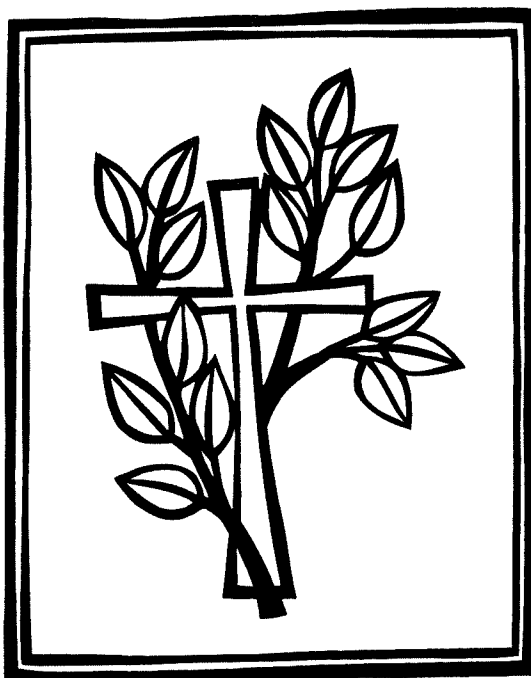


The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30th, 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

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany**

P: Loving God, You call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow after You — to find our lives by giving them up to Your greater purpose.

C: So we come before You this morning with open hearts and open hands, eager to hear Your Word, and eager to know Your will.

P: Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we worship.

C: Open our eyes to Your presence; open our ears to Your call, open our hearts to one another. And then send us back out into the world, to live and work as Your faithful disciples. Amen.

***Hymn #879**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

***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, we thank You for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by His example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our

P: Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Psalms 26 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**



⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

The Second Reading ~ Romans 12: 9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

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





You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 16: 21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of His ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The Holy Gospel according to the 16th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things, but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Sermon

*Hymn #798 (vss. 1, 2, 4) "Will You Come and Follow"

*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**

Merciful God ... **Receive our prayer.**

Anthem

"Nearer My God to Thee"

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 and Benediction

P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn #656**

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



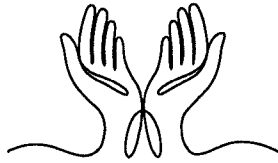
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Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.*

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.

*thank
you*

... to Carl Tyce for serving as our lector

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



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, the family and friends of Hope Geary, Chris Geist, Harlan, Janet Heckman, 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 we name before God. †

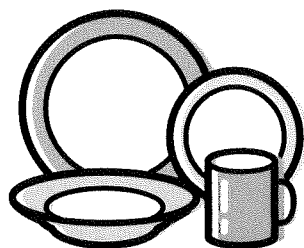


The altar flowers have been sponsored to the glory of
God by Magreth Norville.

Volunteers are needed to help with Friedens' church stand at **Coopersburg Community Day** which will be held on Saturday, September 19th.

If you are able to help in any way, please use the sign up sheet which is on the table in the narthex hallway or speak directly with Nancy Filler. Thanks!

Settings of church dishware are available to anyone who is interested. Please see Nancy for pick up!



LOOKING AHEAD ...

Sunday School classes for children & youth will resume on Sunday, September 13th at 8:30am.

Coffee Hour get togethers will also resume after the worship service on that same Sunday.

Sincere thanks to everyone who donated items for our school supply collection throughout August.

♥Your generosity is a blessing!♥