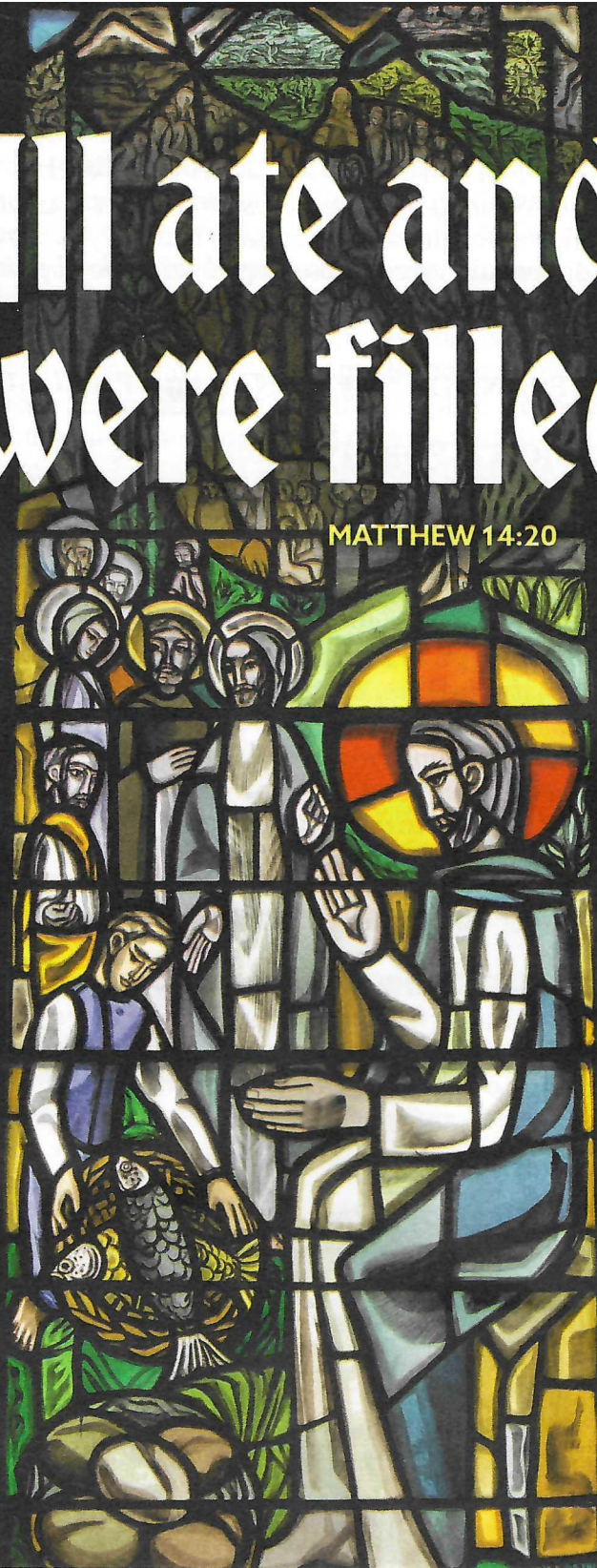


All ate and were filled

MATTHEW 14:20



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

10th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ August 2, 2026

*Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able.
Congregation responses are printed in **bold print**.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRELUDE

***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 "Savoir Like a Sheperd Led Us" P. 49

***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 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? ³ Incline your ear and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 145:8-9,14-21

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰ You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

Second Reading: Romans 9: 1-5

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 14:13-21

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

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

CHILDREN’S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE –

Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN “Just As I Am, without One Plea” P. 18

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

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

OFFERING

***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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Spoken)

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Lift your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

***PREFACE**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

(Spoken)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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** "Wonderful Words of Life" P. 36

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

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All ate and were filled. Matthew 14:20

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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

August 2 – Pastor Spatz with Holy Communion.

August 9 – Rachel & Jim Hepler.

August 16 – Pastor Barry Spatz.

August 23 – Karen Koppenhaver. Church Picnic after service.

August 30 – Scott Kroh.

Announcements

August 11 – Council Mtg., 6:00 PM.

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; Marvin Ruch; Irvin Lenker Sr.; Daniel & Mary Carl; Joan Smith; Suzette Spotts; Judy Huntzinger; Melody Schwartz; Lori Heim; Paul Schriener; Pat Oswald; Tim Koppenhaver; Leo Ramon; John Deitrich. Family and friends of Christine Love.

Today's Leaders – 8/2/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion Lector, Damaris Merwine Lay Assistant, Ron Radel Counters, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher, Ed Tietsworth Ushers, Rodney Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang.

Flowers – Happy birthday to Mike (our son) and Brock, Mike and Sue.

Bulletin – No sponsor.

Attendance: 46 (7/26/26) Offering:

Current \$2,713.00

Other \$105.00

Total \$2,818.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Leaders, 8/9/2026 – Service, Rachel & Jim Hepler Lector Ann Miller Organist, Harold Morgan Counters, Christy Leiter & Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Ed Tietsworth Ushers, Larry Klingler, AJ Kline, Ann Miller.

True Abundance

In our gospel reading, Jesus hears about John the Baptizer's death and wants to be alone, to withdraw "to a deserted place" (Matthew 14:13). But the crowds follow him, the disciples follow him, and it seems everyone wants something from him. Jesus' response is compassionate, and he meets their needs, healing those who were sick. Then evening falls, and the disciples come to him with a request: "You've healed everyone. Now send them home. They can buy food in the villages for themselves."

Some compassion is needed here for the disciples too. With the twelve of them plus Jesus, there are at least thirteen people to feed with what they have—just five loaves and two fish. That's not enough even for them.

So Jesus does this miracle—he takes what he is given and multiplies it so everyone has something to eat, and there are twelve baskets left over. (Twelve baskets means one for each disciple to carry and then realize that true abundance comes from Jesus!)

The miracle fed the people, but it also taught the disciples that, with Jesus, there is always compassion and always enough to share. After feeding the thousands, each disciple now had a basket full of food. By sharing what they had, through Jesus they received back more than they had to begin with.

This is the true message of Matthew's text today: God gives us what we need, we share what we have with others, and in the end, we are given more than we could ever imagine. This is loving the neighbor. This is being God's grace in the world. At no time is sending people away God's answer. Jesus taught his disciples this important lesson, and we continue to learn and struggle with it today.