

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

First News First

Volume 61, Issue 5

May 2026

May is a season filled with signs of new life. The echoes of Easter still ring in our worship and in our hearts, reminding us that resurrection is not only something we celebrate—it is something we are invited to live. The world around us reflects this truth as well: trees bud, flowers bloom, and the earth itself seems to awaken with possibility.

This month also brings us meaningful moments in the life of the Church and our families. We give thanks for the gift of mothers and those who nurture us in faith and love. We look ahead to Pentecost, when the Spirit moved among the disciples like wind and fire, opening doors they never imagined walking through. And we anticipate Holy Trinity Sunday, where we celebrate the mystery of a God who is always in relationship and always drawing us into deeper connection.

It feels especially fitting, in this season of renewal, that we find ourselves in a time of exploration as a congregation. Opportunities for ministry are beginning to arise around us. We are noticing new ways our building might be used—not just as a place we gather, but as a space that can serve, welcome, and bless our wider community in fresh and meaningful ways.

We are still in the early stages. There are more questions than answers, more wondering than deciding. And that is okay.

In many ways, this is what it means to be a Pentecost people. Before there was clarity, there was wind. Before there was a plan, there was movement. The Spirit did not arrive to create chaos, but to stir hearts, expand vision, and help the disciples see possibilities they could not see before.

That is our prayer as well.

We are opening ourselves to the movement of the Spirit—not to rush ahead, but to listen carefully. Not to force outcomes, but to remain attentive. Not to hold tightly to what has always been, but to faithfully consider what could be.

As we move forward, may we be guided by curiosity rather than fear, by hope rather than hesitation. May we trust that God is already at work among us, gently leading us into new life together.

This is an exciting time—not because everything is certain, but because God is still speaking, still moving, still creating.

Come, Holy Spirit. Blow through us once again.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jane Nicholson




WORSHIP





SCHEDULE

May 3 10:45 Fifth Sunday of Easter with Holy Communion
Pastor Alan Wilson supply

May 10 10:45  Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day and Music Sunday


May 17 10:45  Ascension of our Lord with Holy Communion
Last day of Sunday School

May 24 9:30  Pentecost Sunday with Holy Communion
wear red!

May 31 9:30  Holy Trinity Sunday with Holy Communion

June 7 9:30 Second Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion

June 14 9:30 Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 21 9:30  Fourth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion
Father's Day and Rose Rent Sunday

June 28 10:45  Worship at Greene Township Park
Catered Picnic Lunch to follow



Easter Sunday

APRIL 5, 2026

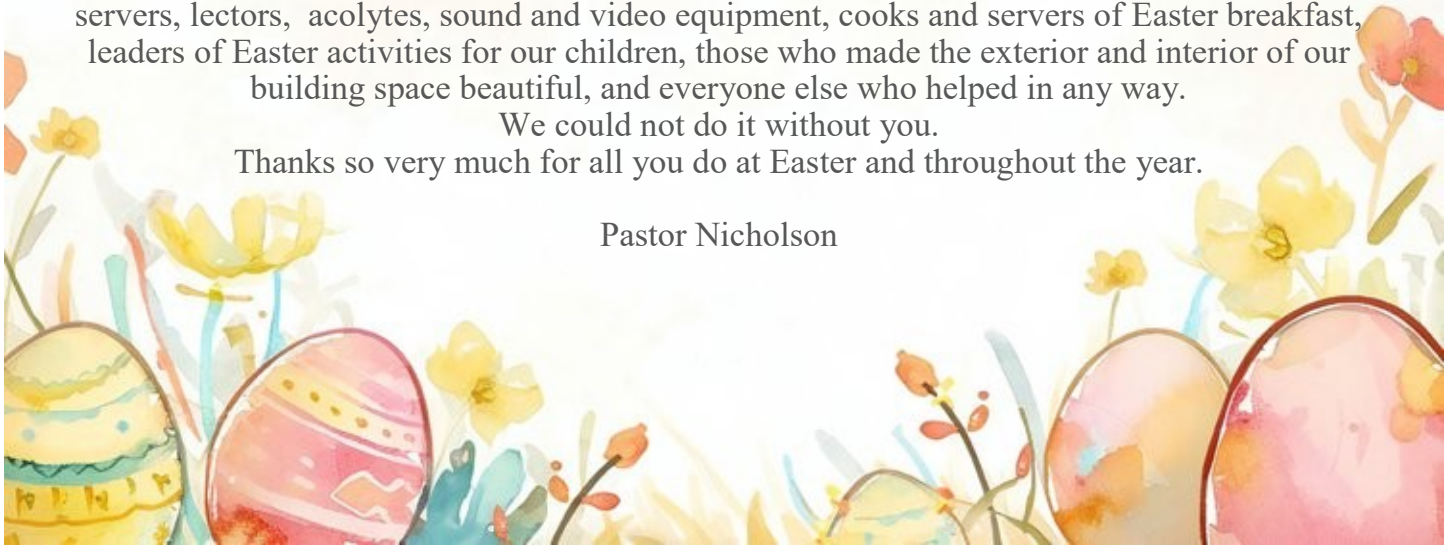
EASTER APPRECIATION

Thank you to all of those who worked so diligently in preparation for a beautiful Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to those who worked with worship planning and bulletin preparation, altar guild, decorating and flower team, ushers, musicians, greeters, communion servers, lectors, acolytes, sound and video equipment, cooks and servers of Easter breakfast, leaders of Easter activities for our children, those who made the exterior and interior of our building space beautiful, and everyone else who helped in any way.

We could not do it without you.

Thanks so very much for all you do at Easter and throughout the year.

Pastor Nicholson



LONG RANGE PLANNING PROGRESS

Homeless Shelter - Tim Gotwald and Pastor met with a group concerned about homelessness in our community. They walked through our building on March 25 and had a great interest renovating and using the basement of our building. This area was especially attractive because it was contained, had ample space to renovate at their expense so bathrooms with showers would be available as well as a laundry room. They are concerned about security and handicapped accessibility. A small contingent spoke to the council at our April meeting. There is still much to discuss about this possibility.

Lutheran Social Services of NJ is looking for a single office space as well as storage space. They are providing homecare and hospice in our community. We have relayed to the synod that we are open to further conversation regarding this possibility.



Cumberland Valley School of Music is awaiting a board meeting in May to approve a space rental agreement for 3 rooms off of the chapel to be used primarily in the late afternoons and early evenings for music lessons.

Chambersburg Anglican Fellowship began their prayer services at First Lutheran on Sunday, April 19. They meet every other Sunday morning between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the chapel and the room behind the chapel altar. We welcome them and pray for the growth of their ministry. They will primarily be using the Southgate Parking lot.

Luminest Housing is currently involved in a couple of projects locally and at this time they do not feel they can take on another one. It would not be out of the question in future years.

Chambersburg Bible Baptist Church has approached First Lutheran us about gifting the entire building to them to start a new church. Currently they are having Bible studies at the library on Wednesday evenings. They plan to begin holding worship somewhere on October 18. With the committee's recommendation, council determined that gifting the building to this organization is not what we would like to do at this time.

Appraisal – The council has approved the acquisition of a Market Value Appraisal of First Lutheran's Property.

LOCAL EVENTS

Mercy House Plant & Flower Sale



April 25

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

730 Norland Ave.
Chambersburg



MERCY HOUSE
OF CHAMBERSBURG

Walk for Life 2026

It is soon time for the
Walk of Life event! The Walk has been
scheduled for

Saturday, May 30

**starting at 8 a.m. at
Norlo Park pavilion number 2.**

Online registration is now open.
See Rose Wilson for more details.

PMI 

pregnancy ministries, inc.

PENTECOST FLOWERS



PENTECOST SUNDAY—MAY 24

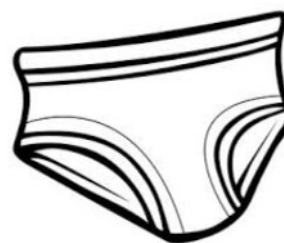
On Pentecost Sunday we will be decorating
the worship space with red geraniums to
celebrate this special day. We hope to fill the
chancel with geraniums.

Geraniums are \$7.00 each. Order forms
were placed in the church bulletins on
April 19. If you still need an order form,
they will be placed on the table outside the
sanctuary by the elevator entrance.
Order forms are due by Sunday, May 10.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

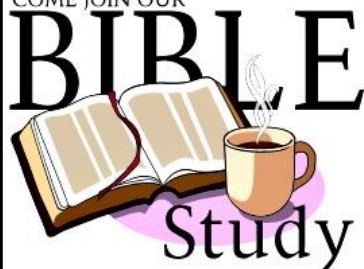
Sharing God's love in our community

UNDY SUNDAYS to support the Back to School Event begin in May. Please donate underwear for elementary age children. Size small, medium and large are needed for boys and girls. Boys underwear are briefs (no extended legs) and girls are regular, no low cut. Also, camisoles for girls are needed. Please put the items in the box outside the main office. Donations by cash or check can also be made using the envelopes provided or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with "Back to School" in the memo line. Thank you!!!



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

COME JOIN OUR



Come and be a part of this small group as we study the Holy Scriptures together. We will read stories in Matthew and discuss them, intertwining God's word and our daily life. Join us on Monday afternoons from June 1 through June 29 at 1 p.m. in Meeting Room #1. If you are only available to attend one or two sessions, that is fine. Join us for those. Sign up sheet is by the main office door. This series is led by Pastor Nicholson.



The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at 8:30 a.m.
on May 13th at Texas Lunch
All Ladies are Welcome!

Women's Bible Study

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

will gather for Bible Study and fellowship on
Thursday, May 14th at 1:00 p.m.
in Meeting Room 1.

We continue our study of the Women of the Bible Speak. We have been learning about some of the women in the Bible that are not so famous but still important. We would love to have you join us for the short study followed by snacks and Fellowship time.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

I personally wanted to thank the members of First Lutheran Church for your support of the 2025 Chambersburg Area CROP Walk. Your gifts help support a global initiative dedicated to supplying and distributing food to individuals in desperate need. Thank you for your continued dedication and service to the well-being and health of the broader community. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Your servant,

Peter W. Emig, CROP Walk Coordinator

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THANK YOU to our generous donors whose support makes it possible for Mercy House to provide compassionate care to our guests at the end of life's journey. Your commitment touches countless lives, and we are deeply grateful for your place in our community.

-Mercy House of Chambersburg

TEACHERS.... At the end of our traditional learning year, we take a moment to thank our teachers who share the faith with us and enrich our living and learning with God's message. Thank you to Mary Gotwald and Nicki Johnson who taught our elementary students and to Tim Gotwald for teaching our adult Sunday School class. It is wonderful to continue growing in our faith and understanding of scripture.



THANK YOU

to all of our Mothers and Other Women who have loved us and cared for us throughout our lives.

Your faithful and loving witness to God has been significant in the lives of all whom you have encountered and mentored.



CINCO DE MAYO BAKED POTATO BAR

at Trinity Lutheran Church located
at 1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle on
Saturday, May 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Cost- donation. Come and have some fun!



NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHOIR 2ND EDITION

Join us for a dynamic and energetic concert
on Saturday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m. at
Memorial Lutheran Church located at
34 E. Orange Street, Shippensburg.
Free will offering and a reception to follow.
Visit memluth.org for more information
or call 717-532-4614.

PARADE



HELPING HANDS

2026 Council

President: Mike Ross
Vice President: Gary Kennedy
Secretary: Marianne Kennedy
Treasurer: Sally Herritt
Pastor: Jane Nicholson
Deacon: Freda Dorand
Jeff Dorand
Lori Palmer
Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
Gerry Wilson
Financial Secretary: Carol McCoy



PRAYER CHAIN

May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer need that we can help you with? If so, please call our prayer chain group leader:

Marcia Hunt @
717-263-0781

Names are kept on the prayer chain for 1 month. After that month, please contact the office again if you would like to have a name on for another month.

Beverly Umbrell	5/04
Kashton Peters	5/06
Sam Nienstedt	5/11
Grayson Peters	5/11
Kirk Umbrell	5/11
Seth Cody	5/13
Kayleigh Warne	5/14
Robert Herbert	5/17
Linda Miller	5/20
Claudia Schumacher	5/20
Ashley Wenger	5/24
Samantha Hefner	5/27
Coleton Rankin	5/31

TRANSPORTATION

Need a Ride?

Our church provides transportation to church on Sundays! Please call if you need a ride. Church office: 717-264-2015



**Deadline for
the June
Newsletter
will be
May 15**



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-mail: felccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.felcc.org

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch

 @felccyouth

May

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE	717-264-2015
Parish Administrator	ext. 1
Director of Music	ext. 3
Pastor	ext. 4



The Wind of the Spirit is Blowing...

New Ministries are Rising!

Join us for

Pentecost Worship

Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 a.m.