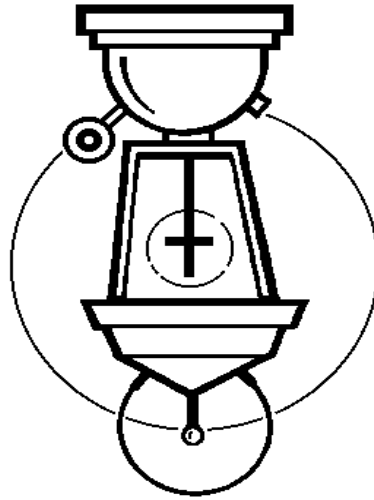


November 2025



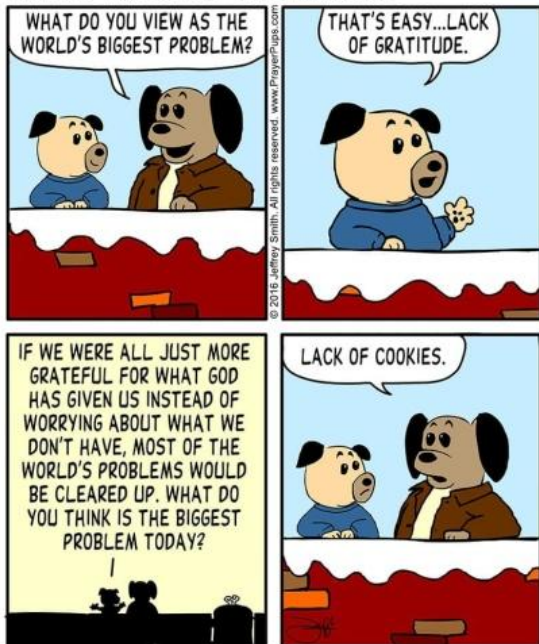
First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

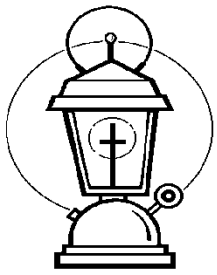
PAID

Warren, PA 16365
Permit No. 17

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!"



November 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



Pastor's
COLUMN

November! What a month for a sports person! The NFL is knee deep in their seasons, the MLB is in World Series mode, the NBA and NHL are beginning, and the PGA is in full swing (get it?!). ESPN's Sports Center doesn't even have enough time to cover everything! And although golf season is over, I can still play indoors or go bowling!

Seems like everything comes to a head at the end of the year, huh? We take this deep breath in November as almost a way to get ready for what's coming... Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas shopping in long lines (whether it's the first official day of the season or not), house decorating, office parties, school concerts, holiday vacation plans and travel, and the list goes on. Just like all the sports that happen this time of year, it seems like our calendars get filled to overflowing with everything that's coming.

But much like I can't watch every game on TV (even though I'd like too 😊), it's important to remember that we can't do everything available to us. Sure, we need to make time for family and friends, but perhaps we can say "thank you, but no" to a couple of non-essentials events and activities that would take away our joy because we are trying to do everything and getting too stressed out to enjoy it.

So, as your pastor, let me encourage you to find your center. Find that place where you are committed enough to enjoy the season but not overly committed to where the joy is sucked out of the activities. Yes, it's a fine line and - if you have kids - you will probably hear the whines and moans about what you are not doing. This time of year is for making memories, not seeing how much you can cram into your schedule. Enjoy time with family and friends instead of stressing about where you have to be in the next 45 minutes. Take a deep breath. Relax.

And remember to come to worship. To hear the Good News of Jesus' love for us. To connect with one another through communion and conversation. To be refreshed through worship and service. To get back in the right perspective and in the right relationship with the Lord. To "be still and know that I am God".

Shalom,
 PJ

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*



Give thanks to the Lord! Our all-Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve service is at First Lutheran (you know where that is 😊) this year! Join us on **Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m.!** We will have a time of fellowship after worship, too! We look forward to seeing you as we give thanks for all God has, continues, and will do for us!

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on Tuesday, November 11th. Worship begins at 11:00 a.m. with a hymn-sing to follow and then our yummy lunch! Remember if you don't receive an invitation phone call, give the church a jingle and let us know you are coming! We will also make sure you are on a call list for future gatherings!



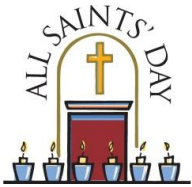


Blue Christmas

The Holiday season can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. For these reasons, First Lutheran Church offers a special "Blue Christmas Service" on **Sunday, November 30th at 1:00 p.m.** Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, everyone, is welcome.

5TH GRADE COMMUNION CLASSES SET FOR NOVEMBER

Classes for students regarding communion and acolyte instruction will take place on **Tuesdays, November 18 and 25 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.** We will be learning more about God's wonderful gift to us in bread and wine, making bread for the First Sunday of Advent on November 30th and learning what an acolytes duties are in worship. This class is intended for all 5th grade students as part of their catechetical instruction. Call pastor Jeff if you have any questions!



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.

We will be celebrating the lives of all those who have died in the Lord since last year and who now rest with God in Heaven:

Connie Stromdahl

Michael Abplanalp

Eunice Herrington

Velma Witmer

Mary Hofer

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

We also celebrate all those who have joined the body of Christ through baptism: *Emmi Bimber*
May God continue to bless these lives in Christ!

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

We are proud to collect food year-round for the Salvation Army. Any and all donations are appreciated and can be made at any time by simply dropping them in the *Salvation Army* donation box in the Narthex, Randy Witmer faithfully delivers them. We have identified some immediate needs which are listed below.

- Cereal
- Pasta Sauces
- “Pop-Top” Can Goods





Advent is about preparing not only for Christmas but also for Jesus' return. According to Scripture, that won't be the calm, silent scene described in Christmas carols.

In 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached: "It is very remarkable that we face the thought that God is coming so calmly, whereas previously peoples trembled at the day of God We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us. We ... [forget] the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us."

God is love; we'll be in good hands at the end of time. But during Advent, also be in awe of God. Embrace a reverent fear of the Lord that reminds you how profound it is that God chooses again and again to draw near and lay claim to you. Feel that awe, feel that love. The First Sunday in Advent is November 30th.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

CONFIRMAND, NEW MEMBER AND BAPTISM – OH, MY!

Special greetings to our 3 newest members:

By baptism: Emmie Bimber

By affirmation of faith: Aaron Gausman

By transfer: Janet Denardi

We are so glad you are with us!



Thanks to all who came to our sauerkraut dinner last month! We were able to give the proceeds to the "Gift Cards for Cancer Patients" ministry! We raised over \$1500! Thanks again for your generosity!



FIRST LUTHERAN'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 9:30 A.M.** WE WILL BE VOTING FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OUR BUDGET FOR 2026. OUR ANNUAL REPORT (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S YEAR-END REPORT) WILL BE AVAILABLE THE SUNDAY BEFORE OUR GATHERING. WE ENCOURAGE YOUR PARTICIPATION!

END OF YEAR REPORTS DUE

All year end reports are due to the office by *4PM on November 7* to be included in the 2025 Annual Report. Reports can be emailed to office@flcwarren.com or left in the folder marked "End of Year Reports" in the office. Thank you!



A DAY TO HONOR OUR VETERANS



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation." Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

October 20, 2025

Save your change for the Wheelbarrow Collection for World Hunger on November 2nd through Thanksgiving Eve. FLC will host the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Please consider helping with the **Thanksgiving Holiday Hot Meals**. Watch for sign-up sheet.

We are glad to welcome two families from Afghanistan. A family of four has moved into the WARRN home, and another family of five has recently arrived.

LET US GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS!



MEETING MINUTES

CHURCH COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES



As we continue to seek God's guidance for the life and mission of our church, we are prayerfully inviting members of our congregation to consider serving as representatives on the Church Council. This is an opportunity to offer your gifts in leadership, wisdom, and service for the growth and unity of the First Lutheran Family.

Please contact Andy Beardsley for more details 814-730-7928

QUAKE---6th-12th Graders, Are you ready for an epic weekend? When may you ask? Well, we will leave Friday, January 23rd - Sunday, January 25th. It's all about you; you will be inspired, worship like never before, and real talk with real people, why wait! Please bring in the registration forms and money to Cheri no later than November 12th. Any questions, please call the church or my cell number. I can't wait.

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

—adapted from *Homiletics.com*



NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCRIPTURE SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 11:00 am.

Pastor Jeff encourages 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

November 2 – All Saints Sunday

[Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18](#) - *The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom*

[Psalms 149](#) - Sing the LORD's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Ps. 149:1)

[Ephesians 1:11-23](#) - *God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church*

[Luke 6:20-31](#) - *Jesus speaks blessings and woes*

November 9

[Job 19:23-27a](#) - *I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God*

[Psalms 17:1-9](#) - Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings. (Ps. 17:8)

[2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17](#) - *The coming of the Lord Jesus*

[Luke 20:27-38](#) - *Jesus speaks of the resurrection; the God of the living*

November 16

[Malachi 4:1-2a](#) - *A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous*

[Psalms 98](#) - In righteousness will the Lord judge the world. (Ps. 98:9)

[2 Thessalonians 3:6-13](#) - *Do not be idle, but do what is right for the sake of Christ*

[Luke 21:5-19](#) - *Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake*

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

[Jeremiah 23:1-6](#) - *Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch who will execute justice*

[Psalms 46](#) - I will be exalted among the nations. (Ps. 46:10)

[Colossians 1:11-20](#) - *Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation; peace through his blood*

[Luke 23:33-43](#) - *Jesus is crucified between two thieves: you will be with me in Paradise*

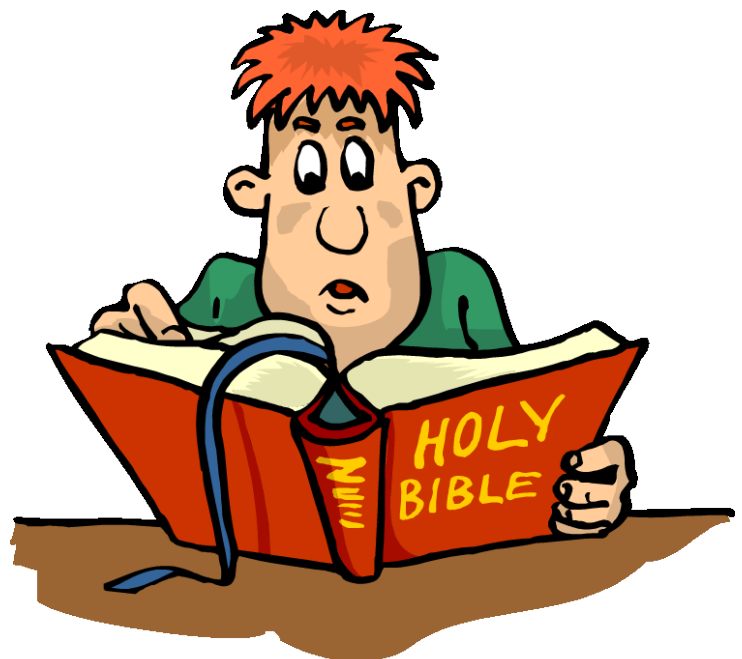
November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#) - *Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace*

[Psalms 122](#) - I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)

[Romans 13:11-14](#) - *Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep*

[Matthew 24:36-44](#) - *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*



SERVING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

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

CANTORS

8:00AM

11:00AM

November 2	Anne Benson	Colleen Witmer
November 9	Carolyn Worley	Dave Campbell
November 16	John Beard	Scott Rose
November 23	Anne Benson	Donna Trubic
November 30	Carolyn Worley	Brenda Hunter

ASSISTING MINISTERS

8:00AM

11:00AM

November 2	Randy Britton	Keith Hedges
November 9	Don Reed	Barb Luce
November 16	John Kersey	Denise Pearson
November 23	Lori Nowacki	Linda Ross
November 30	Don Reed	Cathy Southwell

ACOLYTES

8:00AM

11:00AM

November 2	Jen Kersey	Justin Klenowski
November 9	Jen Kersey	Allison Bussoletti
November 16	Jen Kersey	Madison Bussoletti
November 23	Jen Kersey	Ryan Klenowski
November 30	Jen Kersey	Charles Bielawski

GREETERS

8:00AM

11:00AM

November 2	Randy & Sandy Britton	Heidi & Joe Colosimo
November 9	Barb Hill & Mike Hawley	Sally Hawkinson
November 16	Carol Johnson	Denny & Vonda Hedges
November 23	Barry & Irene Keller	Joyce Kelley
November 30	Kersey Family	Cheri Kellogg

USHERS

8:00AM

11:00AM

John Hyde	Ralph Farone
Bob Beurkle	Joe Whipp
Andy Beardsley	Tiem Huber
	Mark Simpson
	Steve Horsely

ALTAR GUILD

8:00AM

11:00AM

Jane Beardsley	Amy Downey
Kris Whitaker	Cheryl Huber
	Robin kersey

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

November 2	Anna Bielawski
November 9	Cheri Kellogg
November 16	Pastor Jeff
November 23	Cynthia Klenowski
November 30	Anna Bielawski

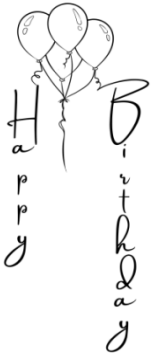
DIGITAL DEACONS

November 2	Denise Pearson
November 9	Keith Hedges
November 16	Denise Whipp
November 23	Denise Pearson
November 30	Heidi Colosimo

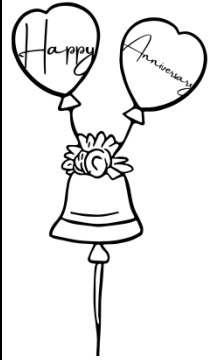
COUNTERS

November 2	Mary Worley & Jane Beardsley
November 9	Jane Beardsley & Randy Britton
November 16	Randy Britton & Kerry Bussoletti
November 23	Kerry Bussoletti & Dave Campbell
November 30	Dave Campbell & Barb Hill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



11/1	Sue Reinke	11/21	Joyce Kelly
11/2	Brent and Ruth Long (45)		Rachal Rowland
11/3	Dennis and Kim Sealy (8)		Zakkery Stover
11/4	Helen Reist	11/22	Devin Colosimo
11/6	Dave Campbell		Eva Labowski
11/7	Becky Yeager		Emma Labowski
11/8	Bill Caldwell		Jim and Bev Moore (66)
11/10	Todd and Cheri Kellogg (18)	11/23	RoseMary Landon
11/11	Donna Trubic	11/24	Matthew Abplanalp
11/13	Whitney Paul	11/27	Shelle Tubbs
11/15	Wendy Anderson	11/28	Lani Wenzel
11/16	Debbie Seastrum	11/29	Joe Colosimo
11/17	Alisia Brannon		Nicki Tremblay
11/18	Todd Kellogg	11/30	Abby Koebley
			Lori Nowacki



- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2025*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 2, 2025*
- National Candy Day, *November 4, 2025*
- National Stress Awareness Day, *November 5, 2025*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2025*
- World Kindness Day, *November 13, 2025*
- World "Hello!" Day, *November 21, 2025*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 23, 2025*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 27, 2025*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 30, 2025*



Special Dates to Remember



LANTERN INFO DUE DATE- NOVEMBER 12

If you have any information for the December Lantern, please have it to the office by November 12. You can email it to Jess at office@flcwarren.com or drop it by the office any time Monday through Friday between 9AM and Noon or 1PM and 4PM.

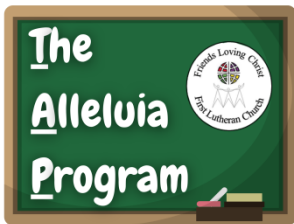
LANTERN & ADVENT MAILING ASSEMBLY- NOVEMBER 25- 10AM

We are doing double duty in November . Join us for a time a time of fun, fellowship, and service as we assemble the December Lantern and prepare our annual Advent mailing. All are welcome!



O Lord, that lends me life, Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!

—William Shakespeare



TAP IS GOING STRONG...

November's Schedule is:

Nov. 5th – National Donut Day

Nov. 12th -Celebrate Veteran's Day (Wear red, white and blue) Invite a Veteran to dinner.

Nov. 19th- Thanksgiving Family dinner (bring family and a dish to pass)

Nov.26th - **NO TAP** Happy Thanksgiving

First Lutheran Church is PROUD to be a part of the Operation Christmas Child.

Shoebbox gifts are a great way to start or continue children's faith for millions of boys and girls. So, get a shoe box and follow the directions in the pamphlet (on the narthex table). **Last day to return them is Sunday, November 16th no later than 11AM.**

Operation Christmas Child is a great project. Just imagine the smiles on the children's faces when they receive their shoe boxes of gifts. Thank you to all the prayers and love that were put in the gifts! Any questions, please call Cheri (814)723-6450 or (814)688-0640.



A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

In NOVEMBER, all 6th - 12th Graders are invited to come to Youth Sunday on the 2nd, and the 16th. Come and be a part of our discussion of the night and play some games. Always invite your friends. Please call Cheri at (814)723-6450 or (814) 688-0640.



Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

VOTING FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

You have likely heard about the importance of "civic engagement"—but what does this actually mean? The word "civic" relates to a city or town, particularly the community that lives within it. When we talk about civic engagement, we're referring to the process of becoming involved in your own community and the administration of the town, city, state, and/or country that you live in. **Voting is one of the most commonly utilized and important forms of political civic engagement.** Voting in local elections has just as much importance as national elections. The decisions made by elected officials have long-term implications and are especially important for time sensitive matters such as environmental policies. For people of faith, by taking part in elections, individuals can blend their religious principles and political beliefs, ensuring that their faith-driven values are reflected in public policy and contribute to the common good, especially in areas like climate action and social justice. It is important to take advantage of these rights to make your voice heard.

The 2023 American Climate Metrics Survey found that 85% of Americans agree that we have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children. **It is our sacred responsibility to vote.** Learning local, state, and national candidates' stances and plans on creating a safe and healthy world is our duty as citizens and an important part of making our voting plan. Voting for candidates who will work for a thriving and safe future and allocating our tax money in ways that support creation honors our faith. Not voting affects the outcome of each election and does not honor God. **Let us all be the change we hope to see in the world by being informed and active in the election process.** Learn more about voting climate through ecoAmerica's resources at: <https://ecoamerica.org/get-out-the-vote/>

We pray that every congregation and every person of faith will look to these principles as we examine our choices at the ballot box in the coming election.

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

November 2025