

# Friedens Lutheran Church

Volume 9 Issue 12

December 2014

**FOCUS Frieden's Opportunities for Caring, Uplifting and Sharing**

## Sunday Schedule

Worship 9 a.m.  
Fellowship 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 am

## Friedens Staff

Pastor Richard Mauthe  
610-424-0720  
richardmauthe@yahoo.com

Mrs. Betty Ann Davis  
Organist/music Director  
610-298-2155

Mrs. Donna Wasser  
Secretary  
610-756-3522, 610-334-3434  
Office Hours  
Mon & Wed 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
610-756-6875 (office)  
friedenschurch@verizon.net

Mr. Steven Wasser  
Sexton  
610-756-3522

## Congregational Council

Michael Ziegler, Pres.  
Cindy Nash, Vice Pres.  
Wayne Luckenbill, Treasurer  
Sharon Meck, Secretary  
Ray Renninger  
Ed Clancey  
George Ballein  
Donna Wasser  
Dianna Helbert



## **Dear Members and Friends of Friedens Church,**

As we either finish up the Thanksgiving leftovers or put them in the freezer for the long winter ahead, our thoughts turn to the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. Over the next several Sundays we shall mark the season of Advent, four weeks' worth of contemplation and quietness to help us understand, to the best of our ability, just why God so loves the world that God would enter the world in all its confusion, brokenness, and violence in Jesus.

While the material world is trying its best to separate you from your hard-earned wages, we in the Church are taking our time in preparing for the spiritual celebration of Christmas. Advent is a close parallel to the Lenten Season; during both times of preparation we are to think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and how we are to shift our actions and thoughts regarding God and our fellow human beings on this earth. Just *what* does it mean to confess, *I believe in God the Father. . . Jesus Christ. . . the Holy Spirit?* In other words, what kind of a difference does this confession of faith make in your life? And, if it *doesn't* make a difference, why not?

In the quietness of our Advent worship, in the majesty of magnificent Advent hymns, in our heart's preparation, we will be more than ready to welcome the Christ Child---on Christmas and every day.

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### Joint Book Study

*A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving, is the next study book for our joint discussion group with New Bethel Church. A summary of the book is as follows (from Wikipedia): *Published in 1989, it tells the story of John Wheelwright and his best friend Owen Meany growing up together in a small New England town during the 1950s and 1960s. According to John's narration, Owen is a remarkable boy in many ways; he believes himself to be God's instrument and sets out to fulfill the fate he has prophesied for himself.*

We are planning on meeting again at the Stony Run Hotel on Wednesday evenings; the discussions will begin once we have a response from both congregations. Please let Pastor know if you are attending.

Poinsettia order envelopes are available to purchase poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. They are \$5.25 each and come in Red, White, Pink, Jingle Bell (red with white flecks), Ice Punch (pinkish red) and Marble (pink with white leaf edges) See Donna Wasser if you have any questions. Orders are due December 7.



### ***KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR'S FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT***

The forty-ninth annual KCC Christmas choral concert has been scheduled for Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main Street, Kutztown.

The concert will feature a wide selection of holiday music, including popular standards, like *Sleigh Ride* and *Baby, It's Cold Outside*; as well as arrangements of carols, old and new, such as *Silent Night*, and *The Snow Lay on the Ground*. The choir will also perform several beautiful sacred and spiritual Christmas pieces.

In addition, several special features will be included on the program.

The woodwind quintet will play two medleys of Christmas carols.

The children's choir, directed by Heather Dewald, will be singing several selections. The concert will close with members of the audience being invited to join the choir in singing the traditional *Hallelujah!* from Handel's *MESSIAH*.

Michael Barron will be directing the choir and Greta (Luckenbill) Ertel will be the accompanist.

A reception will follow the concert with punch and cookies provided by members of the choir. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be received for the benefit of the choir's music fund.

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**Friend Tree** - Your clothing gift needs to be returned to the church by Dec 7, 2014. The gift should not be wrapped, but please supply a box and wrapping paper. Any questions, contact Sharon Meck.

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**Angels Aware!**

The Story of Why God Came to Earth as a Baby. Created and written by Kathie Hill and Janet McMahan. An Advent Musical Presented by Friedens Lutheran Church Choirs & Sunday School.  
December 14, 2014, 10:00 AM Worship. Everyone is Welcome!

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**From Claire Connor**-You're invited to join us for a come and go as you please, potluck, get together for my dear dad, Maurice. Planning for a social, very informal, gathering of friends and family to celebrate my dad's homecoming. The shin-dig will be at Friedens Lutheran Church, Saturday December 6th, from 1 - 4 pm - COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW UP AT 1, BUT WE WILL BE PLANNING TO WRAP THINGS UP BY OR AROUND 4. I will be providing drinks and some food. Covered dishes or desserts are welcome and encouraged. please RSVP to Donna Wasser &/or to me (Claire) via cell phone @ 484-695-0556

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Council members—A copy of the 2015 proposed budget is in your mailbox. Please review it before our next Council meeting on December 18. We will be voting to submit it to the congregation on Jan25, 2015.

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All annual committee reports are needed by January 11, so they can be included in the 2014 Annual report.

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**A church treasurer is needed:** Please see Wayne Luckenbill if you are interested in volunteering.

## **Suicide Prevention**

One of the most commonly read social documents of the ELCA is its message on suicide prevention. This message can be downloaded at the ELCA site.

Suicide testifies to life's tragic brokenness. We believe that life is God's good and precious gift to us, and yet life for us ourselves and others sometimes appears to be hell, a torment without hope. When we would prefer to ignore, reject, or shy away from those who despair of life, we need to recall what we have heard: God's boundless love in Jesus Christ will leave no one alone and abandoned. We who lean on God's love to live are called to "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor. - from Suicide Prevention

Elsie and Jerry Weyrauch members of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, Georgia for over 25 years, have devoted their lives to suicide prevention since their daughter's death. The website for the suicide prevention ministry they founded is available at [lutheransuicidepreventionministry.org](http://lutheransuicidepreventionministry.org) This is a good place to go for congregations seeking to initiate suicide prevention programs, and for more information.

The goals and objectives of the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry are to:

- a. Increase suicide prevention awareness within Lutheran churches/faith-based communities in order to reduce stigma and shame.
- b. Educate congregations and church leaders on appropriate actions to take to prevent suicide and to recover from a suicide death.
- c. Make suicide prevention and recovery important ongoing efforts of congregations with an emphasis on local faith-based communities, Suicide Prevention church leaders, support groups and educational and advocacy programs.
- d. Give voice to those who have lost family members or loved ones to suicide, as well as those who have acted on suicidal ideation.
- e. Build suicide prevention collaboration among Lutheran, full communion partners, and other faith-based communities.
- f. Create an ELCA Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund that will support future Lutheran Suicide Prevention work.

Available at <http://www.lutheransuicidepreventionministry.org>

## **Mental Illness**

“The Body of Christ and Mental Illness” seeks to raise awareness of the challenges of mental illness, offer reflection and direction, and inspire action. This social message notes how mental illness makes the most basic aspects of everyday life daunting and sketches some of the challenges. These include the challenges to human dignity and difficulties in gaining access to treatment, problems that worsen existing social inequalities and lapses in the U.S. health care system.

The message puts to rest the notions that mental illness is an indicator of special sin in the family or the person suffering from it. It emphasizes the church's role in encouraging companionship and healing, via restoration of relationships — heeding Galatians 6:2. What people with mental illness most need is time to pursue and engage in treatment, and to maintain or create relationships where they can exercise their abilities. Throughout the many forms of ministry the church provides, the church is called to confront practices that do not uphold human dignity and to offer hope and companionship, and attend to its own practices around health, its public voice, and the sensitive and thoughtful preparation of church leaders.

You can read or download the full social message on “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness.” This social message was adopted in 2012 by the Church Council of the ELCA. - See more at: <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Mental-Illness#sthash.mG6Xddqv.dpuf>

## **St. Luke's Hospice and Bereavement Support Groups and Services**

After the loss of a loved one, it is common to need support and understanding from others who have also experienced loss. Coping with the death of someone you love is difficult, no matter what the cause and no matter what the relationship. We realize that everyone copes with loss in their own unique way. And for that reason we offer a variety of programs that we hope will fit with who you are and how you are managing your loss. Please know that you are welcome to join us and others who have experienced loss by attending any or all, of the opportunities we offer.

These are 6 week support groups for adults grieving the loss of someone significant in their lives. Our support group provides and opportunity to come together with others who have experienced the loss of a loved one to share stories, offer and receive support, and find hope and healing. This group offers both peer support and education and information on the grief journey. It is important that participants are able to attend all 6 weeks. Registration is required. There are no drop-outs permitted for this group. Please note that all groups are subject to be cancelled if sufficient registration is not reached. Space is limited. Please call for more information. Bethlehem/Allentown area: Tuesdays, January 20th-February 24th, 2015 at 6-7:30 pm. St Luke's Anderson Campus (Medical Office Building, conference Room B), 1820 Riverside Circle, Easton, PA. Please call Christine Holmfelt at 610-997-7132

**Coping with Grief at the Holidays** - Join us for a workshop on how to manage grief at this time of year. Please call Dawn at (610) 997-7125 to register. Monday, December 1 from 6 pm-7:30 pm at St Luke's Bethlehem Education Center (Room 105). St Like's Bethlehem Campus is located at 801 Ostrum Street, Bethlehem.

## **A Look at Our Society's Priorities**

In my last Hunger Appeal article to the congregation, I gave you a report of the ELCA's revenue of almost \$18,700,000 for World Hunger, almost \$10,000,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response and almost \$7,500,000 for the Malaria campaign. If one does the math that comes to a total of over \$33,000,000. Now I'm sure most of us look at that figure and think "Wow, that's a lot of money". Allow me to put it in a different perspective for you.

As a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Dental School, I get a bimonthly magazine called the Gazette, which has articles on students, the careers of graduates and ongoing events at the University, etc. In last month's edition there was a long article on the career of the Athletic Director who was retiring after 20 years at the position. There was extensive coverage of his many accomplishments in those 20 years, but I jolted when I saw the size of the athletic budget for the last fiscal year. Would you believe \$39,045,564 was spent to field 31 varsity teams.

Now when I say \$33,000,000 for the ELCA, I'm talking for the whole Lutheran affiliation of the entire country. When I say over \$39,000,000 for Penn, I'm talking about one college, and I can't imagine what the budgets are at schools like Notre Dame and other schools with similar high sports profiles. Penn's budget is that high even though they are one of the few schools who don't give athletic scholarships. I can't visualize what kind of number we would come up with if we added up the sports budgets of the entire country. The number would probably have too many zeros for me to be able to read it.

I think by now you are getting the drift of the point I am trying to make. To be sure, there are other denominations and organizations besides Lutherans in the campaign to eradicate world hunger, but I think you would be hard pressed to come up with a number to match the amount spent on sports in our society.

This is a long convoluted way to encourage you to join the campaign against poverty and disease through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, but sometimes it is good to reflect on where our priorities are as compared to where they should be. In truth as Christians the mandate throughout scripture to care for the less fortunate and the love of God demonstrated by the sacrifice of his son Jesus the Christ should be all we need. So I hope you find it in your heart this holiday season to give someone unknown to you a special gift via the World Hunger Appeal. Who knows, you may be giving someone the gift of life.

Hunger Appeal Advocate

Chester Hartranft

**December Birthdays**

Bill Ertel, 12/1  
Holly Dietrich, 12/3  
Ryan Rex, 12/4  
Kristopher Ziegler, 12/5  
Michael Ziegler, 12/7  
David Miller, 12/9  
Randy Morstatt, 12/9  
Joane Wood, 12/13  
Valerie Kehl, 12/14  
Wayne Luckenbill,  
12/14  
Elijah Meck, 12/17  
Katelyn Manwiller,  
12/20  
Karl Lampart, 12/20  
Deb Peters, 12/23  
Louise Long, 12/25  
Karl Lampart Jr, 12/25  
Kris Knecht, 12/29

**2014 Schedule**

Dec. 7th – Tree & Sanctuary decorating  
Dec 13th - Musical rehearsal  
Dec. 14th - Worship & Christmas Musical  
Dec. 21th - Christmas Caroling  
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30 pm

**December Anniversaries**

Elton & Betty Kerchner, 12/7  
Roger & Roselyn Schollenberger, 12/16  
Randy & Michele Morstatt, 12/23

**Frieden's Lutheran Church**

**9727 Red Road, Stony Run, PA 19529**

Phone: 610-756-6875

Email: [friedenschurch@verizon.net](mailto:friedenschurch@verizon.net)

[www.Friedenslutheran-stonyrun.org](http://www.Friedenslutheran-stonyrun.org)



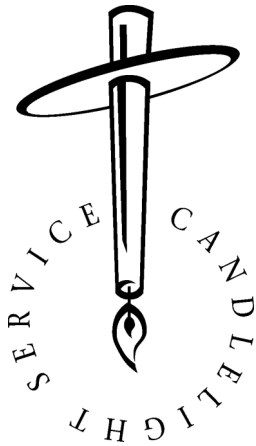
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**December 2014**

**Preludial music begins at 7:15 pm**

**December 24, 7:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve**



**10:00 AM Worship**

**December 14, 2014**

**Choirs & Sunday School**

**Presented by Friedens Lutheran Church**

**Angels Aware!**