

First News First

Volume 57, Issue 4

April 2023

In our world, things have happened that have left a great impact on us. I remember my Mom telling the story of where she was when she heard of John F. Kennedy's death. I never really understood how she remembered that she was standing at the ironing board at the red house in LeMars, Iowa and listening to the radio. That is I never understood until... September 11 happened in my lifetime. I remember being at the Perinton Rec Center in Fairport, NY and getting dressed to go to work. Now I understand – it is like that moment is frozen in my mind.

Other things have happened in my lifetime that have made a huge difference in our world as well. As a child in the 70's I never could have dreamed of having a smart phone with so many pieces of information being held in the palm of my hand. Amazing.

The Covid Pandemic has changed a lot of things. How we all operate. People have become less trusting of our government. No one ever dreamed that our world could almost entirely shut down from daily life for 2 weeks, months, years. I have noticed a lasting effect of us staying more to ourselves, now.

But the biggest thing that ever changed our world, our faith, our outlook, and our actions of how we live is Holy Week. These are the eight days that changed the world. This week is so critical to our faith that Matthew, Mark, and Luke spend over 1/3 of their gospel on these eight days. John has devoted even more time to this – at least 1/2 of his writing is recording the events of Holy Week.

This is the major event of the church and our worshipping community as well. We will begin with Palm Sunday and Jesus' much celebrated entry into Jerusalem. And on Maundy Thursday, our Lord gathers us at the table, just as he gathered the first 12 disciples. We break the bread and drink the wine. We hear the words, take and eat – this is my body and blood, given and shed for you. Next we enter into the most difficult and meaningful day of the church year. We hear the story of Jesus's death on the cross. The love he poured out for each of us. The forgiveness we receive as he died, and the lasting connection with God that transforms our lives. Jesus died out of love FOR us, so that we have the promise of everlasting life WITH him.

And then on Easter – we hear the story of the biggest victory ever!

God's triumph over sin and the devil.

The resurrection of our Lord.

The world was changed mightily throughout the events of these eight days. I hope you will be at worship on each of these days and will come open to the experience of our Lord changing you as well. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter blessings to you.

Pastor Jane Nicholson



March 29 Lent Service with our Christian brothers and sisters of LARC will be hosted at First Lutheran Church. Soup supper is at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and Worship will be held at 7:00 in the sanctuary. It is our hope that you will be there to extend a warm welcome on behalf of our congregation. A time of beverages and conversation will follow worship.



LENTEN OFFERINGS of First Lutheran as well as the LARC Lenten offerings will be donated to Maranatha Ministries. Maranatha is a local faith-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the community through feeding, clothing, and housing.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

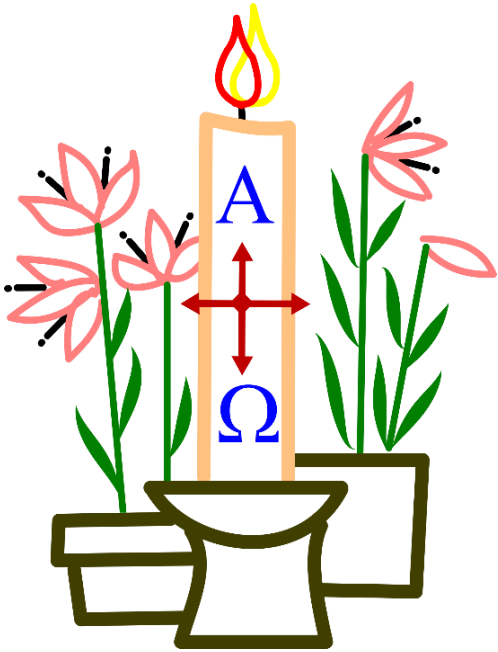
- April 2 Palm Sunday 10:45 a.m. Cantata and Communion
- April 6 Maundy Thursday 10:45 a.m. Communion (Chapel)
7:00 p.m. Communion and Stripping of Altar (Sanctuary)
- April 7 Good Friday 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word and Reading of the Passion narrative from Matthew (Chapel)
- April 9 Easter Sunday 8:00 & 10:45 a.m. Festival Easter Worship with Communion



EASTER BREAKFAST will be served between 9 and 10 on Easter Sunday, April 9. We are asking that you please sign up by April 2 for breakfast so we know how many to plan for. The food will be served buffet style. Children's activities will begin at 10 a.m. Please join us.

NETwork Ministries

NETwork Ministry Dance Team will be presenting the Dance of Praise in place of our traditional Hymn of Praise during worship on Sunday, April 23. We look forward to having you there to interact with these young people as they share their gifts and their faith with us.



Paschal Candle Fire has long been a sign of God's presence: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

For us, the symbolism of the Paschal Candle is of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death. During the Easter Season the Paschal Candle is placed near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection and is lit each week, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the world.

After the Day of Pentecost, the Paschal Candle is placed on its stand near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that in our baptism, we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. The candle is lit at each celebration of Baptism, at

which time small baptismal candles are lit from it for presentation to the baptized. This act is a visual reminder of the integral connection between Baptism and Easter. For funerals the paschal candle is lit and placed in its stand at the head of the casket or near the urn during the funeral rite. The paschal candle visually proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5: "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

SYNOD ASSEMBLY The Day of Edification will be held online on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The Business components of the assembly will be held on Friday evening, June 2 online and in person at Trinity Lutheran in Harrisburg on Saturday, June 3. The Conference meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran in Williamson on Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m. If you would like to serve as one of First Lutheran's two lay voting members at these functions, please talk with President Timothy Gotwald, or Pastor Nicholson. Thank you for your consideration.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Worship & Music Committee: Tim will be meeting with Bob Rinaldi of All-Sound Pro to address changes or recommendations to the sound system.

Visioning Team: The committee will be contacting Marotta/Main Architectural firm to explore the possible redesign the chapel/library area for ministry/community use/rentals/etc.

Property Committee: A bid was submitted from Hill General Contractors to replace the rear double door at the back entrance to Fellowship. It was approved to replace the door with two insulated steel doors at a cost of \$5,830, including installation and painting.

Southgate Neighborhood Advisory Board Pastor Nicholson is one of 26 candidates nominated to serve on this board. (On the night of our council meeting, the borough council selected Pastor Nicholson and 6 others to be on this board.)



THE FONDEST MEMORIES
are made when
Gathered
AROUND THE TABLE

Save the date – May 11 – for the luncheon sponsored by the Women of the ELCA. ALL women of the church are invited to the “Ladies’ Spring Luncheon” of soups and salads at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come for entertainment and fellowship.

The annual Synod-wide Day of Renewal will be held on April 29, beginning at 9:00. It will be held at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in Hanover. The Theme is “Women Who Know and Understand the Ways of God,” led by the Rev. Sheila Ireland of Hanover. Registration of \$25 is due by April 17, 2023.



For the April 13 Bible Study gathering, Gertrude Kampmeyer will lead the group in the topic “Crafted in Christ.” We will consider how we are bound in God through Christ for the sake of our neighbor in need. We will meet at 1:30 in the meeting room.



Contributions for the backpack program for elementary school children are always welcome. Suggestions for the month of April are: fat free, sugar free pudding cups and 100% juice boxes. These individual packaged items benefit children who have limited nutrition on weekends.



The Women’s Fellowship Breakfast will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19 at Texas Lunch
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.

There are so many needs for support around the world that are aided by Lutheran Disaster Relief. Contributions may be marked as “Wherever needed” or for a specific cause such as Ukraine, flood relief, or hurricane relief. Thank you for your on-going support of these many programs.

“There is so much suffering in the world – physical, material, mental. The suffering of some can be blamed on the greed of others. The material and physical is suffering from hunger, from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases. Will we allow greed to rule our hearts or will we accept God’s invitation to joyful generosity?”

Mother Teresa

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



THANK YOU! GRACIAS! A huge Thanks to the congregation for your generous gifts of children's underwear and cash to purchase underwear. With these gifts the Neighborhood Task Team will supply underwear to elementary students at the August "Back to School" event. Many go without underwear because they don't have them, can't afford them or can't wash them. This congregation certainly has a heart to make our neighborhood children more comfortable and better able to concentrate at school. Hopefully, they will see God's love in our gifts. We all are the Neighborhood Task Team together. We can't do it without you. May God bless you!

Coming Soon- All Sundays in May will be "SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAYS" Another basic need for our neighborhood children is socks. In May the Neighborhood Task Team will collect socks for boys and girls and camis for girls. Socks keep feet warm, dry and protected. Often they can't be passed on because they are worn out. The goal of the NTT is to have socks, underwear and camis to give out at our August "Back to School" event for elementary aged students. You may purchase socks for boys and girls, ages 5-12 low style and camis, girls size medium or large. You may also donate by cash or check-socks or camis in the memo line. NTT will do the shopping. Envelopes will be provided in the May newsletter and bulletins. Thank you for supporting this outreach.



The Spring Fling Giveaway Saturday May 6, 2023 from 10 am until noon. The Neighborhood Task Team is collecting gently used, clean summer tops and bottoms for men, women and children to share with our neighbors at this event. Casual dresses and light weight jackets and sweaters will also be appreciated. Please place your contributions in the bin in Memorial Hall by Sunday April 23. All are invited to join us as a

volunteer at this event. You will get to meet and assist out neighbors. Direct any questions to Mary Gotwald at mgotwald@embarqmail.com or 717-264-4759. Thanks for your help in sharing God's love with our neighbors.

The Neighborhood Task Team has scheduled two Laundry Events at Spot Laundromat in the South Gate Mall. They will be on Saturday April 22, 10 am to noon and Sunday June 11, 11am-1 pm. The last time we were at Spot for an event one of the men who was working there said to us, "This is a good thing you are doing here." We appreciated his help, support and encouragement. He knows our neighbors.



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



Little Daisy's Closet moved on February 25, 2023 from Main Street to Orchard Drive in Chambersburg, They are located in the strip mall between Spicher's and Dollar General. They are now in a beautiful spacious store front that will fill quickly. Stop in and take a tour of the space. Kat will share what they are able to provide for people in need in our community. You will be amazed. They have put tireless work into this. They have great community support and guidance and direction from God. Please keep them and their clients in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

On behalf of Kate Nienstedt, our family would like to thank you for your support of Kate's musical endeavors these past few months. We appreciate your purchases from her Fall Sweet Roller fundraiser as well as your donations. The CASHS Glee Club and Band went to Philadelphia to perform at the 76ers game on March 10th. They did a great job and it was very thrilling to hear them perform in the Wells Fargo Arena!



We also thank the congregation for permitting her Cumberland Valley School of Music (CVSM) group to rehearse their "Fiddler on the Roof" production in the Fellowship Hall when their Wilson College space was suddenly unavailable. Over 55 students were in the show including Kate. They gave two outstanding performances at Laird Hall on March 3 and 4.

With sincere gratitude, The Nienstedt family

HELPING HANDS

Council

President: Tim Gotwald
 Vice President: Joyce Ray
 Secretary: Rose Wilson
 Treasurer: Sally Herritt
 Pastor: Jane Nicholson
 Deacon: Freda Dorand
 Jeff Dorand
 Barb Evans
 Marlin Maclay
 Mary Beth McGraw-Warne
 Gerry Wilson
 Financial Secretary:
 Carol McCoy



PRAYER CHAIN

May we include you in our prayers? Do you have a prayer need that we can help you with? If so, please call our prayer chain group leader:

Marcia Hunt @
 717-263-0781

Names are kept on the prayer chain for 1 month. After that month, please contact the office again if you would like to have a name on for another month.

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|---------------|------|------------------|------|
| Tracy Stenger | 4/1 | Harold Forrester | 4/13 |
| Alexis Love | 4/2 | Kate Nienstedt | 4/13 |
| Sara Love | 4/3 | Glenn Miller | 4/16 |
| Annette Huber | 4/5 | Donald Shoop | 4/16 |
| Daniel Cody | 4/6 | Hunter Boock | 4/19 |
| Lenora Craven | 4/6 | Joanne Caskey | 4/20 |
| Amy Rebok | 4/9 | Karen Sloan | 4/21 |
| William Ellis | 4/10 | Michael McCoy | 4/22 |
| Patsy Best | 4/13 | Rick Gates | 4/25 |

TRANSPORTATION

Need a Ride?



Our church provides transportation to church on Sundays!

Please call if you need a ride.
 Church office: 717-264-2015



**Deadline for
 The May
 Newsletter
 will be
 April 14**

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Chambersburg, PA 17201
E-mail: felccoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.felcc.org

 @FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch
 @felccyouth

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| CHURCH OFFICE | 717-264-2015 |
| Parish Administrator | ext. 1 |
| Director of Music | ext. 3 |
| Pastor | ext. 4 |

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
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DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Palm Sunday
April 2nd
10:45 AM



Maundy Thursday
April 6th
10:45 AM &
7:00 PM



Good Friday
April 7th
10:45 AM &
7:00 PM



Easter Sunday
April 9th
8:00 AM &
10:45 AM