

11th Sunday of Pentecost

August 24th, 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

*Call to Worship

P: Come, all you who are struggling.

C: **Come, all you who are crippled by pain and suffering.**

P: Come to worship a God who heals your pain.

C: **Come to worship a God who grants forgiveness.**

P: Let us worship God, who sets us free and gives us new life!

*Opening Hymn #556

“Morning Has Broken”

*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. ~ O God, mighty and immortal, You know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 58: 9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; ¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

Psalm 103 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,**

and forget not all God's benefits —

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 12: 18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 13: 10-17**

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.

The Holy Gospel according to the 13th chapter of St. Luke

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁰ Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water?" ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When Jesus said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

The Sermon

***Hymn #441**

"Oh, Happy Day"

***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

“Rock of Ages”

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

***Hymn #886**

“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues ...”

***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 Maureen Wagner for serving as our lector

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



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, injustice, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

The altar flowers have been sponsored by Diane and Bob Ernst in loving memory of Howard Weiss.



... REMINDERS ...

Sunday School classes for youth will resume at 8:30am on Sunday, September 7th.

Please bring school supplies (Sharpies, notebooks/paper, scissors for older youth, page protectors) by end of mo.



New Jerusalem

3233 Apples Church Rd., Beth

Young

NJELC'S YOUTH GROUP 2025-2026

AUGUST 24TH - @NJELC 4-6

**SLIP & SLIDE, CONNECT 4, OUTDOOR GAMES
PIZZA & DRINK PROVIDED,
BRING A SIDE/ DESSERT TO SHARE**

OCTOBER 12TH - OLDE STONE FARM 11:30- 3:30

LUNCH PROVIDED, MEET AT NJELC TO CARPOOL

DECEMBER 21ST - @NJELC (TIME TO BE DETERMINED)

CHRISTMAS PARTY- BRING A (MAX \$10) SILLY GIFT

FEBRUARY 15TH - B SOCIAL 4:30- 6:30

APRIL 19TH @NJELC

For youth - 6th-12th graders



njelcyouthgroup@gmail.com



Emersynn Isla Shining Star Foundation

WALK TO SHINE 2025

Sat., October 4th - Check in at 10am; Walk at 11am

Hopewell Park in Center Valley

(Basket raffles, face painting, balloon artist, music, food, drinks)

Visit emersynnislashingstar.org/walk-to-shine to register/donate!