

# ***THE CHIRPS FOR FORKS FOLLOWERS***

Forks Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - 253 Forks Church Rd. - Leechburg, PA 15656

Forks Church Office: 724-845-6627

Email: [churchforks@gmail.com](mailto:churchforks@gmail.com)

Forks Church website: [www.forkschurch.com](http://www.forkschurch.com)

*Forks Church is where God lifts our spirits through creative worship, as we build God's Kingdom.*

*Come and See.*

*Come and Grow.*

*Come and Serve!*



**"Come and See"**

## **From the Office of the Interim Pastor:**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What we also know at the start of this new April (other than waiting for the shenanigans of April Fools to be over for another year) is that the usual, normal rhythm and pattern of the return of spring is upon us. As I remember my mom taught me to say as a little boy: April showers bring May flowers and Mayflowers bring Pilgrims. All kidding aside for a moment, we all have just come through our annual Lententide pilgrimage and now we find ourselves in the church's season of Easter (or, Eastertide).

So why do we associate this time of year with animal symbols such as lambs, bunnies, chicks, and eggs?

Prior to the resurrection of our Lord, our pagan ancestors, whose entire lives revolved around living off the land, celebrated spring (at its equinox) as the return of life after the doldrums of winter. For many of our ancestors, wintertime looked like nature's serious attempt to commit mass murder on a wide scale. For frigid temperatures, slick ice, and deep snow to be replaced by warm weather, rejuvenated greenery, and the birth of babies, especially baby sheep (lambs), must have all seemed miraculous.

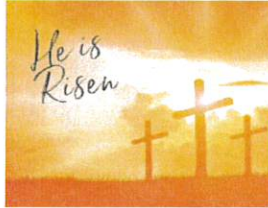
When our ancient ancestors saw greenery return to plant life, which previously had been green but lost its greenery, they understood the idea of the miracle of resurrection and the return to life. Upon the arrival of springtime, men would forage out, shake newly green bushes to see rabbits jump out (this is where we get the association of Easter with bunny rabbits), and peak into where the rabbits had been to see eggs (this is where we get the association of Easter bunnies laying Easter eggs), and from these eggs came baby birds, or chicks.

Dear ones, I dare you to be as astonished today as our ancestors were with the resurrection of spring, and our spiritual ancestors were in beholding Christ's empty tomb. Although we have just finished our Lententide pilgrimage, we are already starting our new journey together: life after Jesus' resurrection. There can be no doubt that from life's first cry to final breath, life is an expedition into the unknown: a pilgrimage journey, from this world to the next. The good news for us is Christians on our life's journey, Jesus, and no one else, from this world or any other, controls our destiny!

So, as we go out to journey in an Easter world, may we all be filled with the good news that sin and death have been already defeated by Jesus, our resurrected God, and that even all nature (well, at least in this hemisphere) seems to be joining us in our Easter, resurrection celebration.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! Happy Easter and let's celebrate our Lord's resurrection by keeping the home fires burning!

With every blessing and good wish for you and yours,  
The Rev'd Dr Scott Dennis, PhD (aka Pastor Dennis)



# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 11:00 am Worship	8	9 5:00 pm Pantry Team	10	11	12	13
14 11:00 am Worship 12:30-2:30 pm Pantry Open	15	16	17 6:30 pm Council Meeting	18 Deadline for May Newsletter articles	19	20 9-1 Clothing Closet First Lutheran Church Leechburg
21 11:00 am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 am Worship	29	30				

If anyone has nice pictures of a church(es), you can email them to Bob Bish at [bobforkschurch@gmail.com](mailto:bobforkschurch@gmail.com) and he will put them on the board before worship.



Updated 4/1/2024

***Please keep the following people in your prayers:***

Marilyn Smail, Grace Van Dyke, Alison Louden, Brenda Ribet, Bob Bish, Dale Altman, Betty Black, Mary Walker, Anna Shaffer, Kim Snyder, Lou Fondrk, Louise Dyess, Becky Panzak, John Kerr, Kali, Deb Fabry, Peggy Phillips, Dina O'Neil, Sherry Gray, Patricia Bellingham (President of Northwest WELCA)

**Global Prayer Concern:** The people of Ukraine.  
The people of Israel and Palestine. Peace for Gaza.

**HOMEBOUND**

**Dale Altman**

108 Jack Rd., Vandergrift, Pa 15690 **724-842-7252**

**Betty Black**

239 Johnetta Rd., Vandergrift, PA 15690 **724-845-8057**

**Marie Catlos – Rosebrook**

723 South Pike Road, Apt 014; Sarver, PA 16055  
**724-540-1048**

**Fran Coffman – Concordia**

134 Marwood Rd, Apt. 1801; Cabot, PA 16023

**Marilyn Smail – Concordia**

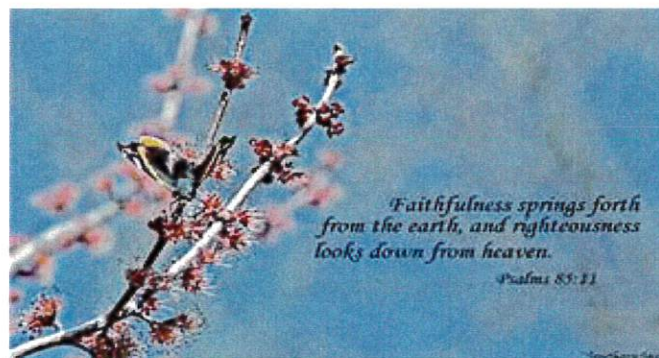
134 Marwood Rd., Room 2423  
Cabot, PA 16023 **724-594-5228**

**Grace B. Van Dyke - Concordia**

134 Marwood Road, Lund - Room 2155  
Cabot, PA 16023 **724-524-1505**

**Mary Walker – Concordia**

134 Marwood Rd., Room 2131; Cabot, PA 16023 **724-448-9683**



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Debbie Kennerdell
2	Tyler Eyerman
3	Sandy Kotvas
3	Landon Bowser
5	Lucille Allen
11	Kim Zimmerman
12	Faren Bailey
13	Rachel Newton
18	Dale Altman
22	Peggy Shearer
28	Jack Rearick



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Tom and Cindy Walker
- 22 Sam and Sandy Hess
- 23 John and Sandy Kotvas



## APRIL 2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Worship Assistants

- April 7
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28

### Assisting Minister

- Sandy Kotvas
- Patty Newton
- Tom Walker
- Tara Malucci

### GREETER

Bob Lawrence

### ALTAR CARE

Kim Zimmerman & Glenda Paul

## APRIL SPONSORSHIPS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Bulletins</u>	<u>Altar Candles</u>
April 7	Kim Zimmerman	Kim Zimmerman	Jill Lebetz
April 14	Maria Paul	Sandy Hess	
April 21	Tara Malucci	Lucille Allen	
April 28	Sandy Kotvas	Glenna Stitt	

*Note: If paying by check for **flowers (\$37.00/week)**, **bulletins (\$15.00/week)**, or **candles (\$20.00/month)**, please make checks payable to "Forks Church" and place in the offering plate, give to Sandy Hess, place in the pocket on Sandy's office door or mail to the church at:  
Forks Zion Lutheran Church, 253 Forks Church Rd., Leechburg, PA 15656.*

*Thank you!*



## LUTHERLYN

**LOOSE OFFERINGS** during the months of **APRIL** and **MAY** will go toward camperships for our young folk at Lutherlyn.

Registration information on all upcoming summer camp opportunities may be found by checking out their website @ [www.lutherlyn.com](http://www.lutherlyn.com) or call Lutherlyn directly @ 724-865-2161.

If you wish to donate towards Lutherlyn camperships for our young folks, you may do so by sending a check marked "camperships" to the church, 253 Forks Church Road, Leechburg.

### LUTHERLYN will be HIRING SUMMER STAFF

Employment information and an on-line application are available at [www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment) or by contacting Deb at 724-865-2161.

### PANTRY NEWS!!



**Feed My Sheep Pantry** has once again received an **\$8000 grant** from the **Ethel L Verney Fund** of the Synod Mission Endowment, established by Synod Council for relief and support of people living in poverty.

**Thank YOU** for your continued support and prayers for this ministry.

Pantry Team



There is not a "Look at the Budget" page this month...however...

Please continue to support Forks-Zion Lutheran Church with your giving.

Tithes may be sent to:

Forks Zion Lutheran Church, 253 Forks Church Road, Leechburg, PA 15656

We thank you very kindly for your continued support of the ministries here at Forks!

## After School Program Staff

Heidi Benhm is the director of the After School Program. She has her BA Degree from Washington and Jefferson College and has 21 years of experience at the program. She attends the program daily which provides stability for the children that attend our program.

Teddy Herman is our After School Program Assistant who has been employed by St. Peter's as part of our staff for many years.

Volunteering at After School:



Youth Volunteers - are students in grades 8-12. Volunteers assist with set up and cleanup of daily activities, help with homework and group activities and assist where needed.

All volunteers are required to have clearances. Volunteers help with homework, set up games, crafts, and activities for children.

## 2024 DESIGNATED OUTREACH



OF THE  
SOUTHWESTERN PA  
SYNOD

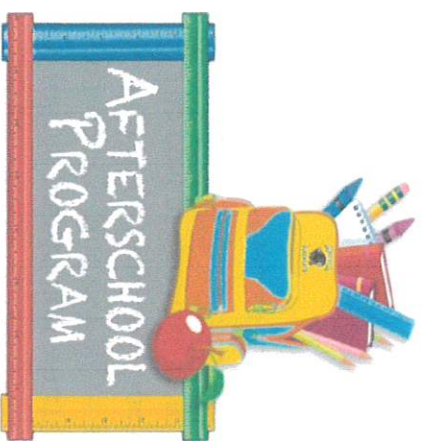
Please make checks payable to:

SWPA Women of the ELCA  
Designate to:  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
After School Program

Mail Checks To:

Janet Fishovitz  
136 Clearwater Dr.  
Ellwood City, PA 16117

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



An outreach program of

St. Peter's  
Lutheran Church  
202 Van Buren St.  
Evans City, PA 16035

Web:

[www.st.petersclutheranevanscity.org](http://www.st.petersclutheranevanscity.org)

E-mail:

[stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net](mailto:stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net)

Phone: 724-538-5810

### **Mission Statement:**

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

**After School Program will**

provide area children in grades K-6th with a safe, comfortable, nurturing environment in which to spend time after school. All children are entitled to respect, caring, and compassion and will be treated equally.

### **Transportation:**

*SV Students*- The School District Transportation System will bring your children) to the church after school daily.

*Mars Students* - Transportation will be provided with pick up being offered at a local bus stop in Mars.

### **Location:**

The After School Program is located on the third floor of the church building. The address is 202 Van Buren St. Evans City, PA 16033. The office phone number is 724-538-5810.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising is essential to St. Peter's After School Program. Money raised through fundraising is used for tuition assistance program, capital improvements and to maintain our tuition rates.

### **Items Most Needed:**

**Snack Donations (Any Brand):** Apple Sauce, Oreos, Pretzels, "Kids" Cereal, Cheese Curls, Doritos, Potato Chips, Veggie Straws, and any snack size bags of chips/pretzels/etc.

**Paper Products:** paper towels, napkins, paper plates, paper cups and toilet paper.

**Craft Supplies:** pony beads, glue, scotch tape, washable paint, glue sticks, google eyes, fuse beads, construction paper, card stock paper, poster board, thin ribbon (for bead animals), and permanent markers.

**Cleaning Products:** bleach wipes, garbage bags (all sizes), and disinfectant spray

**Prizes: (for student of the week and homework rewards):** small items from the Dollar Store (craft items, games, candy, gatorade, snacks - are all favorites.

We are a faith based program and are delighted to have children of working families join us M-F 4-6 pm. We operate according to the school district calendar and are open when school is in session.

### **Security**

We know parents are concerned about the security of their children. We have a system in place to keep our kids in a safe environment. Everyone working with students have clearances, first aid and CPR certifications. The church doors are locked while after school is in session.

### **Summer Camp**

We offer 3 weeks of summer camp for school age children. Camp is open 7:30 am - 5:30 pm. One week includes a morning children's ministry time from 9-noon. Children can enjoy going to local parks, swimming, crafts, games, snacks, and more!

### **Registration & Tuition**

We have a rolling registration which permits students to join any time as long as space is available. Our maximum enrollment is 20 students. The cost of attend is up to \$120 a month per student. Financial assistance is offered to all students in need.

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Leechburg, PA 15656

*APRIL 2024*  
**FORKS CHIRPS**

