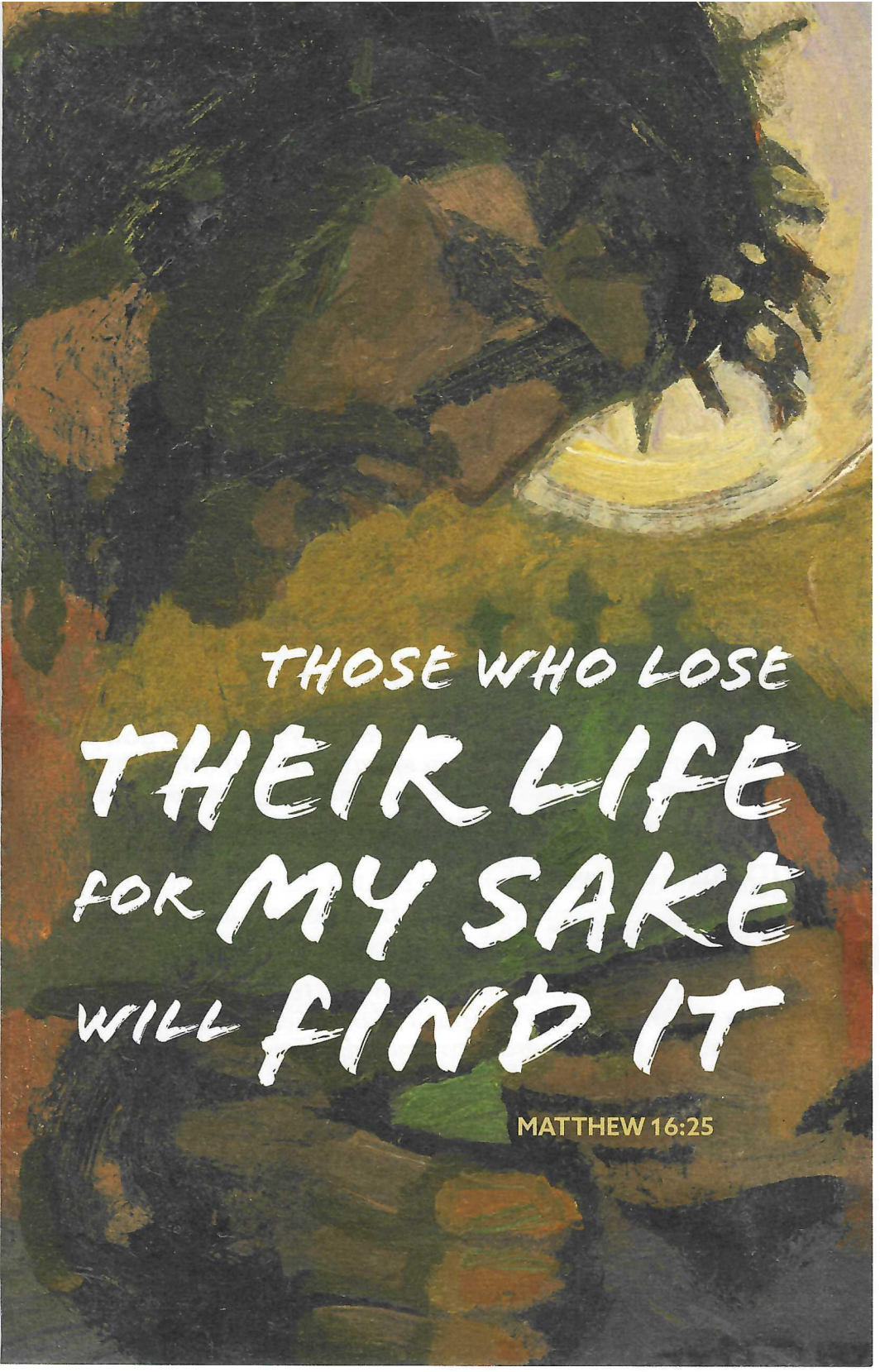




THOSE WHO LOSE
THEIR LIFE
FOR MY SAKE
WILL FIND IT

MATTHEW 16:25

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

14th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ August 30, 2026

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "I Come with Joy" an American folk hymn,
arranged by Roberta Rowland-Raybold

***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** "I Surrender All" P. 2

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Spoken)
O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, 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: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

² ***Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.***

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ ***I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.***

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ ***I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,***

7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 16:21-28

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

21 From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on

divine things but on human things." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE – Scott Kroh.

HYMN "Love Lifted Me" P.52

***PRAYERS** Merciful God, **receive 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 "Andantino" by Janes Conely

***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**

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.

***CLOSING HYMN "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"**

P. 8

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE "An Exultant Alleluia" by Lani Smith

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Matthew 16:25 – Those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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Calendar

Today – Scott Kroh.

September 6 – Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion.

September 13 – Janet & Ron Radel with Harvest Home Sunday.

Announcements

September 2, 2026– Worship & Music Mtg., 5:30 PM.

September 9, 2026 - The Chosen/Bible Study with Pastor Barry, Friedens, @ 6:30, PM. The production portrays the ministry and life of Jesus. Each week we will be viewing an episode of Season 1, and discussing various scripture passages, teachings, and traditions related to the episode. *"Behold, I am doing a new thing"* Isaiah 43:19. We will gather every Wednesday from 9/9 through 10/28. Snacks will be provided! Any questions contact Pastor Barry.

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; Judy Huntzinger; Melody Schwartz; Tim Koppenhaver; Leo Ramos; Ledger Kieffer; Donna Slater; David Merwine; Sue Merkle. Family and friends of John Fulkrod; Richard Moyer; Bret Whitesides.

Today's Leaders – 8/30/2026 – Service, Scott Kroh Organist, Harold Morgan Lector, Ann Miller Counters, Jean & Gary Klinger Head Usher, Ed Teitsworth Ushers, Christy Leiter, Damaris Merwine, Rick Herring.

Flowers – In honor of Gloria Kroh's 93rd birthday, by Ruth.

Attendance: 32 (8/23/26/26) Offering:

Current	\$870.00
Other	\$110.00
Total	\$980.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Chinese Auction Church Picnic raised \$473.00 for the Friedens Outreach Fund.

Leaders, 9/6/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz with Holy Communion
Lay Assistant, Jess Henninger Lector, Lisa Maurer Counters, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher, Rick Herring Ushers, Rodney Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang.

Take Up Your Cross

Jesus issues a difficult invitation to his disciples: “Take up [your] cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). While the disciples may have hoped for a Messiah who would set the world right through satisfying displays of force and strength, Jesus offers them a different vision. His new kingdom or reign will not be built on traditional concepts of power and glory. It is instead a kingdom centered on the cross.

Today we, too, may long for a mighty Messiah to put the world back in order, throw down corrupt rulers from their thrones, and take away suffering once and for all. And like Peter, we may find ourselves crying out in disbelief, “God forbid it, Lord!” (v. 22) when Jesus redirects our gaze to the cross.

The cross reminds us that following Jesus requires nothing less than our whole lives. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbors with a self-sacrificing love, to sit in the discomfort of another’s struggle, and to be willing to lay down our own power and privilege to see the world from our neighbor’s point of view. Following Jesus requires practicing courage as we show up for one another in the least glamorous moments of life: in the hospital room, at the gravesite, in the living rooms of the brokenhearted, in the streets marching for justice. To follow Jesus is to open our hearts to the world’s pain and to practice loving others with God’s generous love, trusting that there is always more than enough.

Putting love of God and neighbor above power, prestige, and comfort is countercultural. It might even get us into trouble. But through Jesus’ own life, death, and resurrection, we are freed to enter into the world’s suffering, trusting that God’s love always gets the last word and that we will indeed be brought to new life through God’s resurrection power.