

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PORTAGE, PA
NEWSLETTER

April, May, & June 2026



906 Caldwell Avenue, Portage PA 15946

Phone: 814-736-3662

Website: Flcportage.com

James 5:7- "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains."

Monthly Happenings

- April: 5 Easter Sunday Worship 7 AM
 6 Council Meeting @ 6:30
 12 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 15 Tax Day
 19 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 26 Sunday Worship 9 AM
- May: 3 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 5 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 10 Sunday Worship 9 AM / Happy Mother's Day!
 17 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 24 Pentecost Sunday Worship 9 AM
 25 Memorial Day
 31 Holy Trinity Sunday Worship 9 AM
- June: 7 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 8 Council Meeting 6:30 PM
 14 Sunday Worship 9 AM
 21 Sunday Worship 9 AM / Happy Father's Day!
 28 Sunday Worship 9 AM*

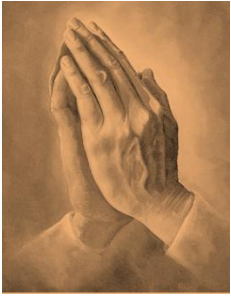
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Bible Verses:

1 Corinthians 15:58 – Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 – Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Matthew 17:20 – Our faith can move mountains.



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Emma Rosman Carolyn Pinos Cheryl Sherbine Keith Sherbine

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, when you walked upon this earth, you healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and raised the dead. Now we come to you on behalf of those who are suffering today and pray that you send them your healing power. Amen.

Please keep in your prayers the sick, lonely, and forgotten.

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Lutheran Book of Prayer:

Ascension: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you that you raised your Son from the dead, seated him at Your right hand, and placed all things under his feet that he might rule in majesty. You have crowned him with glory as our king of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

Pentecost: Lord God, we praise you for the gift of your Spirit, whom you poured upon fearful men to make them bold witnesses of the mighty acts You accomplished through Your Holy Son Jesus, the Christ. By your gracious gift of faith enable us to walk in the Spirit and to live in hope. Amen.

Trinity: Holy God, triune God, the true and living God, the one and only Lord of all, accept our worship and adoration. Amen.

Reformation: Heavenly Father, we heartily thank you for your gift of Martin Luther to your church. Make us true children of the Reformation through repentance, faith, loyalty, and diligence. Help us to be faithful people and cause us to stand in faith of Jesus Chrit as our Savior and our Lord, the true Rock of the church. Amen.

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We apologize if anyone was missed on the birthday and anniversary list. If a correction is needed or if you would like to see something else in the newsletter, please leave the information in Becky or Sharon’s mailboxes, located at the back of the church.



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

916 Hickory St., Hollidaysburg PA 16648

814.942.1042

office@alleghenysynod.com

Office hours: Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 1:00 pm; afternoon hours by appointment

Our mission: Inviting people to love one another.

Our vision: All creation living in harmony with Christ.

If you need pastoral assistance from the Allegheny Synod, contact information provided.

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Lutheran Small Catechism 1979: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What is Baptism? Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God’s Word and by his command.

What is this Word? In Matthew 28 our Lord Jesus Christ says: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

What benefits does God give in Baptism? In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.

What is God’s promise? In Mark 16 our Lord Jesus Christ says: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

How can water do such great things? It is not water that does these things, but God’s Word with the water and our trust in this word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit. St. Paul writes in Titus 3: “He saved us...in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal live. The saying is sure.”

What does Baptism mean for daily living? It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.

KITCHEN KORNER:

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please place a copy in Becky or Sharon's mailboxes at church. Enjoy!

Sweet Muffins

1 egg
1 ½ cup flour
½ cup milk
½ cup sugar
¼ cup salad oil
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt

Heat oven to 400. Grease 12 muffin tins.

Beat egg, stir in milk and oil. Mix in remaining ingredients just until flour is moistened. Batter should be lumpy. Fill muffin tins and bake 20 to 25 min. or until golden brown.

Sharon Cordwell taken from Betty Crocker's Cookbook/Golden Press New York 1975.

Chicken Salad

2 cups coarsely diced cooked chicken
1 c. seeded white grapes
2 T. lemon juice
2 hard cooked eggs (chilled and chopped)
½ tsp salt
½ c. mayonnaise
1 c. celery (sliced)
¼ c. halved and slivered blanched almonds.

Sprinkle chicken with lemon juice and salt, chill several hours. Add celery, grapes, chopped eggs, mayonnaise, and almonds. Toss lightly. Season salad with salt to taste. Serve in lettuce lined bowl. Serves 4 to 5.

Louise Seckinger

Fizz Fruit Cup

Combine 1 cup of your favorite fresh fruits in season. Cover with 1 cup carbonated lemon soda. Stir fruits to combine and mix. Serve chilled in cups or cocktail glasses. Garnish with fresh mint.

Sue Benko

Bible Study: Zechariah 10:1 Deuteronomy 31:6 James 5:7
Psalm 85:11-13 Lamentations 3:22-23 Genesis 1:14

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Bible Trivia: Old or New- test(ament) your knowledge

Deuteronomy Judges 1 Samuel Ruth Nahum Malachi Ezra
1 Timothy Philemon Hebrews Jude Romans 1 Peter Amos

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The Lord’s Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be they name, they kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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ELCA Daily Discipleship:

Matthew 28:16-20 Go, Baptize, and Teach

What opportunities did you have this week to teach someone about Jesus?

Matthew 6:24-34 Do not worry

What worries could you have entrusted to God this week?

Matthew 10:24-39 Be not afraid

When do you need courage from God?

“Faith is believing what you cannot see”

April Birthday & Anniversary

1 Kay Pohopin

1 Kayla Asfar

2 Amber Noel

2 Traci Cook

3 Joe Selepack

6 Jamie Miller

7 Jacob Warner

8 Eric Sherbine

10 Colton Palesch

11 Susan Kerch

14 Avery Marie Krise

14 Jim Hale

16 Kim Fox

16 Joe Stancovich Jr

18 Lilyann Coleman

20 Dave Lamar

21 Amanda Hershberger

23 Mark Stancovich

23 Jaemy Smithtro

25 Ashley Coleman

26 Todd Feathers

27 Cindy Maul

27 Paul Smith

27 Tyler Lysinger

28 Jill Maul

28 Jarrett Werner



4 George & Rose Ernest

12 Keith & Megan Maul

20 Tony & Linda Girard

28 Jeff & Wendy Kerch

Happy Anniversary!

May Birthday & Anniversary

5 Judy Miller

6 Makennah Gray

7 Zack Hershberger

7 Sasha Yetsko

8 Laura Maul

10 Jeff Kerch

10 Scott Yetsko

11 Linsey Donoughe

12 Mandy Troxell

12 Gavin Troxell

12 Jack Kittell

13 Evie Leman

20 Zach Lamar

20 Jennifer Brant

20 Kaitlyn Yetsko

24 Cathy Franey

25 James Schmidt

26 Robert Maul Sr

26 Wade Maul

27 Greg Cordwell

27 Tom Cordwell

27 Lacey Kittel

27 Haley Pinos

28 Marty Kerch

28 Tim Popish

29 Jon Lamar

29 Dave Kleman



1 James & Joanne DeMatteis

2 Mark & Kirsten MacLaughlin

7 Tom & Becky Canavan

9 Matt & Mary Boland

12 Dann & Terri Crum

17 Bill & Annette Labar

24 Ken & Susan Schaffranek

24 Gerald & Linsey Donoughe

27 Jim & Mimi Cole

27 Jim & Alex Hale

Congratulations

on your

7th Wedding

Anniversary!

June Birthday & Anniversary

2 Brian Hershberger

3 Rick Hazlett

4 Ashley McKrush

4 Brandon Rietscha

5 Bailey Kerch

7 Debra Cooper

9 Jack Coleman

11 Emily McKrush

11 Connor Palesch

12 Paul Maul

12 Nicholas DeMatteis

12 Adyson Lloyd

13 Bill Labar

13 Brandt Troxell

14 Sondra Kerch

15 Ruthann Enderlein

18 Philip Krisko

21 Patty Crum

21 Carter Maul

21 Locklyn Robine

24 Matthew Riley

28 Michele Hartline

28 Robert Crum Jr

30 Nathaniel Salovich



3 Dave & Kathy Kleman

3 James & Lori Pohopin

5 Jim & Becky Mulato

10 Todd & Melissa Feathers

17 Ron & Sherry Cadwallader

20 Allen & Susan McQuillen

23 Tony & Kelly DeMatteis

23 Casey & Krista Leman

Happy Anniversary!

Welcome

First Lutheran Church of Portage Newsletter

CH CH: What's missing?? U R!! Our pews are empty and we are missing you. Our church family seems smaller, and we miss seeing you in the congregation. If you have not been coming, please consider coming back, our family is not complete without you. See you on Sunday, all are welcome at the Lord's table.

Fellowship

Just to let you know what is happening in our church family in 2026. The first Sunday of every month after the service we are going to have a time of fellowship and light refreshments in the social room. Courtesy of the church, we are hoping that maybe we can get volunteers to do a Sunday and provide or make some type of light refreshment for a social time of fellowship with our church family. Please join us for church and a time to catch up with friends.

Sunday School

We are excited to let you know that Sunday school has started. Sunday school is immediately following our church services, and we are hoping to get more children and that it will grow and we can offer other classes for all ages. We need our children as they are the future of our church and without them there will be no future. Please, if anyone has any ideas, suggestions for our youth or anything to help our church family grow please feel free to contact any council member or come to council meeting and be heard.

First Holy Communion: Anyone interested in First Holy Communion, Classes will be offered in April please contact Brenda Kerch.



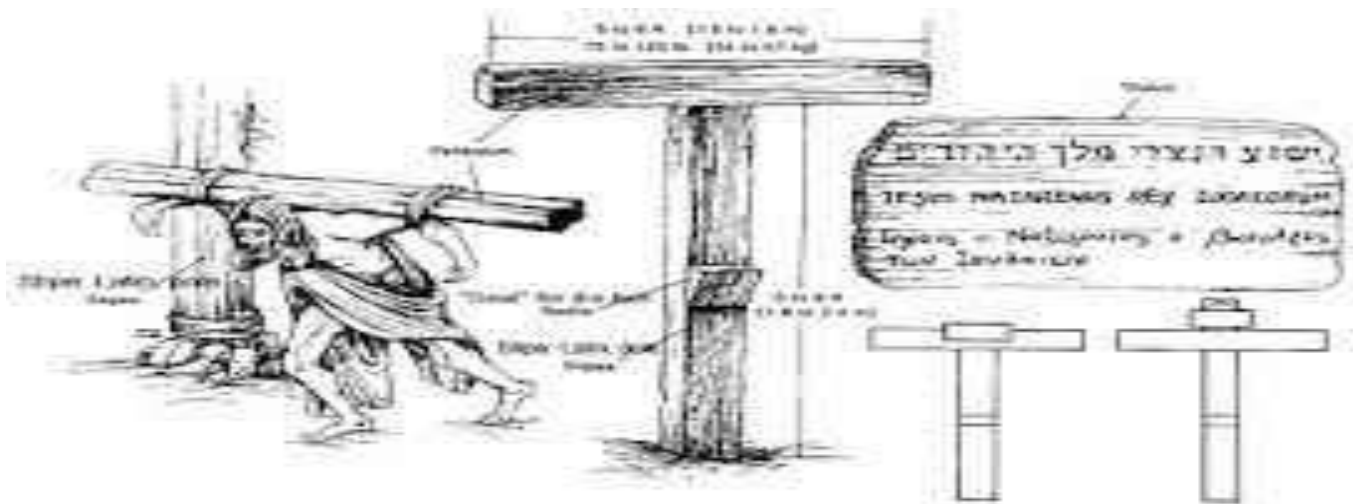
FYI

We have entered into the season of Lent in our church calendar. Lent is a season when we turn toward God and think about how our lives need to change. It is also a time to remember our baptism and how that gift gives us a new start every day. The color for Lent is purple, which symbolizes repentance. Lent begins Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days not including Sundays and ends Saturday before Easter. Next are the three 24-hour periods which begins on Maundy Thursday when we hear of the story of Jesus last meal with his disciples and the act of service and love in washing their feet. Good Friday we hear of the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus. Saturday at the nighttime Easter Vigil we hear of the amazing things God has done for us. It is a night of light. Scripture readings, baptism remembrance and communion the greatest night of the year for Christians. Easter Sunday, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and our new lives in Christ. Easter season lasts for 50 days (including Sundays). The color is white, symbolizing resurrection and joy. Pentecost falls on the 50th day of the season (Pentecost means 50th).

In the Bible we have villains and heroes. During Lent and Easter, we will tell you about two villains and one hero. First villain is Judas; he was one of Jesus' original disciples. Judas earned 30 pieces of silver by betraying his Lord over to the authorities and leading the soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane where he revealed Jesus with a Kiss. (Matthew 26-27).

Second villain is Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who chose to preserve his own status by giving the people what they wanted and turning Jesus over for crucifixion and washing his hands of it to signify self-absolution and instead bloodied them.

Peter was considered a hero. Peter was a man quick to speak but slow to think. At Jesus' trial Peter denied ever having known Jesus. Through the power of forgiveness and through Christ's appointment, Peter became a leader in the early church.



FYI continued:

The Crucifixion: The sign above Jesus read: Jesus King of the Jews and this was called the Titulus. The vertical cross part was the Patibulum, the block held the feet was the Sedile, and the horizontal part was called the stipes.

Typical crucifixion involved being nailed to the cross through the wrists, an excruciatingly painful and humiliating punishment. A single nail usually was used to pin both feet together to the cross. Eventually the victim would be unable to lift himself to take a breath and would suffocate. The Romans broke the legs of the men who were crucified next to Jesus but found that Jesus had already died. To make sure they pierced his side, probably to puncture his heart. (John 19:34)

The miracle of the resurrection took place three days later, when Jesus rose from the dead.

Easter and the Resurrection:



Information was taken from the Lutheran Handbook (Augsburg Fortress)

“Love thy neighbor as thy self”

Faith, Hope, & Love

PEWS NEWS

Our church family has been thriving from the little ones to the adults. The children are very active in church between being servers from carrying the cross, lighting the candles, and offering to fund raise and activities. In February, an outing was planned for 814 lanes for anyone who wanted to go, and everyone had a blast. The youth hosted social hour on Sunday March 1, right after church and had a brunch. What a great job!! An Easter egg hunt to be held March 22 and movie event to be coming up. Kudos to the kids and their leaders for getting this all going again as these kids are the future of our church. First Holy Communion classes will be held in April for approximately five kids and thanks to Brenda Kerch for volunteering to teach the class.

The adults were busy also getting ready to hold three fish fries. They were held on February 20, March 6, and March 20. We would like to send out a big THANK YOU to all involved in any way to make these fish fries a success. Events like the fish fries take a lot of hard work from planning, shopping, setting up, preparing, baking cakes, donating financially or materially, cleaning up or just by coming and supporting. We also appreciate the volunteers from other church families that come and give of their time and efforts. We are all one in Christ. (Philippians 4:13) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Gail Stancovich is always present and working the fish fries and this year she was attacked by a falling window. Gail was not hurt and we had the window open for some air as it was very warm that day. At any rate she was sitting under it, and it fell out on her head. She was fine but for the next fish fry we fixed her up with a Bob the Builder hard hat for safety. Other helpers that supported the dinner:



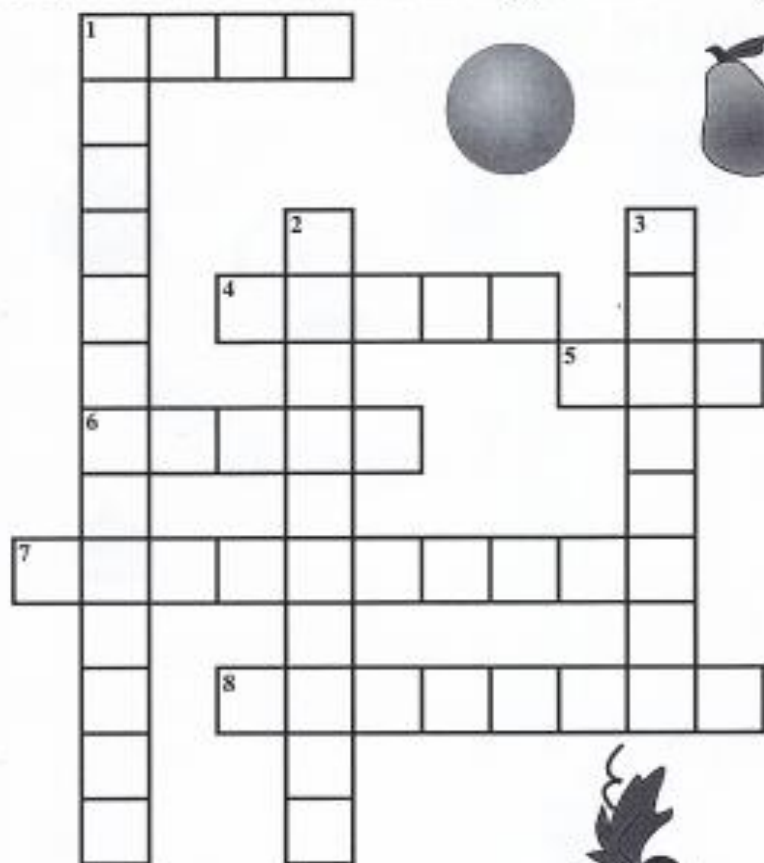
PEWS NEWS Cont:

Here are some pictures of our fish fry group. There are many more behind the scenes that are not pictured as they either were there before to set up and after to clean up. Sorry if you were not pictured.



Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9



ACROSS

- 1 Defined in I Corinthians 13
- 4 Rest, quietness
- 5 Delight, cheerfulness
- 6 The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
~Heb 11:1
- 7 Self control
- 8 Humility

DOWN

- 1 Patient
- 2 Moral excellence of character; kindness
- 3 The quality of being beneficial; kindness

Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9

S U L E E C G G E S U S T
S O O E G O O F N T O U E
E C N A R E P M E T N S O
N G G S A F A I T H E H O
K S S G S C P O E L O N O
E U U O C E E E K O O O G
E T F O O P N R S S S V U
M P F D S E E E N O P N E
I E E N E T Y P L E N G S
O N R E O O E R I T S N G
E A I S J A G C G G N N S
M R N S C N T H E Y F E K
E T G E P E G E O N C T G



FAITH

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

JOY

TEMPERANCE

LONGSUFFERING

LOVE

MEEKNESS

PEACE

