

Holy Cross Day

September 14th, 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

*Prayer of Confession (by

P: As we gather, we come together as people of the cross and resurrection. We come as children of the Divine Creator, reconciled by grace through the Son, and filled with God's love through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Lord, oft times it is difficult to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence in our lives.**

P: Help us, we pray, that we might be transparent to your grace as You reveal yourself to each one of us.

C: **Let us have faith to receive this grace always.**

*Opening Hymn #876 "Let the Whole Creation Cry"

*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, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to Himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Numbers 21: 4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Psalm 98 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have
revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

The Second Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 1: 18-24

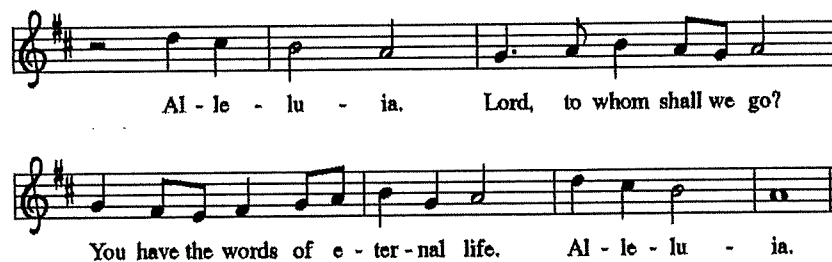
At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross..

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it

is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ John 3: 13-17**

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of St. John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

The Sermon

***Hymn #660**

"Lift High the Cross"

***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 ... Receive our Prayer.

Anthem

"Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross"

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 Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation You have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue

P: forever in the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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

***Hymn #803** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

*From Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2025. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #36667 NRSV Bible 2025.
Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.*

*thank
you*

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our lector

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

The altar flowers are in honor of Lisa
Kurtz 60th Birthday and sponsored by
Leona Callahan in memory of Husband
Tom



A brief Confirmation Orientation session for 1st
& 2nd year students (6th gr. & older) will be
held on Sun., September 21st at 6:30pm at New
Jerusalem, 3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem.



To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Karissa, Jeanne Logan, Barbara Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

Betty Lou's Pantry will be collecting gently used & new kids' winter coats from now until November. They may be brought to church at any time. Thx!



There is a collection plate on the narthex table to receive any financial gifts to benefit the Emersynn Isla "Walk to Shine" event on October 4th which supports families with children who are receiving hospice or palliative care. Thank you for giving.

Donations of food & personal care items for our **Harvest Home** display (next Sunday, 9/21) should be brought to the church by the 18th or 19th.

All donations benefit the clients of Betty Lou's Food Pantry. Thanks so much for caring & sharing!

