

August 2026



'CHIRPS' FOR FORKS FOLLOWERS

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

Forks Church Office: 724-845-6627

Email: churchforks@gmail.com

Forks Church Website: www.forkschurch.com

Reverend Wayne Gillespie, Local Interim Pastor

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!

Sandy and Karen will be out of the office from Aug 1-8.

If you have a pastoral need, office phone messages will be checked regularly.

Weekly Worship ~ Sunday Morning ~ 11:00am

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Presiding Worship Leader

8/2 David Brauer
8/9 John Smail
8/16 David Brauer
8/23 John Smail
8/30 Christine Weller

Assisting Minister

Patty Newton
Julie Batiz
Tom Walker
Tara Malucci
Tom Walker

Altar Care

Tara Malucci
Cindy Walker

GREETER – Mark Long

AUGUST SPONSORSHIPS

FLOWERS

8/2 Tom Walker
8/9 Dale Altman
8/16 Evelyn Booth
8/23 Richard Long
8/30 Glenda Paul

BULLETINS

Peggy Shearer
Sandy Hess
family of Marilyn Knepshield
Mark Long
Karen Disciscio

CANDLES

Vic Rossi

***Note:** If paying by check for **flowers (\$37/wk)**, **bulletins (\$15/wk)**, or **candles (\$20/mo)**, please make checks payable to **"Forks Church"** and give to Sandy Hess, place in the pocket on the secretary's office door or mail to the church at:
Forks Zion Lutheran Church, 253 Forks Church Rd., Leechburg PA 15656*



AUGUST 2026



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11:00 am Worship David Brauer, presiding	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 11:00 am Worship John Smail, presiding	10	11 Pantry Team 2:00pm	12	13	14 Pantry Open 5:00pm- 6:30pm	15 9am-12pm Clothing Closet 1 st Lutheran in Lchbg
16 11:00 am Worship David Brauer, presiding	17	18	19 6:30pm Council Mtg.	20	21	22
23 11:00 am Worship & Communion John Smail, presiding	24 31	25	26	27	28	29
30 11:00 am Worship Christine Weller, presiding						

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

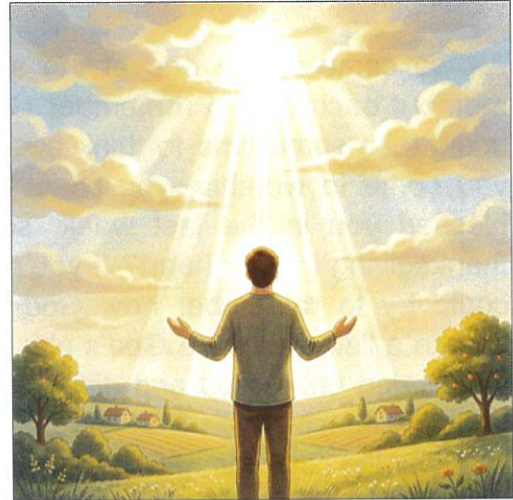
We are planning a service marking **Feed My Sheep's 10th Anniversary.**

Weather permitting, service will be held in the church pavilion. Refreshments to follow.

A special heartfelt thank you to Nancy Wirick for all her time and dedication to the Pantry.
Nancy will be stepping away after September. She will be greatly missed!

A Message from Pastor Wayne

Relationships are an important part of our lives. We are born into a family; and sometimes later in life, we decide to start a family of our own. We sometimes form lifelong friendships during years we spend in school, and we often build solid relationships with other people long after that. Some of our relationships span decades, but others continue for much shorter periods of time. I have seen relationships endure good times and bad times, times of closeness and time of alienation, times of joy and heartbreak, and periods of celebration and times of struggle. Studies show us that human relationships can endure for long periods of time when seven good things happen to balance out every bad thing that happens.



I suspect most people expect their interim pastor to get around to talking about God. Pastors talk a lot about God's love and grace, forgiveness and God's embrace. I spoke to you about the fact that God even works through the little things we do every day the last time I preached at the church. I have spoken with the Council about how important it is for us to avoid allowing holy things to become ordinary as we deal with the day-to-day functioning of the church. But perhaps most importantly, as your pastor, I believe that it is important for me to continue to emphasize that our journeys of faith invite us into a deepening relationship with God and with people who are doing their best to do what they believe God wants them to do.

So, how is your relationship with God these days? Would you say your relationship with God is healthy and growing; a bit tepid and cooling; or perhaps, somewhere in between? I am here to remind you that God loves you and that God's walking beside you every day. I am here to remind you that God is closer to you than your own breath, and that there is nothing in all of Creation that can separate you from God's love in Christ Jesus.

But what about the study that points to the fact that human relationships that endure for a long period of time need seven good things to happen for every bad thing that happens? Does it work that way in our relationship with God, too?

I am sure that you have been told, at one point or another, that it's important to count your blessings and to maybe even write them down in a book. Many Christians use their prayer journal to record moments in their lives when God has answered a prayer or given them wisdom and guidance. I find strength in my own journey of faith by

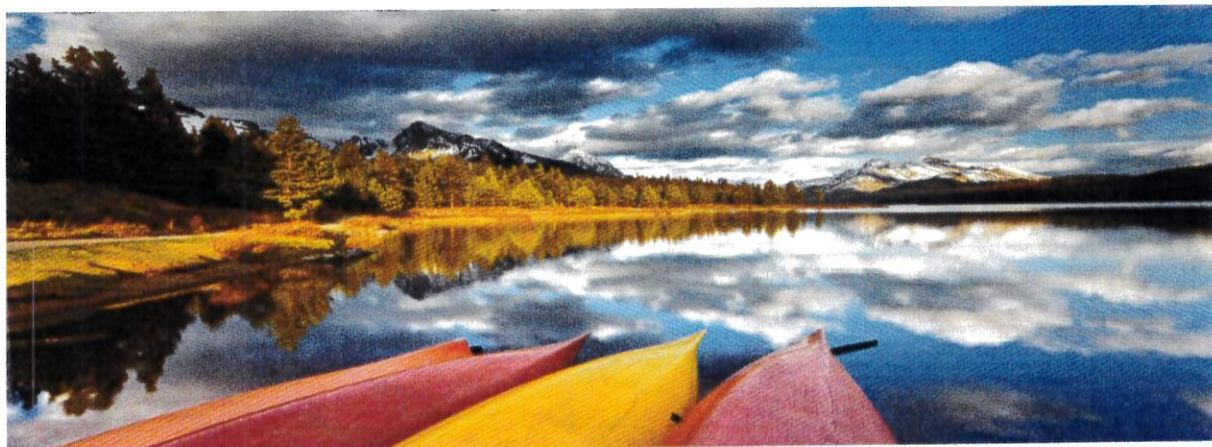
remembering God's love and blessings when life isn't what I had hoped it would be. I even find it a bit easier to forgive people who hurt or disappoint me when I remember how many times I've blown it in my own life and how many time times I've been forgiven by God and other people. I have learned that God's faithfulness and embrace is something that I can always count on, but my tendency to forget that truth can be a challenge – especially in hard times.

As we come to the end of the summer, I want to encourage you to start taking a moment each day to remember God's blessings. Perhaps, at the end of the day, you could take some time to think about something good that happened? Perhaps, before you come to worship, you could take some time to think about ways that God has blessed you in the last week, so that you can enter the house of the Lord with thanksgiving in your heart? If you're going through a tough time right now, perhaps you could try to remember how God has carried you through rough times in the past? Create a list. Celebrate God's blessings. Remember ways that God has been faithful to you during both good and difficult times. You are loved. God created you to be loved. Your relationship with God is something that can grow and become stronger when you live your life celebrating God's blessings.

And as you're building your list of blessings, don't be afraid to share it with other people. Let me know how God is blessing you the next time I see you. Share moments of blessing with your friends both inside and outside the walls of the church. Perhaps, you could take a moment before your evening meal to share something you think God is doing in your life and then say a prayer. And, if you live alone, don't be afraid to give someone a call to talk about God's goodness and to build someone up by pointing to the ways that you see God at work in your own life, in our community, and in the world.

Relationships are important. And relationships grow and flourish when we share the goodness of life with people we know and love. Count your blessings. Remember God's love. And always remember that your journey of faith can be strengthened and renewed when you take time to remember and to talk about the ways the God has (and is) blessing you every day.

Pastor Wayne





- 1 Beulah Mitchell, Connor Dubovi
- 4 Isla Bailey
- 5 Carl Minnich
- 7 Layton Reesman
- 9 Amy Eyerman; Erin Saxion; John Kennerdell
- 18 Courtney Dubovi
- 22 Brenda Ribet
- 24 Steven Kotvas
- 30 Fran Coffman, John Kotvas, Mason Zimmerman
- 31 Julie Batiz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 16 Bob and Dee Bish
- 21 Paul and Gail Shodi



FEED MY SHEEP PANTRY

FEED MY SHEEP PANTRY will be open:
Friday, August 14
5:00pm – 6:30pm

The Pantry Team will meet on Aug. 11
@ 2:00 pm to pack bags.

CELEBRATION

October 2026 marks **10 years** that **Feed My Sheep Pantry** has been providing food and personal items to the community.

To recognize this blessing, Forks-Zion Lutheran Church and Feed My Sheep Pantry Team invite you to worship on **September 13, 2026 at 11:00am.**

Weather permitting, service will be held at the church pavilion.

Light refreshments to follow worship. Distribution will begin at 12:30pm.

Feed My Sheep Pantry is partially funded by the Ethel L Verney grant



Updated 7/22/2026

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Hershel Phares, Marilyn Smail, Dee Bish, Mary Walker, Paul Heilman, Betty Black, Brenda Ribet, Dale Altman, Bob Lawrence, Lou Fondrk, Sherry Gray, Blair Shick, Jeff Crowe, Mary Czonka, Debbie Munko, Joe Gibson, Kathi Finley Jendrzewski, JoyAnna, Andy Mason, Rob Woods, Ed Roethlein, Carrie Lynn
All of our servicemen and women, serving at home and abroad.

FORKS CHURCH HOMEBOUND LIST

Dale Altman

108 Jack Rd., Vandergrift, Pa 15690

724-842-7252

Betty Black - Concordia

Rm 2139 Lund Care Center, 134 Marwood Rd.
Cabot, PA 16023

Fran Coffman – Oertal Care Center

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

Grace B. Van Dyke - Concordia

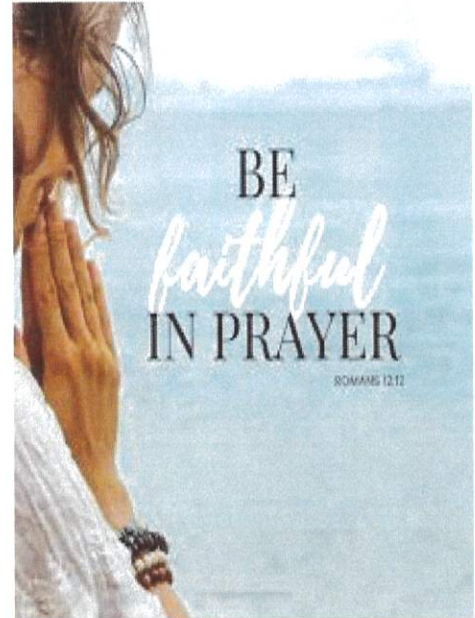
134 Marwood Road, Lund - Room 2155
Cabot, PA 16023

724-524-1505

Mary Walker – Concordia

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

724-524-1125



Our sincere condolences to the family of **Nikki Paul Akins**, who passed away on June 30.

Nikki was the sister-in-law of Glenda Paul, sister of Greg Paul, and aunt of Maria and Eddy Paul.



Thank you to everyone from Forks Church for their prayers, kindness, and cards, which were all very much appreciated. We were comforted by the outpouring of caring and sympathy.

~Sam, Sandy, Maegen, Sean, and the rest of the Hess family

STOP
LISTEN
HEAR



NWPA & SWPA

Women of ELCA Retreat at
Lutherlyn

September 25th -27th

Bible Verse: Mark 4:23

“If you have ears to hear, then hear!”

NRSVUE

Any questions about the upcoming retreat,
contact Patty Newton at bob_steelers@hotmail.com.

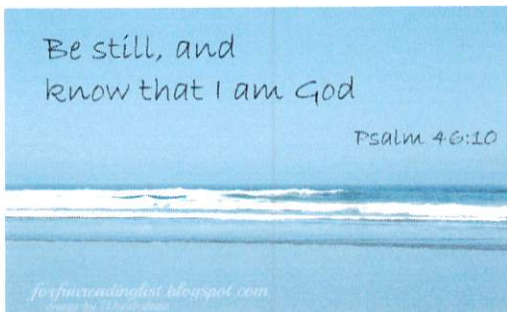


Online registration link

FORKS ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

253 Forks Church Road

Leechburg, PA 15656



Forks Chirps August 2026

**Let God's Spirit, not the world,
shape your mind.**

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind. ~Romans 12:2*