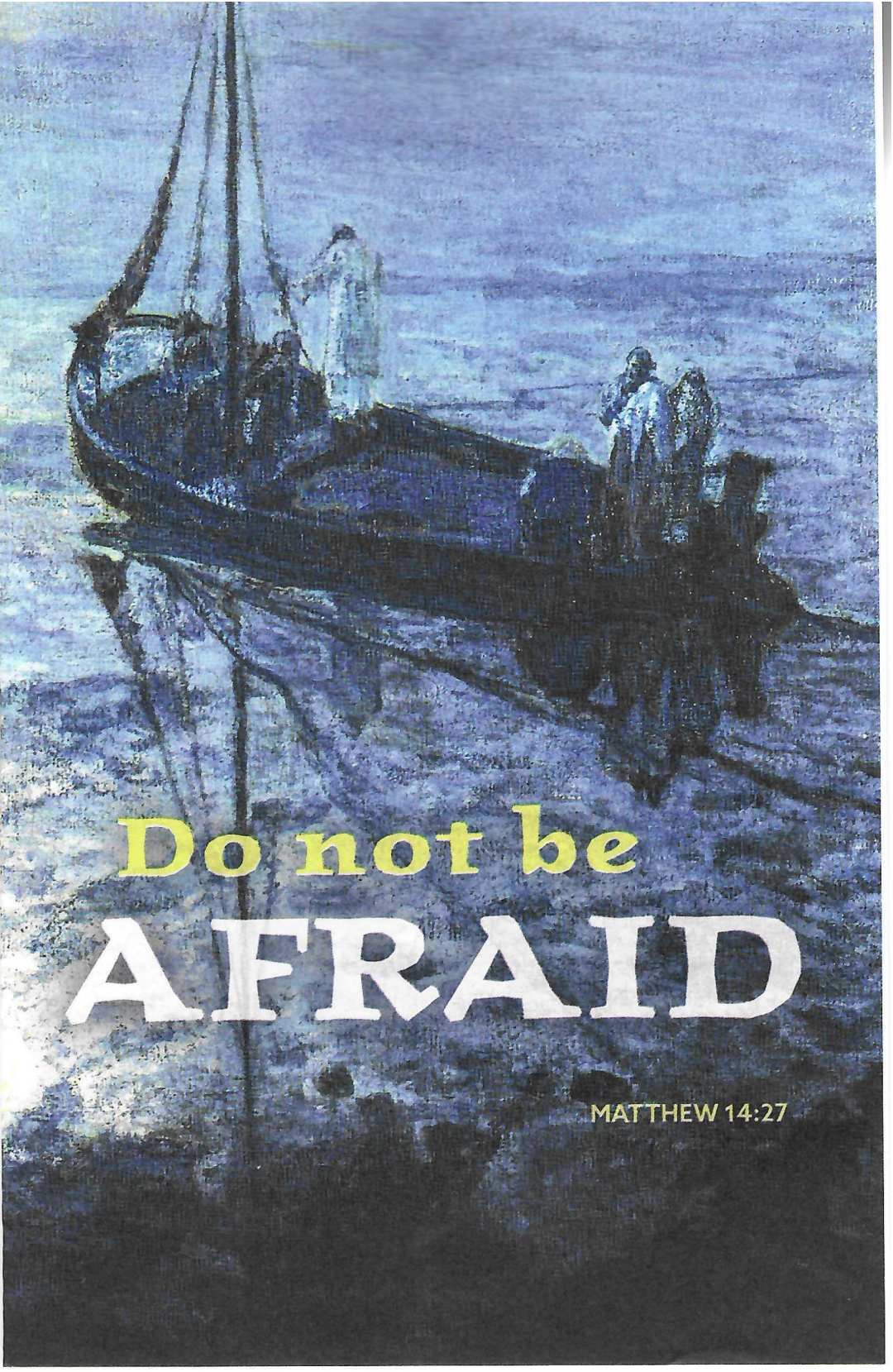




Do not be
AFRAID

MATTHEW 14:27

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

10th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ August 9, 2026

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Wonder, Love, and Praise" by William Gardiner, arranged by Lani Smith

***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** "Presious Lord, Take My Hand" P. 7

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Spoken)

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith 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: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

PSALM: 85:8-13

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ ***Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.***

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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

***GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

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

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the

wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE – Jim Hepler.

HYMN "I Think, When I Read" P. 27

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 "The Love of God" by Jason W. Krug

***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 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"**

P. 16

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

"Glory to Our God and King" by Franklin Ritter

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Orwigsburg, PA 17961, 610-858-4136

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

Calendar

Today – 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 15 – Rick Kline Softball Tournament.

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 Schriner; Pat Oswald; Tim Koppenhaver; Leo Ramos; John Deitrich. Family and friends of John Fulkrod.

Today's Leaders – 8/9/2026 – Service, Rachel & Jim Hepler

Lector Ann Miller Organist, Harold Morgan Counters, Janet & Ron Radel Head Usher, Ed Tietsworth Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller.

Flowers – In loving memory of Janice Scheib by Ruth.

Bulletin – In memory of Catherine Klinger. Love, Jean and family.

Attendance: 32 (8/2/26/26) Offering:

Current \$2,570.00

Other \$45.00

Total \$2,615.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

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

Take Heart

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *This is not possible. This can't be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.