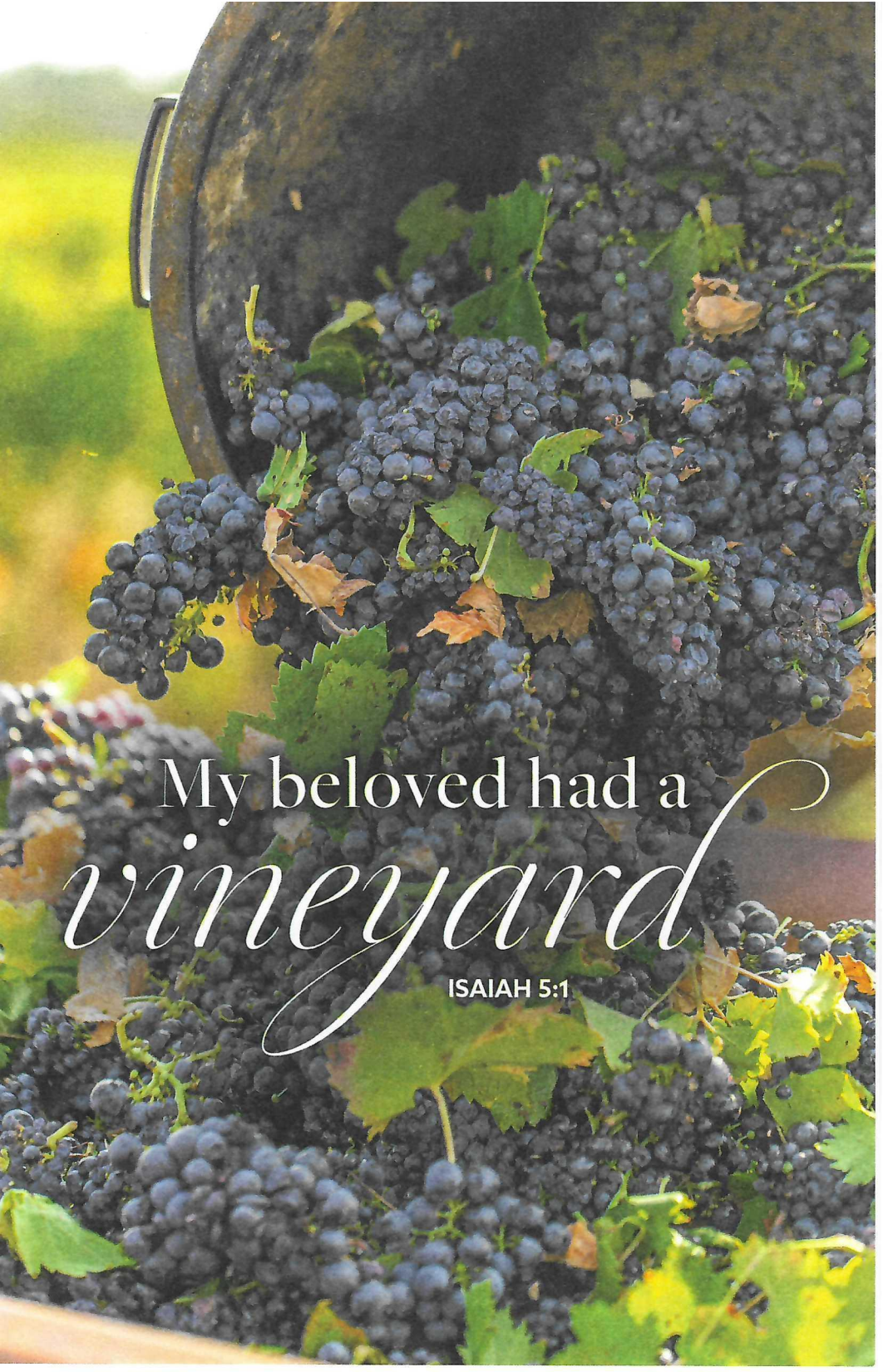




My beloved had a
vineyard

ISAIAH 5:1

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH

World-Wide Communion Sunday ✠ October 4, 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, who pours love into our hearts+ and healing upon the earth.

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 freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

*HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" P. 482

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Spoken)

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, 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 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ ***You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.***

⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ ***The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.***

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹² ***Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?***

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ ***Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;***

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had,

these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

***Gospel: Matthew 21:34-46**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. ***Glory to you, O Lord.***
[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? ⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest

him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

CHILDREN'S AND CONGREGATIONAL MESSAGE – Pastor Barry Spatz.

HYMN "O' Master, Let Me Walk with You" P. 492

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

***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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Holy are you,...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

****Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,...redeemed by his blood.

****Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.***

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We come to the foretaste of the feast to come as one in Christ, one in Spirit, one in hope. **Amen.**

COMMUNION *Please follow the direction of the ushers*

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of abundance, ***with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue***

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING HYMN** "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs 1-4
P. 527

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

"The Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday," Copyright © 1972
The Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1985, 1989, 1992
UMPH. Used by permission."

Website: [HTTPS://www.thefriedenslutheran.com](https://www.thefriedenslutheran.com)

Phone: 570-682-9690

Church e-mail: friedenslutheran4@gmail.com

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

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

Calendar

October 11, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz.

October 18, 2026 – Carol Hepler.

October 25, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz, with Communion.

November 1, 2026 – Pastor Barry Spatz.

Announcements

October 25, 2026 – Reformation Sunday with First Responder Recognition.

November 1, 2026 – All Saints Sunday.

November 9, 2026 – WELCA, 6 PM.

December 12, 2026 – Cookie Sale, 9 AM – 12 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. Friends and Family of Doris Smith.

Today's Leaders – 10/2/2026 – Service, Pastor Barry Spatz
Lector, Damaris Merwine Lay Assistant, Ruth Wetzel Counter,
Jean and Gary Klinger Head Usher, Dave Henninger Ushers,
Christy Leiter, Damaris Merwine, Ed Tietsworth.

Flowers – In memory of Ralph by Ruth and family.

Bulletin – In memory of Ralph by Ruth.

Attendance: 24 (9/27/26) Offering:

Current	\$860.00
Other	\$50.00
Total	\$910.00

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,362.87

Leaders, 10/11/2026 – Service – Pastor Barry Spatz Lector, TBD
Counters, Sue & Mike Deiter Head Usher, Dave Henninger Usher,
Rod Troutman, Ben Wetzel, Jason Wolfgang.

Thanks – Thank you for all your thought, prayers and cards during our surgery and doctor appointments. Linda and Linda Keifer

One Word: *Jesus*

The tennis team had a word for the season: *rally*. That one word centered everything: “Extend each rally.” “Rally when you’re down.” “Rally back after a rough week.” Each practice began with the word “Rally” at the top of the chalkboard above the conditioning drills. The huddle before each meet was broken with the shout “Rally!” And it wasn’t just on the team. At night, when the coach’s family sat down to dinner, they all shared what they’d done that day to “rally” in their lives. Everything and everyone was centered, gathered around that one word. In our lives of faith, that one word is *Jesus*.

Jesus reminds his hearers that he is the cornerstone of faith: for the Pharisees, for the rest of the crowd gathered at the temple that day, and for us, the church here and now. The grace we find in Jesus’ love—the love that goes to the cross, to the empty tomb, and even beyond for us and our salvation—is the bedrock of our faith as we live out the life to which we are called in baptism. *Jesus* is the one word—indeed, Jesus is the Word—that gathers us together, that centers our lives.

United to Jesus, the cornerstone of our lives, in baptism, we are also united with one another. Today’s parable certainly showcases what human division can be and do at its worst, but in Jesus, we are not divided. Where division causes hurt and suffering, unity in Jesus brings hope, healing, and restoration. Where hope seems lost, Jesus rekindles that flame. Centered and united around Jesus’ baptismal grace, we are empowered and emboldened to proclaim the good news of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith.