

Pentecost 16 / Harvest Home

September 13th, 2026 ~ 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

610-428-3838



() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany for "Harvest Home"**

P: Creator God, source of all life and goodness, we come with grateful hearts to celebrate the gifts of the earth and the gathering of the harvest.

C: **For the sunshine and the rain, the rich soil, and the miracle of growth, we give you thanks, O Lord.**

P: For the crops in the fields, the fruit on the trees, and the daily bread that graces our tables, we praise your name.

C: **For the farmers, gardeners, and all who labor to bring the harvest home, we thank you, Lord.**

P: Forgive us when we waste your gifts or forget those whose harvest is meager. Open our hands and hearts in generous sharing with a hungry world.

C: **Sustain us by your grace, unite us in your love, and make us faithful stewards of your wondrous creation. Amen.**

***Hymn #681**

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

***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 Lord God, merciful judge, You are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore You, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The First Reading ~ Genesis 50: 15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. "You intended to do me harm," Joseph said, "but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives."

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing to-day. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalms 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;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 14: 1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

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



***The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 18: 21-35**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The Holy Gospel according to the 18th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said,

‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon

***Hymn #359 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”**

***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

“I Come with Joy”

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.

Post-Communion Blessing and Benediction

*Closing Hymn #679 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

*Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music 🎵

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

*thank
you*

... to Diane Ernst for serving as our lector, Drew Wagner as our live stream tech, and Janet Heckman as our organist!

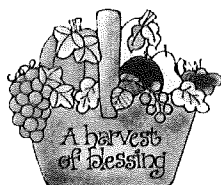


Everyone is welcome to come downstairs to the fellowship hall after worship to enjoy some refreshments and conversation.



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Caitlin Cargano, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones we name before God. ✝

THANK YOU to everyone who donated food and personal care items to our Harvest Home celebration this morning to benefit the clients of Betty Lou's Pantry.



*Today's altar flowers have been sponsored
in honor of all grandparents*



... LOOKING AHEAD ...

- **Confirmation Orientation** for 1st & 2nd year students and their parents ~ Sun., September 27th at 6:30pm in Friedens' sanctuary (where we worship)
- **Nation's 250th b-day celebration** ~ Sat., October 3rd from 9am-2:30pm in the lower lot

(apple crisp/dumplings, bake sale, Bingo, crafts, flea market & more)