

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th, 2026 ~ 8.30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034
Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

610~428~3838



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany

P: There are times, O Lord, when we don't want to own up to the many ways in which we have failed to be your faithful disciples.

C: **We have turned our backs on those in need. We have sought after power and riches, believing that these things bring true happiness.**

C: But You know us far too well. You know what is within our hearts and our spirits. You seek the very best for us that we might grow to be fruitful plants in your garden.

P: **Be with us, O Lord. Forgive us when we have failed to love and treat others with respect and compassion. Turn our hearts back toward You.**

God, who is faithful and just, who cherishes us as we are, seeks restoration and healing for those broken places in our lives. Receive the good news that God forgives and loves us unconditionally. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #786

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. ~ Faithful God, most merciful judge, You care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 44: 6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel — and we — are redeemed.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your
servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it
and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 8: 12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)**



***The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43**

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

The Holy Gospel according to the 13th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ Jesus answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn #693

“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”

*The Apostles’ Creed (professed together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*The Prayers of Intercession

God of grace ... **Hear our prayer.**

Anthem

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord’s Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: We thank You, God of heaven and earth, that You fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, poured out for us. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Beloved of God, as you leave this place to live out your faith, may you sow seeds of love, mercy, and truth, trusting that the Spirit strengthens your roots in Christ. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn #694

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

*Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music 🎵

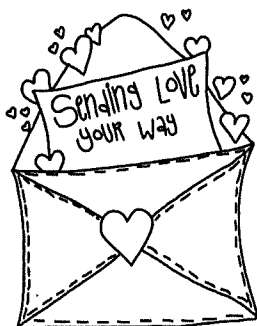
No formal offering is taking during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex hallway to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

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*thank
you*

... to Carl Tyce for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



Longtime member, George Weiser, is currently undergoing chemo treatments. Please consider sending him a “thinking about you” card in care of his daughter, Suzanne Gausman, 618 Deatrich Ave., Middletown, PA 17057. Many thanks!



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Hope Geary, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



The altar flowers have been sponsored by Jean Wetzels in loving memory of her husband, Paul.



Please note ... that even if you go on vacation this summer, the church does not. Our financial commitments to staff, building, outreach, and mission continue. Please remember Friedens with your regular offerings. †

