

Prince of Peace

THE BELLS



APRIL 2025

The Firstfruits

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

(1 Cor 15:20-22)

For centuries the church didn't celebrate Christmas, only Easter. The understanding is that if there wasn't an Easter, then Christ's birth would be like any other birth. Easter is the foundation of the Christian Church. Jesus' resurrection changed everything. In fact, every Sunday worship service is a mini-Easter celebration. We worship on Sunday morning because on the morning of

Easter Sunday, Christ was resurrected from the dead. The Firstfruits or the first person to return from the dead, fully alive, never to die again. This means that all sins, original sin and the sins that we commit, were paid for, in full, by Christ. If Christ had not paid for all the sins of the world, if He didn't pay for just one sin, God the Father would not have raised His Son. If just one sin had not been paid for then God would not have excepted His Son's sacrifice because the sacrifice didn't cover all sins. But Jesus did in fact pay for all sins in His death. Jesus' sacrifice was excepted by His Father because all sins had been paid for and Jesus' purpose for taking on human flesh was complete and thorough because He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. When we are burdened by a heavy conscience and feel that God could never forgive us for what we have done, then we're saying the Jesus didn't do enough on the cross to pay for that sin. But we know that Jesus did pay for all sins because He was raised from the dead by His Father. The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything! Jesus defeated sin and death. Paul wrote, *"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rm 5:12, 21) If sin is defeated then death is also defeated. No sin, no death. When we are resurrected on Judgement Day, we will have a glorified body like Jesus. A glorified body is a body without sin, so it will never die again. No sin, no death. And through

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through holy Baptism into Christ Jesus, we're guaranteed to be resurrected because we're joined with Christ in His death and resurrection. Jesus is the Firstfruits of the resurrection. Jesus currently sits at the right hand of God the Father, as a living, breathing human and God. Jesus has a heart that still pumps blood throughout His body. Air still fills His lungs and His eyes still blink. He is very much alive. And He still bears the nail holes and a pierced side, which are the marks of paying for all the sins of the world. We contribute nothing to our salvation because only Christ could pay for the sins of the world. His blood has washed away all of our sins. Easter is the greatest celebration ever. Sin and death have been defeated by Christ. Though we die, we will live again, forever because of the awesome redemptive work of Jesus Christ. This is why the Alleluias sound so very sweet on Easter morning. Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Sean

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday:
10:15AM

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- Allen’s cousin, Ima Gene ● Hoby’s Father-in-Law, Bob,
- Jack Hogue, parkinson’s disease ● Kristy, kidney failure ● Jean Taylor’s brother Don, kidney cancer ● Dee Phillips ● Edward Cramer, Stage 4 stomach cancer ● Willis Voland ● Karol ● Dan ● Holden ● Lou ● Archie Helkowski ● Bob Steigerwald, respiratory issues ●
- Linda W.’s mom, Carol, in rehab after suffering stroke
- Pepper, brain tumor ● Mary, Tammy’s sister in law ● Pat, leukemia

VBS 2025

June

23-27th

6-8:15PM



April Servants in Ministry

ACOLYTES

4/06 Brooke Lehman
 4/13 Joy Shibata
 4/20 Jessie Dietrich
 4/27 Lily Rachuba

ALTAR GUILD

Emma Genser

READERS

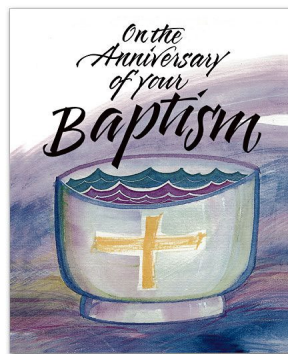
4/06 Linda Weimer
 4/13 Tammy Eckstrom
 4/20 Kari Mohny
 4/27 Bob Licht

GREETERS

4/06 Shelby & Nico Schweikert
 4/13 Roger & Mary Nuerge
 4/20 Janet Holland
 4/27 Jaclyn & Grace Shibata



Lois Roush	7
Leah Rachuba	15
Angela Walters	21
Jakob Lehman	22
Sandy Kostelnik	30
Ruthann Weedon	30



Jennifer Weedon	1
Allen Lee	10
Matthew Muto	10
Lois Roush	10
Larry Weimer	11
Jacob Schroeder	16
Erich Borgman	19
Sandy Parker	20
Chuck Szabo	24
Karen McCracken	25



<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WWCH	Clarion, PA	1300	AM	Sun	7:30 AM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	103.9	FM	Sun	3:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	103.9	FM	Tue	12:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	1080	AM	Sat	3:30 PM
WWNL	Pittsburgh, PA	1080	AM	Tue	12:30 PM

April 2025

April 6

"Better Than I Deserve!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve.

(John 12:1-11)

April 13

"In the Middle"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

In Jesus, God showed up smack in the middle of life with forgiveness, love, and a promise never to leave us.

(John 19:18)

April 20

"A Risen Christ and a Clean Room"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The risen Christ has folded Death up and put it in its place. Now Christ invites you to trust in Him and find place and purpose in His new creation.

(John 20:5-7)

April 27

"Through Locked Doors"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

When Jesus shows up, it's no longer "us vs. them," because Jesus is for everyone, even if everyone is not yet for Jesus.

(John 20:19)



Coming Up Roses

Concordia Lutheran Ministries 2025 Spring Fling Luncheon

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Butler Country Club

310 Country Club Lane, Butler, PA 16002

10 a.m.

\$45 • Tables of 10: \$400

Basket Auction • Mystery Bags • Shopping (clothes and accessories)

Lunch

*Chicken Romano, Sour Cream and Chive Whipped Potatoes,
Glazed Baby Carrots, Triple Layer Lemon Shortcake*

Freeport Area High School Music Performance

All proceeds benefit the Concordia Lutheran Ministries Good Samaritan Endowment Fund, providing charitable care to residents and patients in need.

Seating is limited and available by RSVP and advance payment only by **April 26, 2025**.
No tickets will be sold at the door.

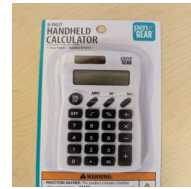
To make your reservation:

- Make check payable to CLM Foundation and send to: 134 Marwood Rd, Cabot, PA 16023;
- Call 724-352-1571, ext. 8355; or
- Go online at Give.ConcordiaLM.org and select "Events."

**Operation Christmas Child
Needs for 2025**



Water Bottle
Dollar Tree - \$1.25



Pen + Gear Calculator
WalMart \$1.99

Many thanks go out to those who have donated shoebox items this year. Collections are going well, but we have a long way to go. For the month of April, we are focused on collecting water bottles and calculators. Each shoebox in the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups will receive one of these items so we need 80 of each.

For those who don't enjoy shopping, we gladly take cash donations. If you'd rather help in this way, please use your special offering envelope or place the funds in an envelope marked "Operation Christmas Child."

We are meeting at 10:00 a.m. the first Monday of each month to sort, inventory and unpackage items. If you can join, call or text Tammy Eckstrom at 724-316-3766 to let her know.

And please don't forget to pray for this important ministry.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

New Sewickley Township Ladies Luncheon

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 3rd @ 12PM

Concordia Fishing Derby (2025)

MAY 17, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Concordia will host a free fishing derby, for kids ages 14 and under, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Saxony Farm Estate, located at Addy Boy Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056.

A fishing license is not needed for kids under 16, but all children will require a chaperone.

Free hot dogs and refreshments will be available, and prizes will be awarded. A limited number of fishing poles will be on hand for kids to borrow, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have one. Bring lawn chairs or blankets as well, if possible. Concordia will provide bait.

Registration is preferred.

To register online at <https://concordialm.org/events/concordia-fishing-derby-2025/>

For more information, call Concordia Public Relations at 724-352-8268.



SPRING RALLY

ST. JOHN, MILLVALE PA

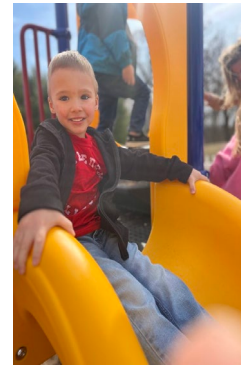
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

REGISTRATION IS FROM 10-10:30.

Cost of lunch is \$10

Bible Study will be led by Pastor Dan Hahn.

Let Mary Lehocky know if you are interested in going by April 20th.



THANK YOU



The staff and students of POP Preschool want to thank the church for providing new playground equipment!

The kiddos love it and it will be loved for years to come!



Nick Young, of Precision Landscaping, went above and beyond our expectations weeding and mulching the playground area. Thank you Nick!



March Preschool News



March has been tricky so far with the weather and teasing us with Spring like temperatures. The groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter and March sure started out that way. We shall see what April brings. March 2nd was Dr. Seuss' birthday. We told the parents to read Dr. Seuss books to the kids at home.

The three-year-old class favorite Dr. Seuss book was One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. The four-year-old class's favorite Dr. Seuss book was Green Eggs and Ham. The four-year-old class enjoyed a snack of green eggs and ham made on our griddle. The majority of the class LOVED the breakfast treat! We decorated the classroom with rainbows and shamrocks. The four-year-olds enjoyed some gold glittered shamrocks hanging with the student's names hanging around the room.

During the month of March, we learned five new letters during writing skills. Letters, Mm, Gg, Uu, Kk, and Rr were our focus. Letter M week stood for the month of March. Letter Gg is always fun to shape during our writing skills lessons. The students talk about a fish hook is in the lowercase G. The week of letter Kk the students learned a short song "Let's Go Fly a Kite". Spring is a great time to go outside and learn to fly a kite. Next month we will finish up our writing skills books. All year long we composed the writing skills books and will gift them to the student's families at graduation.

At the end of the month, we really jazzed up our language! We focused on Spanish words. The four-year-old class learned to count from 1-20 and also added some color words. We showed the boys and girls how to say "hello" in Spanish too. The students were excited to go home and show their parents how they could talk in a different language. Well....a little!!

A few extra lessons our four-year-olds practiced were, counting to 30 and gluing gum balls in a paper gumball machine. They also practiced rhyming to prepare for that skill in kindergarten. Speaking of kindergarten, all of the Freedom incoming kindergarten students were invited to the elementary school for the formal registration day. The students were nervous but excited to go see their new "big kid" school with their parents. The pre-k students will also take a fieldtrip to the Freedom Elementary in the near future to see the school and meet the kindergarten teachers. We will be taking them by bus and returning to preschool after.

We still have a few seats available for the 3 year old preschool and 4 four year old pre-k classes or the 2025-2026 school year.

Blessings to you and yours,
Mrs. Smith, Ms. Twila, & Ms. Michelle





Growing
IN GOD'S
grace
2 PETER 3:18

Lutheran Women *in Mission*
41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Omaha, Nebraska
.....
June 26–29, 2025



**JOIN US FOR A
POTLUCK EASTER
BREAKFAST.
APRIL 20, 2025
@ 9am
Sign up in the narthex area**

APRIL

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	3	4	5
6 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	7 OCC Shoebox Meeting 10AM	8	9 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	10  CHOIR 7PM	11	12 Men's & Women's Groups Kidz Club 5:30-7
13 Palm Sunday  9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	14 6:30 Council Meeting	15	16 NO BIBLE STUDY	17 Holy Thursday 7PM Service	18 Good Friday 7PM Service	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 EASTER BREAKFAST (POTLUCK) 10:15 Service No Sunday School	21	22	23 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	24  CHOIR 7PM	25	26
27 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Service	28	29	30 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	1  CHOIR 7PM	2	3 New Sewickley Township Ladies Luncheon