

10th Sunday of Pentecost

August 17th, 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 (by Keith Howard)

P: Lord God, we bring before You today the millions of your children on this globe who are displaced by floods, fires, and other natural disasters, famine, political, racial, or religious persecution.

C: **Let the images of thousands lining the roadways seeking a safe place and space be seared upon our hearts as they are upon yours.**

P: We pray for those who do not see themselves as beloved, as welcome at this table or any other because of their history, their identity, their addictions, their struggles, or our lack of hospitality.

C: **Continue to work your transformation within us and within this world so that we shall seek first your will. Let the desire of your heart set the beat.**

P: Gather us up into the reconciling fire of your love that we may be purged of all that fosters misery and inducted into everything that creates love, joy and peace. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #796

“How Firm a Foundation”

played by Jonah Mozer

*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 O God, judge eternal, You love justice

P: and hate oppression, and You call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading ~ Jeremiah 23: 23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

Psalm 82 (selective verses, read responsively)

- ¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?"**
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' "
-

**⁸ Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

The Second Reading ~ Hebrews 11: 29 - 12: 2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 12: 49-56**

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

The Sermon

***Hymn #769**

"If You But Trust ..."

***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.**

Anthem Duet ~ Carolyn Wallace & Bill Shoudt

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 #815

"I Want to Walk as a Child of ..."

*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 Lisa Kurtz for serving as our lector

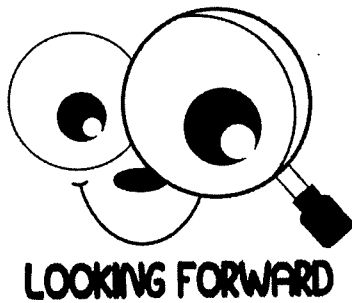
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



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 Donald and Laura Trump in
loving memory of their son, David.





Sundays School classes will resume
at 8:30am on Sun., September 7th
for all interested youth.

New members will also be re-
ceived during the worship service
that same morning.



We are holding a **school supplies collection** for
Carl Tyce, a high school teacher, to help give his students
a good start to the new school year!

Needed items include:

- pencils & pens
- Sharpies (all colors)
- Scissors (for older youth)
- Loose-leaf paper & notebooks
- Page protectors & binders

All donations should be brought to the church by
the end of August and placed in the designated box
on the bench in the narthex hallway. Thanks so much!