



The Transformer

April 2013

717-866-4910

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

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to say thank you for all the love and support over the past couple of weeks. And it's not just for the support around the death of my friend Bill; it's the support that has been given for all the people.

I will be honest and say that Holy Week was the busiest, most painful and most uplifting time I have ever had in my ministry. I was involved in 4 Memorial Services in addition to the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services; oh, yeah, I shouldn't forget Palm Sunday and Easter bracketing the week. It was all I could do to stay on top of what was happening next. And this is where I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit and empowering of the Body of Christ.

This is what the Body of Christ is supposed to be all about. It is not one person leading the way. It is the Body of Christ, the people here at Friedens doing what they were called to do. I don't have everyone's name and I apologize to those I miss, but Jake and Roger and Tom were running all over the church trying to make sure we had heat where we needed it and when. Pastor Kehrli, Jim, Gloria, Mike, Val and so many others were making sure that the various worship services had music and sound systems, even in other church buildings. People made sure the children were taken care of and I had Kleenex and water and space; people in need were visited and remembered and loved. This is the Body of Christ doing what it is supposed to be doing and there is nothing like it in the entire world.

So, thank you, all of you who made sure that services happened, and God was rightly worshiped and praised, and Jesus was lifted high, and communion was properly arranged, and the fellowship of the community of faith were able to gather, and ... and ... and

Thank you.

Ken



DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP**THREE TIMELESS TRUTHS**

William Arthur Ward

Here are three timeless truths that I share with you from my life in the hope that they will be as meaningful and helpful to you as they have been to me. Think on these things

1. Failure is not fatal.

Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. It should challenge us to new heights of accomplishment, not pull us to new depths of despair. Failure is a temporary detour, not a dead-end street. Remember, the greatest failure is the failure to try.

2. Delays are not deadly.

Too often we equate delay with defeat. Frequently the best thing that can happen to us is a wise delay in our plans. If it's worth having, it's worth waiting for...and often its value is enhanced by delay. Delays are often God's way of teaching us the virtue of patience. And patience is more than a virtue; it is a required course in the school of life.

3. Pressures are not permanent.

Some of the most comforting words in the Bible are these "And it came to pass." Problems and pressures do not come to stay...they come to pass. They are temporary, transitory, and, like many of the irritations and vexations which we all have experienced, will evaporate when we realize that our internal resources are much stronger than the external pressures. Truly, greater is the power within you than any other power on earth.

YOU WERE IN HIS PRAYERS

The final prayer of Jesus was about you. His final pain was for you. His final passion was for you. Before he went to the cross, Jesus went to the garden. And when he spoke with his Father, you were in his prayers. . . .

And God couldn't turn his back on you. He couldn't because he saw you, and one look at you was all it took to convince him. Right there in the middle of a world which isn't fair. He saw you cast into a river of life you didn't request. He saw you betrayed by those you love. He saw you with a body which gets sick and a heart which grows weak. . . .

On the eve of the cross, Jesus made his decision. He would rather go to hell for you than go to heaven without you.

Easter is a time of love, of family, and of peace.
It is a time when we say a quiet thanks
for all that we have and for all that
the future holds. And it is a time for remembering
with love and appreciation
the people in our lives who make a difference...
people like you. Let the resurrection joy lift us from
loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty
and happiness. May we all take the time to enjoy all the
blessings that Christ suffered and died and rose again
to bless each one of us with.

Happy Easter, Valerie



Thank you to everyone who called, visited, sent cards, and prayed for me during my recent surgery. Thank you for the gifts also. A special thanks to Pastor Kehrli and Pastor Ken. God bless all of you—as much as I've been blessed.

In Christ's love,
Carol Kramer

The Singing Cedar Chorus would like to thank you for the use of your facility for our rehearsals. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,
The Singing Cedar Chorus



SPANG CREST CHICKEN BBQ – 945 Duke St., Lebanon on Friday, May 3 from 2:30-5:30 P.M. Includes: ½ chicken, baked potato, and apple-sauce.

Tickets are \$6.50 and are available from Barbara Grumbine or Janet Kehrli. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Spang Crest Manor. Thanks for your support.



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 \$4.75 each. The last day to order is **APRIL 29.**



Food Collection

On Sunday, April 7, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. .



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.



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

APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 PM—Life Group- El Salvador—Parlor	3 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	4 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	5	6
7 7:30 AM—Blended Worship Service 10:30 AM—Youth	8	9 7 PM—Life Group- El Salvador—Parlor	10 9 AM—Women Sew 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	11 7 PM—Cemetery Board 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	12	13
14 15 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM—Youth	15 7 PM—Women of ELCA	16 7 PM—Life Group- El Salvador—Parlor	17 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	18 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	19	20
21 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 10:30 AM—Youth	22 7 PM—Visitation Team	23	24 9 AM—Women Sew 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	25 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Ensemble	26	27
28 9 AM— Contemporary Service 10:30 AM— Traditional Service 6:30 PM—Youth	29	30				





TENTATIVE PLANS are underway for this summer's mission trip. Destination: The Jersey Shore. Mission: Rebuild areas devastated by Storm Sandy. Needed: Skilled and unskilled workers, age 16 and older. Date: Week of June 9th. RSVP: Interested individuals should contact any former mission member (Roy Schaeffer, John Smith, Frank Armstrong, Dean Moyer, Len Schott, Chris Riegel, Jon



"Summer church volleyball league starts soon! If you enjoy volleyball and are looking for fellowship, fun and exercise, please consider joining our Friedens team. Additional details and a sign-up sheet are posted in the narthex."

TIME TO JOIN OR REJOIN!

FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST MANOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Spang Crest Manor is a Lutheran Church affiliated nursing home in Lebanon.

Your membership does not involve meetings but shows your support of the Friends' activities that provide enrichment for the residents. In 2012, projects included: 4 summer band concerts, redecorating 3 whirlpool rooms, hydration carts for all 3 floors, and an Ipod system for the main dining room.

Please stop at the table in the narthex on April 14 to join or renew:

- \$2.00 - membership
- \$5.00 - contributing
- \$10.00 – sustaining
- \$25.00—patron

Checks may be made payable to: Friends of Spang Crest Manor. Contributions may also be dropped off at the church office.

Thanks for your support!

After Easter

After is every Christian's middle name. In his autobiography A Song of Ascents, missionary E. Stanley Jones tells of an African man who changed his name to After immediately following his conversion. Because all things were new and different and important after he met Christ, the man wanted to reflect that new reality in his name as well as in his thinking.

Easter is what makes us After Christians. After Easter, nothing in life is ever the same again.

“Oh, what a beautiful morning!”

Children often see things that adults miss. My 8-year-old son often peers out the window first thing in the morning, as likely on a rainy day as a sunny one, to proclaim, “It’s a beea-YOU-tiful day!”

Spring varies greatly, from chilly to warm, from rain to sun, from slush and mud to newly green grass and budding plant life. Our lives vary too, of course, between easier days and harder ones, times of relaxation and hours of stress. What if we approached it all with childlike confidence? — that, no matter what comes, life is beautiful because God walks beside us the whole way.



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL is continuing to search for a person or persons to serve as **CHAIRMAN OF CEMETERY BOARD**. Please

connect with a council person if you or some one you know would enjoy using their gifts in this important ministry area. Council Persons names/pictures are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parlor.



OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

February 2013

				% of Budget	
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,802.00	Goal to Date	\$53,604.00	81%
\$321,625.00	Rec'd	\$21,929.00	Rec'd to Date	43,233.00	
Spang Crest	Rec'd	24.00	Rec'd to Date	480.00	
Hunger	Rec'd	235.00	Rec'd to Date	455.00	



Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Special Church Council Meeting
March 17, 2013

President Jeff Gumpert called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Present:

Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (President), Chris Heft (Vice President), Joanne Maurer, and Sharon Riegel (Secretary). Absent: Denise Noll.

Also present:

Financial Committee Representatives: Keith DuBois, Kerry Keller, Chris Riegel, and Jon Zinn (Chairman)

Property Committee Representative: Tom Morrissey (Acting Chairman)

A discussion was held by the group concerning the furnace.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary

Church Council Meeting
March 21, 2013

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

Present:

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

Also present:

Financial Committee Representative: Jon Zinn (Chairman)

Property Committee Representatives: Roger Kauffman, Jake Werner

1. Pastor Osborne opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Sharon Riegel read I John 4:7-12. Discussion followed.
3. An extensive discussion was held by the group concerning the furnace. The Property Committee Representatives recommended a temporary fix costing approximately \$4,400 so that we would have heat by Easter Sunday. Frank Armstrong made a motion to move forward with this temporary fix. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.



4. Minutes/Reports/Communications:

- a. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept February 21, 2013 Church Council Minutes. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept February Financial Secretary's Report. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept February's Treasurer's Report. Denise Noll seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Pastor Osborne shared a verbal report for February with the Council. Pastor Osborne requested that he please be contacted if a member of the Friedens family is seriously ill or hospitalized.
- e. Thank you letter from Lebanon County Christian Ministries for January 2013 donation totaling 83 pounds.
- f. Jody Appleby expressed appreciation from the Singing Cedars Barbershop Chorus for the recent use of Stauffer Hall for their rehearsals.

5. A discussion took place regarding the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 7 following the 9:30 am worship service.

6. Chris Heft regretfully resigned from the position of Vice President of Council. Chris Heft motioned to nominate Jody Appleby as Vice President. Joanne Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

7. Fellowship Team has the need to purchase a new coffee maker. Denise Noll will advise them to go ahead with purchase.

8. The group discussed Pastoral Search Team (Call Committee) nominations.

9. The group discussed the continued need to find a person or persons to serve as Chairman of Cemetery Board.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Riegel
Council Secretary

