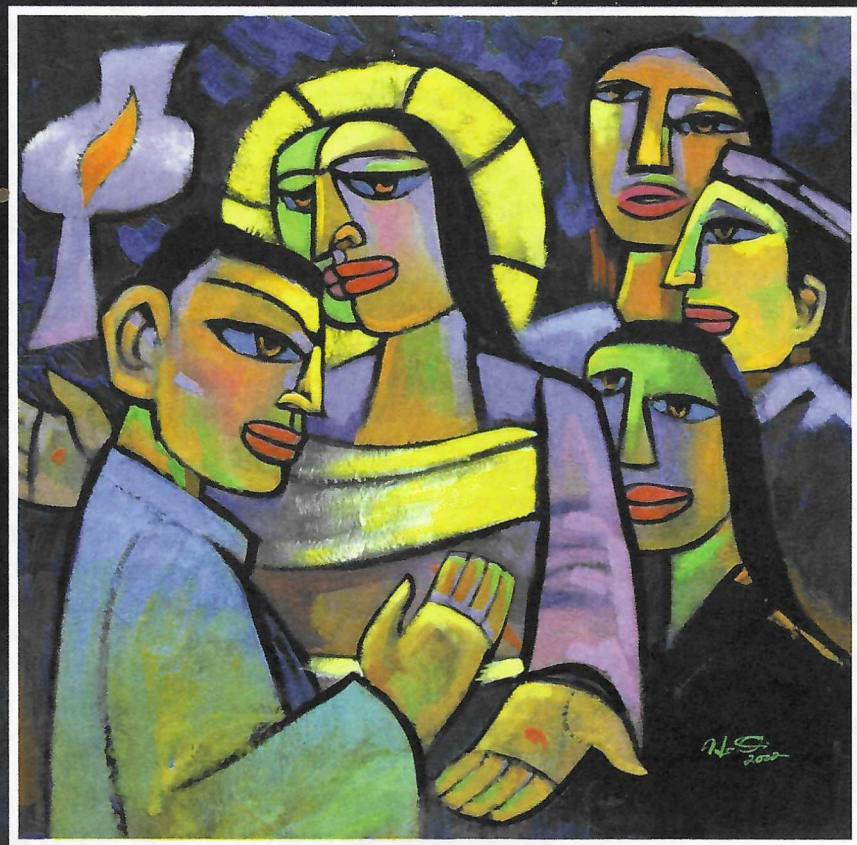


DO NOT DOUBT BUT BELIEVE

JOHN 20:27



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter · ✠ April 12, 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 “*Joyous Morning*” by Gerald Peterson

***CONFESSION 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** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!” P. 128

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Spoken in unison

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**

Insert

FIRST READING Acts 2:14a, 22-23

^{4a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of

Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

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

Psalm: 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³ But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who up-hold my lot.

⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹ You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

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

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

CHILDREN'S & CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Mary Ellen Klebe

HYMN "Thine Is the Glory.

P. 145

***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 "Little Rondo" by Richard Blake

***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.

***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.

***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** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Blue Hymnal)

P. 771

***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude "Christ the Redeemer" by Tom Birchwood

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: Ed Tietsworth, (570) 292-1061

Worship time – 10:30 AM

Calendar

Today, Mary Ellen Klebe.

April 19, Pastor Barry Spatz.

April 26, Deb Barry.

May 3, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 10, Damaris Merwine.

Announcements

4/25/2026 – WLECA – Spring Cluster, Schuylkill Haven.

4/26/2026 – Schuylkill Mission District Spring Assembly,
3:00 PM, Friedens.

4/28/2026 – Making boxes for Mr. Sticky Sale, 6 PM.

4/29/2026 – Mr. Sticky, 6 AM – 4 PM. Prices – Single, \$5.00, ½

Doz, \$26.00 and Full Doz, \$50.00 Orders due 4/19. Sign up sheets in
the Sunday School room to help or order Sticky Buns.

5/6/2026 – Worship & Music, 5 PM.

5/6/2026 – Worship & Music, 5 PM.

5/13/2026 – Council Meeting, 6 PM.

6/1/2026 – Scholarship applications are due.

Prayer Corner

Darlene Gibson; Rick Herring; Kim Schwartz; Bill Howerter; David
Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Rosanne Burkey; Saralynn Grantz; Linda,
Lee & Jared Kiefer.

Sympathy for the family and friends of Eric Scheib; Palmer Geist;
Greg Readinger; Misty Rice.

Today's Leaders – Message, Mary Ellen Klebe Organist, Harold
Morgan Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger
Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann
Miller Greeters, Jess & Dave Henninger.

Flowers – No sponsors.

Bulletin – Praise God for spring, Ruth.

Attendance: 74 (4/5/2026)	Offering – Current	\$1,191.00
	Other	\$1,125.00
	Total	\$2,316.00

Volunteers 4/19/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Organist,
Harold Morgan Lector, Damaris Merwine Counters, Mike & Sue
Deiter Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Christy Leiter,
Damaris Merwine, Ed Tietsworth Greeters, Julie & Jean Klinger.

Save the Date

WELCA Mother Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 9th
at 11:00 AM, with brunch and entertainment (Amanda Ludwig).

Please reach out to Christy Leiter and Ann Miller for tickets.

Be Curious

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.