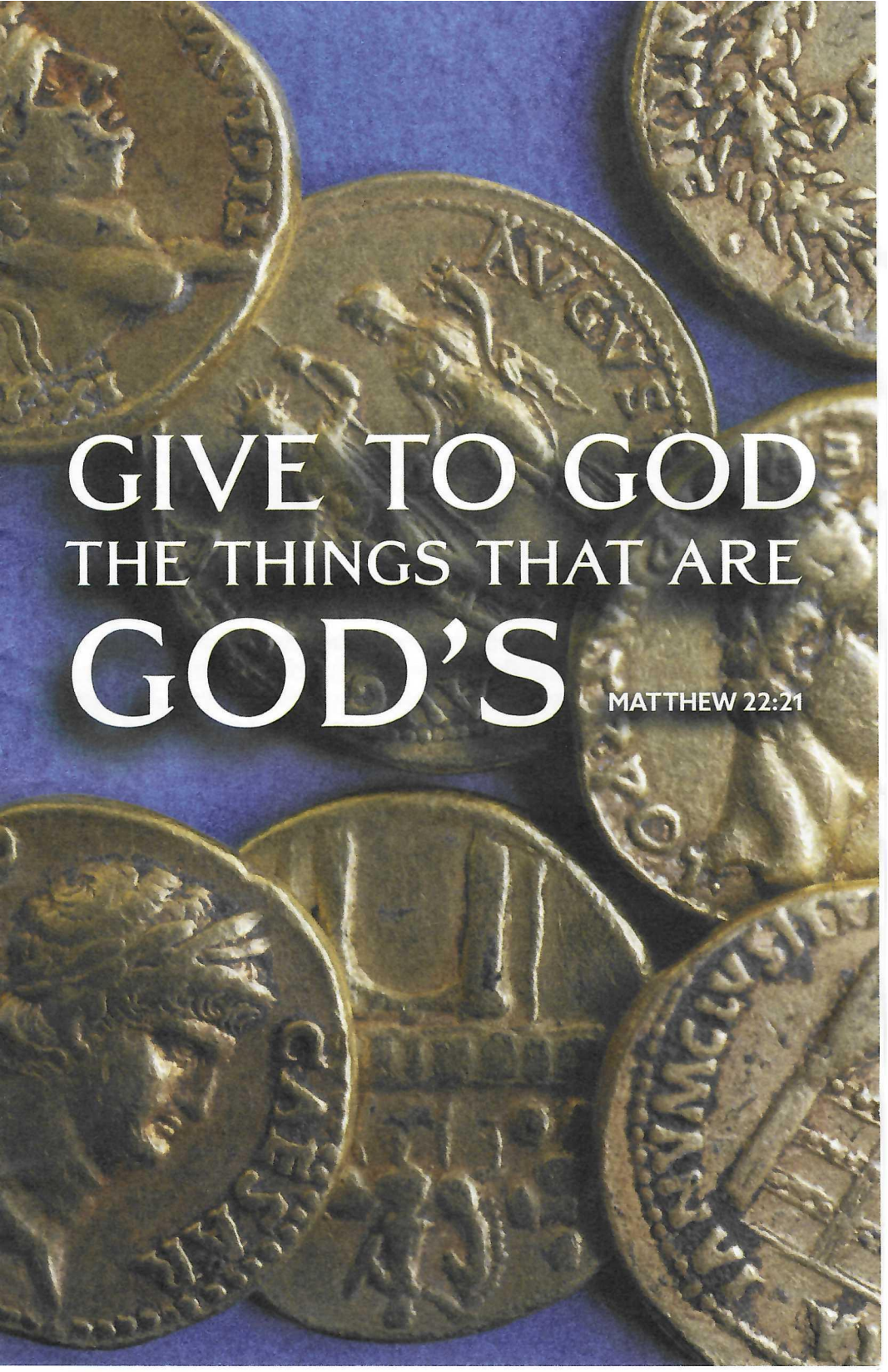




GIVE TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S

MATTHEW 22:21

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

21th Sunday After Pentecost ✠ October 18, 2026

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

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

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRELUDE

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 "You Servants of God" P. 252

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, 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 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

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

Psalm 96:1-13

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE — Carole Hepler.

Title — "Are You Ready?"

HYMN "O God of Every Nation P. 416

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

***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**

Creator God, provider of all we bring our thanks today. And we bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed through our lives and be a blessing to others now and always. ***Amen.***

***CLOSING HYMN** "God of Grace, God of Glory" P. 415

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

A Bible Study is being planned. The topic is "Application of Scripture in Your Life". This will be open to all interested in attending. Our first organizational meeting will be held on November 9th at 6:00 PM at Trinity. If anyone wants to join us, please let us know so we can order books.

Here's a sneak peak...

Journey through spiritual growth with this uniquely crafted Bible study that weaves together the major themes of Scripture. This study illuminates essential themes of the Christian faith, from Creation to Praise, helping you build a comprehensive biblical worldview while developing practical faith. Although the study contains 52 weeks of material, we will do something less than that based on what the group decides.

Each week features:

- A thought-provoking devotional that unpacks the week's theme
- Seven carefully selected Scripture passages that build progressive understanding
- Three reflection questions that bridge theology with daily living
- A weekly blessing that encourages practical application.

If interested, please call Scott Kroh, 570-590-9121.

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Designated Pastor: Pastor Barry Spatz, 406 Musselman Road,
Fredericksburg, PA, 17026 484-332-0258

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

Calendar

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

November 1, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz, with Communion and All Saints Sunday.

November 8, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz.

Announcements

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

November 9 - WELCA, 6:00 PM.

November 10 – Council, 6:00 PM.

Prayer Corner

Rick Herring; Terry Schwartz; Saralinn & Joe Grantz; Linda & Lee Kiefer; Daniel & Mary Carl; Judy Huntzinger; Tim Koppenhaver; Linda Sanders; Unborn baby of Jory and Trisha Fetterolf; Daphne Snyder; Mary Lou Harner; Ed Stepulipis, Sr; Elaina Herring; Logan Gober; Diane Wolfgang; Jess Sluzevich; Ron and Gloria Gutshall. Sympathy of the family and friends of Kenneth Klinger.

Today's Leaders – Service, Carole Hepler Lector, Hope Bruso Counter, Janet & Ron Radel Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Larry Klinger, AJ Kline, Ann Miller.

Leaders, 10/25/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz, Counter, Christy Leiter, Melody Schwartz Head Usher, Mike Deiter Ushers, Michael Allvord, Scott Allvord, Ed Teitsworth.

Flowers – No sponsors.

Bulletin – No sponsors.

Attendance: 34 (10/11/26) Offering:

Current	\$1,131.00
Other	\$110.00
Total	\$1,241.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.