

# First News First

Volume 61, Issue 4

April 2026

## Walking the Holiest Week Together

Each year the Church is given a sacred gift: one week that invites us to walk step-by-step with our Lord through praise, suffering, silence, and resurrection joy. I invite you to enter fully into this most holy week of worship, from Palm Sunday's hosannas to the wonder of Easter morning.

It is tempting to skip ahead to the lilies and alleluias. We long for resurrection. We long for good news. Yet the brilliance of Easter shines most clearly when we have walked the road that leads there.

On Maundy Thursday, we gather with the disciples in the upper room where love kneels to wash feet, where bread is broken, where the cup is shared, and where Jesus gives the commandment that defines us: love one another. This tender night reminds us that our faith is lived in humble service, shared meals, and self-giving love.

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross. We listen to the final words. We sit with grief, injustice, and sacrifice. We face the cost of redemption and the depth of God's mercy. This solemn day teaches us that God meets us in our darkest valleys and that no suffering is beyond his redeeming reach.

When we somberly and reflectively walk these sacred days with Christ, Easter dawn breaks with deeper meaning. Resurrection is no longer just a story we remember. It becomes a hope we have lived our way into. The empty tomb shines brighter because we have kept watch at the cross.

At the same time, we pray that resurrection life will rise in our war-torn world, that violence will yield to compassion, that despair will give way to hope, and that Christ's peace will reign where fear and conflict now dwell. The Risen Lord is still bringing life out of places that seem lost.

This Holy Week, come and see. Come and sing. Come and remember. Come and hope. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you. Give them the enclosed Holy Week Worship invitation.

Let us walk the whole journey with Jesus, through the deepest valleys and into the most radiant of mornings, trusting that resurrection light will shine in our lives, our church, and our world.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jane Nicholson



*Happy Easter*  
HE IS RISEN



**Worship Schedule**

March 25	7:00 p.m.	LARC Lenten Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church
March 29	10:45 a.m.	Palm Sunday with Palms, Cantata, and Communion
April 2	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
April 3	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Worship
April 5	10:45 a.m.	Easter Worship with Holy Communion
April 12	10:45 a.m.	Worship
April 19	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
April 26	10:45 a.m.	Worship on Music Sunday
May 3	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Pastor Alan Wilson
May 10	10:45 a.m.	Worship – Mother’s Day
May 17	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
May 24	9:30 a.m.	Pentecost Worship with Holy Communion –Memorial Day
May 31	9:30 a.m.	Holy Trinity Sunday with Holy Communion



*Easter Breakfast*

**EASTER BREAKFAST**

Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for breakfast. Easter Egg Hunt for children will be at 10 a.m. Please sign up by main office door for breakfast by March 29.



**BEAUTIFUL HOLY WEEK INVITATIONS**

are included in this newsletter. Please share them with your family, neighbors, or coworkers. This can be your way to spread the good news of Jesus Christ!



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6 IN HONOR OF EASTER**

# EVENT

NETwork  
Ministries

YOU ARE

Cordially  
*invited*



## NETwork Ministries Fundraising Banquet

is on Thursday, April 16th, 6 PM, at World Harvest Outreach.

Doors open at 5 PM, and the evening includes a catered dinner, artwork, testimonies, and performances from NETwork's youth, and guest speaker

Tommy Nixon. The cost is \$30. Please contact NETwork at [networkchambersburg@gmail.com](mailto:networkchambersburg@gmail.com) or 717-264-4640 by April 6th to make reservations. Don't miss this year's celebration!

# THANK YOU

Dear Friend of NETwork,

We don't get to say thank you face-to-face as often as we would like, but please know that we are incredibly grateful for the ways you have supports our team over the past year, in prayer, through giving, with encouragement, and more. So from us to you: THANK YOU! We're giving thanks to God for you and the difference your generosity is making in these amazing kids! What a gift. We very much appreciate your partnership!

For Christ and for kids,

Staff at NETwork Ministries

thank you

Dear Faith Partner

Thank you so much for faithfully walking alongside us and supporting Heifer International's mission. Because of you, countless families are building stronger, more sustainable futures. We are truly grateful for your support!

With peace and goodwill,

Christy Moore, Senior Vice President of Marketing

thank you

# NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

*Sharing God's love in our community*

## “SOCK IT TO ME” SUNDAYS

have begun in preparation for the August 8, 2026 Back to School Event. NTT is collecting low cut socks for elementary boys and girls from **Kindergarten through 5th grade**. Our goal is to have **5 pair of socks** for each child who attends the event. You may place socks in the collection sites in the back of the sanctuary, at the elevator entrance to the sanctuary, or in the **NTT** box in Memorial Hall. Cash and check donations are also accepted. You may use the envelopes that are available in Memorial Hall or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with socks in the memo line.



The Lutheran Churches work together to collect furniture and give it to families in need. If you have any furniture, they would like to have the opportunity to come and look at it to see if it can be used. There is a storage unit for the items until needed. If you have furniture to contribute, please contact Don Greer at Trinity Lutheran Church 717-263-8156.



# PARADE



**AMERICA 250PA PARADE** will be on Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. Zion Reformed, Falling Spring Presbyterian, and First Lutheran are all Rose Rent Congregations and are working together to have an exhibit in the parade. If you would like to participate in creating a float, or being in the parade, or if you have costumes that you would be willing to share from the late 1700's, please speak with Pastor Nicholson.



# SUMMER CAMPS



Summer planning is taking place for families, and we want to make sure you are aware of the calendar for Lutheran Summer Camps in our area. The camp schedule may be found online at [www.LutheranCamping.org/forms/SummerBrochure.pdf](http://www.LutheranCamping.org/forms/SummerBrochure.pdf)



First Lutheran has campership money available to help with the cost.

Please talk with Pastor Nicholson for details.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

**SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE** at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa on Sunday, April 12 from 2:00-4:30 p.m. Meet some of the Summer Camp Staff and take a tour of the camp. For more information, visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) or call the camping office at 717-677-8211.

**WORK DAYS AT CAMP NAWAKWA** on Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers needed to do general housekeeping, gardening, painting, carpentry, and other tasks. A noon meal will be provided. So that enough food can be prepared, please RSVP at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) or call 717-677-8211.

**NIGHT FOR NAWAKWA** join us at camp April 25th to raise funds for Nawakwa. Family activities will be from 4-6, worship will be from 5:30-6, dinner will be at 6, and entertainment will be from 7-9.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### *Women's Bible Study*

**Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**

will gather for Bible Study and fellowship on  
**Thursday, April 9th 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. Nancy Fricke will lead the discussion.

We would love to have you join us for the short study followed by snacks and Fellowship time.

### *Ladies Breakfast*

A TIME OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP

### **The Women's Fellowship Breakfast**

will be held at 8:30 a.m.  
on April 15th at Hickory Ridge

**All Ladies are Welcome!**

# VARIETY SHOW

March 1, 2026



# 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.

Tracy Stenger	4/01
Alexis Love	4/02
Daniel Cody	4/06
Lenora Craven	4/06
Amy Rebok	4/09
Harold Forrester	4/13
Kate Nienstedt	4/13
Donald Shoop	4/16
Glenn Miller	4/16
Hunter Boock	4/19
Joanne Caskey	4/20
Karen Sloan	4/21
Michael McCoy	4/22
Rick Gates	4/25

## **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 May  
 Newsletter  
 will be  
April 15**



**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch  
 @felccyouth



**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

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday**  
**March 29**  
10:45 a.m.  
with Cantata,  
Palms & Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 2**  
7:00 p.m.  
with Holy Communion & stripping of altar

**Good Friday**  
**April 3**  
7:00 p.m.  
Tenebrae  
Worship

**Easter Sunday**  
**April 5**  
10:45 a.m.  
**Easter Worship**  
9:00 a.m.  
**Easter Breakfast**  
10:00 a.m.  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

