

Resistance Movements

Herod plotting to kill. John at the riverbank. Peter in Jerusalem. Judas at the table. Thomas behind closed doors. Nicodemus in the night. Family at home. Crowds in the streets. Quite a collection, but merely a sampling of a much longer list. There are plenty in the pages of the scriptures, and in the circles of our daily rounds: they—we—who are wannabe followers and wannabe saboteurs, the well-meaning and the conspiratorial, neighbors we like, others we refuse to trust, family we put up with (or don't), coworkers we admire, mentors we respect, activists we fear, leaders we oppose. A lengthy list indeed. And this is what is shared among such a collection of souls: people standing in the way of, objecting to, arguing against Jesus. Road blockers.

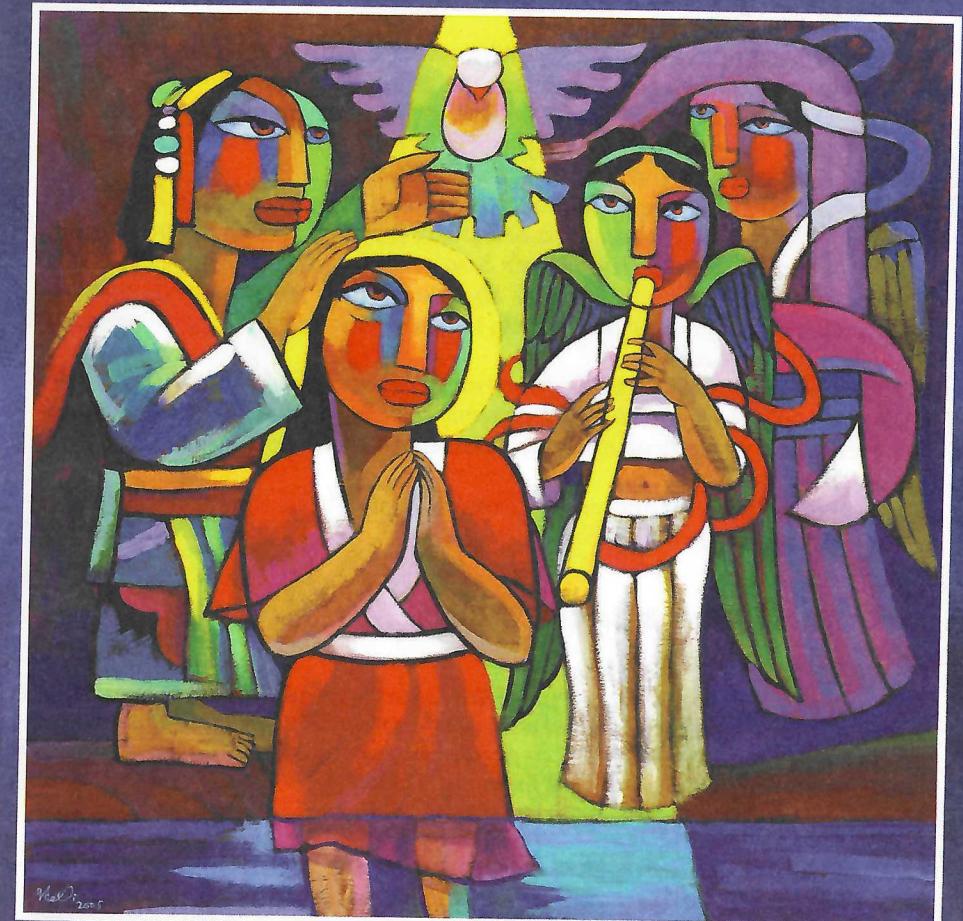
Mystery floats in and over the murky baptismal ripples of the Jordan River. To this day, thousands throng to wade in those waters to receive, to remember, to renew, to celebrate baptism. Jesus came there too and was met by his cousin, the famous, wild, wandering baptizer, who tried to stop him. Make of John's protest what you will (humility, confusion, disagreement, panic, pride?), his inclination was to prevent Jesus' public repentance, Jesus' plain-to-be-seen-and-heard turning away from the expectations of the world order toward the divine imagination of God.

It is not always (more than likely rarely, though at times it surely is) evil intention that is the seed that grows to oppose God's invocation to take delight in merciful justice and breathe the spirit of righteousness. We clash, as John the Baptizer clashed (how often?), with heaven's hopes and blessings for all that God created in goodness, even as we are unmindful of our own dissent.

It is for *us*, in our moments and ways of objecting, that God—ever mindful of us—parts heaven's clouds, that we might see and hear the way of God's beloved Son.

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17



FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

510 East Main St. PO Box 375, Hegins, PA 17938 ph. 570-682-9690

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.

Baptism of Our Lord - January 11, 2026



In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Calendar

Today's Service, Pastor Barry Spatz.

January 18, Pastor Barry Spatz.

January 25, Karen Kopenhaver.

February 1, Pastor Barry Spatz.

February 8, Janet & Ron Radel.

Announcements

- 1/6/2026 – Craft Faire Mtg., 6:30 PM.
- 1/14/2026 – Council Mtg., 6:00 PM.
- 1/20/2026 – Tri-Valley Charities Mtg, 6:30 PM.
- 1/28/2026 – Worship & Music Mtg., 5:00 PM.
- 2/8/2026 – Souper Bowl – Following the service.

FIRST READING

¹ Here is my servant, whom Isaiah 42:1-9I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

Read responsively.

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹ O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. **Amen.**

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

*GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented ¹⁶ An d when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

CHILDREN'S & CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Pastor Spatz

HYMN "O Living Bread from Heaven"

P. 197

*PRAYERS Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Berceuse" by David Lasky

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Spoken)

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

(Spoken)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would 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

*BLESSING

*SENDING HYMN "How Good, Lord to be Here"

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Postlude - "Praise and Exultation" by Lani Smith

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Baptism of Our Lord ✕ January 11, 2026
* 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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – “*Impromptu*” by Louis Léfebure-Wély, arranged by Gerald Peterson

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN “Brightest & Best of the Stars...”

P. 84

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE “Praise to the Father”

Praise to the Father for his loving kindness, Tenderly caring for his erring children; Praise him, all angels; praise him in the Heaven; Praise to the Father!

Prayer Corner

Sympathy for the family and friends of Kathryn Otto.

Today's Leaders

Service, Pastor Barry Spatz, with Holy Communion and Council Installation Organist, Harold Morgan Lay Assistant, Melody Schwartz Lector, Ann Miller Head Usher, Rodney Troutman Ushers, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang, Mike Deiter Counter, TBD Greeters, Ruth Wetzel & Orpha Troutman.

Bulletin – In memory of Tracy Klinger, love Jean and family.

Flowers – In memory of Kathryn Otto, by family.

Attendance: 34 (1/4/2026)

Offering. January 4, 2026 – Current Exp.: \$1,414.00
Other Offering: \$115.00
Total: \$1,529.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,638.92

Volunteers the Week of 1/18/2026 - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Organist, Harold Morgan Lector, Scott Deiter Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Rodney Troutman Usher, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Mike Deiter Greeters, Cindy & Rick Herring, and Joan Smith.