



"Come and See"

John 1:39

The CHIRPS
for FORKS
FOLLOWERS

OCTOBER
2026

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 – Administrative Assistant

Bob Bish, Audio and Sound Tech

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:

2026: November 8, December 13

2027: January 10, February 14, March 14

In April 2027, we will go back to
Friday evenings.

*Feed My Sheep Pantry is funded in 2026 by
the Ethel L. Verney fund for relief of people
living in poverty.*





OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						3 Leechburg Fall Festival 12-5
4 11:00 am Worship John Smail, presiding 2:00pm WALK FOR HUNGER	5	6 2:00 pm Pantry Team	7	8	9 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Pantry Open	10
11 11:00 am Worship Pam Augustine, presiding	12	13	14	15	16	17 9am-12pm Clothing Closet 1 st Lutheran in Lchbg
18 11:00 am Worship John Smail, presiding	19	20	21 6:30 pm Council Meeting	22	23	24
25 REFORMATION 11:00 am Worship Pastor Wayne Gillespie, presiding <i>Covered Dish Luncheon follows in social hall</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31 November 1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

WALK FOR HUNGER October 4 - 2:00pm

Contact us to register: 724-845-1901
or visit our website leechburgfoodbank.org/walk
The Leechburg Hiking Trail



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



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Marilyn Smail, Hershel Phares, Mary Walker, Betty Black, Anna Shaffer, John Coyle, Brenda Ribet, Paul Heilman, Dale Altman, Bob Lawrence, Lou Fondrk, Sherry Gray, Blair Shick, Jeff Crowe, Mary Czongka, Debbie Munko, Joe Gibson, Scott Stockdill, Kathi Finley Jendrzewski, JoyAnna, Andy Mason, Rob Woods, Nancy Marsh, Ed Roethlein, Donna Petrell (President of South Western PA WELCA), Barb Guenther (past President of SWPAWELCA), all of our servicemen and women, serving at home and abroad.

HOMEBOUND

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 – Concordia
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



REFORMATION CELEBRATION

Join us on **Reformation Sunday, October 25**, for a time of food and fellowship, following the 11:00am Reformation Service, with presiding Pastor Wayne Gillespie.

Meat, rolls, and beverage will be provided. Covered dishes are welcomed.
Sign up sheet in the narthex. See you there!!

WEAR RED!!

OCTOBER SPONSORSHIPS

FLOWER SPONSOR

10/4 Carl Minnich
10/11 Mary Walker
10/18 Charlene Bopp
10/25 Sandy Hess

BULLETIN SPONSOR

Karen Disciscio
Lucille Allen
Charlene Bopp
Carl Minnich

ALTAR CANDLES

Evelyn Booth



OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ASSISTING MINISTER

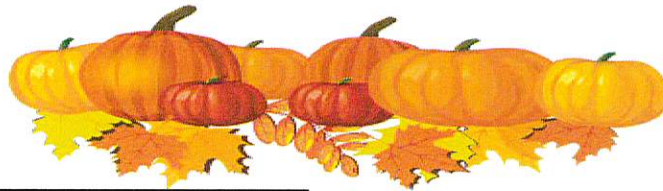
10/4 Tom Walker
10/11 Tara Malucci
10/18 Tom Walker
10/25 Patty Newton

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
12 George "Clint" Bowser
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



Feed My Sheep Pantry

The Pantry will be collecting items for each month beginning in October 2026.

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

**Non-perishable items, canned goods, paper products
snack size candy
chips
drink boxes**

Packing for October Pantry will be on **Tuesday,
October 6, at 2:00** in the afternoon.

October Open Pantry date is Friday, October 9, 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Schedule Change

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 2027.



Forks Church Income & Expense Summary

Income & Expense Summary **August 1 – September 26, 2026**



Income received	\$13,793.83
Expenses	\$15,186.21
Difference	-\$ 1,392.38

Actual amount in General Fund to cover budgeted expenses as of September 27, 2026: **\$1,783.79.**

If you would like more information, please contact me.

Karen Disciscio

From Pastor Wayne

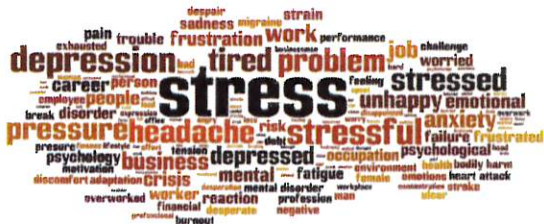
“Gracious Father, we pray for Your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen”

We pray these words together on every Reformation Sunday.

Religions (including Christianity) experience times of upheaval, change, and reformation in cycles of about 500 years. Christians debated about the identity of Jesus for more than 400 years after His death and resurrection, and the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity emerged during the Council of Nicaea in the 5th Century. The first Christian Crusade began in 1096. The Spanish Inquisition was first formed in the year 1478 and the Protestant Reformation began when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. We can better understand what is happening in the Church, right now, by realizing that 500-year-long cycles of upheaval, change, and reformation predicted that something significant was going to happen in our congregation and in the Church as a whole in about 2020 (500 years after the Protestant Reformation). The Church changed. God is opening a new door.



Times of upheaval, change, and reformation are never easy in the life of the Church. Our lives are complicated. Many of us are feeling more stressed and on-edge than we have felt at any other time in our lives. Little things are suddenly big things. People are speaking to others in less than helpful ways. The political climate in America has divided us into camps of “us” and “them.” I’m sure that you’re tired. You want our church to be a place where you can find peace, calm, and stability if you are at all like me. You want our church to be a community filled with friends where you feel connected to others during a challenging time.



You want to be encouraged and to be reminded that Jesus is walking beside you and people that you love. You want to be reminded that Jesus is still a strong and unmovable Rock, and that you're important to God and to other people.

Many people get trapped into focusing upon only the things that are dying and upon only the things that are lacking during times of upheaval, change, and reformation. But, even in uncertain times like these, Jesus promises us the gift of resurrection and leads us into a future filled with opportunities. Resurrection always challenges us to think about ways to share the message of Jesus' great love in both new and exciting ways. Resurrection challenges us to look beyond the walls of our building and to re-explore what it means to invite the people who live in our community to join hands in life-giving ministry. Resurrection challenges us to search for new and exciting ways to build bridges toward those who want to be part of something even though they don't attend worship. This is a time for us, as Christians, to create learning opportunities. This is a time when we have an opportunity to better-connect with those who are aging and homebound; to share the message of Jesus' love with little children and with people of all ages in new ways; and to see that, while our building continues to be a place where we gather for times of worship, fellowship and learning, we can connect with people in new and different ways.



And so, this month, I would like to challenge you to think about reformation in the Church and about the goodness and faithfulness of God. How can you respond to the goodness of God by sharing some of your time and financial resources as God moves the Church into a new and exciting future? How can you be a part of God's answer to our prayer on Reformation Sunday, when we ask God to bless our church and: *"where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it"*? How can you help our church to move through these both challenging and exciting times by joining hands with your Council, with people who are working hard to build and support ministries, and with all your friends in our church as we move into the future that Jesus is setting before us at the dawn of a new 500-year cycle in the life of the Church and of Christianity?

Pastor Wayne



October 17, 2026
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 25, 2026
Family Halloween Fun
& Trick~or~Treating

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

October 28, 2026
NWPA & SWPA Rostered
Leaders Day of Rest &
Renewal

A much needed day of rest and renewal for the rostered leaders of the Northwest Pennsylvania and Southwest Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA.

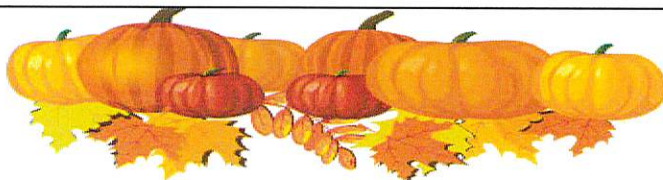
Lutherlyn
500 Lutherlyn Lane
Butler, PA 16001
724-865-2161

HUNGER WALK
FOR THE LEECHBURG FOOD BANK

Sunday, October 4, 2026
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, roundtrip.

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.



Leechburg Annual Fall Festival 2026

Join us for an afternoon of fall fun at Riverfront Park in Leechburg!

14 Saturday, October 3, 2026

12:00–5:00 PM

Riverfront Park, Leechburg

The Leechburg Area Civic Association invites you to celebrate the season with us at our Annual Fall Festival!

We're bringing together local vendors, great food, activities, games, fall treats, music, and plenty of festive touches for a fun afternoon along the river.



What to expect:

- Fall-themed activities & games
- Local makers, crafters & vendors
- Food & fall treats
- Music throughout the afternoon
- Fall photo opportunities
- Family-friendly Halloween fun
- And more surprises as we get closer!

Admission is FREE!

Hosted by the Leechburg Area Civic Association.



&

Community P.A.T.H.

(Providing Alternatives to Hunger)

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4 - 2PM

WALK FOR HUNGER

With **1 in 8 people** in Armstrong County facing food insecurity, including **1 in 6 kids**, the Leechburg Community Food Bank provides crucial resources to help neighbors in need.



THE NEW LEECHBURG HIKING TRAIL

Walk up to 3 miles round trip from the Leechburg Fire Hall the former Bagdad Steel Mill.

Food and refreshments will be available on the walk.

REGISTER NOW

Contact Us

724-845-1901



Visit Our Website

leechburgfoodbank.org/walk



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

October 2026
Forks Church Newsletter

