

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
and
Celebration of Pastor Lisa's Ministry

October 18th, 2026 ~ 8:30am

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

+ 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 (by Mary Scifres)

P: The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.

C: Praise God above all, the giver of life!

P: The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar, but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

C: Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

P: Loving, living God, show us your ways and guide our steps. Live in us that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving.

C: Help us hear your words, challenging us to give You all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from You, gifts to be shared in service and love.

P: Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

*Hymn #526

“God Is Here!”

*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. ~ Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by You, let us live in your image; created for You, let us act for your glory; redeemed by You, let us give You what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 45: 1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him — and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

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

Psalm 96 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.



⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea
thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

The Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

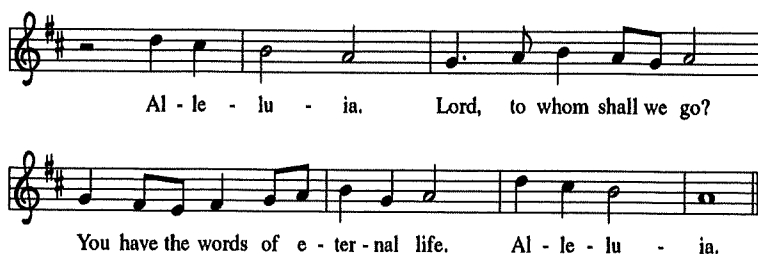
¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy ~ To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in
word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;
just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you
for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in

spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 22: 15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap Him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel according to the 22nd chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things

that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon

Pastor Lisa Borrell

*Hymn #841

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

*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

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

Anthem

"The First Song of Isaiah"

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. Young children who do not yet receive the sacrament are invited to come forward to receive a blessing and a butterfly cracker.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Beloved people of God, as we come to the close of this chapter of our journey together here at Friedens, may we all go forth with grateful hearts for the blessings we have shared, the faith we have nurtured, the prayers we have lifted, and the love we have experienced in Christ. — May the grace that has sustained us in times of joy and sorrow continue to strengthen us. May the Word of God guide our steps, the love of Christ fill our hearts, and the Holy Spirit inspire us to serve others with compassion, kindness, and hope.

P: And now, may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. Amen.

Service of Godspeed for Pastor Lisa led by Maureen W.



***Closing Hymn #705 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥ **Thanks be to God!**

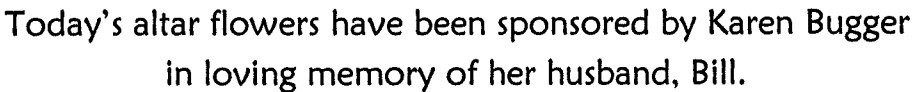
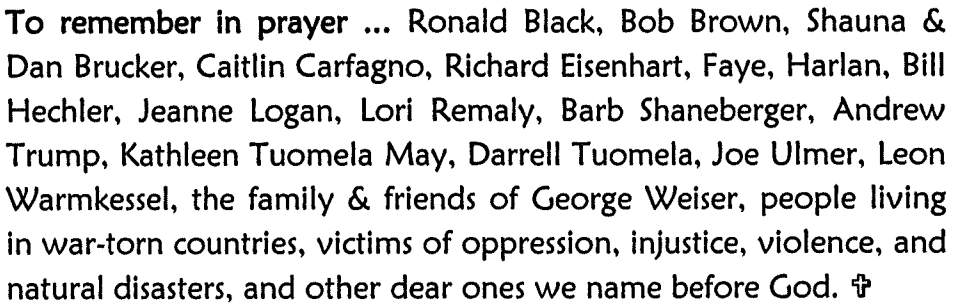
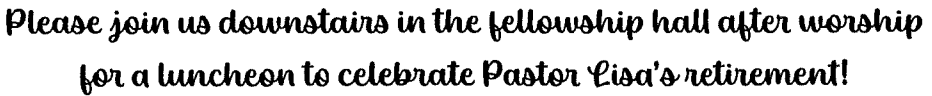
Postlude Music



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

No formal offering is taken during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex hallway to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

... to Carl Tyce for serving as our lector this morning
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



Giving thanks for those who have survived and remembering those who fought the good fight.

Have you marked your calendar for our next Soup & Bake Sale and Basket Raffle on Sat., October 31st?

**** (9am-noon in the fellowship hall)****

