

8th Sunday of Pentecost

August 3rd, 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: We come before our God, who is full of compassion, to ask forgiveness and mercy. When in our excesses we consume more than our share while others go with basic needs unmet:

C: Forgive us, merciful God.

P: When we are blinded by our affluence and fail to reach out in care and concern:

C: Forgive us, merciful God.

P: When we are overwhelmed by desires to acquire and consume more than we need:

C: Forgive us, merciful God.

P: When possessions cloud our view of You and your gracious love:

C: Forgive us, merciful God. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #393

"A Hymn of Glory ..."

*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. ~ Benevolent God, You are the source, the guide,

P: and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to You, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The First Reading ~ Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. ^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

Psalm 49 (selective verses read responsively)

¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,
² **you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**
³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
⁴ **I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
⁶ **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,
and boast of their great riches?**
⁷ One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;
⁸ **for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**
⁹ in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.
¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they per-
ish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**
¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from
generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.
¹² **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish.**

The Second Reading ~ Colossians 3: 1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,

barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 12: 13-21**

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But Jesus said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a parable:

"The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

The Sermon

***Hymn #416**

“At the Name of Jesus”

***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:

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 Spirit — bless you
now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn #618 “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our lector

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

... to Ed Walakovits 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 in loving memory of Karl Gross.



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Financial gifts to help those in Texas devas-
tated by the floods may be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response - U.S. Flooding

P. O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



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 August 20th.

The covered dish meal will begin at 6pm with the
hymn sing following at 7pm.

All are cordially invited!