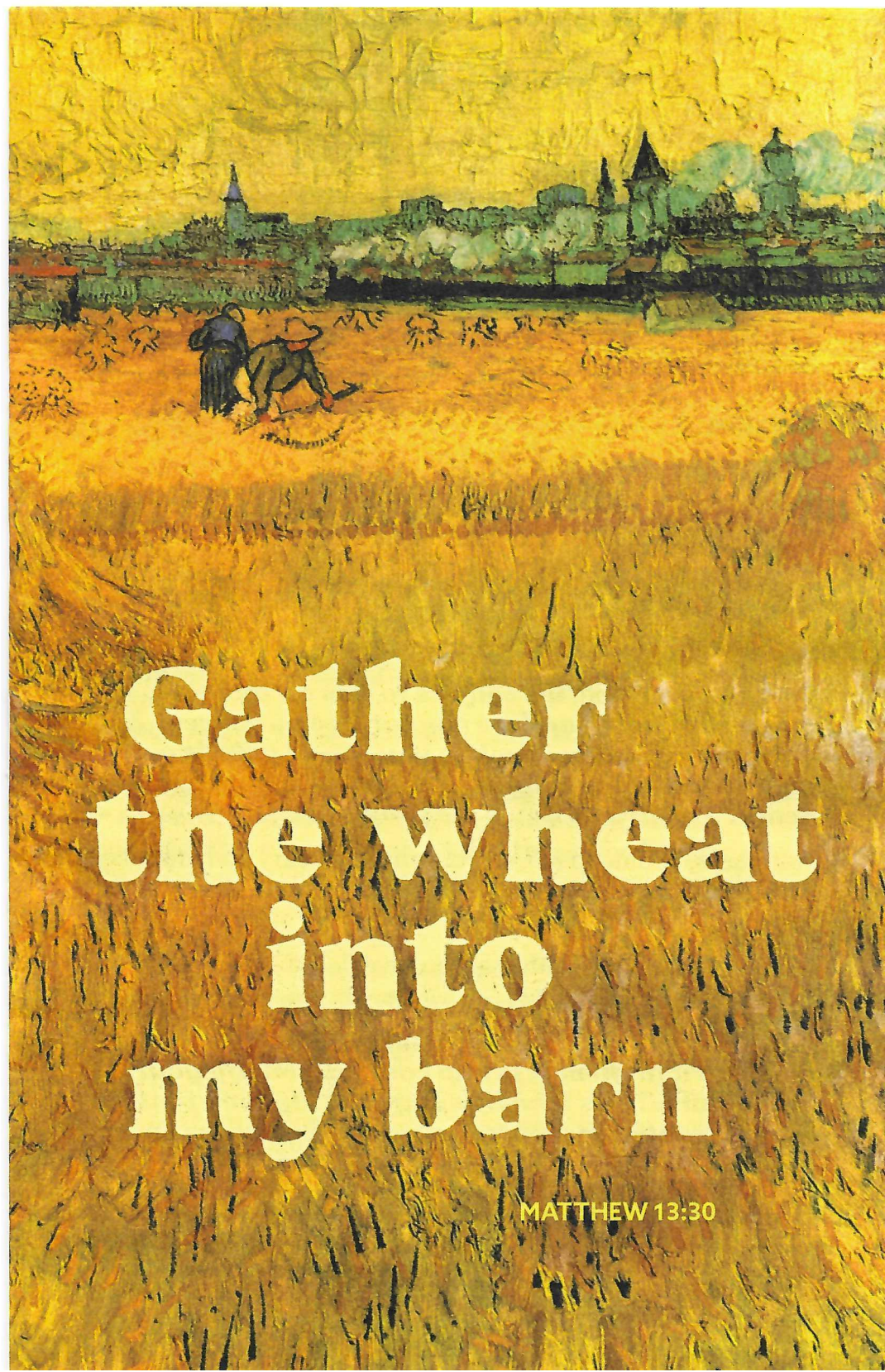




**Gather
the wheat
into
my barn**

MATTHEW 13:30

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

8th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ July 19, 2026

*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.

Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

WELCOME, and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PELUDE "The Master Hath Come" a Welsh melody, arranged by Mary McDonald.

BAPTISM

Insert

Elaina Lynn Herring

Parents: Chanel & Ryan Herring

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God, ***we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.***

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

*HYMN "Shall We Gather at the River" P. 30

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken)

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise to the Father" (Sung)
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!

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² ***I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.***

¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ ***The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.***

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ ***Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.***

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be

glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire,

where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE –

Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "I Need Thee Every Hour" vs 1-4 P. 22

***PRAYERS** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

***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 Vulpui, arranged by Johann Pachelbel and Patricia Lou Harris.

***DOXOLOGY**

(Sung)

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**

(Spoken)

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**

***CLOSING HYMN** "Because He Lives" P. 4

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE "Postlude on 'Olney'" from *Missouri Harmony*,
arranged by Steven Scott.

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Gather the wheat into my barn. Matthew 13:30

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Designated Pastor: Pastor Lee A. Diefenderfer, 1295 Red Dale Rd.,
Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

Council President: Ed Tietsworth, (570) 292-1061

Calendar

Today – Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Baptism.

July 26 – Jim Erdman and Scholarship Awards.

August 2 – Pastor Spatz with Holy Communion.

August 9 – Rachel & Jim Hepler.

Announcements

July 26 – Scholarship Awards.

July 28 – Blood Drive from 1 – 6 PM at St. Andrews UMC.

August 23, Church Picnic. In the Sunday School after the service.

August 25, 2026 – Worship & Music Mtg., 5:30 PM.

September 13, 2026 – Harvest Home Sunday.

September 19, 2026 – Craft Faire, Hegins Park.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; Terry Schwartz; Saralinn Grantz; Linda, Lee & Jared Kiefer; Marvin Ruch; Irvin Lenker Sr.; Daniel & Mary Carl; Chris Stint; Lisa Sterner; Betty Lenker; Ken Dinger; Lori Heim; Butch Koppenhaver; Joan Smith; Suzet Spotts; Judy Huntzinger; Melody Schwartz; Lori Heim. Family and friends of Tommy Bressler, Randy Mayer; Eric Schalles; Christine Love.

Today's Leaders – 7/19/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector,
Damaris Merwine Counters, Ann Miller & Vicki Troutman Head
Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Ed Tietsworth, Rick Herring, Ed Hornung.

Flowers – In memory of Mom (Daisy) by June Boyer.

Bulletin – In memory of Grandma Daisy by family.

Attendance: 19 (7/12/26) Offering:

July 12, 2026 – Current	\$874.00
Other	\$80.00
Total	\$954.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Leaders, 7/26/2026 – Service, Jim Erdman Lector, Ann Miller
Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers,
Christy Leiter, Damaris Merwine, Ed Tietsworth.

Deep-Seeded Grace

The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame. That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?