

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

Phone: 814/723-6450

Email Office: office@flcwarren.com

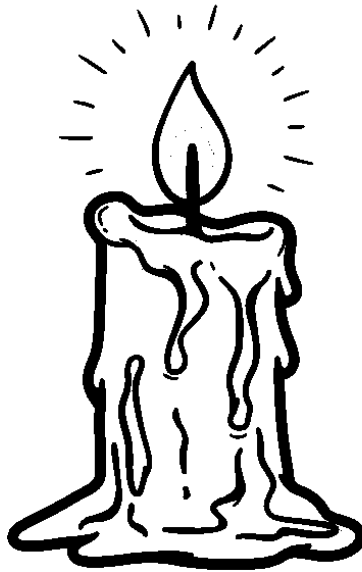
Website: www.flcwarren.com

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

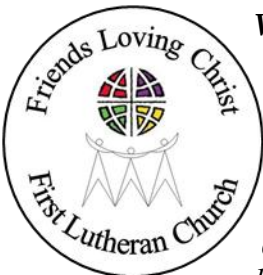
Jack Hemink, Minister of Music

Julie Baughman, accompanist

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



NOVEMBER 30, 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. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, anti-homophobia, social & economic justice, and environmental care. As part of the whole complex, colorful spectrum of God's creation in all its diversity we are all one in Christ!



Please let the lighting of the altar candles signal our time to quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune on Sleepers Awake

Martha Sobaje

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Please kneel as able.)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

**Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

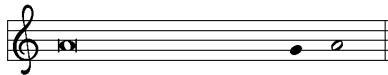
#246

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



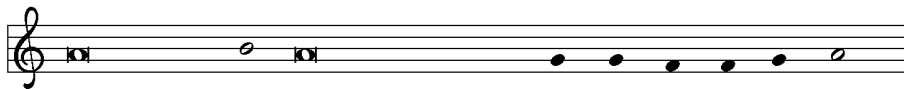
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
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.

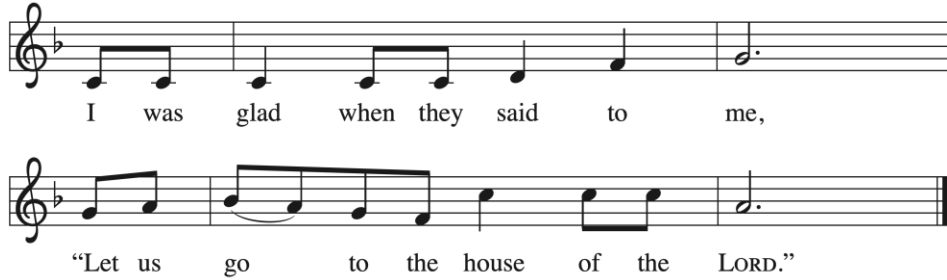
⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PSALM 122 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)*



Psalm 122:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹ I was glad when they[|] said to me,
“Let us go to the house[|] of the LORD.”
- ² **Now our[|] feet are standing
within your gates,[|] O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built[|] as a city
that is at unity[|] with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes[|] of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name[|] of the LORD. R**
- ⁵ For there are the[|] thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the[|] house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace[|] of Jerusalem:
“May they pros-[|]per who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be with-[|] in your walls
and quietness with-[|] in your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred[|] and companions,
I pray for[|] your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the[|] LORD our God,
I will seek to[|] do you good.” **R**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

#436

NICENE CREED

Assistant: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and
is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life
of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Following each intercession....

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

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 [8AM]
[11AM]

***Creator of the Star of Night
Each Winter as the Year Grows Older***
Senior Choir
Beckey Darby, flute

Rayman Hann
Robert Hobby

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

He Came Down

#253

Verse 1

*He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Nourishing God,

C: **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

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.**

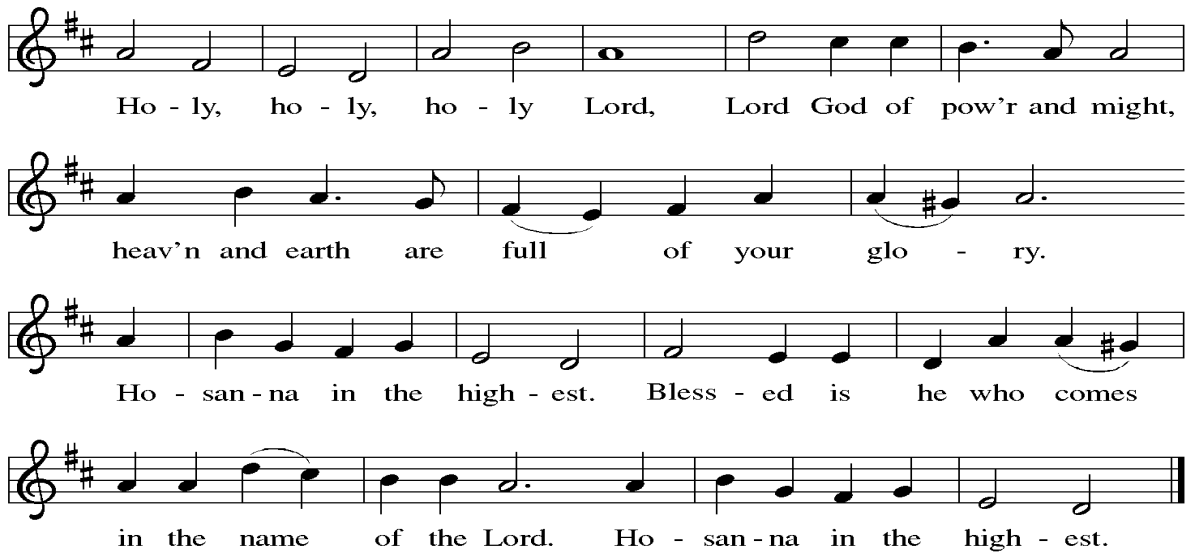
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

Congregation: **SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

On the night he was betrayed, our Savior Jesus, bowed and prayed,
With his disciples he is speaking to us....

He took the loaf and broke the bread, held it high and then he said
This is my body, remember me, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

After the meal, the cup he raised, the Father's name again he praised
This is my blood poured out for your forgiveness.

A promise given and fulfilled, though I am taken away and killed
Remember me, I am with you, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

So, gathered as His body here, refusing to give in to fear
And all the powers of death that seek to lead us.

We stretch our hands, we cry and sing and tell the world HE is our KING
We cannot help but claim this Hallelujah!

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is set! God feeds us with tender mercy.

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.

**4Gluten 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

My Lord What a Morning
Creator of the Stars of Night

#438

#245

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of His body and blood bless, keep and unit us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

#261

Verse 1

*As the dark awaits the dawn,
so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night,
loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: God our host,

C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

**Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

SENDING

*SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come

#260

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The King Shall Come

David Johnson

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42272. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Today's Altar Flowers

*Given by Anne Benson in loving memory of
Kathryn & William Leinbach and Marion & Walter Stump.*

Given by Lou & Lynne Rich in loving memory of Jay.

Serving Today	November 30	December 7
Assisting Minister	(8AM) Don Reed (11AM) Cathy Southwell	Kris Whitacker Susan Stout
Cantor	(8AM) Carolyn Worley (11AM) Brenda Hunter	John Beard Kevin Hunt
Greeters	(8AM) Kersey Family (11AM) Cheri Kellogg	Lori Noawcki Penny & Gary Lester
Acolyte	(8AM) Jen Kersey (11AM) Charles Bielawski	Jen Kersey Max Enos
Advent Candle Lighting	(8AM) The Keller Family (11AM) The Bielawski Family	TBD TBD
Digital Deacon	Heidi Colosimo	Keith Hedges
Counters	Dave Campbell Barb Hill	Barb Hill Cathy Hall



*Congratulations to Raegan Moore for completing her
Communion classes. She also baked today's communion bread!*

THEN ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

Please take a copy to look over in advance of the **December 7 Annual
Congregational Meeting!**

2025 Annual Report



Friday Night Out will be at The Arbor House on December 12th at 6PM.
The new owners are looking forward to hosting our group. Sign up in the
narthex.

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, Jon Donaldson, Jordan Curtis

November 23: Larry Rambish, Alyssa Dennewitz, Ron & Lois Hart, Connie Buerkle, Rita Hawk, Terry Pearson, Val & Nancy Condio, Brent Casey, Kristin Frick, Joel Nowacki, Doug Granger, Sarah Downey, MaryBeth Nawrocki, Ariel Mickle, Dee Schultz, Cory Ristau, Mitch Tabol, Rod Anderson, Heidi Nugent

November 16: Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Jeff Granger, Carol Stone, Addie Landrio

November 9: Kim Tome, Rose Troyan, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, Peggy Nelson, Janet Wilson, Sarah Downey, Jeff Bastow, Elaine Powers, Donna Smith, Kia Lee, Betty Berdine, Vic Wolfe, Cara Smith, Joe Krall, Jerry Johnson, Mariah Nowacki, Barry Seastead, Maryann Long, Denise Cederquist, Jim Rapp, Cathy Morrison, Linda Philhower, Dusty Johnson, Roberta "Bobbi" Hessley

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!

SERRV

As you do your shopping this holiday season, please remember to visit the SERRV website (www.SERRV.org). There are catalogs to browse through in the narthex also. SERRV offers unique and handcrafted fair trade items from all around the world. You can shop in the comfort of your own home all year long for items such as authentic décor, handmade dishware, handcrafted baskets, gorgeous fair trade jewelry, scarves, & bags, delicious Divine Chocolate, fair trade snacks and gourmet coffee. The items are ordered on-line and delivered directly to your home – what could be easier! Please help support this incredible ministry by giving special fair trade gifts that improve the lives of artisans and farmers worldwide—especially during this holiday season.



FREE LITTLE LIBRARY FOOD ADDITION

Due to SNAP benefits being delayed because of the government shutdown, we are asking folks to bring in canned goods (with pop tops please) of soup, ravioli, etc... as well as dry goods such as spaghetti and sauce. We will add these to the little library for families to pick up if the need arises.



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” **today 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.

ELEVATOR UPGRADE:

At our 2024 annual congregational meeting, the property committee presented a proposal for a lift that would provide access to Niewoehner Hall, the office area as well as Hansen Parlor. The cost of that proposal was \$242,000. As a good-will gesture, the congregation approved a \$40,000 advance toward the original project through our Capital Fund.

As the discussion moved forward, it was voted on to solicit bids for a fully accessible elevator that would give everyone access to all four floors in the building.

The submitted bid came at a little under \$391,000 (well under the initial estimate of up to 1 million dollars). Included in the bid was a fully accessible elevator and the construction of a fully accessible bathroom in the basement, 1st and 2nd floor (we already have one on the ground floor).

This project will offer complete access to the entire building for everyone for generations to come and will allow us to explore possibilities of expanding into even more community-oriented ministries. Our building can be “open to all, all the time, everywhere within!”

As a seconded motion, Council would recommend moving forward with this building project. Council would recommend that we have immediate funding for the project and understands that we would “pay” the church back with grant requests and fund-raising efforts.

Construction for the project, if approved, would take place after Easter and would last 12 weeks.

The Property committee will host an informational forum on Monday, December 1st, at 6:30 p.m. in Niewoehner Hall.



A **plowshare** is the part of the plow that digs into the ground. It looks like this:



Did You Know?

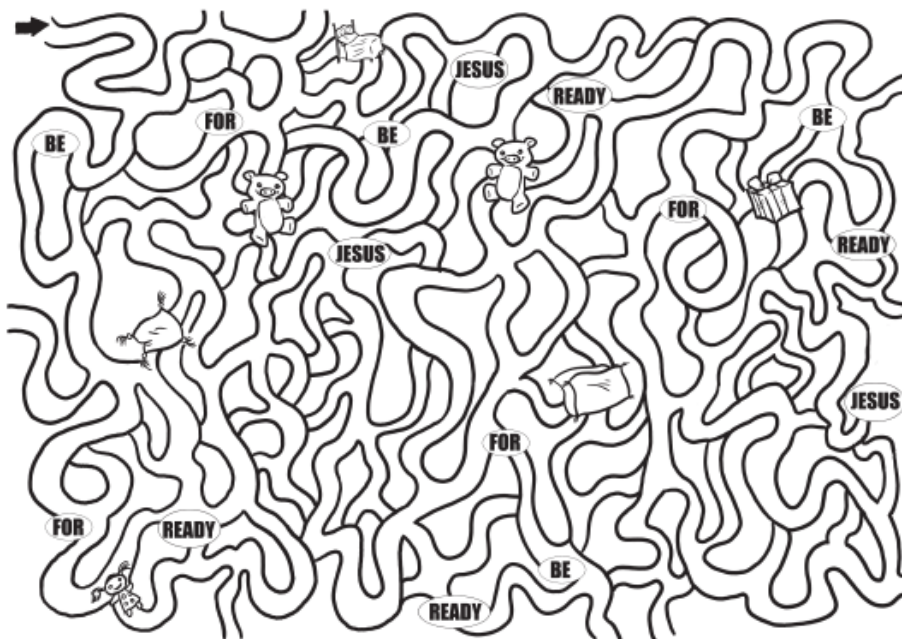
A **pruning hook** is a tool used to cut pieces off of trees and bushes. It looks like this:



Keep Awake!

We learn that Jesus will come at a time when we least expect it. Jesus tells us "Keep awake!" so that we will be ready. During Advent we stay awake and get ready for Jesus.

Follow the maze to get ready for Jesus. Avoid things that would make you sleepy! Pick up words along the way and put them in the blank spaces. They will reveal a secret message.



Secret Message:

_____ !



Refrigerator Schedule

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS

**Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday
at 6:30 PM (YR)**

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

Sunday, November 30

1st Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
9:31 AM **Sunday's Cool (NH/OFH)**
11:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
1:00 PM **Blue Christmas Service (SY)**

Monday, December 1

1:00 PM Mahjongg (NH)
4:00 PM WCSMS (NH)
6:00 PM Silver Winds Rehearsal (SY)
6:30 PM **Elevator Project Informational Meeting (NH)**

Tuesday, December 2

5:00 PM Ukrainian Bible Study (OFH)
6:00 PM **ESOL (UC)**

Wednesday, December 3

9:00 AM **Workshop (OFH)**
12:00PM **Bible Study (NH)**
3:30 PM **TAP (NH/UC)**
5:00 PM Grief Yoga (OFH)
7:00PM **Thanksgiving Eve Service (SY)**

Thursday, December 4

10:00 AM **Prayer Shawl (HP)**
6:00 PM **ESOL (UC)**
6:00 PM Camera Club (NH)

Friday, December 5

9:00 AM Lakeshore CPS (UCC)
11:00 AM **Celebration of the life of Meredith McIntosh (SY)**

Sunday, December 7

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
9:30 AM **Annual Congregational Meeting (SY)**
11:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
4:00 PM Silver Winds Concert (SY)
6:00 PM **Losers (YR)**