

*I came that they may  
have life and have it  
abundantly*

JOHN 10:10



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠ April 26, 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, PRELUDE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*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 us in the righteousness of Christ and forgives our sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give us strength to live for others, and bless us with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" P. 144

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** Spoken in unison  
**O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 23**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL** John 10:1-10

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SINGING**

**CHILDREN'S & CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE**, Deb Barry

**HYMN** "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" P. 482

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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***

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

**\*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**

**\*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** "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" P. 356

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude**

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

**Church e-mail:** [friedenslutheran4@gmail.com](mailto: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, Deb Barry.

May 3, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 10, Damaris Merwine.

May 17, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 24, Pastor Linda Bonfilio.

May 31, Jim Kimmel.

### Announcements

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

4/29/2026 – Mr. Sticky, 6 AM – 4 PM. Prices – Single, \$5.00, 1/2 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.

5/11/2026 – Ascension Day Service, 7:00 PM. The service will be hosted at Valley View Church of God. Pastor Mark Rothermel will give the message.

5/13/2026 – Council Meeting, 6 PM.

5/27/2026 – Baccalaureate services will be held at Trinity Lutheran at 7:00 PM. Pastor Suzanne Elliott will provide the message.

5/31/2026 – Last day of Sunday School. See you in the fall.

5/31/2026 – Recognition of 2026 Graduates.

6/1/2026 – Scholarship applications are due.

### Prayers

David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Saralynn Grantz; Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer.

Sympathy for the family and friends of Misty Rice.

**Today's Leaders** – Service, Deb Barry Lector, Ann Miller  
Counters, Ron & Janet Radel Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers,  
Scott Allvord, Michael Allvord, Mike Deiter Greeters, Cindy & Rick  
Herring and Joan Smith.

**Flowers** – In honor of Brooke Ziegmont's birthday by Grandma Ruth.

**Bulletin** – In honor of Roy (Ben), by Mom.

### Rose Buds

Elaina Lynn, 4/15/2026. (5 lbs., 13 Oz.) Parents, Ryan & Chanel Herring.

Hallie Marie, 4/17.2026. (8 lbs., 10 Oz.) Parents, Cody and Chantelle Troutman.

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|--|------------|
| <b>Attendance: 38</b> (4/19/2026) Offering – Current | \$1,286.00 |
| Other  | \$10.00    |
| Total  | \$1,296.00 |

**Volunteers** 5/3/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, TBD  
Lay Assistant, Julie Klinger Counters, Christy Leiter, Melody  
Schwartz Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers, Michael  
Allvord, Scott Allvord, Mike Deiter Greeters, Janet & Ron Radel.

### Mother Daughter Banquet

WELCA Mother Daughter Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, with brunch and entertainment (Amanda Ludwig). Please reach out to Christy Leiter and Ann Miller for tickets.

### Summer Bible School

Friedens's Bible School will be held from June 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Vacation Bible is for children who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The Bible School program will be on Sunday, June 21, 2026, 10:30 AM. Please join our youth as they showcase what they have learned during the week.

### Thank You

Friedens Lutheran Church, Tri-Valley Charities, would like to thank the members of Friedens for the generous donations and support of our Shop and Drop event. We are grateful for your support which allows us to help those in need in our community and offer financial assistance to community organizations providing service to our community.

*Sincerely, Janet Radel, Tri-Valley Charities*

# Our Good Shepherd

The images in today's texts provide us with much food for thought and action. Psalm 23 tells of a shepherd who leads us to green pastures and refreshing waters, walks alongside us as we face challenging times, takes us to a table already set, and anoints us with oil to mark each of us as chosen. We are heard, seen, known, valued, and loved, and remain in the Shepherd's presence for all time.

Jesus' words in the gospel reading add to the image of a loving and caring shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name, while the sheep follow because they recognize that voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows us well and calls each of us by name. Jesus also serves as the gate for the sheep, guarding and protecting us in the sheepfold, while also providing access to pastureland. This protection and access give us the space to be who we are, with no need to play games or pretend to be someone we are not. And when it comes right down to it, the Good Shepherd comes to give us abundant life—new life in relationship with God, others, and all creation.

The reading from Acts 2 provides an image of abundant life among the early Christians, a life with an extravagance of worship, fellowship, prayer, generosity, service to others, and thankfulness.

How does the image of the Good Shepherd sit with you? How do you picture the relationship between you and Jesus—with shepherd and sheep imagery, or something else? Where and how do you recognize the Good Shepherd's voice? Do you know someone who has abundant life in Christ—a life of faith, joy, and love? What would such a life look like for you, and for your faith community?