

9th Sunday of Pentecost

August 10th, 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

*Opening Litany

- P: Lord Jesus, You tell us not to be afraid of what the future holds, not to worry about tomorrow, but You know how difficult we find it to heed your words.
- C: **We worry about so many things ... our families, our friends, our circumstances, our security.**
- P: We bring our worries about health and happiness and security for ourselves and for our loved ones.
- C: **We bring worries about the way people in our world are treated as less than human, exploited, tortured, helpless and abused.**
- P: Living God, reach out to all those for whom the future brings fear and uncertainty.
- C: **Assure us all that you are with us, even when circumstances feel like they are spiraling out of control.**
- P: Remind us that You are able to transform even the bleakest of situations, to bring healing and wholeness. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #818 “O Master, Let Me Walk ...”

*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. ~ Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be

P: the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive You wherever You appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Genesis 15: 1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ The Lord brought Abram outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then the Lord said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm 33 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³ **The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

—————→

¹⁹ **to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**
²⁰ Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.
²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**
²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be

called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 12: 32-40**

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The Holy Gospel according to the 12th chapter of St. Luke

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #436

“Wake, Awake ...”

*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.

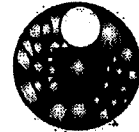
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Special Music “I Love to Tell the Story” sung by Carolyn Wallace and Bill Shoudt

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

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



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 #632

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Alex Stauffer for serving as our lector

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

... to Janet Heckman for serving as our organist



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

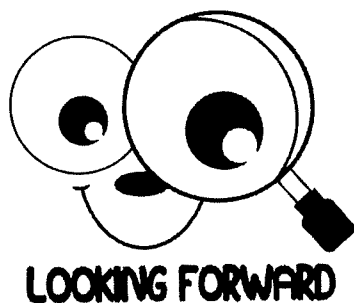
The altar flowers have been
sponsored by Kay Sheerer in memory
of loved ones.



HYMN SING

A picnic covered dish and hymn sing will be held at
Arndt's Lutheran Church (outdoor pavilion)
1851 Arndt Rd., Easton, PA
on Wed., August 20th.

The covered dish meal will begin at 6pm with the
hymn sing following at 7pm.
All are cordially invited!



Sundays School classes will resume
at 8:30am on Sun., September 7th
for all interested youth.

New members will also be re-
ceived during the worship service
that same morning.