



January 2024 Lantern
"FRIENDS LOVING CHRIST.
FRIENDS LOVING COMMUNITY"

First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
814-723-6450

Check us out on Facebook and at flcwarren.com



Pastor's
COLUMN

Happy New Year, Church family!!

And along with the new year comes a new church season: Epiphany. Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the magi who came from afar to pay homage to the Christ child. Many people believe it was just 3 "wise men" who came to visit Jesus, but scripture does not tell us how many there were or how many others may have been traveling with them. These astrologers saw something in the sky that drew them to the Christ Child. And, at this point, we should probably address the idea of them visiting Jesus and Mary and Joseph Christmas night or the next day. They didn't. It was probably 1-2 years AFTER Jesus was born that they visited. The Greek word used when the Magi visited Jesus was "child" not "baby", and the order by King Herod to have every male child 2 and under killed (despicable) lends more credence to this line of thinking.

But here's the thing: Although we celebrate the season of Epiphany (between Christmas and the beginning of Lent), we must remember that the Christ child is made known to us every day and our Epiphany is continuous. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, our God is revealing Jesus, and Jesus' way of life, to us all the time! The time after Epiphany is a perfect opportunity to receive new insights about ourselves and the God we serve.

God continues to call, prepare and send us into the world in new ways, sharing Jesus' love with all. Where is God leading you, where is God leading us as a congregation, to bring about God's kingdom and reveal Jesus to the world?

Epiphany is a season of revelation and insight. It's a time when we celebrate the incarnation (God made human in Jesus) and all that means to us and to all creation. We look with new eyes and new insights revealed to us through the Spirit.

See you in church!

Shalom,

Pastor Jeff

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City



EPIPHANY



At our annual congregation meeting, we had 3 new council members elected: Addy Landrio, Mary Worley and Kathy Hall. We thank Sally Hawkinson, Randy Witmer and Ralph Farone for their dedicated work to our church family! Your leadership was most appreciated!
YOUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS: Randy Britton, Dave Campbell, Kevin Downey, Kathy Hall, Keith Hedges, Addy Landrio, Barb Luce, Siby Thomas, Sandy Wachter, Mary Worley and Gail Wright. We look forward to their dedicated work in directing our

congregation where God would have it go.

Others elected: Shelle Tubbs to the Audit Committee and Andy Beardsley, Rosemary Landon, Elsa Redding, Gary Lester, Ralph Farone, and Randy Witmer to the Nominating committee.

MONTHLY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

First Lutheran continues to host monthly worship services at Rouse Apartments on the third Wednesday, the Rouse Suites on the 4th Tuesday of each month, and at the Watson Home on the 4th Sunday of the month. Pastor Jeff also preaches quarterly at The Crossing and conducts memorial services at the Watson Home and the Rouse Estate when requested.



Thank you to all who help support our mission and ministry through your prayers and financial support. As a congregation, we would not be able to do the work God has set before us if not for the spiritual and financial gifts given to us by God and shared by God's children through the Holy Spirit. Again, thank you and remember, stewardship never ends!!

DONATION DINNER SET FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

The Men in Mission will be sponsoring a DRIVE-THRU ONLY spaghetti dinner on Tuesday, January 18th from 4:58-6:57 p.m. As usual, simply pull into the parking lot and we'll bring the food out to you! Proceeds from the dinner will go to Sarah Thomas (you may know her from ringing the Salvation Army Bell) and her family who suffered a house fire and lost almost everything. All donations received will go toward rebuilding the house and providing much-needed funds to purchase other home and living items. Thanks, in advance, for your support and remember to keep them in your prayers.



THREE POWERFUL PRAYERS

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), an Irish Protestant missionary, served in India for 55 years. Much of her work was with children, especially rescuing them from sexual slavery. Carmichael wrote 35 books and many articles about her mission work. The Church of England remembers her on January 18, the anniversary of her death.

The following brief but powerful prayers are attributed to Carmichael:

- May thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.
- Holy Spirit, think through me, till your ideas are my ideas.
- God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESENTS...

GROWTH: REFRAMING BIASES IN TODAY'S WORLD

TEDD TALKS: ETHICS & HOW FAITH GUIDES OUR ACTIONS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 6 PM

PASTOR TEDD COGAR

How does faith guide our actions? It's all about how we respond faithfully in welcome and hospitality towards all people.

The Reverend Tedd Cogar has a background presenting on topics including freedom of speech, ethics, and LGBTQIA+ issues and developing allies within the faith community. He is the Senior Assessment Coordinator & LGBTQIA Support at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and serves at the Lutheran Campus Ministry at IUP, Luther Chapel in Coral, and Zion Lutheran Church in Indiana, PA.





Let's meet at Beaty and have some fun sled riding together, on Saturday, January the 21st, at 1:00pm. We will have fun sliding down the hill on sleds, inner tubes, and plastic trays!! Around 2:15/2:30 we will meet over at the church and have some hot cocoa, snacks, and a craft. All are welcome. If there is NO SNOW, this will be cancelled, and we will reschedule. If you have any questions, please call

Cheri @ 814-688-0640.

Sunday's Cool Class Schedule for January:

January 7th - Sunday's Cool Classes start back up at 9:25AM
 January 14th - Sunday's Cool Classes at 9:25AM
 January 21st - Sunday's Cool Classes at 9:25AM
 January 28th - Sunday's Cool Classes at 9:25AM



January TAP Schedule:

January 3rd - Crazy/Favorite Hat Night
 January 10th - Pajama Night
 January 17th - Sled Riding at Beaty w/LOGO friends
 January 24th - Beach Night



HUGE, THANK YOU goes out to all the people that gave gifts to the children on the Angel tree from the Salvation Army. There will be many happy children in our local community.



ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages

FLC WELCOMES ESOL CLASSES

As you read the weekly

church calendar, you may notice ESOL (UC) appears twice a week. ESOL is our classes for **English for Speakers of Other Languages** and it meets in

two of our 3rd floor classrooms, from 6-8pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The classes, for both adults and children, are open to all English learners in Warren and Jamestown. We are lucky to have two teachers, as well as numerous volunteers, some of whom are FLC members. The goals are to help the students learn English, how to "navigate" American culture and to become acclimated to our communities.

This year, attendees have included 15 adults/children, representing home countries of Ukraine, Philippines, Cuba, Columbia, Korea and Turkey. The ESOL Program's Steering Committee is comprised of Thomas Pierotti (FLC), Gladys Archer (Hispanic Community Council) and Joni Smitley, RN (Samaritan's Purse).

Interested in helping? ESOL can use volunteers, refreshments, curriculum materials. Watch the Lantern and Sunday bulletins for ideas as to how you can help!



Friday Night Out will be on January 12th at 6PM. We are dining at Pellegrino's Deli. Tom will be serving his homemade Italian specialties including soup, eggplant parm, stromboli, salad and rolls. We hope you can join us. Please sign up in the office.

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES

We are finalizing the 2024 Altar Flower Schedule and the following dates have a single vase opening. Altar flower vases are \$27.00 plus \$1.25 delivery fee for a total of \$28.25. If interested in any of the listed dates please contact Cathy Southwell at 814-730-1155 or email at

south55@verizon.net.

July 14

August 18

August 25

November 3



PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE SCHEDULE

I would encourage you to open your bible and read the upcoming week's scripture passages on Wednesday in one sitting. Let them soak into your spirit and reflect on them throughout the week. Look to see what the threads are that connect the readings together. What themes do you see? Our regular devotional book, *Christ in Our Home*, has readings on the week's lectionary readings beginning on Thursday. – PJ

January 7th – The Baptism of our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5 - God creates light God creates light

Psalms 29 - The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 19:1-7 - Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:4-11 - Revelation of Christ as God's servant

January 14th – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] - The calling of Samuel

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 - You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 - Glorify God in your body

John 1:43-51 - The calling of the first disciples

January 21st – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 - Repentance at Nineveh

Psalms 62:5-12 - God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 - Living in the end times

Mark 1:14-20 - The calling of the disciples at the sea

January 28th – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 - The prophet speaks with God's authority

Psalms 111 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 - Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols

Mark 1:21-28 - The healing of one with an unclean spirit



SERVING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Please be sure to note when you are scheduled to serve this month.

CANTORS	8:00AM	11:00AM
January 7	John Beard	Tom Pierotti
January 14	Carolyn Worley	Colleen Witmer
January 21	Anne Benson	Brenda Hunter
January 28	John Beard	Joan Griesbach

ASSISTING MINISTERS	8:00AM	11:00AM
January 7	Randy Britton	Joan Griesbach
January 14	Elizabeth Dustin	Keith Hedges
January 21	John Kersey	Barb Luce
January 28	Lori Nowacki	Denise Pearson

ACOLYTES	8:00AM	11:00AM
January 7	Jen Kersey	Olivia Hecei
January 14	Jen Kersey	Addison Ristau
January 21	Braedyn Knupp	Cory Ristau
January 28	Isabella Knupp	Chase Colosimo

GREETERS	8:00AM	11:00AM
January 7	Diane Stenstrom	Denise Whipp
January 14	Andy Beardsley	Lynn Williams
January 21	Anne Benson	Bonnie Abplanalp
January 28	Randy & Sandy Britton	Jen Check

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	
January 7	Anna Bielawski
January 14	Cynthia Klenowski
January 21	Cheri Kellogg
January 28	Pastor Jeff

USHERS	8:00AM	11:00AM
	*Barry Keller	*Jim Moore
	Irene Keller	Al Dennis
	Roger Tubbs	Jeff Granger

ALTAR GUILD	8:00AM	11:00AM
	Debbie Backhus	Elizabeth Horsley
	Anne Benson	Lori Howard
		Sandy Wachter

DIGITAL DEACONS	
January 7	Denise Pearson
January 14	Carolyn Worley
January 21	Keith Hedges
January 28	Gary Landrio

COUNTERS	
January 7	Sandy Wachter & Gail Wright
January 14	Gail Wright & Jane Beardsley
January 21	Jane Beardsley & Randall Britton
January 28	Randall Britton & Dave Campbell

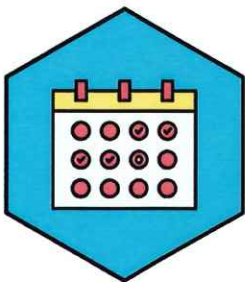


FIRST LUTHERAN JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIE



1/1	Sunny Thomas Denny Abplanalp	1/14	Cont. Ryan McGuinness Peggy Nelson Dave Rigg Hallie Rigg
1/2	Barry Klenowski Connor Rosborough	1/15	Kaelah Knupp
1/4	Renate Downey	1/16	Brianna Check Mary Ann Mead
1/5	Jane Ayers Bjorn Bimber Jennifer Tridico	1/18	Tim Bleech Kohl Feeny
1/6	Sandy Britton Johanne Forney Phil Howard Jen Weyant	1/19	Eli Johnson
1/8	Kevin Downey Denny Hedges	1/20	Jim Rapp Dee Schultz
1/11	Jean Ballard Barb Boger	1/23	Katie Koerselman Jessica Arnold Ardelle Mason Chuck & Barb Olson (59)
1/12	Katie Bimber Rachel Labowski Hunter Peterson Earl & Linda Ross (16)	1/24	Cynthia Klenowski Cyndy Granger
1/13	Elizabeth Miller Randy Witmer Randy & Colleen Witmer (28)	1/25	Marilyn Dahlgren
1/14	Ed Carr Lilly Downey	1/26	Taige Honhart
		1/28	Caitlyn Wachter Heather Williams
		1/30	Joan Greisbach
		1/31	Nathan Klenowski Tom & Dee Schultz (54)

Special Dates in January



- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2024*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2024*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 7, 2024*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 15, 2024*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2024*

FEBRUARY LANTERN

- Information for the February Lantern is due to the office by January 12. Feel free to drop it by the office or email jess@flcwarren.com
- We will assemble the February Lantern on January 23 in Niewoehner Hall. All are welcome to join in this time of fellowship and service!



OFFICE EMAILS CHANGING- Effective February 1, 2024

Our staff emails will be changing effective February 1, 2024. Keep a look out in the bulletin and newsletter to keep up to date with our contact info.



January 2024


6:30pm NA

6:30pm NA

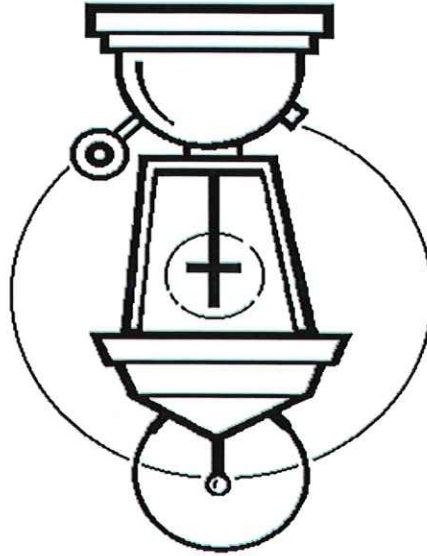
6:30pm NA

6:30pm NA

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10AM Garden Club 6PM NAMBA	12PM Bible Study 3PM TAP 5PM Grief Yoga 5:15PM Handbells 6PM ESOL 7PM Choir	10AM Prayer Shawl 6:30PM Acting the Song Workshop		
7 8AM Worship 9:30 Sunday's Cool 11AM Worship	8 6PM ESOL 7PM Genealogy	9 11AM Senior Fellowship 1PM Social Committee 6:30PM RIC 7PM Book Club	10 12PM Bible Study 3PM TAP 5PM Grief Yoga 5:15PM Handbells 6PM ESOL 7PM Choir	11 10AM Prayer Shawl 6:30PM Acting the Song Workshop	12 LANTERN INFO DUE 6PM FNO at Pellegrino's	13
14 8AM Worship 9:30 Sunday's Cool 11AM Worship	15 6PM ESOL	16 4:58 PM Spaghetti Dinner 5PM Widow's Group 6:30PM Master Gardeners	17 12PM Bible Study 3PM TAP 5PM Grief Yoga 5:15PM Handbells 6PM ESOL	18 10AM Prayer Shawl PRODUCE EXPRESS 6:30PM Acting the Song Workshop	19	20
21 8AM Worship 9:30 Sunday's Cool 11AM Worship 1PM Sled Riding @ Beauty	22 6PM Christian Ed 6PM ESOL 7PM Council	23 10AM Lantern Assembly 6PM TEDD TALKS	24 12PM Bible Study 3PM TAP 5PM Grief Yoga 5:15PM Handbells 6PM ESOL 7PM Choir	25 10AM Prayer Shawl 6:30PM Acting the Song Workshop	26	27
28 8AM Worship 9:30 Sunday's Cool 11AM Worship 4PM Watson Home Worship	29 1PM Joan Nabert 6PM ESOL 7PM Worship & Music	30 2PM Rouse Suites Worship	31 12PM Bible Study 3PM TAP 5PM Grief Yoga 5:15PM Handbells 6PM ESOL 7PM Choir			

January 2024



First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

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PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



"Welcome to First Lutheran Church! All are accepted and affirmed just as we are, with all our differences and gifts – unique children of God. No matter your race, ethnicity, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, social or economic status, we have a place for you. As part of the whole complex, colorful spectrum of God's creation in all its diversity we are all one in Christ!"