

First News First

Volume 59, Issue 3

March 2024

It is the day after Ash Wednesday as I write this article. It feels too soon to be writing about Holy Week and Easter, as Lent has only just begun. Throughout the Lenten season in our Old Testament readings we are hearing God's covenantal promises made to his people.

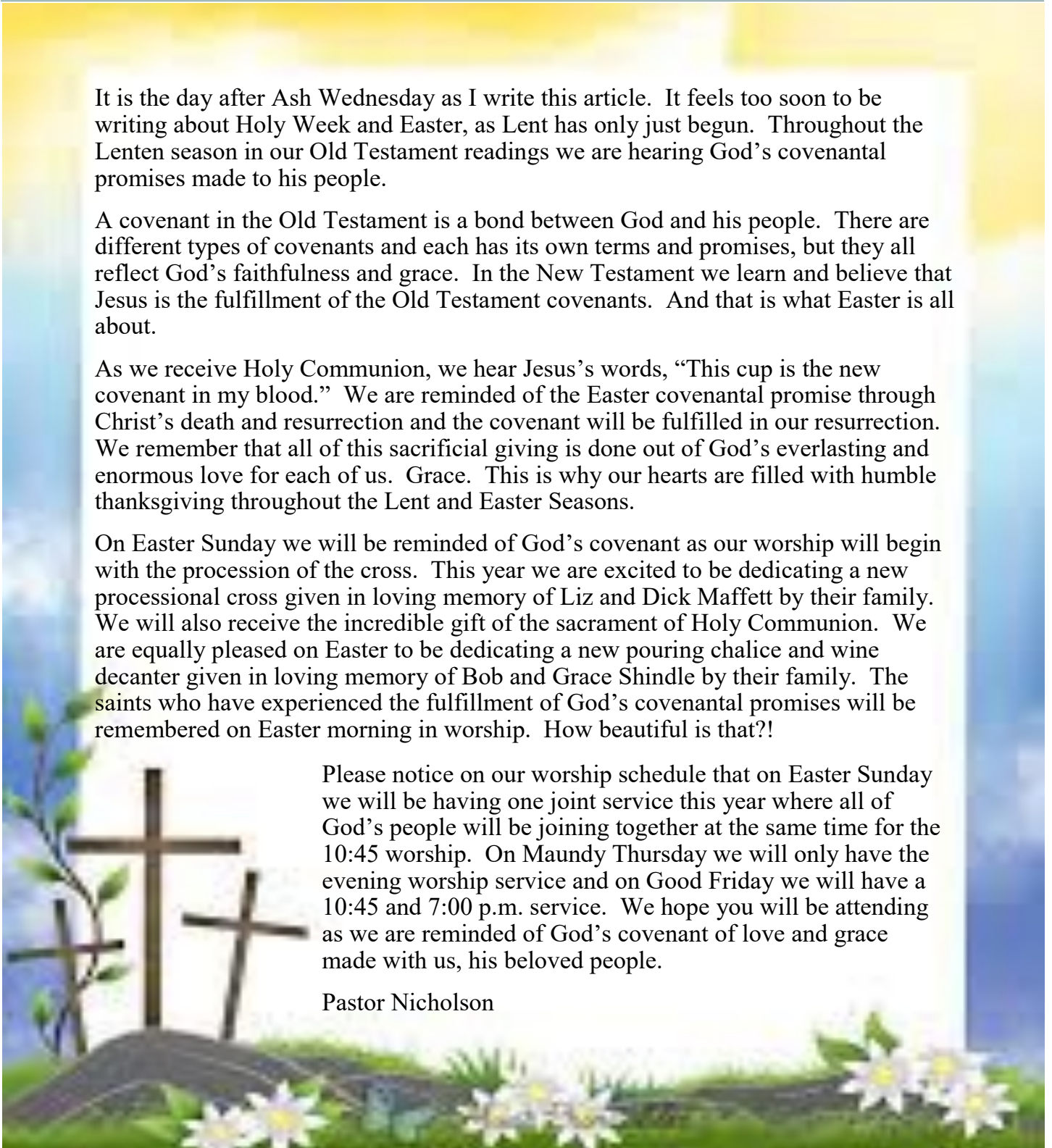
A covenant in the Old Testament is a bond between God and his people. There are different types of covenants and each has its own terms and promises, but they all reflect God's faithfulness and grace. In the New Testament we learn and believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament covenants. And that is what Easter is all about.

As we receive Holy Communion, we hear Jesus's words, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." We are reminded of the Easter covenantal promise through Christ's death and resurrection and the covenant will be fulfilled in our resurrection. We remember that all of this sacrificial giving is done out of God's everlasting and enormous love for each of us. Grace. This is why our hearts are filled with humble thanksgiving throughout the Lent and Easter Seasons.

On Easter Sunday we will be reminded of God's covenant as our worship will begin with the procession of the cross. This year we are excited to be dedicating a new processional cross given in loving memory of Liz and Dick Maffett by their family. We will also receive the incredible gift of the sacrament of Holy Communion. We are equally pleased on Easter to be dedicating a new pouring chalice and wine decanter given in loving memory of Bob and Grace Shindle by their family. The saints who have experienced the fulfillment of God's covenantal promises will be remembered on Easter morning in worship. How beautiful is that?!

Please notice on our worship schedule that on Easter Sunday we will be having one joint service this year where all of God's people will be joining together at the same time for the 10:45 worship. On Maundy Thursday we will only have the evening worship service and on Good Friday we will have a 10:45 and 7:00 p.m. service. We hope you will be attending as we are reminded of God's covenant of love and grace made with us, his beloved people.

Pastor Nicholson



Worship SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 24 Palm Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Communion
March 28 Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary with Communion and Stripping of Altar
March 29 Good Friday	10:45 a.m.	Chapel with Service of the Word and Reading of the Passion narrative from Mark
	7:00 p.m.	Tenebrae Service
March 31 Easter Sunday	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 March 24 for breakfast so we know how many to plan for. The food will be served buffet style. Please join us.



LENTEN CALENDAR



March 13 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. Please contact Barb Evans to help with soup or bread 717-360-2535.

Date /Time: 7:00	Name of Jesus	Location	Preacher
March 6	Rabbi	Trinity Episcopal 58 S 2nd St Chambersburg 17201 717-264-6351	Pastor Barb Barry
March 13	Suffering Servant	First Lutheran 43 W Washington St Chambersburg 17201 717-264-2015	Mother Pat Dickson
March 20	Lamb of God	Solomon's Lutheran 4856 Wayne Rd Chambersburg 17202 717-267-2266	Father Allan Wolfe

LENTEN OFFERINGS of First Lutheran (envelopes mailed to you) will be donated to SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network.) And the LARC Lenten offering collected on Wednesday nights will be given to NetWork Ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS



POVERTY SIMULATION A couple of churches in the Chambersburg Area are looking at participating in an experience that helps us to better understand the struggles of living in poverty. This 2 hour experience on either Saturday, May 11 or Saturday, May 18 (uncertain of the exact date at this point) will give us opportunity to take on the roles of different families facing poverty. If you have an interest in attending, please speak with Marlin Maclay (717-372-5865) or the church office.

Deepening Our Relationship with the Spirituality of Fundraising

is a video conference that will be live streamed from the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. Our stewardship committee will be watching this together on Thursday, March 7 in the Parlor from 11:00 to 4:00. You are welcome to join this group to learn together. Lunch will be provided, so please let the church office know you are coming so we may have the correct amount of food.



Are you looking for an opportunity to serve abroad and expand your horizon? The Social Missions Committee is organizing a **mission trip to visit *Tree-4-Hope* and their work in El Aguate, Guatemala** in January or February, 2025. We will experience first-hand the work our mission dollars support at Hope Academy for girls and at the Miguel Magone orphanage. This will be a hands-on experience. Whatever skills you bring to the table will be utilized...building, painting, gardening, technical, cooking, crafting, educational, etc. Everyone has something to contribute. Our mission dollars have been supporting the amazing work of *Tree-4-Hope* since 2021. If you have interest in joining us on this trip, offering your financial support or for more information, see Rose Wilson. Visit www.tree4hope.org for more information.



Direct your
**Thrivent Choice
Dollars**
Today!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members.... In 2023 First Lutheran received \$986 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funds. We would be honored if you chose to

designate any remaining 2023 choice to First Lutheran. The deadline is March 31, 2024. For more information contact: www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice. • Call 800-847-4836. • Contact your local Thrivent Agent.

CRAFT FAIR

Luther Ridge Auxiliary

Saturday, March 23 9 a.m.—2p.m.

Luther Ridge Fleck Center

2998 Luther Drive, Chamberburg

Local Vendors, Baked Goods, &

Silent Auction!

ANNUAL MEETING

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2024

Joyce Ray called the meeting to order.

Pastor Nicholson gave an opening prayer.

Joyce gave a brief overview of what we have done in 2023.

Tim Gotwald from the Visionary Team gave a brief overview of what the group is looking to maybe doing in the church at some point.

Sally Herritt presented the 2024 Budget to be accepted in the amount of \$390,328.00. Motion was made by Dalton Paul and 2nd by Tim Gotwald. Motion Passed.

Closing Prayer given by Pastor Nicholson.

Motion for adjournment was made by Barb Evans and 2nd By Mary Beth McGraw-Warne.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 2024

Property Committee: As approved by the Property Committee at the January Meeting, Council approved the NTT and Visioning Team request to move the nursery to the second floor in the room next to the restrooms. NTT will be moving to the space on the first floor. Jeff Dorand requested that it be known that he opposed this.



Parish Life and Faith Formation: A BBQ Lunch and Variety Show will be held on February 25 following worship. Thrivent has provided the money for the food, so all money donated will be used for youth scholarships.

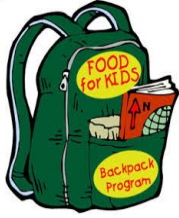
Parish Life and Worship: We will have one worship service on Easter at 10:45. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 10. Outdoor worship and the Church Picnic will be June 24, 2024 at Greene Township Park. The pavilion is reserved between 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Cantata on Palm Sunday will be different this year. A new processional cross given in memory of Liz and Dick Maffett and a new pouring chalice and decanter given in memory of Grace and Bob Shindle will be dedicated and used on Easter.

Evangelism: The Evangelism Committee is touching base with people on the congregation roles who have not attended worship or given financially in quite some time to see if they would like to remain as members of First Lutheran.

Stewardship: The Committee invites council and congregation members to join us for a 5 hour learning experience about Giving as a Spiritual Experience. Thursday March 7 from 11 to 4. Lunch provided.

Poverty Simulation: St. John looking to host and we are invited to participate.

WELCA



The gathering of individual serving items for the backpack program continues as a project for the women's group. All members are invited to contribute to this project with contributions of fruit items as the suggestion for this month. This could include canned fruit, fruit cups in light syrup, dried fruit such as raisins, plums, and cranberries, and applesauce. These items are provided for the elementary school children who lack adequate nutrition on weekends.



All women of the church are invited to the monthly WELCA Bible study. We will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 to continue our study of Max Lucado's book He Chose the Nails with Janet Friend as leader for Chapter 6, "I Will Let You Choose".



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast

will be held at Trojan Dinner
1121 Lincoln Way East
8:30 a.m. on
Wednesday, March 15
**ALL LADIES ARE
WELCOME.**

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

Little Daisy's Closet is in need of the following items:

Personal care items: deodorant, shampoo, body soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.

Also: Sheets, blankets, towels, wash cloths, dish towels, curtain and shower curtains.

Clothing Items-new or gently used

For men:-small pants 28-34, small and medium shirts, XXL shirts

For boys:-9 month, 5 year, 7 year

For girls:-new born, 24 month, 5 year to 8 year, 14/16, and underwear

Please deposit donations in the Little Daisy's Bin in Memorial Hall.



Little Daisy's Closet

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

SCAN Student Clothing Assistance Network If you attended the January 14 service or watched on line you would have become acquainted with this new NTT project. Kim Martin is coordinating the program with a CASD social worker, Gabriela Juarez-Lemus. This project is to assist school district children and families that need clothing. Many of these students are homeless or in emergency housing and have been left with few belongings. How Can you help? * volunteer to be on a list of helpers who will purchase items or pay for a purchase made by another volunteer for a specific child in need *donate by cash or check to the NTT fund from which purchases will be made-Checks made out to First Lutheran Church with SCAN in the memo line. SCAN envelopes are available in Memorial Hall or at the entrances to the sanctuary. You may also use your own envelope. *pray for those in need and for those involved in this ministry To help: contact Kim Martin at 717 446 0842 or at kmartin_898@hotmail.com



Mathew 25: 35 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ...”

To maintain a supply of non-perishable food for the Give-n-Take box, please bring one non-perishable food item with you when you come to church. A container will be in Memorial Hall for collecting the food items. Some examples of non-perishable food: canned goods, pasta, rice, granola bars, cereal, etc.



Blessings, Thank you from the Neighborhood Task Team



donations to purchase SOCKS for clothing giveaway events

“Sock It to Me” Sundays are Back. The Neighborhood Task Team is now planning and preparing for the Back to School Event which will be held on August 24, 2024. Please mark your calendars. Volunteers are needed. At this event the NTT gives out new underwear, socks and camis to elementary school students. We also

share children’s personal care items, books, snacks and some fun activities. The team’s goal is to provide 5 pairs of new socks and 5 pairs of new underwear for each child. This event began in 2019, the brain child of Nancy Fricke. Each year we have been able to serve more children. And there are more children in need. We can’t do this without the donations from the congregation and our friends. Spread the word. The collection baskets will be available beginning March 3 and running until April 28. This collection is for socks, LOW CUT is the children’s choice, for elementary boys and girls ages 5-12. Thank you for sharing God’s love with our neighbors in need.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

Saint Seraphin is a soup kitchen that offers meals to those in need. The meals are provided on Thursdays and Saturdays when the Salvation Army does not provide meal. NTT has joined with St Luke Lutheran to help provide servers for this ministry. St Seraphin is located near the Salvation Army. The hours are 9 am-1pm, one Saturday per month. The dates vary within the month. First has volunteers to serve through the May date. When the new calendar is available I will share available dates. If you have any questions call or email Mary Gotwald.



“Hanging” of Hats, & Scarves Project. January 13-20



NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

“Hanging” of
Hats, & Scarves
Project.
January 13-20



RETREATS



CAMP NAWAKWA has summer camping opportunities for children and youth who have completed grades kindergarten through 12th grade, families, and elder camp. Brochures are in Memorial Hall.

CAMP KIRCHENWALD a Spring Quilting Retreat. A gathering of women to share fellowship and talents. Friday, March 15-Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Register by March 8. Cost of the full weekend (Fri-Sun) is \$180, two days (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) is \$110 and one day (Sat 9 a.m.-4 p.m.) is \$65.



Registration forms are available at LutheranCamping.org or by calling the Camping Office at 717-677-8211

THANK YOU

Dear First Evangelical Lutheran church:

On behalf of the Diaper Depot of Central Presbyterian Church, we would like to thank you for your generous grant of \$500. These funds will provide diapers for many children in the Chambersburg area. The Diaper Depot helped over 222 families just in the month of December. That is over 11,100 diapers that were given out to the community.

May you be blessed as you have blessed others.

Thanks again for your support!

Beth Jaczun, Finance Administrator

Central Presbyterian Church



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the generous donation of \$1,500 to She's Somebody's Daughter. Your donating is helping to bring love and hope to those that have been affected by trafficking and exploitation.



Without your support SSD would not be able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those met during awareness and outreach. We would not be able to pick up the phone and receive a referral from another organization. There would not be a welcoming office space to hold space for pain and grief, and we wouldn't be there to celebrate the joys and victories as they come.

Words cannot express the gratitude I have for you. All of these things are able to happen only because of your financial partnership. It is a privilege to call you a co-laborer in this work. You may not be on the "front-lines" but the work being done would not happen without you. Thank you for partnering in this very vital way.

Gratefully,

Tanya Pearrell, Director of Impact

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Women of the ELCA for the beautiful Valentine's Day card and message. I appreciate this so very much.

Pastor Charles Kampmeyer.



Dear Members OF First Lutheran,

Thank you for the beautiful rose, prayers and visits.

They have cheered me during my illness.

Thank you to Pastor for her visits too.

Connie Wilkins



THANK YOU

First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors at NETwork Ministries, thank you for your generous financial support, we continue to share in the love of Jesus with those who are most vulnerable in our community and equip youth with skills for life.

Our records indicate that you made a contribution to NETwork in 2023 of \$2,000.

Again thank you for your generous support, It's an honor to serve God in this way.

Sincerely,

Tammy Timmons, Fiscal Assistant

To my church family of friends and Pastor Jane,

I just want to thank you for your cards, prayers and concerns in having my procedure done. Your gift of prayers was very much appreciated.

I feel blessed for my First Lutheran Family.

Thank you,

Nancy Wildeson



Members of FLC,

I can't thank you enough for the cards, prayers & check-ins during this emotional month. You've done an incredible job of demonstrating God's love. I am on the slow road to recovery, so keep the prayers coming. I hope to thank you in person when I am able.

Love, Kira Coy

**And thank you, Pastor Nicholson, for visiting me in the hospital. Your visit was appreciated. ☺

Dear Friends at First Evangelical Lutheran Church:

As we welcome in a new year, we extend our deepest gratitude for your donation to South Central Community Action Programs. Your support is a powerful force for positive change, and we are truly thankful for your commitment to our mission.

As we see increased needs for housing, food, affordable childcare, assistance for infants and children, and guidance to weather daily storms and bumps in the road, your support is impacting the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Wishing you a year filled with joy, prosperity, and the satisfaction of knowing that your donation is making a meaningful difference.

With heartfelt appreciation, Megan Shreve, Chief Executive Officer

SCCAP—South Central Community Action Programs

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of PMI. Your contribution of \$500 was a generous blessing and will make a difference in the lives of teens, women and their families here in our community.

Abundant Blessings,

Susie Barry, Executive Director, Pregnancy Ministries, Inc.

HELPING HANDS

2024 Council

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



March BIRTHDAYS

Alexander Goodman	3/1	Tedd T. Sloan	3/16
Sally Herritt	3/2	Aiden Peters	3/17
Trent Best	3/2	Kris Heintzelman	3/18
Abigail Dubs	3/3	Wayne Brensinger	3/18
Kimberly Martin	3/4	William McCoy	3/18
Tyler Johnson	3/4	Luke Cody	3//19
Tudy Gates	3/6	Karen Goodman	3/20
Joseph Hunt	3/6	Ralph Burdick	3/20
Brian Umbrell	3/9	Chandler Shearer	3/24
Rubens Paul	3/10	Beth Fairchild	3/25
Geoffrey Craven II	3/12	John Shearer	3/27
Teena Buselli	3/14		

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.

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 April
 Newsletter
 will be
 March 15**



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 W. Washington Street
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

DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



Palm Sunday
March 24
10:45 a.m.



Maundy Thursday
March 28
7 p.m.



Good Friday
March 29
10:45 a.m.
7:00 p.m.



Easter Day
March 31
10:45 a.m.