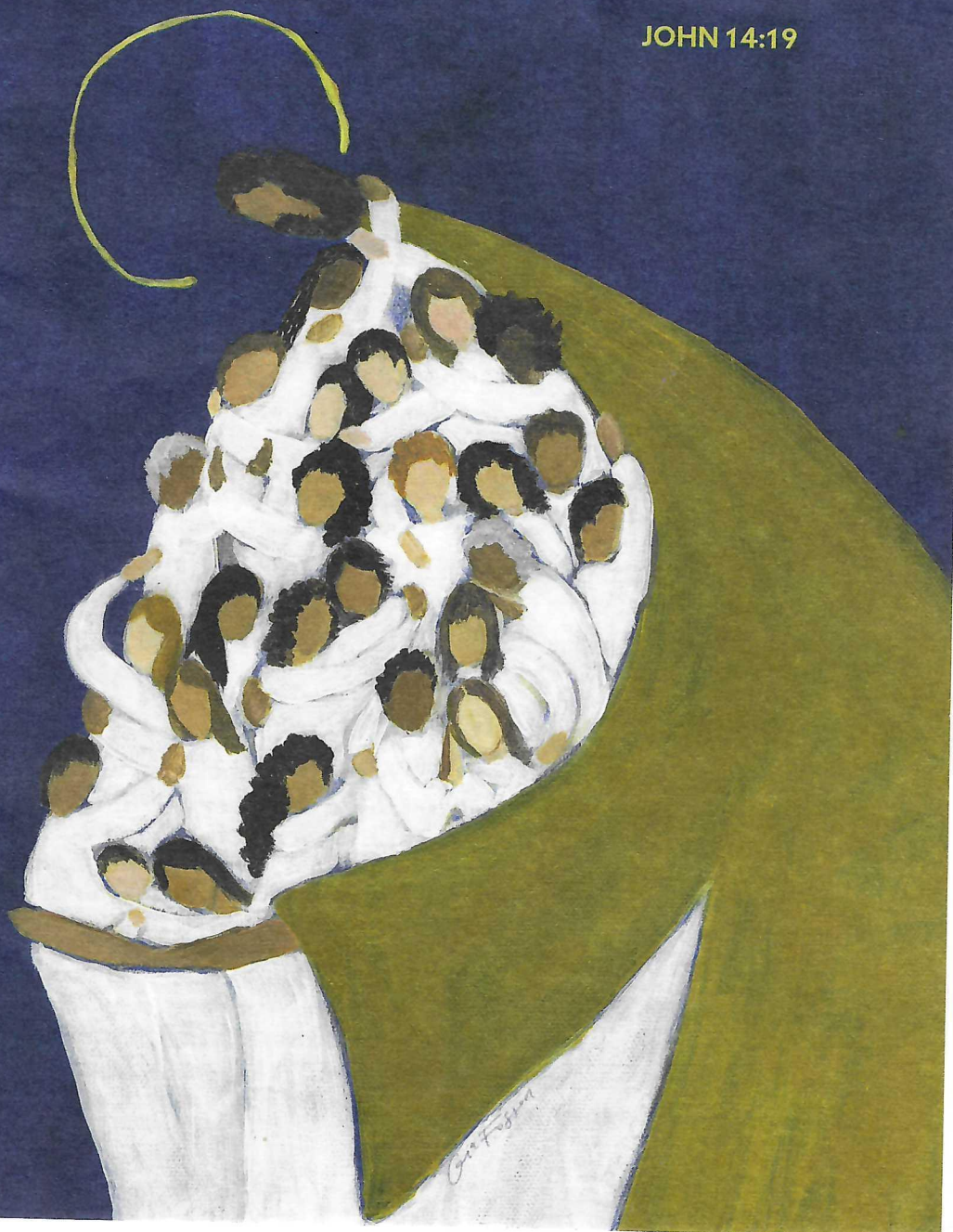


Because I live, you also will live

JOHN 14:19



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter ✠ May 10, 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 "Faith of Our [Mothers]" by Henri F. Hemy, arranged by Lani Smith

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.

We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries

of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth

you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and

make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Amen.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ***Amen.***

*HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King" P. 522

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Spoken in unison.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth 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 Heaven; Praise to the Father!

FIRST READING Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.' ²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

Psalm: 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ ***Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.***

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ ***You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.***

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ ***I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—***

¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ ***I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.***

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailling love from me.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

***GOSPEL** John 14:15-21

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

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them

are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE, Damaris Merwine

HYMN "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia"

P. 131

***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 "For Me to Live Is Jesus" by Melchior Vulpius, arranged by Patricia Lou Harris

***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** "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" vs. 1-4" P. 158

***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude "Ancient of Days!" by Felice de Giardini, arranged by Paul Taylor

Attendance: 38 (4/3/26) Offering:

March 15, 2026 — Current	\$2,481.00
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Other	\$472.00
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Total	\$2,953.00
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Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Volunteers 5/17/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller Greeters, Jane & Ed Tietsworth.

Summer Bible School

Friedens's Bible School will be held from June 15th – 19th, 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Vacation Bible is for children **3 years old to those who have completed 6th 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.

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, Damaris Merwine.

May 17, Pastor Barry Spatz.

May 24, Pastor Linda Bonfilio.

May 31, James Kimmel.

June 7, Carole Hepler.

June 14, Pastor Barry Spatz.

Announcements

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.

5/29/2026 – Tri-Valley High School Graduation. May 29th at 7:00 PM. Athletic Field/Gymnasium. Congratulations to your graduates.

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

5/31/2026 – Recognition of 2026 Graduates at the 10:30 AM service.

6/1/2026 – Scholarship applications are due.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; David Merwine; Terry Schwartz; Saralynn Grantz
Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer; Robert Lettick; Elaine Carter; Deb Barry;
Ron Radel; Gary Snyder; Katelyn Steppy.

Today's Leaders - Service, Damaris Merwine Lector, Damaris Merwine Counters, Ann Miller & Vicki Troutman Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers, Mike Deiter, Rick Herring, Ed Hornung Greeters, AJ Kine, Ann Miller.

Flowers – In honor of Brad Miller's birthday, by Ann.**Bulletin** – In honor of Brad Miller's birthday, by Ann.

The Perspective of Love

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.