

13th Sunday of Pentecost

September 7th, 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 James G. Kirk)

P: God in Christ, who endured the cross in your own flesh for our sakes, hear us as we confess our sin.

C: **We would be your bold disciples, but we fear suffering; we would carry our cross, but it weighs too heavily.**

P: We count the cost of following You — as long as there are benefits; but to renounce all we have is a devastating prospect.

C: **Forgive the conditions we make when we try to obey, and free us by your grace to forsake all and follow You.**

***Opening Hymn #685** “Take My Life That I May Be”

***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. ~ Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reception of New Members

The First Reading ~ Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

Psalm 1 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the
scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit
in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

The Second Reading ~ Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

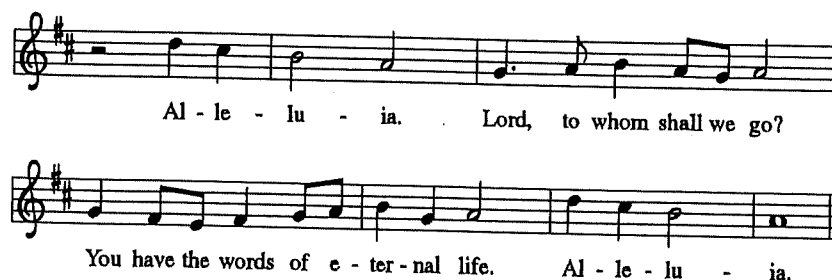
¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart

heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 14: 25-33**

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow Him should know from the outset that discipleship means renouncing all other allegiances.

The Holy Gospel according to the 14th chapter of St. Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

The Sermon

*Hymn #798 (vss. 1, 2, 5) “Will You Come and ...”

*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:

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

Anthem

“My Lord What a Morning”

Duet by Alicia Baird and Kevin Filler

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

P: may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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

***Hymn #768 (vss. 1, 3) "Lead Me, Guide Me"**

***The Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector

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



All are welcome to enjoy some refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall after worship!

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





To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Karissa, Jeanne Logan, 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. †

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



Welcome **New Members**

This morning, we have the joy of welcoming the following persons into membership at Friedens:

- Rodney Heckman & Janet Heckman
 - Jill, Dan, & Lily Kozo
 - Beth & Bruce Lesko
 - Carl Tyce
 - Noemi Hernandez
 - Thad
 - Cash
 - Aili

We're glad to have you here!