

First News First

Volume 59, Issue 4

April 2024



Holy Week and Easter are upon us. I approach Resurrection Sunday with a sense of anticipation each year. Throughout my childhood, youth, and young adult years, I do not recall Easter sermons I heard. Instead, I recall trumpets announcing the resurrection at sunrise services, and high school musicians accompanying hymns. I recall choirs singing “the Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s famous oratorio, “Messiah.” I recall floral crosses with chicken wire encasing them in the front yard of the church and everyone came and placed flowers on the cross, tucking them under the wire. I remember the stairs/tiers of Easter lilies that were placed around the cross with the white veil of resurrection draped on the cross itself.

Concerning my memories of hearing the Gospel during Holy Week, the messages that do come to mind for me around Easter time, actually occurred on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, transporting me to the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, or to Calvary. I believe this means my soul, through faith, understood what my eyes would often fail to see. The most important part of Easter is not necessarily Easter itself, but what comes before and what comes after. The rich context of Christ’s Passion before and his resurrection appearances following give the empty tomb of Easter meaning.

The cross of Christ marks a moment of transition in our lives from darkness into light; from despair into hope; and even from past into the future. What comes during the transition is sacrifice. The cross of Christ represents the ultimate act of sacrifice based upon the selfless, redeeming love of Christ.

Many of you know what sacrifice looks like – sacrificing your time for your family, your job, your health. Many of you give sacrificially – of your time and offerings as well. We are grateful for the generous gifts that have been left to our congregation through endowment gifts and memorial gifts of the families this year, too. Thank you to those who give joyfully, yet sacrificially, as they teach, sing, help our neighbors, care for our building, plan and lead worship, and care for our church members and staff.

Let us remember that Christ’s sacrifice for us on the cross, and his resurrection on Easter – set the stage for us to be God’s people of hope in our church, our neighborhood, and the world.

Thank you for sacrificially giving of yourself and sharing the love of God with others, making the story of the resurrection meaningful to the world.

God’s Easter Blessings to you,

Pastor Jane Nicholson

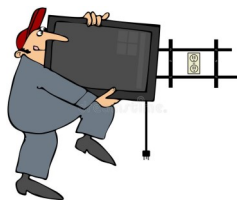


Worship SCHEDULE

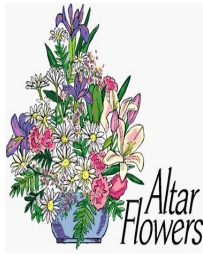
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|--------------------|------------|---|
| Thursday, March 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Holy Communion and stripping of the altar |
| Friday, March 29 | 10:45 a.m. | Service of the Word and Reading of the Passion Narrative |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Tenebrae Service |
| Easter, March 31 | 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Egg Hunt |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Festive Easter Worship with Holy Communion |
| April 7 | 10:45 a.m. | Holy Communion and Baptism of James (Jimmy) Kenneth Landeras (son of Patricia (Trish) and James (Jim) Landeras) |
| April 14 | 10:45 a.m. | Worship |
| April 21 | 10:45 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| April 28 | 10:45 a.m. | Music Sunday with Supply Pastor Bill Nienstedt |
| May 5 | 10:45 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| May 12 | 10:45 a.m. | Mother's Day with flowers for the ladies. |
| May 19 | 10:45 a.m. | Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday with Holy Communion |
| May 26 | 9:30 a.m. | Holy Trinity Sunday with Holy Communion |



Chambersburg Conference Assembly will be held on Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m. at Memorial Lutheran in Shippensburg. Our voting members for this meeting as well as Synod Assembly are Joyce Ray and Gerry Wilson along with Deacon Freda Dorand, Pastor Jane Nicholson, and other retired pastors of our congregation. Thank you to those who are so willing to share their time and enthusiasm with the larger church.



The **Television Screens** are scheduled to be installed in the sanctuary beginning Tuesday, April 2.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE: For those folks who have or will place altar flowers beginning in April, Everlasting Love Florist is very willing to fulfill your order. They are aware of the process to pick up empty altar vase holders and return them filled with your order. Their minimum cost per altar vase is \$35 (\$70 for two vases). There may be an additional cost for specific flower requests. Please call them at 717-263-5009 and place your order by Wednesday for the following Sunday.

**Thank
You!**

We wish Greg and Patti Plasterer the best upon the closing of their florist business at the end of March, and we thank them for their many, many years of service.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, April 6, 2024

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Many artists, crafters & authors

Coach's Corner BBQ

Something for everyone—Bring your friends

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Family Life Center

750 Norland Ave. Chambersburg, PA

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 fat free sugar free pudding cups and 100% juice boxes as the suggestion for this month. 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, April 11 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 to continue our study of Max Lucado's book He Chose the Nails with Jean Reed as the leader.



Ladies' Breakfast

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast
will be held at Perkins
8:30 a.m. on
Wednesday, April 17
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community



SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) We have begun phasing in the Student Clothing Assistance Network, a new program that answers individual requests for clothing needs channeled through Chambersburg School District social workers and counselors. At this point, 10 requests have been fulfilled, and we are widening the service gradually. Kim Martin is the lead person for this

program. If you are interested in being on the list of volunteers who will be called upon to fill these requests contact Kim at 717-446-0842 or at kmartin_898@hotmail.com. You may also choose to make a donation and let someone else do the shopping for the children. Cash or checks made out to First Lutheran with SCAN in the memo line.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK TEAM

Sharing God's love in our community

Laundry Days continue at Spot Laundry every other month. The next one is scheduled for April 13th, 2024. It is a two hour commitment. Everyone is welcomed to come, greet our neighbors and pay their laundry expenses for that day with a laundry card. We also offer religious materials, water bottles, children's books and Meals on Wheels left overs. NTT has also started a children's library there. We provide used books with a note to take a book or two home.



Update on the work of the Neighborhood Task Team As you may have noticed as you are passing in and out of the church from the parking lot First has two Give and Take Boxes. The one is still personal care items as before. The second box is for food. When you come to church if you would consider bringing an item or two for either box. It would help in sustaining this outreach to our neighbors. Thank You!!

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Seraphim Food Kitchen Saturdays 9am-1pm Volunteers from First have signed up through May. We just need 2 people for each Saturday that First is assigned. First serves one Saturday/month. The Soup Kitchen is located near the Salvation Army. Our work consists of making sandwiches, setting up a drink station, serving soup and chatting with those who come in for a meal. Our new schedule will start in June.

Little Daisy's Closet also has need of additional volunteers. There are many opportunities for you to help there. They are open for clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They accept donations on Saturday mornings. This is an impressive operation that serves those in need and values each person who comes through the door. It is a Christian and prayer based operation. Stop in or contact Little Daisy's Closet on Orchard Dr. for more information. 717 414-2646

"Sock It To Me" Sundays have begun in preparation for the August 24, 2004 Back to School Event. NTT is collecting low cut socks for elementary boys and girls from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Our goal is to have 5 pair of socks for each child who attends the event on that day. You may shop for donations and place those items in the collection sites in the back of the sanctuary, at the elevator entrance to the sanctuary, or in the NTT box in Memorial Hall. Cash and check donations are also accepted. You may use the envelopes that are available in Memorial Hall or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with socks in the memo line.



THANK YOU

The **Variety Show Fundraiser for Youth Events held on February 25th** was a HUGE success! It was fun to laugh together and to enjoy the wonderful musical performances. *Thanks to your generosity we raised \$1009.25!!!*



A *special thanks* goes out to all those who made this event possible by contributing their talents on stage. This list includes all of our youth Sunday School and Confirmation class performers: **Brynn, Coleton, Emery, John, Kenley, Lenora, Sam, and Tyler** and their adult co-star, **Nikki Johnson**.

Thanks also to our adult skit performers: **Cheryl Christman, Barb Evans, Janet Friend, Nancy Fricke, Tudy Gates, Jane Love, and Jean Reed**. In addition, thank you to **Joyce Ray** for sharing her comedic talents in the form of a hilarious stand-up routine. Furthermore, thank you to our delightful musical performers: **Freda Dorand, Tim Gotwald, Kate Nienstedt, and Sally Herritt**. And finally, thank you to our very fine emcee, **Bill Nienstedt**. Everybody was terrific!

Thank you to **Pastor Nicholson** for organizing all the skits which included developing scripts, collecting props, recruiting actors and rehearsing!

Thank you to **Mary Beth McGraw-Warne** and her Parish Life committee members, **Barb Evans, Janet Friend, Nancy Fricke, Nancy Hamilton, Karen Gochenour, Donna Ross, Kathy Shoop, and Nancy Wildeson**, for preparing and serving the delicious lunch.

Thank you to **Bob Lawyer** for doing the sound system set-up and giving us a tutorial!

And a final word of thanks to our parish administrator, **Cheryl Christman**, for her help both with advance promotion as well as last minute clerical support!!

I give thanks to God for all of you and your willingness to support this event!

With much gratitude,

Kristy Nienstedt,

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



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.

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



Easter Day
March 31
10:45 a.m.