

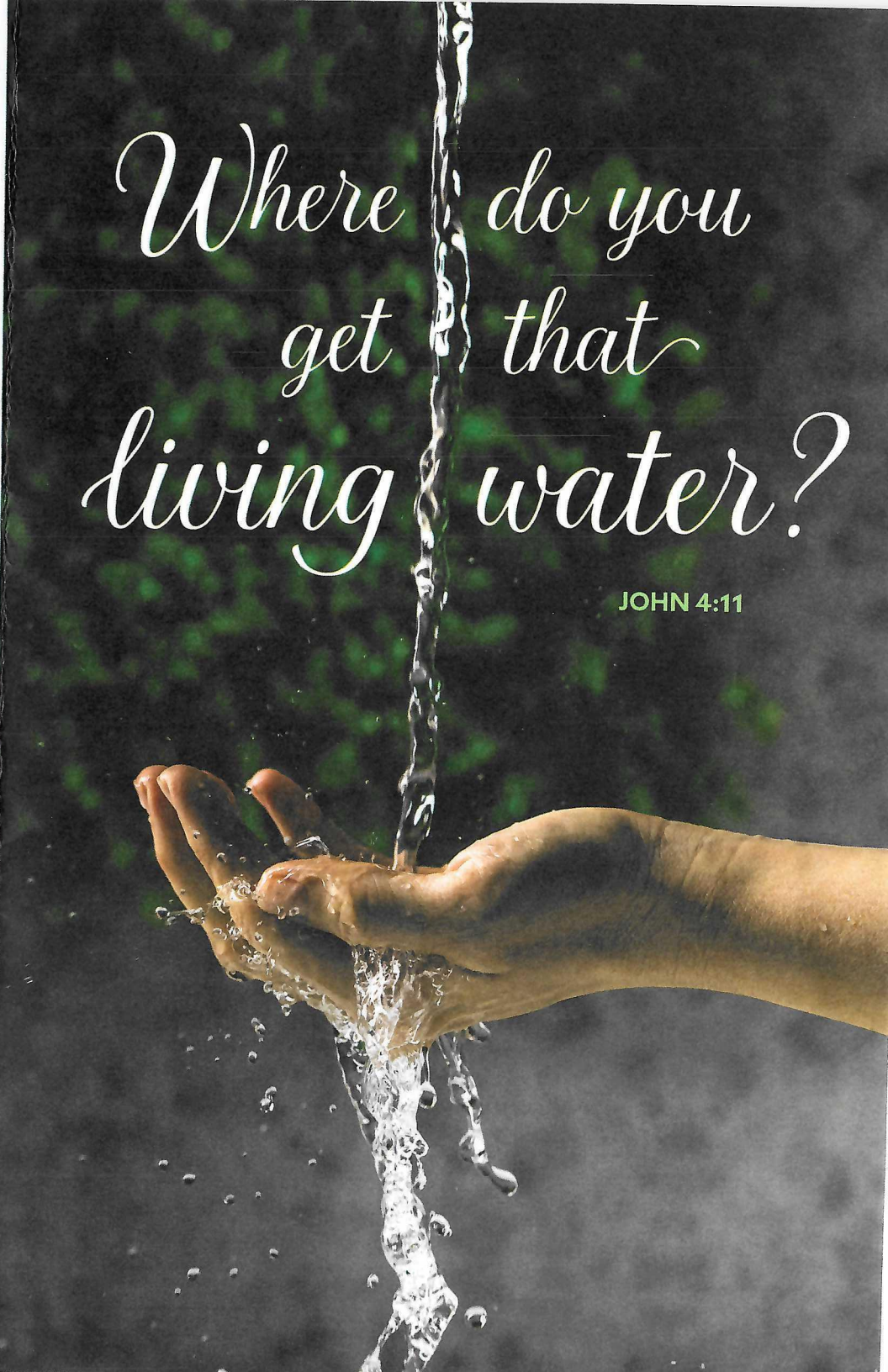
One in a Thousand

Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds, maybe thousands of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!



Where do you
get that
living water?

JOHN 4:11

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 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 "Peace Prayer No. 1" by David Lasky.

***CONGESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

*HYMN "Lead On, O King Eternal" P. 495

*PRAYER OF THE DAY Spoken in unison.
Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 17:1-7

† From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at

FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Third Sunday in Lent ☒ March 8, 2026

Calendar

Today, Russ Sowers. WELCA mtg. after the service, front pews of church.

March 15, Pastor Barry Spatz.

March 22, Fountainaires/Otto.

Announcements

Today – WELCA Mtg., after the service, front pews of church.

3/21/2026 – Spring Bazaar, 9 – 11 AM. Hoagies, Soup, Goodies. There are sign-up sheets in the Sunday school room to purchase hoagies, making hoagies, and providing soup and goodies. Order deadline for hoagies is March 8.

4/29/2026 – Mr. Sticky sale. Pre-order by due by 4/19/26. (We need a minimum number of orders to hold the event.

Save a Date – Lenten Series

March 11, 7:00 PM – Barry Salem UMC, Pitman. Pastor Krista Keisling, The Road to Damascus.

March 18, 7:00 PM – St. James Lutheran, Pitman. Pastor Ray Holland, The Road Home.

March 25, 7:00 PM – Friedens Lutheran, Hegins. Pastor Suzanne Elliott, The Road to Jerusalem.

Prayer Corner

Darlene Gibson; Eric Scheib; Greg Readinger; Rick Herring; Kim Schwartz; Bill Howerter.

Sympathy for the family and friends of Roger Scheib; Jim Hentz; Palmer Geist.

Today's Leaders

Message, Russ Sowers Liturgist, Damaris Merwine Organist, Harold Morgan Counters, Jean & Gary Klibnger Head Usher, Ed Teitsworth Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller Greeters, Ruth Wetzel & Orpha Troutman.

Bulletin – In Memory of Luther Klinger, Love Jean & Family.

Attendance: 30 (03/1/2026)

Offering. March 1, 2026 – Current Exp.: \$1,142.00

Other Offering: \$165.00

Total: \$1,307.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Volunteers the Week of 3/15/2026 - Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Organist, Harold Morgan Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher, Ed Tietsworth Ushers, Christy Leiter, Damaris Merwine, Dave Henninger Greeters, Katie & Jason Wolfgang.

⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

MESSAGE, Russ Sowers.

HYMN "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me".

P. 327

*PRAYERS Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*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.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - "Chorale" by Cesar Franck, arranged by Todd Kendall

*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.

*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*SENDING HYMN "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer."

P. 343

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE "Voluntary on 'Forest Green'" an English folk melody, arranged by Ralph Vaughn Williams and Jason W. Krug

Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 95

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

³ For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸ "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

⁹ There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'

SECOND READING Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God that proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

LENTEN VERSE

Spoken in unison.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that

I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done more believed because of his word."