

*Everything is ready;
come to the
wedding banquet*

MATTHEW 22:4



FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

20th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ October 11, 2026

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

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Ever Faithful, Ever Near" by Franklin Ritter

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive free this healing gift of grace.

***HYMN** "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" P. 433

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance.

Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, 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 25:1-9

¹ O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

Psalm 23

¹ *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.*

² *The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.*

³ *You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.*

⁴ *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

SECOND READING: 4:1-9

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

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

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE –

Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" P. 456

*PRAYERS Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

***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 "Contemplation" by J. F. Seegr, arranged by David Paxton

***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** "O Living Bread from Heaven" P. 197

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE "Boundless Grace" by David Paxton

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

Calendar

October 18, 2026, Carole Hepler

October 25, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz with Reformation Sunday.

November 1, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz, with Communion.

November 8, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz.

Announcements

October 14, 21, 28, 2026 – The Chosen Bible Study, 6:30 PM, with Pastor Barry.

Council Meeting, October 10, 2026, 2006 – 6:00 PM.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; Terry Schwartz; Saralinn & Joe Grantz; Linda & Lee Kiefer; Daniel & Mary Carl; Judy Huntzinger; Tim Koppenhaver; Linda Sanders; Kenneth Klinger; Unborn baby of Jory and Trisha Fetterolf; Daphne Snyder; Mary Lou Harner; Ed Stepulipis, Sr; Ben Wetzel.

Today's Leaders – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, Damaris Merwine Counter, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Rod Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang.

Leaders, 10/18/2026 – Service, Carole Hepler Lector, Hope Bruso Counter, Janet & Ron Radel Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller.

Flowers – No sponsors.

Bulletin – In memory of Harvey and Katie Huntzinger. Love, Jean and family.

Attendance: 30 (10/4/26) Offering:

Current \$1,417.00

Other \$25.00

Total \$1,442.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Welcomed In

A crowd gathered in the church basement like they did every third Thursday of the month. They walked past the kitchen window. They grabbed their plates. They filled up cups of ice water and coffee and swung by the dessert table on their way to folding chairs situated around circular folding tables throughout the room. Conversations bubbled up as old friends greeted each other around the free meal provided, as it was every month. Everyone was welcome, no questions asked.

This image of a free meal in the church basement, attended by any and all comers, is reminiscent of the wedding feast the king gives in today's parable. When those who are invited fail to show up, the king sends his servants out into the entire surrounding countryside to bring to the meal any and all who will attend. The king doesn't check credentials; the king doesn't ask questions. The joy of the wedding feast is open to all.

The parable tells us of one guest without a wedding robe, who winds up outside the joy of the feast. This can cause us to worry or despair. Do we have a wedding robe fit for the kingdom of heaven? What happens to us if we do not? Our baptism in Jesus, however, reminds us that we have no need to fear. We have been clothed not with a robe but with the grace of Jesus, which assures us that we, who have been gathered into the feast of the reign of God, have a place and an inheritance among God's people. Gathered around that table of grace, we too are sent to share the good news and welcome others into the reality of God's reign.