

12th Sunday of Pentecost

August 31st, 2025 ~ 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

WELCOME

(*) *Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music, Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship (written by the Rev. Christopher Ney)

P: Hospitable and gracious God, You invite us to a banquet where the last may be first and the humble and the mighty trade places.

C: **Let us share your abundance with no fear of scarcity; let us greet strangers as angels You have sent!**

P: Send your Spirit now so that we may find a place at your table.

C: **Let us welcome others with radical hospitality, in the name of Jesus, the Guest at all our tables. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn WOV #778 “O Christ the Same”

*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. ~ O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Proverbs 25: 6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence for stand in the place of the great, ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

Psalms 112 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept un-

defiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 14: 1, 7-14**

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach His hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

The Holy Gospel according to the 14th chapter of St. Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are

invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #522

"As We Gather at Your Table"

*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.

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Hear us, O God ... Your mercy is great.

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



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

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post-Communion Prayer and Benediction

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God — Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit — bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #526

“God is Here!”

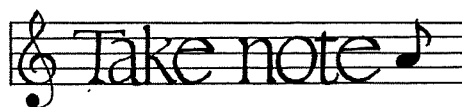
*The Dismissal

Go in peace and welcome others in Jesus' name. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday evenings
at 6:30pm downstairs in the practice room.

New voices are always welcome!

*thank
you*

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector

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



To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Hope Geary, Karissa, Jeanne Logan, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

The altar flowers have been sponsored by Patricia Hosler in memory of her loved ones.



"Betty Lou's Pantry" is a non-profit organization of participating churches in the Southern Lehigh area committed to gathering and distributing food products from our Lord's bounty to our neighbors in need. **"Betty Lou's Closet"** will distribute used children's coats in NOVEMBER 2025 at Betty Lou's Pantry.

Now Collecting Gently Used or New
CHILDREN'S WINTER COATS
to be distributed in November 2025 at
Betty Lou's Pantry Food Bank
538 Thomas Street, Coopersburg, PA

