



# The miniEpistle

## April 2026

- |                                             |                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 4/1 – <b>Bible Study</b> at 10AM            | 4/15 – <b>Mini-Epistle Deadline</b>                 |
| 4/2 – <b>Maundy Thursday Seder</b> 5:30PM   | – <b>Bible Study</b> at 10AM                        |
| 4/3 – <b>Good Friday Services:</b>          | – <b>Prayer in the Parlor</b> at 4:30PM             |
| 12Noon Last Words of Christ                 | 4/18 – <b>Men’s Breakfast &amp; Study</b> at 8:30AM |
| 7PM Tenebrae Service of Darkness            | 4/19 – <b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>                |
| 4/4 – <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> at 10AM        | 8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion                          |
| 4/6 – <b>Easter Sunday!</b>                 | 9:45AM <b>Shoebox Sunday</b>                        |
| 6:30AM Sunrise Service                      | 4/21 – <b>Bible Study</b> at 6:30PM                 |
| 7:30 & 9:45AM Easter Breakfast              | 4/22 – <b>Prayer in the Parlor</b> at 4:30PM        |
| 8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion                  | 4/26 – <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>               |
| 4/7 – <b>Bible Study</b> at 6:30PM          | 8:30 & 11AM Praise Service                          |
| 4/8 – <b>Prayer in the Parlor</b> at 4:30PM | 9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!                  |
| 4/12 – <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>       | Lutheran Confessions Study                          |
| 8:30 & 11AM Praise Service                  | 12:15PM Bible Study & Luncheon                      |
| 9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!          | 4/29 – <b>Bible Study</b> at 9:30AM                 |
| Lutheran Confessions Study Begins           | – <b>Preschool Family Worship</b> at 11AM           |
| 12:15PM Bible Study & Luncheon              | – <b>Prayer in the Parlor</b> at 4:30PM             |

## Council Actions from March’s Meeting:

- † The Worship and Music committee would like to start a Cherub Choir and an Adult Choir.
- † Please see any Council Member if you are interested in the Treasurer and/or Bookkeeper positions.
- † The Teddy Bear Brigade will begin meeting again on April 15<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- † Shoe Box Sunday will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour.
- † A Council Retreat will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Council’s next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.**

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# Holy Week & Easter 2026

One of our most special times of the year will soon be occurring: Holy Week and Easter. Many opportunities exist to help deepen our love for Jesus. Mark your calendars for the following:

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**Palm/Passion Sunday Services, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Come to church for a parade through the Sanctuary! We will be receiving palm branches to honor Jesus just like the day He rode into Jerusalem on a colt. Our service then changes as we recall His passion and suffering for our sake at this first day of Holy Week. (Directions for folding palm crosses will be available.)

**Maundy Thursday Seder, 5:30PM April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin word meaning “command”. On this day Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another. One of the ways we’ll be expressing this is with a Seder, or traditional Passover Meal. We have a service full of symbolism to explore how Jesus was our Passover Lamb, sacrificed for the sins of the world. We are looking for volunteers for various parts of this family-oriented service: please contact Karen Brown (484-280-8356) or the church office.



**Good Friday Services, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Two services are planned for this day: a **noon** service where we’ll hear Jesus’ dying words, and a **7PM “Tenebrae”** service where we progressively darken the sanctuary as we recall what Jesus suffered that we might have eternal life. Some people find this service the most meaningful of all that we observe during the year. (By the way, “Tenebrae” means “darkness” in Latin.)



**Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10AM Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Not everything during Holy Week is sad. Our Easter Egg Hunt is open to the whole community, and will be held rain or shine. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family to watch the fun as young children hunt for prize eggs! There’s no greater joy than helping little ones come to know Jesus!

**Easter Sunday Services, April 5<sup>th</sup>** – Come celebrate our resurrected Lord! We’ll begin at **6:30AM** in our lovely courtyard, and carry the light of Christ back into our darkened sanctuary. Two Easter services will be held at normal worship hours: **8:30AM and 11:00AM**. We’ll have a delicious Easter breakfast, courtesy of Borderline Restaurant and our church bakers, one at 7:30AM and one at 9:45AM.

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## Lutheran Confessions Study

**Adult Sunday School Classroom (9:45) – starting April 12th.**

How well do you know what Lutherans believe? We are in the process of updating our constitution to bring it in line with our membership in the North American Lutheran Church. Do you know what’s in our constitution? Do you know what’s in the Lutheran Confessions that our constitution affirms? You might be surprised. Come and get an overview of the teachings of the **Lutheran Confessions led by Pastor David.**

# April 2026 Reformation Bible Reading Plan

If you are reading through the Bible this year, April's passages are listed, below. If you are just beginning this plan, it is recommended that you begin with the readings for the day (instead of starting from the beginning). Then when you have some extra time you can go back and read what you missed. Copies of the plan are available in the Gathering Place, or the plan may be downloaded here: <https://michigandistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reformation-Reading-Plan-Printable.pdf>

- |                                                       |                                                          |                                                           |                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1: Catch up day              | <input type="checkbox"/> 9: Luke 7:36-50;<br>Num. 12-13  | <input type="checkbox"/> 16: Num. 23-25;<br>Luke 10:25-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24: Luke 14;<br>Deut. 1          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2: Luke 4;<br>Num. 2-3       | <input type="checkbox"/> 10: Luke 8;<br>Num. 14-15       | <input type="checkbox"/> 17: Luke 11:1-36;<br>Num. 26     | <input type="checkbox"/> 25: Luke 15;<br>Deut. 2-3        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3: Luke 5;<br>Num. 4         | <input type="checkbox"/> 11: Luke 9:1-17;<br>Num. 16-17  | <input type="checkbox"/> 18: Num. 27-29;<br>Luke 11:37-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26: Luke 16;<br>Deut. 4-5        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4: Luke 6:1-16;<br>Num. 5-6  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12: Luke 9:18-62;<br>Num. 18-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19: Luke 12:1-48;<br>Num. 30-31  | <input type="checkbox"/> 27: Luke 17;<br>Deut. 6-9        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5: Luke 6:17-49;<br>Num. 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13: Luke 10:1-24;<br>Num. 21-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20: Luke 12:49-59;<br>Num. 32-33 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28: Pr. 8:12-21;<br>Ps. 56-59    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6: Luke 7:1-35;<br>Num. 9-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14: Pr. 7:14-27;<br>Ps. 49-51   | <input type="checkbox"/> 21: Pr. 8:1-11;<br>Ps. 52-55     | <input type="checkbox"/> 29: Catch up day                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7: Pr. 7:1-13;<br>Ps. 45-48  | <input type="checkbox"/> 15: Catch up day                | <input type="checkbox"/> 22: Catch up day                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30: Luke 18:1-30;<br>Deut. 10-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8: Catch up day              |                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 23: Luke 13;<br>Num. 34-36       |                                                           |

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## April Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

7 – Taylor Oscauich

9 – Eric Gaal

13 – Sally Stein | Kathryn Steiner

16 – Sam Glasmire, Jr.

19 – Jennifer Baran | Alyce Stein

20 – Grace Lucero | Joshua Miller

22 – Rachel Steiner | Bennett Peters |  
Diane Beil

23 – McKenna Baran

25 – Carolyn Buzzard

27 – Brian Yeakel

29 – Karen Brown

30 – Jennifer Gross | Cindy Hercik |  
Bill Hoy | Travis Zahnou

### Anniversaries

John & Sophia Fuesler - 4/9/16

Please update your directory for  
Ed Wirth  
5982 Robin Lane  
Coopersburg PA 18036

## April Bible Memory Verses - Sail the 7 'C's

The following verses are from Pastor David's *Sail the 7 Cs*.

Week of **4/5** Consummation: **Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

**4/12** Consummation: **Philippians 1:6** says: ... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**4/19** Review: **Genesis 1:31; Genesis 6:5-6; Psalm 63:3**

**4/26** Review: **Isaiah 54:7-8; Isaiah 59:16; Jeremiah 17:9**

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## **Bright Hope Pregnancy Center's Walk for Life**

**April 18, 2026**

from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Deadline: April 11, 2026

Event Website: [brighthousepartners.org/walk-for-life](http://brighthousepartners.org/walk-for-life)

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## Coming Again!

### **SHOE BOX SUNDAY**

On **April 19, 2026**, missionary Nelson Randolph will be here to help us pack boxes for "Operation Christmas Child", an outreach project of Samaritan's Purse. These boxes are filled with various objects for underprivileged children all across the world. This has become a favorite inter-generational event at Holy Cross every year. Hope you can make it!



## Teddy Bear Tea Party, April 26, 2026



their mothers.)

All young ladies age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to our next tea party, featuring our favorite stuffie! Enjoy some time with Miss Manners, preparing some simple and delicious treats, and dressing up! Numbers are limited, so please let Ruthann Kistler know by April 19<sup>th</sup>. (Girls under age 3 must be accompanied by

*Share the Power presents:* **Darwin v. Design**

Join **Dr. Michael Behe** to hear the latest about what **science** teaches about the **natural world**.

**Saturday, April 18, 3-5 PM**

**Living Stone Fellowship, 6925 Flint Hill Rd, 18066**

See Pastor Brown for more details. Sign up on the bulletin board if you'd like to carpool.



**Spring is here and the birds are singing...how about you?**

We're looking to form a **children's choir** and an **adult choir**. Interested?

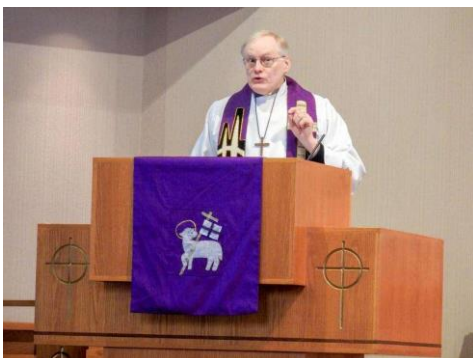
Please see Nancy Cook.

## **Ash Wednesday 2026**



Twenty-seven of us gathered together for our noon Ash Wednesday service, receiving both communion and imposition of ashes. A reporter for the Bethlehem Press, Tami Quigley, came to take pictures for us. You may read the full article here:

<https://www.lvpnews.com/20260223/to-dust-you-shall-return/>



*Richard and Nancy Schmidt receiving ashes from Pastor David.*



## Card Ministry

We all know how sweet it is to hear

from others when we need a word of comfort or encouragement. If you know of someone who could use such a blessing, please let Ruthann Kistler or the church office know.

## Children's Library

We have a beautiful Children's Library: check it out! While you're at it, check out a book or two! Please use the sign-out binder and help yourself.



## Can You Help?

Our Preschool playground is sprouting **WEEDS!** Can you help get things back into good shape? Please contact **Karen Steiner** if interested: **484-633-5372**. We're also looking for someone to take this on as a regular project for the summer.

## **C**ookies Have Gone **C**ollege!

**28** boxes of **delicious cookies** were sent to **16** different schools and one military.

Pray that these **help open doors of good will** among students.

We're looking for \$71 to cover the shipping costs. Use your church envelope marked "Cookies". Thanks to those who have already given!

## Save the Date 2026!

*Mark your calendars and save these important dates:*

**Friday, May 8—Preschool Graduation, 7PM in Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall**

**Sunday, May 10—Mother's Day**

**Thursday, May 14—Ascension Day Service @ noon**

**Sunday, May 17—Bible Study Luncheon**

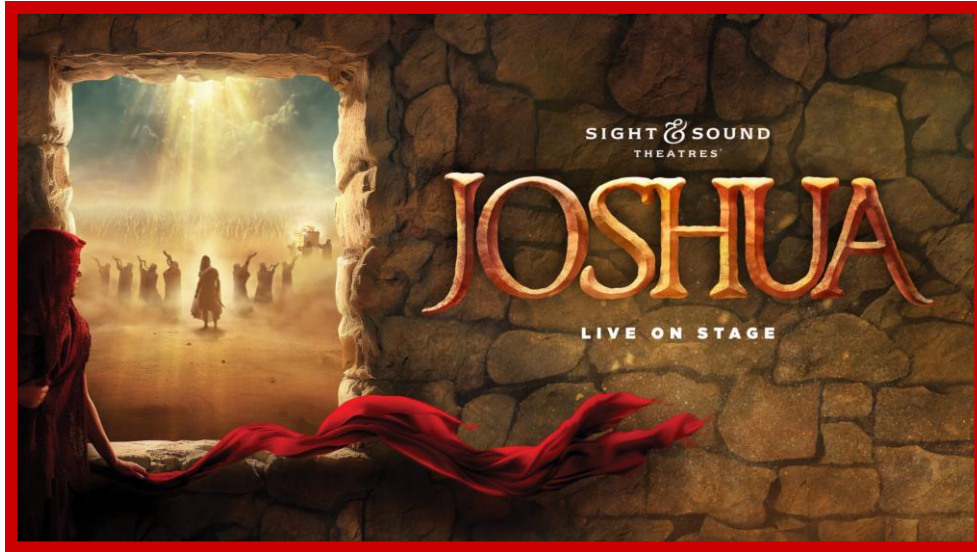
**Wednesday, May 20—VBS Kickoff, 6pm**

**Sunday, May 24—Day of Pentecost**

**Sunday, May 31—Trinity Sunday, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch during Sunday School hour**

**Sunday, June 21—Dads' and Grads' Waffle Breakfast during Sunday School hour @ 12:15 PM**

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW FOR**



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**\$177 for adults, \$117 for children 13 & under**

**Fun bus transportation!**

**Your ticket to the amazing show!**

**A fabulous lunch at Hershey Farms Restaurant!**



**FINAL PAYMENT DUE BY JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Cost of an adult ticket can be covered by 3 monthly payments of \$59.

Checks should be made out to Holy Cross Lutheran, Bethlehem

Day's Itinerary:

8:15 AM depart from the convenience of Holy Cross' parking lot.

10:15 AM approximate arrival to Sight & Sound Theatre in lovely Lancaster County.

11:00 AM be mesmerized by *Joshua*, Sight & Sound's latest drama!

1:30 PM wipe final tears of joy away and exit theater.

2:15 PM take short ride across parking lot to delicious Hershey Farms Restaurant.

4:00 PM finish eating/shopping and prepare for a comfortable ride home.

6:00 PM approximate time of arrival at Holy Cross, thanking God for a wonderful experience!



## VBS 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Child's name	Last Grade	Age	Birthday	M/F
1.				
2.				
3.				

Name of parent(s)/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to use child's image only (no names) on church social media (facebook, website...)  YES  NO

Primary phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (if primary contact cannot be reached):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

# APRIL 2026 SERVANTS OF THE LORD

		<b>EASTER SUNRISE</b>	<b>4/5 EASTER</b>	<b>4/12 EASTER 2</b>	<b>4/19 EASTER 3</b>	<b>4/26 EASTER 4</b>
<b>Communion Server</b>	8:30 11:00		Patty Stein Lyn Stryker		Patty Stein Lyn Stryker	
<b>Crucifer</b>	8:30 11:00	Pastor David	Natasha Sazo Lyn Stryker			
<b>Greeter</b>	8:30 11:00	Karen Brown	Diane Hahn Sharon Branigan	Pat Gilbert Irene Graham	Diane Hahn Sharon Branigan	Sally Stein Irene Graham
<b>Lector</b>	8:30 11:00	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Alyce Stein Lyn Stryker	Ruthann Kistler Lyn Stryker	Penny Miller Karen Brown	Patty Stein Kathy Ballek
<b>Liturgist</b>	8:30 11:00		Patty Stein Lyn Stryker	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	Patty Stein Karen Brown	Pat Gilbert Karen Brown
<b>Live Stream</b>	8:30		Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid
<b>Prayer Care</b>			Ruthann Kistler	Pat Gilbert	Pat Gilbert	Darlene Treisner
<b>Song Leader</b>	8:30 11:00		Bella Zyskowski Nancy Cook	Karen Brown <b>Volunteer needed</b>	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook	Pastor David Pastor David
<b>Sound</b>	8:30 11:00	Karen Brown	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer
<b>Usher</b>	8:30 11:00		Jan Stryker Sharon Branigan		Jan Stryker Irene Graham	

**Altar Guild:** Jan Stryker & Volunteer needed

**Communion Visitors:** Pastor David & Volunteer needed

**Counters:** Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

**Children's Church:** Ruthann Kistler

**Phone Tree:** Stephen Zeiner

**Prayer of the Church:** Mike Zyskowski

**Good Friday NOON SERVICE, 4/3/26 Servants:**

**SOUND:** Ken Yoxheimer

**GREETER:** Sally Stein

**LECTORS:** Jan Stryker & Darlene Treisner

**Good Friday 7PM SERVICE, 4/3/26 Servants:**

**SOUND:** Lyn Stryker

**GREETER:** Sally Stein

**LECTORS:** Jan Stryker & Kathy Ballek

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jan Stryker & Ruthann Kistler

**PROJECTOR:** Karen Brown

**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church**



a congregation of the  
**NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**



**Pastor David L. Brown**

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**Website: [HolyCrossBethlehem.com](http://HolyCrossBethlehem.com)**

# APRIL 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>3 GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>4</b>
8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion 12:15P Bible Study & Lunch ---Scout Campout ends	7P Dart Baseball v. Trinity Edgeboro (FH) 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool  7P Scouts (YR)	9A Preschool 10A Bible Study (ASSR)  7:30P AA (TR)	9A Preschool  12N AA (TR)  5:30P Seder Meal & Service	10A Bulletins 12N Last Words of Christ  7P Tenebrae Service	8A Egg Hunt Set Up 10A Community Egg Hunt  7:30P AA (TR)
<b>5 EASTER!</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
6:30A Sunrise Service 7:30A Breakfast 8:30A Communion 9:45A Second Breakfast 11A Communion	7P Dart Baseball v. Star of Bethlehem (FH) 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool  6:30P Bible Study (ASSR) 7P Property (Ofc) 7P Scouts (YR)	9A Preschool 11A Benevolence (parlor) 4:30P Prayer (parlor) 6P Christian Ed (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)	9A Preschool  12N AA (TR)  6P W&M (Ofc)	10A Bulletins	9A-3P Material Girls (ASSR)  7:30P AA (TR)
<b>12 EASTER 2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 12:15P Bible Study & Lunch	7P Dart Baseball v. Fritz Wesleyan (FH) 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool  6:30P Colonial Quilters (FH) 7P Scouts (YR)	<b>mini-Epistle Deadline</b> 9A Preschool 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12P Bear Brigade 4:30P Prayer (parlor) 6P Executive Mtg. 6:30P Council (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)	9A Preschool  12N AA (TR)	FH Reserved  10A Bulletins	FH Reserved 8:30A Men's Breakfast (ASSR) 12P Staff Mtg (Ofc) 2:30P Leave for D v. D 7:30P AA (TR)
<b>19 EASTER 3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
8:30A Communion 9:45A Shoebox Sunday 11A Communion	5:30P Dart Dinner @ Crossroads 7P Dart Baseball @ 1 <sup>st</sup> UCC 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool  6:30P Bible Study (ASSR) 7P Scouts (YR)	9A Preschool  4:30P Prayer (parlor)  7:30P AA (TR)	9A Preschool 9A Material Girls (ASSR) 12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	FH Reserved  7:30P AA (TR)
<b>26 EASTER 4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>
8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 12:15P Bible Study & Lunch 2P Teddy Bear Tea Party (FH)	7P Dart Baseball Playoffs (FH) 7P Scouts (TR)	9A Preschool  7P Scouts (YR)	9A Preschool 9:30A Bible Study 11A Family Worship 12P Bear Brigade 4:30P Prayer (parlor) 7:30P AA (TR)	9A Preschool  12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	9A Charity Sew (FH)  7:30P AA (TR)