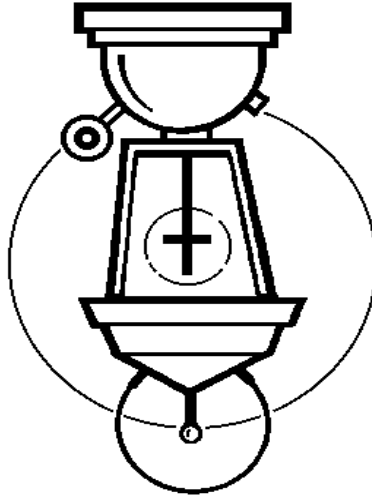


# April 2025



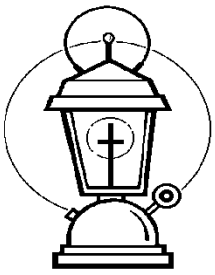
First Lutheran Church  
109 West Third Avenue  
Warren, PA 16365

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Warren, PA 16365  
Permit No. 17



inherichemirch.com ©2009 Curtler Black

*"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!"*



**April 2025 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](http://flcwarren.com)



Greetings, family –

April is an interesting month this year. We enter the month in the middle of Lent and end the month in the full joy of the Easter season. We continue our journey in the wilderness, enter into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, contemplate the Great Three Days, celebrate the resurrection and begin to hear those resurrection stories in worship.

It’s a month full of special services and holy encounters that deepen our faith and our appreciation of who Jesus is, what He does for us, and who we are in relationship to Him (beloved).

As the beauty of a new Spring blooms around us, let your heart and your spirit bloom in the knowledge and assurance that God loves you. And be the body of Christ that goes out into the world assuring others that God loves them just as much!

See you in church!

Shalom, Pastor Jeff

### **CLOTHED IN COMPASSION**

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we’ll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we’ll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and “mend” our attitude.



One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let’s adapt the care we wear — making it “fit” better for today’s generations. —Janna Firestone



### **CALLED TO LOVE. CALLED TO PRAY.**

As the conflict in the Ukraine continues, please keep the refugees in your prayers, those who’s generous hearts are welcoming them into their homes, those left behind, for the leaders (on all sides – we are called to pray for our enemies) and for the people of Russia who are bearing the brunt of sanctions. Pray for wisdom, for justice, for peace, and for God’s love to reign and to guide our leaders as they seek peace.

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES CONTINUE:

Join us on Tuesday evenings as we explore Lent: Through the Senses. Worship is begins at 6:30 p.m. and we will continue using Holden Evening Prayer as our worship tool. All donations will go to Salvation Army for the continued, faithful work in our community.

We hope you can join us!



**April 1 – First Presbyterian – Touch**

**April 8 – St. Paul - Taste**

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



On **Palm Sunday**, April 13th, we will gather at First Lutheran at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. for worship. We'll begin worship with the Blessing of the Palms to reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

**Maundy Thursday** is a reminder for us of Jesus' servant attitude when he washes his disciples feet and of the Last Supper he had with his disciples. Maundy means "command". We are commanded to love one another as Jesus loves us. **Worship begins at 7:00 p.m. on April 17 at First Lutheran**



**Good Friday**, when we experience Christ's trial and crucifixion, will be the second act of this three-part drama. Two worship opportunities are available on this day: 12:00 p.m. at First Lutheran and 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian on April 18.



**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer; Death is strong, but life is stronger.  
Stronger than the dark, the light; Stronger than the wrong, the right.  
Faith and hope triumphant say, Christ will rise on Easter Day.*

—Phillips Brooks

The **Vigil of Easter** is a moving worship service that begins in darkness and gives way to the Light of Christ and the celebration of the Resurrection. Worship on Saturday night, April 19 begins at 8:00 p.m.



**The Resurrection of our Lord! Easter** morning worship times are at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. We will have a special event for Sunday's Cool, too! Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL?

Every year we elect new church council members at our annual meeting. We entrust our church council to guide us and lead us where they discern God is steering our church. They also deal with business side of the church. Each council member serves alongside our church members on the committees of our church. These are people you can turn to if you have any questions or concerns about our church family, building, programing, etc. They meet one the third Monday of every month.



### Staff Members

Pastor Jeff Ewing  
Cheri Kellogg

### Officers

President- Randy Britton  
Vice President- Barb Hill  
Secretary- Sandy Wachter  
Treasurer- Don Reed

### 2025 New Members

Kerry Bussoletti  
Barb Hill  
Steve Horsely  
Lyn McDaniel

### Veteran Members

Jane Beardsley  
Dave Campbell  
Cathy Hall  
Addy Landrio  
Siby Thomas  
Mary Worley

## THE BLESSING OF FELLOWSHIP



Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.



## MONTHLY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

First Lutheran continues to host monthly worship services at the will of local nursing homes. Right now, we host communion services at the Rouse Apartments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, at the Rouse Suites on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday (2 pm) of each month and at the Watson Home on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (4pm).

LMM would like to thank all those who helped prepare and serve our annual Shrove Tuesday Dinner. This year we raised over \$700 for the Lutheran Men in Mission Scholarship Fund at United Seminary in Gettysburg. Special thanks to Thrivent for providing a Community Impact Grant to help offset the cost of food and supplies. We look forward to sitting down together again next year for this event!



Our Social Ministry committee is currently meeting the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.** in Niewoehner Hall. Social Ministry follows the example set for us in Matthew 25 where Jesus says: “Just as you did it to the least of these, you have done it to me”. It’s a committee that seeks justice and equity for all by sharing God’s love in practical ways. It is the committee’s call to **reach out to those in the church, community & world.** We hope you can join us!

**POTATO AND SALAD BAR FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS!** Our **Stewardship of Life** committee served the teachers and staff at the Sheffield school complex in March. We will also be serving the good folks at Youngsville middle/high school on **April 28** as way of saying “Thank you for your service to our kids”. If you would like to donate cookies for this, please let Penny Lester or Ralph Farone know, and thanks!



## EARTH-SHAKING VICTORY



On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing: “While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

“Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity.”

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!!



On **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, right after our Creation Sunday service, we will meet in Niewoehner Hall for a pizza lunch before we head out to do our highway and park cleanup! Two teams will go out: one to the highway and one to a local park or two to help spruce up the area for Spring. We will have a lite lunch after the late service; then head out to do God’s Work. Sign up in the Narthex or call Ralph Farone at 814-313-1393. Rain date will be May 10<sup>th</sup> and meet in the parking lot at 11:00AM.



## RECONCILING IN CHRIST

Our next meeting for the Reconciling In Christ Taskforce will be on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:15 p.m. We will be continuing our work regarding our special service "Created Whole: Made in God's Image" set for April 27th along with planning our participation at Pride Day in June. We meet in Niewoehner Hall and all are invited!

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



THANK YOU FOR HELPING SERVE AND/OR DONATING TOWARD OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND RAISER FOR THE WARREN AREA REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT NETWORK. BECAUSE OF YOUR DONATIONS AND A GENEROUS MATCHING GIFT, WE RAISED A LITTLE OVER \$22,000! WE ARE AMAZED AT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH GOD'S CHILDREN! SPECIAL THANKS TO THRIVENT FOR PROVIDING SEED MONEY FOR PURCHASING THE FOOD NEEDED!

### 2025 LENTEN PROJECT: BOARDS FOR LENT

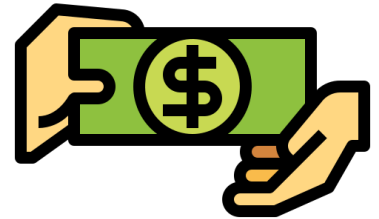
Remember our special Lenten project this year is providing monetary donations for 4'x8' boards to help build a church in Tanzania! This project is in concert with other congregations in our area, too. We hope you will prayerfully consider helping provide the funds needed to help build the church (literally!). Envelopes were delivered in your Lenten packet in March and are also available in the narthex and church office



**SIGHT & SOUND UPDATE-** Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in the Sight and Sound Theatre production of Noah. We had enough sign-ups and interest to reserve the 34 passenger bus and purchase tickets. Per the majority vote the date is Friday, November 7th, so mark your calendars! More information on payment to secure your seat will be forthcoming after the Easter Holiday.

### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (QCD)

The Internal Revenue Service states that individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70 ½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity (such as First Lutheran Church) tax-free each year. These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a way to give to charity. For those who have started making their required minimum distributions (RMDs), QCDs count toward the IRA owner's RMD for the year, but are exempt from taxation.



Your IRA trustee must send the money to the charity directly, and not to you first. You do not need to itemize your taxes for this benefit.

This is not legal or tax advice, for which you should speak to your financial or legal advisors. If you would like more information, talk with John Kersey, Sally Hawkinson or Don Reed; or see: [irs.gov/newsroom/qualified-charitable-distributions-allow-eligible-ira-owners-up-to-100000-in-tax-free-gifts-to-charity](https://irs.gov/newsroom/qualified-charitable-distributions-allow-eligible-ira-owners-up-to-100000-in-tax-free-gifts-to-charity).



**LOSERS' / YOUTH SUNDAYS!** If you are a sixth grader – senior, you are always invited to join Cheri here at FLC on Sundays from 6-7:30PM. If you need a ride, call Cheri's cell 814-688-0640 and she can pick you up/drop off. It is so much fun! Each week we have a topic to go over, eat snacks, play games, crafts, and we have lots of fun. You should come by and check it out and have fun with us. Bring friends. On the first Sunday of the month, we have a gift card for Tim Horton's/Dunkin Donut/Sheetz for whomever wins at Box Hockey or/ other games. Come join the fun and make new friends!

**SUNDAY'S COOL THIS MONTH** we are leading up to Jesus dying on the cross for all our SINS. The children will be watching short, animated Bible stories of the Last Supper, Jesus' Journey to the Cross, and the Easter Story, and crafts. Easter Sunday we will be having class and then having an egg hunt. We are hoping to have too outside.



## APRIL 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

### April 6 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 - *The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*

Psalms 126 - *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*

Philippians 3:4b-14 - *To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*

John 12:1-8 - *Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*

### April 13 – Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 - *Entrance into Jerusalem*

Isaiah 50:4-9a - *The servant of the LORD submits to suffering*

Psalms 31:9-16 - *Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

Philippians 2:5-11 - *Humbled to the point of death on a cross*

Luke 22:14--23:56 - *The passion of the Lord*

Luke 23:1-49 (alternate) - *The passion of the Lord*

### April 17 – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 - *The Passover of the LORD*

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 - *I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - *Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - *The service of Christ: foot-washing and meal*

### April 18 – Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13--53:12 - *The suffering servant*

Psalms 22 - *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps. 22:1)*

Hebrews 10:16-25 - *The way to God is opened by Jesus' death*

John 18:1--19:42

*The passion and death of Christ*

### April 19 – Holy Saturday

*Come and hear the great lessons of God's goodness and faithfulness at 8 p.m.!*

### April 20 – The Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 - *God raised Jesus on the third day*

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 - *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 - *Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits*

Luke 24:1-12 - *The women proclaim the resurrection*

### April 27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter/Creation Sunday

Acts 5:27-32 - *The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus*

Psalms 118:14-29 - *You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)*

Revelation 1:4-8 - *Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming*

John 20:19-31 - *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

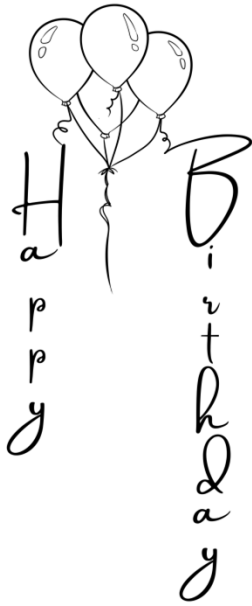


## **SERVING SCHEDULE FOR APRIL**

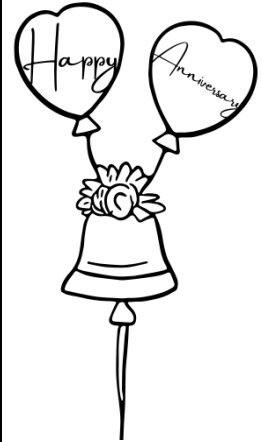
*Please be sure to note when you are scheduled to serve this month.*

<b>CANTORS</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
April 6	Anne Benson		
April 13	John Beard	Colleen Witmer	
April 20	Carolyn Worley	Denny Pearson	
April 27	Anne Benson	Dave Campbell	
<b>ASSISTING MINISTERS</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
April 6	Lori Nowacki	Barb Luce	
April 13	Elizabeth Dustin	Donna Trubic	
April 20	John Kersey	Denise Whipp	
April 27	Lori Nowacki	Colleen Witmer	
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
April 6	Jen Kersey	Madison Bossoletti	
April 13	Jen Kersey	Charles Bielawski	
April 20	Jen Kersey	Max Enos	
April 27	Jen Kersey	Aaron Gausman	
<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
April 6	Randy & Sandy Britton	Baonnie Abplanalp	
April 13	Barb Hill	Jen Check	
April 20	Carol Johnson	Heidi & Joe Colosimo	
April 27	Barry & Irene Keller	Sally Hawkinson	
<b>USHERS</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
	*John Kersey	*Lynn Williams	
	Jen Kersey	Keith Hedges	
	Bill Caldwell	Randy Witmer	
	Don Worley	Gary Lester	
		Steve Abplanalp	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>	
	Barb Kersey	Bonnie Abplanalp	
	Barb Hill	Addy Landrio	
		Elsa Redding	
<b>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</b>			
April 6		Anna Bielawski	
April 13		Cheri Kellogg	
April 20		Pastor Jeff	
April 27		Adri Hunt	
<b>DIGITAL DEACONS</b>		<b>COUNTERS</b>	
April 6	Jessica Long	April 6	Siby Thomas and Steve Horsely
April 13	Denise Pearson	April 13	Steve Horsely and Kerry Bussoletti
April 20	Cameron Bussoletti	April 20	Addy Landrio and Lyn McDaniel
April 27	Denise Whipp	April 27	Lyn McDaniel and Sandy Wachter

## IRST LUTHERAN BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



<p>4/1 Linda Ross Al Stenstrom</p> <p>4/2 Cathy Bertch</p> <p>4/3 Cheryl Huber</p> <p>4/4 Elyse Hedges Michael Check</p> <p>4/6 Carolyn Worley Garret King Scott Rose</p> <p>4/8 Peyton Reist</p> <p>4/9 Elaine Crandall</p> <p>4/10 Emily Gausman</p> <p>4/11 Anthony &amp; Jennifer Tridico (10) Allison Bussoletti</p> <p>4/12 Brandi Thomas</p> <p>4/13 Andy Beardsley</p> <p>4/14 Beth Nelson</p> <p>4/15 Brad &amp; Kathy Smith (36) Addison Hecei Emily Hecei</p> <p>4/16 Kingston Check Lilee Renninger Brad Bielawski</p>	<p>4/17 Addison Ristau Cory Ristau</p> <p>4/19 Matt Andersen Cathy Hall</p> <p>4/20 Sarah Rice Ava Young</p> <p>4/21 Joel Heffner Joe Whipp</p> <p>4/22 Megan McGuinness Craig Thomas</p> <p>4/23 Aidan Colosimo Mary Worley</p> <p>4/24 Joe &amp; Heidi Colosimo (26) Isabelle McMonigal</p> <p>4/25 Amy Justice Gail Wright</p> <p>4/27 George Mason</p> <p>4/28 Kevin Hunt Mark Genberg</p> <p>4/29 Emily Koebley</p> <p>4/30 Kris Rose Bradeyn Knupp</p>
--	--



### SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

- April Fool's Day, *April 1, 2025*
- National Tartan, Day, *April 6, 2025*
- Passover Begins (Sundown), *April 12*
- Holy Week, *April 13-20, 2025*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 13, 2025*
- Titanic Remembrance Day, *April 15, 2025*
- Husband Appreciation Day, *April 16, 2025*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 17, 2025*
- Good Friday, *April 18, 2025*
- Easter Sunday, *April 20, 2025*
- Earth Day, *April 22, 2025*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 23, 2025*

### SPECIAL DATES

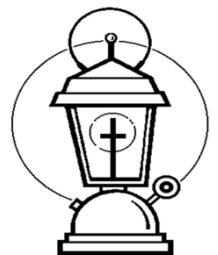


### LANTERN DUE DATE- APRIL 14

If you have any information for the May Lantern, please have it to the office by April 14. You can email it to Jess at [office@flcwarren.com](mailto:office@flcwarren.com) or drop it by the office any time Monday through Friday between 9AM and Noon or 1PM and 4PM.

### LANTERN ASSEMBLY- APRIL 25- 10AM

Join us for a time a time of fun, fellowship, and service as we assemble the May Lantern. All are welcome!





Church Council Meeting Update  
March 17, 2025

MEETING  
MINUTES



Mark Your Calendars:

- **Easter Hot Meals** distribution on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers needed.
- **Created Whole Worship Service on April 27<sup>th</sup>**.
- **RIC Speaker Series continues on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** with Dr. John speaking on Neurodiversity.
- **Creation and Earth Sunday will be May 5<sup>th</sup>** with a spring cleanup of highway and parks after the service.

Happy Spring !



**Friday Night Out April 11th at 6PM at Blueberry Golf Club**

Spring is coming and we are excited to be back at Blueberry for our dinner. We'll order off the menu. The group keeps growing so if you haven't joined us yet or in a while, consider this your invitation. Sign up in the narthex.

Thank you so much to everyone at First Lutheran who has sent cards, donations, prayers, and words of encouragement after the death of my husband, Marc, on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

All of the love and support that my family and I have received at the this difficult time has been a tremendous blessing and I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Hunter



**FAMILY EVENT, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WANT TO MISS!** On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> all families will want to come to church at 6pm. Cheri has videos and activities for "Stations of The Cross". We will experience the journey Jesus made to die on the cross for each one of us! Cheri is excited for this event, please sign up in the Narthex so she can make sure to have enough items for each child. Yes, we will have pizza, chips and drinks.

**SNACKS FOR KIDS**

*Please Help Our Children*

We are holding a one-week drive for Luther's Locker to collect snacks and/ or monetary donations so that we can meet our commitment to the Warren Area Elementary Center to provide snacks to the under privileged students for this last 9-week marking period of the school year.

Collection Dates:

Sunday, March 30 through April 6, 2025

Please consider donating medium or large containers of the following:

- Animal Crackers
- Mini Pretzels
- Goldfish Crackers

OR

Make a monetary donation. Envelopes will be provided in the March 30<sup>th</sup> bulletin and also available on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



**DONATIONS**

## Valued: Celebrating Our Differences

*A Diversity & Inclusion Educational Speaker Series*



Acceptance is a continuous process to understand, reconcile, and welcome all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, age, or social and economic status. The third season of this education series is designed to reveal the value in our differences and move forward with a new

***What is Neurodiversity? What does it really look like?***

**Dr. John P. John, MD**

**Neurodiversity means our brains can be different from what is considered the “norm,” and includes conditions like autism, ADHD, and others. This session will discuss how these differences may present, the challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals, and unique perspectives they can offer. We’ll also address common misunderstandings and unfair judgments placed on individuals and how to create a more inclusive environment. While it may seem like a growing trend, neurodivergence has always been around—we just didn’t have the words to describe it. This seminar is essential for everyone—we all have a neurodivergent person in our life, whether we know it or not!**

**Our speaker has over 30 years’ experience in practice as a board-certified psychiatrist and is currently serving Warren, PA at Deerfield Behavioral Health.**

**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**



*Brought to you by the Reconciling in Christ team of First Lutheran Church.*

## Valued: Celebrating Our Differences

*A Diversity & Inclusion Educational Speaker Series*



Acceptance is a continuous process to understand, reconcile, and welcome all communities regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, age, or social and economic status. The third season of this education series is designed to reveal the value in our differences and move forward with a new

***What is Neurodiversity? What does it really look like?***

**Dr. John P. John, MD**

**Neurodiversity means our brains can be different from what is considered the “norm,” and includes conditions like autism, ADHD, and others. This session will discuss how these differences may present, the challenges faced by neurodivergent individuals, and unique perspectives they can offer. We’ll also address common misunderstandings and unfair judgments placed on individuals and how to create a more inclusive environment. While it may seem like a growing trend, neurodivergence has always been around—we just didn’t have the words to describe it. This seminar is essential for everyone—we all have a neurodivergent person in our life, whether we know it or not!**

**Our speaker has over 30 years’ experience in practice as a board-certified psychiatrist and is currently serving Warren, PA at Deerfield Behavioral Health.**

**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**



*Brought to you by the Reconciling in Christ team of First Lutheran Church.*



## Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

### What is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a walkway or path that always leads to the center. There are many places to find a labyrinth, but the one we want to talk about today is the **Labyrinth of the NWPASynod** on the grounds of the synod office at 22598 Titusville Road (Rt 27), Pleasantville, PA 16341. While there are many reasons to use a labyrinth, we are focusing on contemplating creation and God's gifts to us in nature and our response to these gifts by Caring for Creation.

Labyrinths have a long history in the Christian tradition beginning as early as 350 AD. Stopping at various spots, prayers and/or meditation guide the participant toward a deeper understanding – in this case nature and God's creation. You can walk the labyrinth alone or in a small group. Ground was broken for the labyrinth on the synod property on September 22, 2015. After digging a full circle, a gravel and sand layer were tamped and pavers were put into place in a pattern. Three benches and a walkway from the parking lot was created. The Synod's Green Team is working with Synod staff to add native trees and shrubs to the property, including around the labyrinth.

We encourage you to visit YOUR labyrinth on our Synod property. We encourage you to enjoy nature, pray with or without words and commune with God. We covet your prayers and thoughts concerning how to fulfill our mission as your Synod Green Team.

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress has written three books to help us understand and use a labyrinth. [The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform\(2006\)](#), [Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice\(2006\)](#), and [The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers\(2020\)](#).

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

Like and follow us on Facebook: [Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

Contact us at: [nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

April 2025



## Green Corner NWPASynod Green Team

### What is a Labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a walkway or path that always leads to the center. There are many places to find a labyrinth, but the one we want to talk about today is the **Labyrinth of the NWPASynod** on the grounds of the synod office at 22598 Titusville Road (Rt 27), Pleasantville, PA 16341. While there are many reasons to use a labyrinth, we are focusing on contemplating creation and God's gifts to us in nature and our response to these gifts by Caring for Creation.

Labyrinths have a long history in the Christian tradition beginning as early as 350 AD. Stopping at various spots, prayers and/or meditation guide the participant toward a deeper understanding – in this case nature and God's creation. You can walk the labyrinth alone or in a small group. Ground was broken for the labyrinth on the synod property on September 22, 2015. After digging a full circle, a gravel and sand layer were tamped and pavers were put into place in a pattern. Three benches and a walkway from the parking lot was created. The Synod's Green Team is working with Synod staff to add native trees and shrubs to the property, including around the labyrinth.

We encourage you to visit YOUR labyrinth on our Synod property. We encourage you to enjoy nature, pray with or without words and commune with God. We covet your prayers and thoughts concerning how to fulfill our mission as your Synod Green Team.

The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress has written three books to help us understand and use a labyrinth. [The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform\(2006\)](#), [Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice\(2006\)](#), and [The Path of the Holy Fool: How the Labyrinth Ignites Our Visionary Powers\(2020\)](#).

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

Like and follow us on Facebook: [Northwestern PA Synod Green Team – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.](#)

Contact us at: [nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com)

April 2025