

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalms 146

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment;
⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.
⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the

continued

A Tale of Two Worlds

The only thing the rich man and Lazarus have in common is that they both have died. Death, after all, doesn’t respect income. We can imagine that Lazarus succumbed to his hunger and the rich man perhaps choked on his own abundance. But despite their differing statuses on earth, it is poor Lazarus who gets a first-class ticket to the loving embrace of father Abraham.

The rich man, stripped of his money, prestige, and influence, is flung down into the filth and rot he had long avoided in life. The rich man’s failure was not that he had money, owned possessions, or enjoyed a good meal; it was that he was not attentive to the suffering at his doorstep. And when he did at last see Lazarus—finally acknowledging his existence—all he could think about was himself.

Through this provocative story, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us to pay attention to the needs of the people around us. He is urging us to look and see Lazarus in our own world.

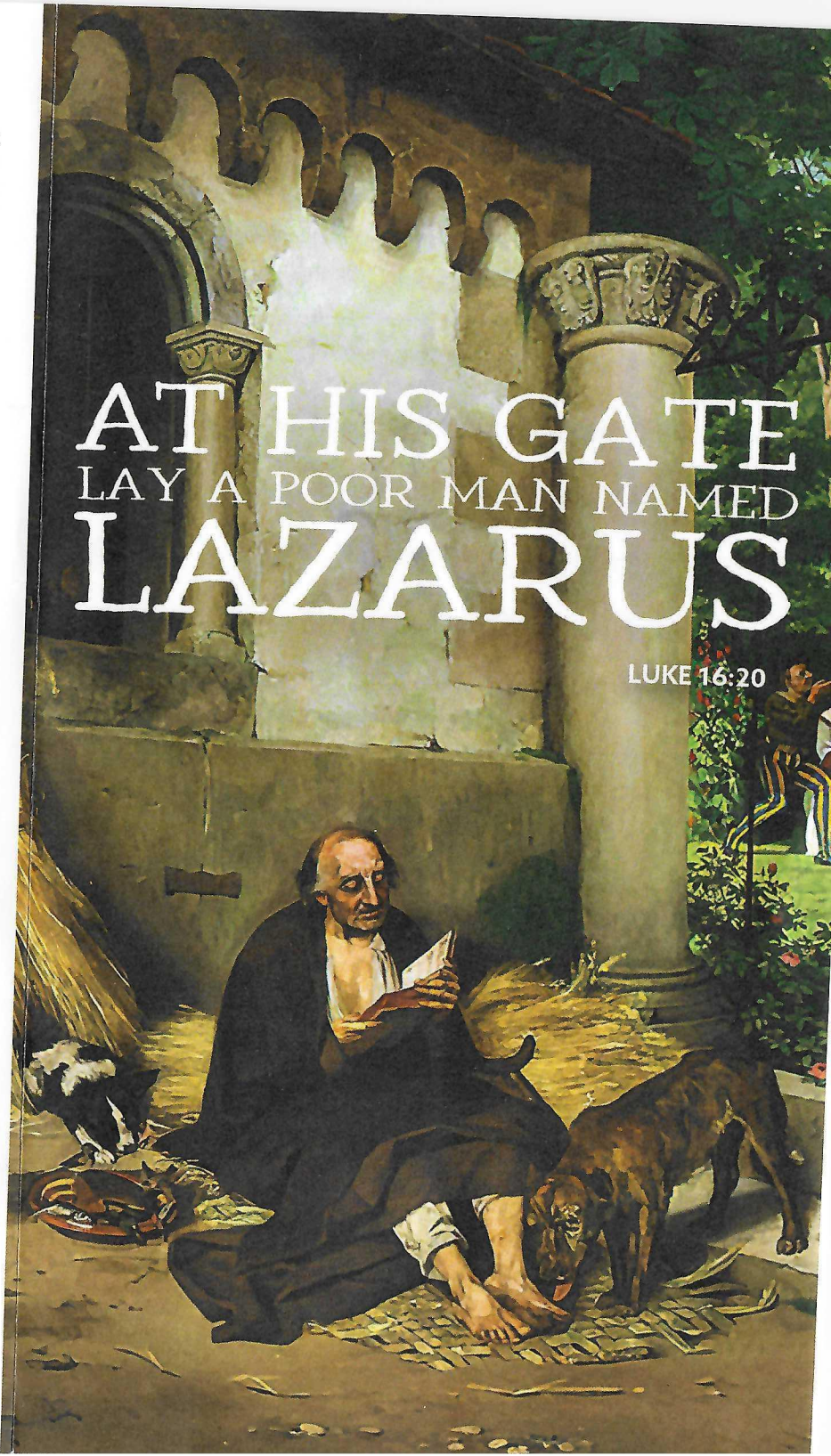
Who is Lazarus among us? Who are the hungry people at our own doorstep? Who are the ones we can name but perhaps cannot see? They might be a person with no reliable shelter or food, someone of a different race or religion, or a neighbor alone and lonely. They may even be a rich individual with all the means in the world but no real substance. What would our world look like if we truly acknowledged and embraced them?

When we recognize and serve the Lazaruses of our world, we not only extend compassion; we also encounter Jesus. His healing presence is in the midst of human suffering. Once we start looking for Lazarus, we start finding Jesus too.

Gospel, continued

angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10.
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FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

16th Sunday After Pentecost, September 28, 2025

* Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.

Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

Liturgy and hymns are in the green hymnal unless indicated

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" arr. Cindy Berry

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS P. 56

*HYMN "Praise the Lord! O Heavens" P. 540

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to the Father" Cover of Hymnal

*PRAYER OF THE DAY *Spoken in unison*
O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING AMOS 6:1a, 4-7 *Back of Bulletin*
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146 *Read responsively*

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19 *Back of Bulletin*
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL LUKE 16:19-31 *Back of Bulletin*
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE *Jim Kimmel*

HYMN "Blessed Assurance" WOV (Blue Book) P. 699

*APOSTLES' CREED P. 65

*PRAYERS God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING
OFFERTORY "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead US" arr. Cindy Berry

*DOXOLOGY *Cover of Hymnal*

*LORD'S PRAYER P. 71

*BLESSING
The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN "I Love to Tell the Story"

P. 390

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



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Leaders

Service, Jim Kimmel Lector, Ann Miller Head Usher,
Mike Deiter Ushers, Christy Leiter, Damaris Merwine, Ed
Tietsworth Counters, Janet & Ron Radel Greeters, Cindy &
Larry Klinger.

Bulletins - In honor of Dad's birthday, Love Heather.
Flowers - No sponsors.

FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: [HTTPS://www.thefriedenslutheran.com](https://www.thefriedenslutheran.com)

Church e-mail: friedenslutheran4@gmail.com

Designated Pastor: Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Road,
Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

Council President: Damaris Merwine, 570-985-0644

Worship time – 10:30 AM

In the name of Jesus Christ, we strive to serve all people in our community and world. We extend a warm welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us today. Please sign the guest register in the narthex and complete a visitor's pew card, placing it in the offering plate

September 28, 2025 ✕ 16th Sunday After Pentecost



Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

Calendar

Today's Service, Jim Kimmel, 10:30 AM.

September 28, 2025 – Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion, 10:30 AM.

Announcements

- **10/1/2025** – Worship and Music Meeting, 5:30 PM.
- **10/4/2025** – Fall Bazaar. 9:00 – 11:00 AM, hoagies, soup, baked goods and crafts. Signup sheets are downstairs. Need: soups, baked goods, and people to help make hoagies. Orders due to Jean Morris by September 24.
- **10/5/2025** – Fall Sunday School begins. 9:00 – 10:15 AM.
- **10/7/2025** – Craft Faire Mtg., 5:30 PM.

Prayer Corner

September 21: Carole Hepler. Sympathy for the family and friends of Scott Miller.

September 7: Greg Thorne; Meadow Lindenmuth, Chris Keiter.

August 31: Kailey Corado.

We continue to pray for... Daniel Carl; Ron & Gloria Gutshall; Bailey Romberger, Ed Sipple; Avalyn Koppenhaver; Kandy Distefano; Tony Gaborik Jr.; Andrea Klinger; Marvin & Wenda Ruch; Carol & Kenny Dinger; Bill & Joan Loveland; Paul Bennick; Lee and Linda Kiefer; Larry Wetzel; Misty Rice; Angela Romberger; Dennis & Barbara Krammes; Deanna Dietz; Rev. Don Schwartz; Tracy Geist; Bruce Bonner; Jared Kiefer; Bill Wolfgang; Judy Barton; Gary Orner; Rev. Bill & Linda Danis, Diane Wehry; Denise Clark;

Jane Pennypacker; Terry Schwartz; Dave Schriner; Donna Wolfgang; Brad Ludwig; Robert Schneider; Marcy Coleman; Missy Shomper; Wendy Kimmel; Lila Kiefer; Elaine Wert; Bobby Miller; Jean Morgan; Linda Warfield; Andrea Bixler; Mary Jane Allvord; Greg Readinger; Jim Fetterolf; Palmer Geist; Alex Snyder; Melanie Klinger; Jimmy Henningsen; Sue Richcrick; Dirk Klinger; Joe & Saralynn Grantz; Dirk Klinger; Andrea Klinger; John Wolfgang; Lori Koppenhaver; Mia Henningsen; Brielle Maurer; Rick Herring.

Youth Event – St. John’s is hosting a Youth Night, October 11, 4-7 PM. The United Women of Faith of St. John’s UMC in Hegins will host the youth event. Dress-up in your favorite Halloween costume. Prizes will be awarded. Come for the food and Halloween fun. All Tri-Valley students are welcome.

Attendance: 26 (9/21/2025)			
Offering. September 21, 2025	—	Current Exp.:	\$1570.00
		Other Offering:	\$0.00
		Total:	\$1,570.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,638.92 20

Volunteers the Week of 10/5/12025 - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion **Lector,** TBD **Head Usher,** Ed Tietsworth
Ushers, Rodney Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang **Counters,** Jean & Gary Klinger **Greeters,** Ruth Wetzel & Orpha Troutman.