in the Stauffer hall and we hope you will be able to help continue our social time together. If you have any questions please contact Annette Beamesderfer, Carmella Deck or Susie Harper.



FOUL WEATHER POLICY

If worship needs to be cancelled due to foul weather, this info will be shared on:
-1270 AM WLBR/100.1 FM WQIC
-WGAL TV & website
-Friedens Facebook page

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  New Year's Day	2	3
4 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	5	6	7 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	8 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	9	10
11 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	12	13 7 PM—Property Committee	14 9 AM-Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	15  7 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	16	17
18 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	19	20	21 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	22 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	23	24
25 9 AM - Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	26	27	28 9 AM-Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band Rehearsal 7 PM—Adult Choir	29 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	30	31

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
December 18, 2014

Jody Appleby, President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

1. Opening Prayer: Jim Kneasel opened the meeting with a devotional (Luke 2:14) and prayer.
2. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 - a. Jon Koller made a motion to accept the November 20, 2014 Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the September 15, 2014 Special Church Council Minutes. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Jim Kneasel made a motion to accept the November 2014 Financial Secretary's Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept the November 2014 Treasurer's Report. Jim Kneasel seconded. Motion carried.
 - e. The November 2014 Pastor's Report will be included with the December 2014 Pastor's Report at the January 15, 2015 meeting.
 - f. Thank you card and Christmas greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and The Rev. Lanny Westphal, Director ELCA Global Church Sponsorship for our recent gifts towards the global church.
 - g. Thank you letter from The Rev. Glenn E. Ludwig, Vice President of Seminary Advancement and Michael Cooper-White, President for our recent gift of \$2,000 to support Gettysburg Seminary.
 - h. Thank you card from the residents of American House for a recent visit of our life group including gifts, food and fellowship.
3. Finance recommends the review of all Certificate of Insurance (COI) for all current users of Friedens Lutheran Church for 2015. At the November 20, 2014 Council meeting Jim Kneasel made a motion to approve finance recommendation. Chris Heft seconded. Clarification was received and motion carried at December 18, 2014 Council meeting. Church secretary will notify Council of Certificate of Insurance lapses or issues. Elaine Lasch will connect with Janet Moyer.

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4. Elaine Lasch reported on the Finance Committee meeting of December 11, 2014.
5. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall. Annual Reports from Staff and Team/Committee Leaders are due to Janet Moyer, Church Secretary by no later than Sunday, January 18, 2015. Annual report packets will be available for review beginning Sunday, February 1, 2015. During the annual meeting we will review these reports as well as the Endowment Budget. Elaine Lasch will coordinate the meal.
6. Jim Kneasel reported on the Property Committee meeting of December 9, 2014.
7. Auditing of 2013 books has been completed by the Auditing Team consisting of Leonard Schott, Jocelyn Whitmoyer and Judy Zinn. Janice DuBois made the motion to accept the 2013 Auditing Team Report. Jon Koller seconded. Motion carried.
8. A report on the Capital Fund Appeal was not available.
9. A Pastoral Search Team Update was not available.
10. At our September 25, 2013 meeting Andy Evenson and Thomas McKee highly recommended we compose a "Parental Leave Policy." At our December 2013 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. At the December 18, 2014 meeting Janice DuBois shared a draft Parental Leave Policy. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.
11. 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 to work on a "Safe Church Policy" for Friedens. On August 21, 2014 Keith DuBois provided Council with a rough draft of a policy titled "Child & Youth Abuse Prevention Program for Friedens Lutheran Church". Mr. DuBois reported the team met on 3 occasions and consisted of himself, Lynn Appleby, Jim Biever & Kerry Keller. At the November 20, 2014 meeting Council received an updated rough draft policy with their agenda packet. At the November 20, 2014 meeting Ken Osborne reported he received new info on mandatory reporter, etc. and will share this info with Jim Biever and Keith DuBois. At the December 18, 2014 meeting Keith DuBois provided Council with another rough draft of a policy including the info from House Bill 435. Mr. DuBois will have the draft policy reviewed by the church insurance carrier and a lawyer. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.
12. Pastor Osborne shared a verbal report from the Nominating Committee for Council. The following have agreed to serve on Council: Bev Levengood (1 year term), Valarie Herron (3 year term) and John Umberger (3 year term). These individuals will be invited to attend the January 15, 2015 Council meeting. The names will be presented to Congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2015.

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13. At the April 24, 2014 meeting Council received a recommendation to once again form a Worship & Music Committee. After discussion Council agreed with this recommendation. Pastor Osborne is currently working on this.
14. At the November 20, 2014 Council meeting, Parlor Remodel Team Leaders, Ralph Kaylor and Kerry Keller, provided Council with a proposal of parlor remodel costs. After discussion it was decided to table this item. Parlor Remodel Team Leaders will re propose with 2 options at a future Council meeting. Council greatly appreciates all the efforts of the entire Parlor Remodel Team. At the December 18, 2014 Council meeting Janice DuBois made the motion to give Parlor Remodel Team permission to order furniture not to exceed \$10,000. Sharon Riegel seconded. Motion carried. An update from the Parlor Remodel Team will be shared at the February 8, 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting.
15. Frank Armstrong, Janice DuBois, and Phyllis Roland will coordinate the publishing of a Friedens 2015 Lenten Devotional.
16. Council gave The Singing Cedars permission to use the building for rehearsals on January 6 and January 13, 2015.
17. Next Council Meeting will be held on January 15, 2015 at 7 pm. A person to be determined will prepare opening prayer/devotional.
18. Frank Armstrong made the motion to adjourn. Jim Kneasel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Meeting closed with sharing of joys and concerns and prayer lead by Pastor Ken Osborne.

Sharon Riegel, Council Secretary



Annual Congregational Meeting

It's that time of year :)

Annual Congregational Meeting (with lunch) will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 11:30 am in Stauffer Hall.

Annual Reports from Staff & Team/Committee Leaders are due to Janet Moyer, Church Secretary by no later than Sunday, January 18, 2015.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Annual Report packets will be available for review beginning Sunday, February 1, 2015.

