

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

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Website: www.flcwarren.com

The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ewing, Pastor, pastor@flcwarren.com

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music

Julie Baughman, accompanist



January 26, 2025



“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!”

Land Acknowledgement Statement

As we gather in this place, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Seneca Nation (Onödowá’ga:’). We remember that we also share this land with other parts of God’s good creation: plants, birds, and animals. May we be good stewards and good neighbors.

**Indicates the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

A Simple Air

Eric Thompson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

***HYMN**

Oh, For A Thousand Tongues

#886

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ⓐ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

HYMN OF PRAISE

ⓐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

ⓑ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

ⓐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)



Psalm 19:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ The heavens declare the glo-¹ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale¹ to another,
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.**
- ³ Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends¹ of the world,
where God has pitched a tent¹ for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to¹ run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about
to the end of¹ it again;
nothing is hidden from its¹ burning heat. R**
- ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re-¹vives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom¹ to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and re-¹joice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light¹ to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and en-¹dures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous¹ altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than¹ much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey¹ in the comb. R**
- ¹¹ By them also is your ser-¹vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is¹ great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's¹ own offenses?
Cleanse me from my¹ secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion¹ over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a¹ great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable¹ in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and¹ my redeemer. R**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts..

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to ...

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Ewing

Silence for reflection may follow.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* #843

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Congregation:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Congregation response:

A: God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY [8AM] *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Paul Manz

[11AM] *I Am the Light of Nations*

Hal Hopson

Senior Choir

Denise Pearson, flute

Donna Trubic & Colleen Witmer, Percussion

An offering tray is available at the entrance of the sanctuary. For those wishing to do so, we encourage you to donate online at flcwarren.com/give.

As always, thank you for supporting the work of bringing God's love to all people through First Lutheran!

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of heaven and earth,

**C: from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.

Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND RESPONSE

...Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God!

As Lutherans we believe that Jesus is present in the elements of communion, bringing forgiveness and new life to all who receive it. The table is open to everyone, and the gift is always given, never taken. Simply make a cradle with your hand(s) as you receive the bread. **Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available from the ushers. Bring them forward to be blessed by the pastor.** The response after receiving both the gift of bread and wine is
"Amen."

For those who would like to continue to celebrate in the pews, please let the usher know. For our friends who are not celebrating communion, simply fold your arms across your chest and receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

What Feast of Love
One Bread, One Body

#487

#496

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *This Little Light of Mine* #677

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Merciful God,

C: we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness,

send us forth to announce your peace,

comfort the afflicted,

and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN

O Zion Haste

#668

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcella

Please feel free to exit during the postlude.

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Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Elsa Redding in loving memory of Hedevig Lind.

Given by Andy & Jane Beardasley in memory of loved ones.

AVAILABLE ALTAR FLOWER DATES

Altar flowers enhance our worship services throughout the year. The price is \$25.00 and you may take them after the late service on the date you have chosen. These are the current open dates for 1 vase:



July 6

October 19

November 23

Contact Cathy Southwell if you are interested at 814-730-1155 or south55@verizon.net.

<i>Serving Today</i>	<i>January 26</i>	<i>February 2</i>
ASSISTING MINISTER	(8AM) Lori Nowacki (11AM) Denise Whipp	Don Reed Colleen Witmer
CANTOR	(8AM) Carolyn Worley (11AM) Bob Holt	John Beard Donna Trubic
GREETERS	(8AM) Randy & Sandy Britton	Barb Hill
ACOLYTE	(11AM) Joyce Kelley (8AM) Jen Kersey (11AM) Charlie Bielawski	Cheri Kellogg Braedyn Knupp Max Enos
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	Anna Bielawski	Cheri Kellogg
DIGITAL DEACON	Cameron Bussolletti	Heidi Colosimo
COUNTERS	Steve Horsely Sandy Wachter	Sandy Wachter Lyn McDaniel

PRAYER LIST

Names will remain on the list for a period of three weeks.

Names may be returned to the prayer list by contacting the church office.

*Please receive permission before submitting
names to be included on the Prayer List.*

Prayer Requests: *servicemen & women, especially Andrew Shodi, Swede Backhus, Adam & Ben Frederick, Shane Simpson, Curtis Royek, Ty Elmquist, Julie & Joey Gilman, Hunter Feeny, Kohl Feeny*

January 26: *Christopher Smith, Mary Hofer, Sheila Auer, Andrea Hille, Rod Anderson*

January 19: *Kim Tome, Jill & Mark Woody, Rose Troyan, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, Peggy Nelson, Janet Wilson, Carson Kiser, Margaret Granger, Sarah Downey, Jeff Bastow, Sarah Chamberlin, Elaine Powers, Donna Smith, Jeff Granger, Kia Lee, Betty Berdine, Vic Wolfe, Connie Stromdahl, Cara Smith, Krystal Kirkland, Joe Krall, Jerry Johnson, Mariah Nowacki, Barry Seastead, Maryann Long*

January 12: *Linn Hyde, Ron Braxton, Larry Rambish, Eunice Herrington, Alyssa Dennywitz, Ron & Lois Hart, Jerry Stuart, Connie Buerkle, Rita Hawk, Terry Pearson, Val & Nancy Condio, Brent Casey, Kristin Frick, Addie Landrio, Family & Friends of Gary Brumagin*

Please contact the Church Office if you, a family member or someone from the parish is in the hospital.

Help us help you when pastoral care is needed!

2024 YEAR GIVING REPORTS

As part of the office's ongoing effort to be good stewards of our available resources, we will not be printing all of the end of the year giving reports this year. If you would like a printed copy of your end of the year giving report, we are more than happy to print you one. Simply contact Lori Nowacki by calling or stopping by the office. You can leave her a note in the office or send her an email at finance@flcwarren.com.

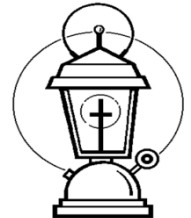


FRIDAY NIGHT OUT 20TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER FEB. 7TH AT 6PM AT CHURCH.

This special dinner will include wild rice soup, baked chicken, stuffed shells, tossed salad, rolls, carrots and apple gingerbread cake, all prepared by Catering Plus. Reservations must be made in the office by January 30th and prepaid. The cost will be \$ 19/person including tax and tip. We hope you can join us!

LANTERN ASSEMBLY

We will be assembling the February Lantern this Tuesday at 10AM. All are welcome to join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and Service!



LWR.ORG/FIRES

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in California are growing every hour as wildfires completely destroy homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes.

Our partners at Lutheran World Relief are already preparing a response, including sending LWR Quilts and Kits to affected families. The destruction and need are overwhelming.

Right now, the number one need is financial gifts so that the team at Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/fires, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **FIRES** in the memo line.

Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Designate **"LWR FIRES"** when making your gift and we will rush a gift from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors when and where they need it most.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/FIRES

You can donate through the First Lutheran Church's regular offering as well. Simply designate that "LWR Fires" when you hand your donation into the offering plate or office. Lutheran World Relief envelopes are also of available on the information wall in the Narthex.

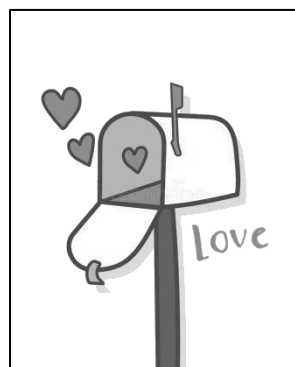
MISSION TRIP EASTER CANDY SALES



This year our mission trippers will be headed to Detroit. To help fund our trip we will be selling Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy. You can purchase candy from any person attending the mission trip and they will deliver it to you in plenty of time for Easter! We will have someone who is going on the trip at a table located in the narthex after both services from February 2nd through March 2nd to make it easier for you to identify a mission tripper and to order your candy. Thank you so much for your support!

VALENTINES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS/MILITARY PERSONNEL

Valentine's Day is almost upon us and our hearts are once again thinking about our students and military personnel who won't be here to celebrate with us. Social Ministry will be placing Valentine's Day cards on a table in the narthex from Sunday, January 26th through Sunday, February 9th. Please stop by sometime during that period and take a few minutes to sign the cards (maybe even write a quick little note). We will then mail them so they know we love them – especially on Valentine's Day!



Worshipping day by day

Draw or write a way to worship God each day.

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Friday	Saturday



*Thank you, God, for Jesus,
who spreads the light of your
love around the world. Amen*

this week

Choose a different worship activity to do with your family each day.



Refrigerator Schedule

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday at 6:30 PM

*HP/Hansen Parlor; NH/ Niewoehner Hall; OFH/Old Fellowship Hall,
YR/Youth Room, UC/Upstairs Classroom, SY/Sanctuary, CR/Choir Room
UCC/Upstairs Couch Classroom, N/Narthex*

Sunday, January 26	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:31 AM	Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	4:00 PM	Watson Home Worship
	6:00 PM	Losers (OFH)
Monday, January 27	1:00 PM	Mahjongg (HP)
	1:00 PM	Joan Nabert Circle (NH)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	6:00 PM	Silver Winds (SY)
	7:00 PM	Worship & Music (NH)
Tuesday, January 28	10:00 AM	Lantern Assembly (NH)
Wednesday, January 29	9:00 AM	Workshop (OFH)
	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NH)
	3:00 PM	TAP (NH)
	5:00 PM	Grief Yoga (OFH)
	5:15 PM	Handbells (SY)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	7:00 PM	Choir (CR)
Thursday, January 30	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
Saturday, February 1	12:00 PM	Shakespeare Rehearsal (OFC)
Sunday, February 2	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:31 AM	Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	6:00 PM	Losers (OFH)