

July 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

Interim Pastor – Wayne Gillespie

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!

Weekly Worship ~ Sunday Morning ~ 11:00am

JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Presiding Worship Leader

7/5 Christine Weller
7/12 Christine Weller
7/19 Dr. David Brauer
7/26 Pastor Wayne Gillespie

Assisting Minister

Patty Newton
Tara Malucci
Julie Batiz
Tom Walker

Altar Care

Glenda Paul &
Kim Zimmerman

GREETER – Jack McIntire

JULY SPONSORSHIPS

FLOWERS

7/5 Dale Altman
7/12 Kim Zimmerman
7/19 Julie Batiz
7/26 Jill Lebetz

BULLETINS

Kim Zimmerman
Lois Byers
Richard Long

CANDLES

Sandy Kotvas, Susan Strapac

If you would like to sponsor the bulletins for July 5, please call the church office.

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



JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 11:00 am Worship Christine Weller, presiding	6	7 2:00 pm Pantry Team	8	9	10 5:00pm– 6:30pm Pantry Open	11
12 11:00 am Worship Christine Weller, presiding	13 *VBS	14 *VBS	15 *VBS 6:30 pm Council Meeting	16 *VBS	17 *VBS	18 Clothing Closet 1 st Lutheran Church Leechburg 9:00am-12:00pm
19 11:00 am Worship Dr. David Brauer, presiding	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 11:00 am Worship Pastor Wayne Gillespie, presiding	27	28	29	30	31	

***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, LEECHBURG**

RAINFORREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

Monday, July 13-Friday 17

5:30pm-8:30pm

Dinner Included

Register now: 724-845-7518 or online at servinggodgracefully.org



Samuel M. Hess II
July 12, 1980 – May 21, 2026

A Celebration of Life
Saturday, June 27, 2026
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Gilpin Firehall
113 Firehall Road
Leechburg PA, 15656

Please join us as we gather to celebrate the life of **Sammy Hess**, whose love, laughter, and unforgettable spirit touched so many lives.

Sammy leaves behind countless cherished memories and a legacy of kindness, joy, and friendship. He was a loving husband, son, brother, uncle and friend who had a remarkable ability to make people smile and feel welcome. Whether through his sense of humor, generous heart, or the special moments shared with family and friends, Sammy brought light and laughter into the lives of those around him.

As we come together, we invite everyone who knew and loved Sammy to share stories, memories, and laughter in honor of the fun-loving and compassionate person he was. While we deeply miss his presence, we are grateful for the time we had with him and the memories that will remain in our hearts forever.

Please join us as we celebrate Sammy's life, share our favorite memories, and honor the love and happiness he brought to all who knew him.

*Donations in Sammy's memory may be made to the **American Kidney Fund**; 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300; Rockville, MD 20852 or visit KidneyFund.org.*

96 cents of every dollar goes directly to patient support and kidney disease programs.

America 250

We are going to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday this month. Although the Declaration of Independence was finally approved by Congress on July 4, 1776 (the day that we celebrate); most of the delegates signed the document on August 2, 1776; and the last name was added in early 1777. Some of the colonists read the Declaration with joy, and they began to tear down symbols of the British monarchy. Others were disappointed. Still other colonists were disinterested, while yet others were worried about what would happen to them. Today, we know that copies of the Declaration were carried overseas, but we also know that other copies were confiscated and thrown into the ocean on the way to England.



And it soon became clear that people were willing to fight and even die for the chance to live in a nation that is built upon individual rights and government by consent. The words, *"we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal [and] that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,"* were revolutionary. The Founders of our nation had hopes and dreams, and they also trusted that those who followed them would work together to build an even *"more perfect union."* And, as we celebrate **America 250**, that's something to keep in mind.

The same Declaration that stresses that *"all men are create equal"* refers to Indians as *"merciless savages whose known rule of warfare is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."* The Founders of America who wrote about forming a *"more perfect union"* owned slaves and believed that women shouldn't have the same rights as men do. **America 250** provides an opportunity to celebrate what has truly made our nation great, but it also gives us a chance to dream. How can we work together to help our nation become an even *"more perfect union" in 2026?* How can we rise above divisive rhetoric and start listening to each other with more open ears in 2026? How can we begin to more clearly see that God created all of us to be people who have hopes and dreams that are not diminished by the hope and dreams of other people in 2026?

Our celebration of **America 250** does not need to be about discovering a way to return to an idealized version of a past that never really existed. Instead, let's make **America 250** about rediscovering that our nation has always been and will continue to be built by people who have big dreams and who can envision an even brighter future when people build each other up and recognize each other's value, dignity and worth.



Last updated 6/19/2026

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Marilyn Smail, Dee Bish, Mary Walker, Paul Heilman, Betty Black, Brenda Ribet, Dale Altman, Bob Lawrence, Lou Fondrk, Sherry Gray, Blair Shick, Nikki Paul Akins, Jeff Crowe, Mary Czonka, Debbie Munko, Joe Gibson, Kathi Finley Jendrzewski, Josh Klingensmith, JoyAnna, Andy Mason, Chris Schultz, Rob Woods, Ed Roethlein, all of our servicemen and women.

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

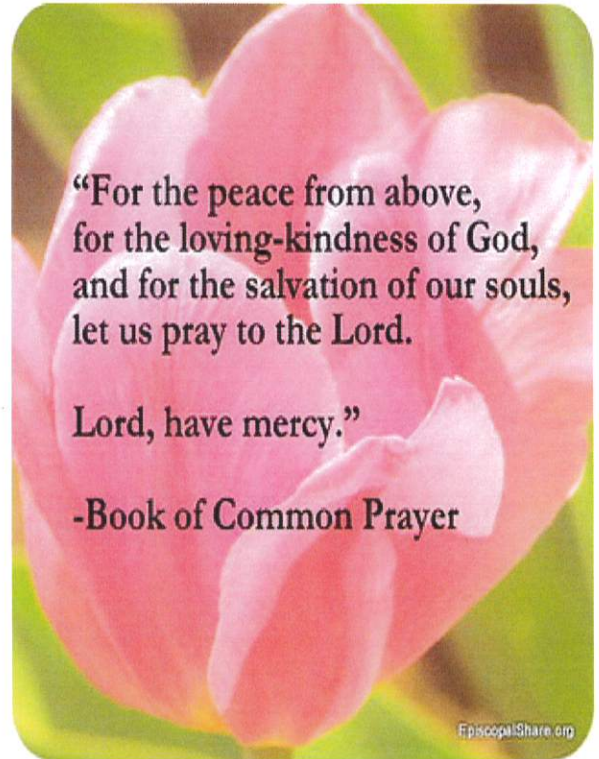
Room 207, 615 N. Pike Rd.; Cabot, PA 16023

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



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|----|---------------|
| 5 | Draea Dixon |
| 13 | Stephen Gross |
| 18 | Colbi Long |
| 20 | Maxwell Gregg |
| 28 | Nancy Wright |



Happy Anniversary!

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 4 | Chris and Erica Rearick |
| 6 | Scott and Jan Stephens |
| 14 | Bill and Karen Disciscio |
| 24 | Jack and Sue McIntire |
| 29 | Don and Beverly Gray |



**FEED MY SHEEP PANTRY will be open:
Friday, July 10 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

The pantry team would like to thank everyone who participated in the Apollo Hoagie Shop fundraiser. We sold 72 coupons. We are so grateful for support!

Feed My Sheep Pantry will also celebrate 10-year anniversary in July. We are planning a celebration in September, so look for details in the August newsletter.

Nancy Wyrick has been a part of the pantry since the beginning. She is leaving our team after September. We need another team leader to help with shopping, helping with distribution and coordinate fundraising. Please take time to pray, consider joining the team to help continue our ministry with the pantry. Contact Patty Newton for more information. The Lord gives us Hope and Strength for our future.

Peace,
Patty



2026 WELCA OUTREACH is "Reagan's Journey"

The goal of Reagan's Journey is to make life better for children with special needs and to keep offering critical and life-sustaining services while continuing to grow to meet the needs of even more families.

To make a donation, make check out to SWPA Women of ELCA and mark on check Reagan's Journey. Mail to Janet Fishovitz, 136 Clearwater Drive, Ellwood City, PA 16117



Grief Share™

Grief Share

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. A Grief Share support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Mondays, 6pm – 8pm

May 4 – July 27, 2026

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

358 Main St., Leechburg, PA

To register, call 724-845-7518 or visit servinggodgracefully.net/griefshare

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253 Forks Church Road

Leechburg, PA 15656

JULY 2026

FORKS CHIRPS

