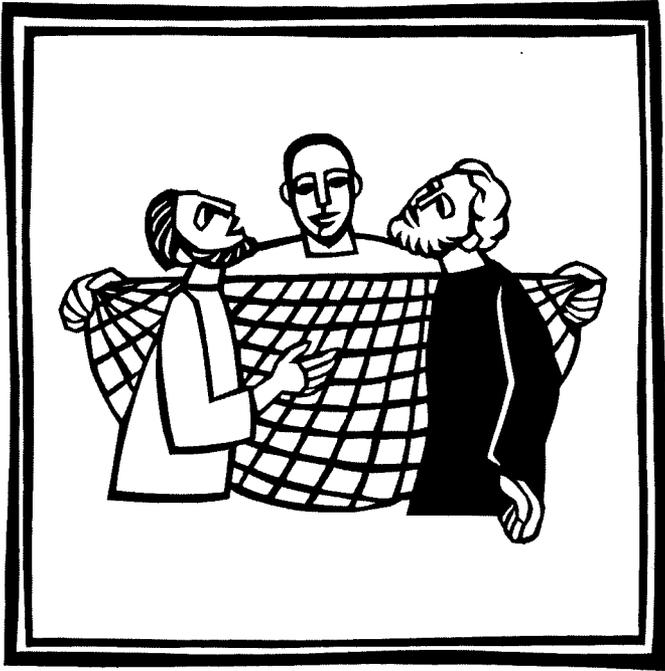


3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 25th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ 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

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany (by Stephen Fearing)

P: God, our Light and Salvation, forgive us for those moments when we have walked in darkness, stumbling in the wilderness of quarrels, division, and bickering.

C: **You have called us to follow You and to fish for people, but too often we think that our way is the only way to do your will. Forgive us, Lord, for the brokenness that we bring upon ourselves.**

P: God, the Stronghold of our Life, hear our cry as we come to You for unity. Send your Spirit to gather us as You desire us.

C: **Remind us that unity does not mean uniformity. Teach us that the “same mind” You call us to have is not ours, but the mind of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn #582 “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

*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. ~ Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 9: 1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Psalm 27 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- on a rock.

⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message — “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away — you have been my helper; forsake me not, O
God of my salvation.

The Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

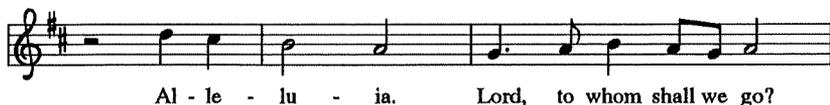
Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

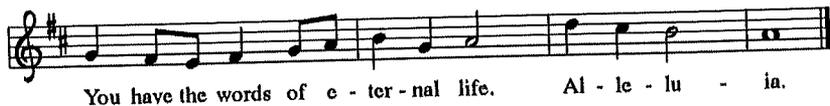
¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation





*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 4: 12-23

Jesus begins His public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be His first disciples.

The Holy Gospel according to the 4th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles —
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As Jesus went from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Sermon

*Hymn #798 (vss. 1, 3, 5) “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

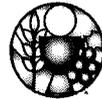
After each prayer petition, please respond:

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

Anthem

“Shine, Jesus Shine”

Blessing of the Elements



The Lord’s Prayer

+ 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

The altar flowers have been sponsored by Karen Bugger in memory of her loved ones.



Mark your calendars our for the next “Souper” Bowl, Basket Raffle, and Bake Sale!

**** Next Saturday, February 7th ****

9am-12 noon in the fellowship hall

Please look for a sign up sheet in the narthex if you are able to provide soup or baked goods. Thanks!

Friedens’ annual Easter Candy Project is beginning!



Please contact Nancy Filler at 610-282-1386 if you are interested in helping. Scheduled days may vary from week to week.



**Ash
Wednesday**

Mid-week Lenten services will begin on February 18th with our Ash Wednesday service at 6:15pm. All are welcome.

P: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: The God of all hope fill you with joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #815 “I Want to Walk as a Child of ...”**

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*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 ... Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Emma LaFlamme, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepfle, Barb Shaneberger, Tyler and Elizabeth, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †