

WOMAN,
GREAT
IS YOUR
FAITH!

MATTHEW 15:28

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

12th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ August 16, 2026

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"At Length There Dawns the Glorious Day" ST. MICHEL'S, arranged by James Mansfield.

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin to God.

Awesome and compassionate God, ***you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from our neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.***

*HYMN "Jesus is Coming Again" P. 54

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken)

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through 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 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM: 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² ***Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.***

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ ***Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.***

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ ***The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.***

⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but

have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

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

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then

Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

CHILDREN'S and CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE –

Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "On a Hill Far Away, (Old Rugged Cross)." P. 3

PRAYERS** Merciful God, ***receiver our prayer.

***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.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Father, We Praise You" by Todd Kendall.

***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.

*BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN "Sweet Hour of Prayer" P. 26

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Festivity on 'Come, Thou Fount'" NETTLETON, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner.

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Matthew 15:28 – Women, Great is your Faith!

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Calendar

Today – Pastor Barry Spatz.

August 23 – Karen Koppenhaver. Church Picnic after service.

August 30 – Scott Kroh.

September 6 – Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion.

Announcements

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 & Joe Grantz; Linda & Lee Kiefer; Daniel & Mary Carl; Joan Smith; Suzette Spotts; Judy Huntzinger; Melody Schwartz; Lori Heim; Paul Schrinier; Pat Oswald; Tim Koppenhaver; Leo Ramos; John Deitrich; Ledger Kieffer; Donna Slater; David Merwine; Sue Merkle. Family and friends of John Fulkrod.

Today's Leaders – 8/16/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, Lisa Maurer Organist, Harold Morgan Counters, Christy Leiter & Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Ed Teitsworth Ushers, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Mike Deiter.

Flowers – In Honor of Mike and Sue's 48th Anniversary.

Bulletin – No Sponsor.

Attendance: 34 (8/9/26/26) Offering:

Current \$1,255.00

Other \$70.00

Total \$1,325.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Leaders, 8/23/2026 – Service, Karen Koppenhaver Lector, Damaris Merwine Counters, Ann Miller & Vicki Troutman Head Usher, Ed Teitsworth Ushers, Mike Deiter, Rick Herring, Ed Hornung.

Breaking Boundaries

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?