

"Come and See"
John 1:39

The CHIRPS
for FORKS
FOLLOWERS
OCTOBER
2025

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!

FORKS ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

253 Forks Church Road
Leechburg, PA 15656
Church Office: 724-845-6627
email: churchforks@gmail.com
website: www.forkschurch.com

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING
11:00 am
Worship Service**

STAFF

Local Interim, Pastor Wayne Gillespie

Sandy Hess – Church Secretary

Glenna Stitt – Organist

Karen Disciscio – Church Treasurer

Christina Gross – Financial Secretary



FEED MY SHEEP PANTRY

**Please be advised that the pantry will
change distribution day and time in
November, to Sunday afternoon,
12:30pm-2:00pm.**

The schedule will be:

2025: November 9, December 14

2026: January 11, February 8, March 8

In April 2026, we will go back to
Friday evenings.

*Feed My Sheep Pantry is funded in 2025 by
the Ethel L. Verney fund for relief of people
living in poverty.*



OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 11:00 am Worship Deacon Michelle Kunkle, presiding 2:00pm WALK FOR HUNGER	6	7 2:30 pm Pantry Team	8	9	10 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Pantry Open	11
12 11:00 am Worship Pastor John Smaligo, presiding	13	14	15 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16	17	18 1:00 pm Installation of the Reverend Melissa L. Stoller to the Office of Bishop
19 11:00 am Worship John Smail, presiding	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 11:00 am Worship John Smail, presiding	27	28	29	30	31	

WALK FOR HUNGER

Contact us to register: 724-845-1901
or visit our website leechburgfoodbank.org/walk
Sunday, October 5, 2025 – 2:00 pm

The New Leechburg Hiking Trail





September 25, 2025

I wanted to provide an update on a few things happening at Forks.

Pastor Rike's last day with Forks Zion was September 11th. Pastor Asplin found a Pastor interested in serving as our interim. Christina and I met with Pastor Asplin and Pastor Wayne Gillespie on Sept. 15th to discuss a possible relationship/contract. We felt Pastor Wayne would be a good fit for Forks. At our Sept. 17th Council meeting, we voted to move forward with signing a contract. Pastor Wayne currently is a full time called Pastor for Christ's Lutheran in Plum (near the Dairy Queen in Holiday Park). He's been serving there for 13 years but has been a Pastor for over 30 years. On Sept. 23rd I met with Pastor Wayne and signed a 3-month contract which begins October 1. If you have any Pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

Secondly, at our congregational meeting on September 7th some concerns were brought up about some maintenance around the church and cemetery properties. We've measured for some new paraments, and a new pall used for funerals. We are also currently getting pricing on 2 battery operated candles for the front of the church (to cut down on the black residue on the wall) and 2 candelabras. Council also picked a paint color for the wall behind the cross and have someone that will be painting that. We have a contractor (a new one that responded to our call!) that will be starting ASAP on the parking lot. He will fix the cracks, pave the lot and repaint the lines. He was to start on Sept. 25 but the rain made that difficult. Some exciting things are happening.

As you all know, Forks Zion was named in a Will as a beneficiary from Mr. John Lange to receive money from his estate. The Will was contested by Mr. Lange's son and we've had an attorney working on this case for 2+ years. A big THANK YOU to Karen Disciscio for staying on top of our attorney, we finally have a settlement date! October 17th we will meet in person with the attorney and Mr. Lange's attorney to settle this out of court (without going to trial). Please look forward to an update on that, hopefully, in the October newsletter. Forks was also named in another Will. Mr. John McKallip left a percentage of his estate to Forks as well. Karen, again, got an update on that as well from the attorney involved in that case. There will be another 4-6 months before the attorney can start the process of distributing to the beneficiaries. There, of course, is a long process that needs followed. We are not sure of a dollar amount, only that 80% was left to Forks Zion.

We have some exciting things happening at Forks. I encourage all of our committees to meet either monthly or quarterly. I think we might have gotten away from that since the pandemic. Having our committees meeting on a regular basis, I believe will help keep the gears in motion at our church. If you are interested in joining any of the committees, please contact me. If there is something you would like council to review, please bring it to any of the council members or you are more than welcome to attend a meeting.

I will do my best to keep everyone up to date on things happening at Forks, in the meantime if you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please see any council member!

God's Blessings be with you always,

Tara Malucci

OCTOBER SPONSORSHIPS

FLOWER SPONSOR

10/5 Carl Minnich
10/12 Marilyn Knepshield family
10/19 Charlene Bopp
10/26 Sandy Hess

BULLETIN SPONSOR

Karen Disciscio
Charlene Bopp
Lucille Allen
Carl Minnich

ALTAR CANDLES

Evelyn Booth



OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ASSISTING MINISTER

10/5 Julie Batiz
10/12 Tara Malucci
10/19 Tom Walker
10/26 Patty Newton

GREETER

Stephen Gross

ALTAR CARE

Evelyn Booth and Nancy Vogel



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Shank
4 Rhonda White, Jaime White
6 Chris Rearick
7 Sandy Hess
9 George Bowser
11 Tara Malucci
20 Kathy Gregg
22 Cody Reesman
23 Shannon Kotvas
26 Evelyn Booth
27 Braden Hess
28 Kendall Kotvas

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 George and Sandy Bowser
20 Bob and Nancy Wright
21 George and Sonya Reesman
27 Russell and Kim Zimmerman

God comforts us...so that we can comfort those in any trouble. ~2 Corinthians 1:4



Updated 9/29/2025

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Colin Saxion, Mary Walker, Marilyn Smail, Sammy Hess, Sandy Kotvas, Brenda Ribet, Dale Altman, Bob Lawrence, Rosemary Lawrence, Betty Black, Lou Fondrk, Deb Fabry, Sherry Gray, Blair Shick, Nikki Paul Akins, Daryl Smith

HOMEBOUND

Dale Altman

108 Jack Rd., Vandergrift, Pa 15690

724-842-7252

Betty Black

239 Johnetta Rd., Vandergrift, PA 15690

724-845-8057

Fran Coffman – Oertal Care Center

Room 207, 615 N. Pike Rd.; Cabot, PA 16023

Grace B. Van Dyke - Concordia

134 Marwood Road, Lund - Room 2155

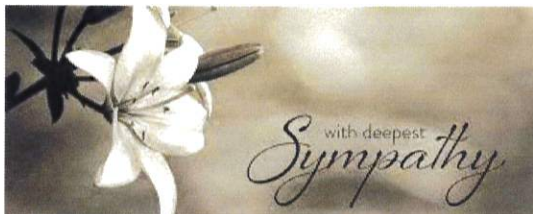
Cabot, PA 16023

724-524-1505

Mary Walker – Concordia

134 Marwood Rd., Room 2131; Cabot, PA 16023

724-524-1125



Our sincere condolences to the family of
John Altman who passed away on September 13.

John was the husband of the late Rita Altman
and the father of Julie Batiz.

Please keep the Altman family in your prayers during this difficult time.



OCTOBER 2025 - A SPECIAL MONTH FOR ME

I don't know where time really goes to, but the older I get, the faster the time flies by. It was in the beginning of summer in the year 2000 that I picked up my Valley News Dispatch paper, and for absolutely no particular reason, started reading the many want ads that used to appear in that paper. I was happily employed full time at UniFirst, as well as serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Vandergrift for thirty-three years as their organist and choir director. One of the first ads that caught my eye in the paper that day was a position for organist and choir director at Forks-Zion Lutheran Church in Leechburg. The ad stated that the Sunday services were at 11:00 a.m. St. Paul's services had just changed from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for the summer months, since they did not have air conditioning at the time. After thinking about it for a few minutes, I thought that I would contact Forks to see if they would like for me to substitute for them for the summer months (or until they found somebody) since I would be able to play at both churches. I called Pastor Anderson that day, and he was very glad to get my call with my offer to supply at Forks for the summer since there was (and still is) a shortage of organists. I began the following Sunday.

The last two years that I had served at St. Paul's, I felt myself struggling to "hear the word of God" each week because of the pastor that was serving there at that time. After only two or three Sundays at Forks Church, Pastor Anderson lit a new fire in me, and the word of God was back in my heart once again. On top of that, I had dear, sweet Harold Coffman greet me in the narthex each week that I walked in the door, and tell me how much he wanted me to be the organist there!! I talked to Pastor Anderson about what I was personally dealing with, and he told me to pray about it and God would make the decision for me. I did just that, and twenty-five years ago on October 1, 2000, I became the organist and choir director at Forks-Zion Lutheran Church, and it certainly was the right decision for me!

Today I would like to say THANK YOU to all of my church family for your love and support over the last twenty-five years. I know that I have said this in the past, but I will say it again today – I know that I am not the best at what I do, but I do everything with my whole heart for my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that He will give me many more years doing what I LOVE doing in this place.

+ Together in Christ,

Glenna Stitt





Feed My Sheep Pantry

The Pantry will be collecting items for each month beginning in October 2025.

October is the time of year that brings a shift in seasons,
inviting us to embrace change and growth in our lives.

*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles...."*
Isaiah 40:31

October Donations

**snack size candy
chips
drink boxes**

Schedule Change

Packing for October Pantry will be on **Tuesday,
October 7, at 2:30** in the afternoon.

October Open Pantry date is Friday, October 10, 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Beginning in November, the Pantry distribution will switch to the second Sunday of the
month, from 12:30-2:00.

Sunday distribution will continue throughout March 2026.



Forks Church Income & Expense Summary **July 24 – Sept. 23, 2025**



Income received	\$12,286.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 40,356.09</u>
Difference	- \$28,070.09

Expenses during this period include \$20,000 from the parsonage sale which was donated to community services and needs per congregation approval. \$2,575 was from restricted pantry funds for pantry supplies. Taking those two amounts away from the "Difference" amount, our deficit during this period is **-\$5,495.09**. Actual amount in General Fund to cover budgeted expenses as of Sept. 23: **\$39.66**.

There is \$14,648.66 held in the church checking account under the sub-account designation of "Housing Allowance". Council discussed and voted at their last meeting to use these funds in an amount up to \$9,648.66 to help with General Fund expenses. Funds will be transferred from "Housing Allowance" to general "Checking" as needed.

If you have questions or would like more details, please contact me. *Karen Disciscio*



October 18 & 19, 2025
Woodland Quilters
Quilt Show

Enjoy a weekend display of quilts and quilting in the autumn splendor at Lutherlyn!

October 18, 2025
Intro to
Blacksmithing Class

Learn the art of blacksmithing in the Woodland Forge at Lutherlyn. All materials are supplied and classes are taught by master blacksmith, Flavius Brinsfield.
(Registration required)

October 26, 2025
Family Halloween Fun
& Trick~or~Treating

Enjoy Halloween fun with hayrides, crafts, a Halloween kids carnival, s'mores, and trick or treating.
(Registration required)

Lutherlyn
500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001
724-865-2161

HUNGER WALK
FOR THE LEECHBURG FOOD BANK

Sunday, October 5, 2025
2:00 pm
Leechburg Hiking Trail

Park and meet at the Leechburg VFD lot and walk to the former Baghdad Steel Mill, approximately 3 miles.

Money raised will support the ministry of the food bank as well as the Community P.A.T.H. weekend lunch bag program for students of the Leechburg School District.



DRESSES and BRITCHES

The next meeting will be October 7 at 2 in the fellowship hall of St. Paul's. This will be a reorganization meeting. Please plan to attend.

Non-sewers are always welcome! We can always find something creative for you to do!

Any questions, please contact Glenda Givens at 724-567-6494.



Dear Alle-Kiski Valley Community,

As you continue to support members of our community who are working to build a stable and bright future, please know that AKValley Communities of Transformation (COT) is an available resource for them. Our fall personal leadership class, Awaken, begins with a "Taste and See" on Thursday, October 9th at 5:30 pm, at 305 Allegheny St., Tarentum, PA 15084. This open house event is open to anyone who would like to experience a sample of a COT weekly meeting and hear from others who are engaged in the program.

What is Awaken?

Awaken is a holistic training that focuses on five areas of personal development: financial, spiritual, relational, physical, and intellectual. Topics covered include finances, managing stress, building healthy relationships, physical health, spiritual growth, and goal setting. Through the course of 12 weeks, class members are able to reflect on their past, assess their current situation, identify their strengths, and dream of a better future. The Awaken Facilitator and the class members support each other through this journey, which can be emotionally difficult, but also exciting and hope-filled. The final sessions encourage students to create specific goals to begin implementing their plan for a better future.



Who Would Benefit From Awaken?

Any community member 18 years or older who wants a new direction for their future. He/she may have goals in mind but need a supportive community to accomplish those goals. Or he/she may know that the status quo is not working, but unaware of their personal power in making change. Please note that Awaken is not appropriate for anyone in crisis such as homelessness or drug addiction.

How Do I Refer Someone to Awaken?

If you know an individual who might be a good fit for Communities of Transformation's Awaken class, talk with him/her about the class and your belief that this could be a good fit for them – that this could help them make progress toward their personal goals. More information and an online application is available on our website at www.communitiestransformation.org/apply or contact us at the email address below.

The Benefits

- A positive support system for themselves and their families
- Training on how to set clear goals for a better future story
- Opportunities to discover their strengths and build on them
- Tools to help them build a plan and a network of people to help them implement it
- Information on and connections to other community programs that may help them reach their goals
- A group of friends also working towards positive change
- Free dinner and Children's Program at each meeting

Impact Story

RSVP

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Please contact Katy Wrona at 724-889-6754 or akvalley@communitiestransformation.org.

You can also find additional information on our website at www.communitiestransformation.org or on our Facebook page [Facebook.com/communitiestransformation](https://www.facebook.com/communitiestransformation).

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

October 2025
Forks Church Newsletter

