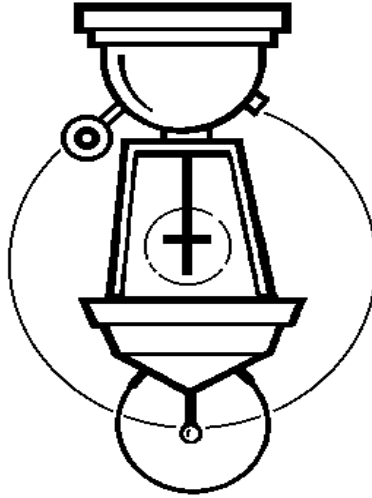
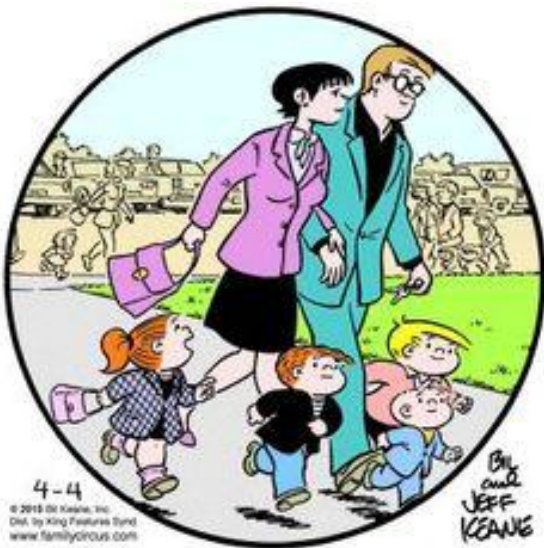


# April 2026



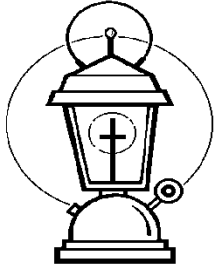
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109 West Third Avenue  
Warren, PA 16365

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"I like it when everyone in church  
sings about that Ollie Louya guy."

*"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 2026 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)



Dear Church family:

We're almost there! At the empty tomb, I mean. The first week of April is Holy Week, that time when we enter into the drama of Jesus' last week. Here's what the week's schedule looks like:



## Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29 (8:00 and 11:00) – Blessing of Palms and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2 (7:00 p.m.) – Tenebrae Service and Holy Communion

**We will be worshipping with our friends AT First Presbyterian Church**

Good Friday, April 3 (12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran)

*Reminder: bring the nails you received on Ash Wednesday with you to worship*

Easter Vigil – April 4 (8:00 p.m.)

Easter/Resurrection of our Lord – April 5 (8:00 and 11:00)

I hope you will join me as we enter Holy Week to experience all the emotions that make this week so special – from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to Jesus' last supper with his friends (where he gives them a new command to love one another), to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, and ultimately, to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

As our Sundays and Seasons Worship Guide tells us about Jesus' Resurrection:

“This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.”

This is the core of our faith: Christ crucified and risen!

See you in church.

Shalom,

Pastor Jeff

**Warren Area Holiday Hot Meals** ministry, after two decades, continues to deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and the day before Easter throughout Warren and Forest Counties. Around 60 volunteers, some first timers and some old hands, make these meals happen. Gifts through the “Warren Gives” appeal provide the funds for these meals. The ministry started at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church then over the years First Lutheran, First Presbyterian, First Methodist and St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal joined the ministry. Local human service agencies, home health and therapy groups, hospice caregivers and others provide the ministry with names. Watch soon for more about the volunteers needed for the Easter Meal. To volunteer, use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



For more information or to volunteer email [revardelle@gmail.com](mailto:revardelle@gmail.com)



### LUTHERAN LEARNING CLASSES SET FOR APRIL!

Ever wonder about what Lutherans believe and how that fits into all the other Protestant faith traditions? Ever wonder what goes on here at First Lutheran (we have a lot of service opportunities) and how you can fit in? Ever just want a little reminder of what it means to be Lutheran? Join us on 3 Sunday evenings (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>) in April as we dive a little deeper! Come to one session or all three! See you from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Parlor!

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP SET FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>!** Worship begins at 11:00 with a wonderful meal to follow: a post-Easter “Ramsey Ham Ball Celebration”. We hope you can join us and if you have not received a phone call inviting you to come, please call the church office and let us know!



### CONFIRCAMP IS ON THE WAY!



Confirmation camp this year is for students who will be entering 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We spend a week at Lutherlyn learning about the walk called faith, making new friends and creating great memories! Camp goes from Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> (our 1<sup>st</sup> in 7 years that it’s not on Father’s Day ☺) until Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms will be e-mailed to parents later this month. Please touch base with pastor Jeff if your child/grandchild needs to make up some work or if you have any questions. Cheri will be our teacher this year as pastor is away.

### A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn’t have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled “Just As I Am, Without a Clue.”

Whether it’s “without a clue” or “without a plea,” the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.



**Friday Night Out** will be at Dock 9 on April 10th at 6PM. We’ll order off the menu. Sign up in the narthex. We hope you can join us!

### ELEVATOR PROJECT

Work on our new elevator project begins on April 6. While this project is underway we will not have an accessible elevator. We will have limited access to Niewoehner Hall, the basement, and upstairs classrooms. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the church office during this time. We will do our best to make accommodations.





The Stewardship of Life Committee continues to highlight our First Lutheran Heritage. This month, we feature “a gathering of Lutheran men”, which occurred at Camp Lutherlyn and area Warren County sites in the 1990s. We thank Gary Lester for this article, as well as the photo.

It was in the early ‘90s when our beloved assistant pastor, Pat Maier, took a position at Camp Lutherlyn. Within a few months, he and camp director, Pastor Randy Gullickson, created “a gathering of lutheran men” (always written in lower case, for some reason).

Pastor Pat was a very good arm-twister and he convinced Jim Keller, Jim Pearson, Jim Goodling, and Gary Lester to attend the inaugural retreat. It began on a Friday night, continued all day Saturday, and ended with a participant-created worship Sunday morning. Several of these retreats were held at Lutherlyn and two were held in the Warren area, sponsored by FLC.

There were 15-20 men at each retreat ranging in age from 20-something to about 80. The program had its roots in Lutheran theology, native American and other cultures, and the then popular mytho-poetic movement. It was focused on what manhood should be.

It was amazing how the groups gelled and laughter and tears were shared as we told stories about fathers and other important men in our lives. The gatherings were excellent examples of Lutherlyn’s motto: “Life-Changing Adventures in Faith.”

A key take-away was that men should give “personal blessings” to other men. The closing ceremony demonstrated this in a tremendously powerful way. The group lined up by age then formed a circle facing inward. A closing prayer was said, then the group turned outward to represent heading off in different directions. The oldest guy (Jim Keller, at the first gathering) turned to the next oldest guy and gave him a personal blessing and an embrace. He then moved to the third oldest guy and did the same. The number two guy followed Jim and the circle “unraveled” as the blessings flowed from older guys to younger guys. It wasn’t unusual for the youngest guys to fall to their knees in tears from the sheer power of receiving all the blessings. A “Life-changing adventure in faith”, if there ever was one.

Maybe you’ll recognize some of the men from one of the local gatherings, a super collection of mentors and blessing-givers. Row 1: Gary Lester, Bill Jones, Brent Long, Lonny Niewoehner, Dusty Johnson, Pastor Pat Meier, Jim Pearson. Row 2: Pastor Randy Gullickson (Lutherlyn), Jude Dippold, Phil Howard, Pastor Dick Niewoehner, Jim Goodling, Chuck Johnson, Curt Goodwin, Arnold Wulfraat, Ray Seastead, Tom Schultz.

## **FOLLOWING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE OF HUMBLE SERVICE**

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples’ feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).



Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ’s command and his example of humility, service and love.

## APRIL SUNDAY SCRIPTURE SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 11:00 am.

Sunday's Cool - 9:31 a.m.

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.

April 2 – 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: footwashing and meal*

April 3 – 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 2 – Palm Sunday

**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*

**Matthew 26:14--27:66** - *The passion of the Lord*

April 5 – Resurrection of our Lord/Easter

**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)

**Colossians 3:1-4** - *Raised with Christ to seek the higher things*

**Matthew 28:1-10** - *Proclaim the resurrection*

April 12 – Second Sunday in Easter

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32** - *Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David*

**Psalms 16** - In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

**1 Peter 1:3-9** - *New birth to a living hope through the resurrection*

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

April 19 – Third Sunday in Easter

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41** - *Receiving God's promise through baptism*

**Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19** - I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

**1 Peter 1:17-23** - *Born anew through the living word of God*

**Luke 24:13-35** - *Eating with the risen Christ*

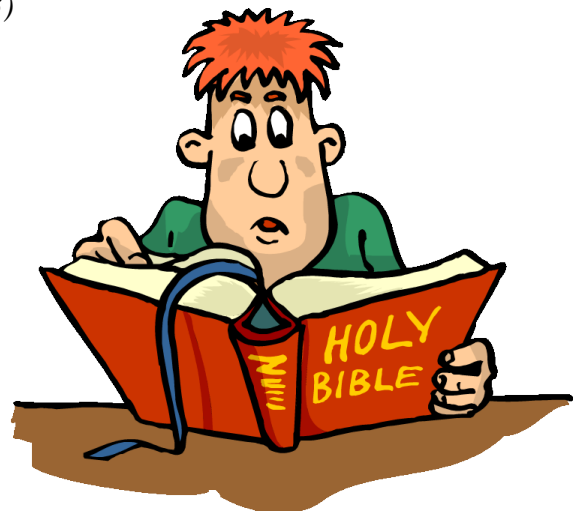
April 26 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

**Acts 2:42-47** - *The believers' common life*

**Psalms 23** - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

**1 Peter 2:19-25** - *Follow the shepherd, even in suffering*

**John 10:1-10** - *Christ the shepherd*



## SERVING SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

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

### CANTORS

	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
April 5	John Beard	Donna Trubic
April 12	Anne Benson	Brenda Hunter
April 19	Carolyn Worley	Kevin Hunt
April 26	John Beard	Dave Campbell

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
April 5	Randy Britton	Colleen Witmer
April 12	Don Reed	Heidi Colosimo
April 19	Kris Whitaker	Joan Griesbach
April 26	Randy Britton	Cyndy Granger

### ACOLYTES

	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
April 5	Jen Kersey	Charles Bielawski
April 12	Jen Kersey	Andrew Gausman
April 19	Jen Kersey	Olivia Hecei
April 26	Jen Kersey	Allyx Hoden

### USHERS

	<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

### ALTAR GUILD

	<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
	Barb Hill	Bonnie Abplanalp
	Barb Kersey	Addy Landrio
		Elsa Redding

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

April 5	Cynthia Klenowski
April 12	Adrienne Hunt
April 19	Cheri Kellogg
April 26	Anna Bielawski

### DIGITAL DEACONS

April 5	Denise Pearson
April 12	Denise Whipp
April 19	Heidi Colosimo
April 26	Keith Hedges

### COUNTERS

April 5	Mary Worley and Jane Beardsley
April 12	Jane Beardsley and Barb Boger
April 19	Barb Boger and Randy Britton
April 26	Randy Britton and Dave Campbell

## FIRST LUTHERAN MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



4/1	Linda Ross Al Stenstrom	4/17	Addison Ristau Cory Ristau
4/2	Cathy Bertch	4/19	Matt Andersen Cathy Hall
4/3	Cheryl Huber	4/20	Sarah Rice Ava Young
4/4	Elyse Hedges Michael Check	4/21	Joel Heffner Joe Whipp
4/6	Carolyn Worley Garret King Scott Rose	4/22	Megan McGuinness Craig Thomas
4/8	Peyton Reist	4/23	Aidan Colosimo Mary Worley
4/9	Elaine Crandall	4/24	Joe & Heidi Colosimo (27) Isabelle McMonigal
4/10	Emily Gausman	4/25	Amy Justice Gail Wright
4/11	Anthony & Jennifer Tridico (11) Allison Bussoletti	4/27	George Mason
4/12	Brandi Thomas	4/28	Kevin Hunt Mark Genberg
4/13	Andy Beardsley	4/29	Emily Koebley
4/14	Beth Nelson	4/30	Kris Rose Bradeyn Knupp
4/15	Brad & Kathy Smith (37) Addison Hecei Emily Hecei		
4/16	Kingston Check Lilee Renninger Brad Bielawski		

## SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

- Holy Week Continues, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- April Fool's Day, *April 1, 2026*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2026*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2026*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2026*
- Earth Day, *April 22, 2026*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2026*



## MAY LANTERN

- All information for the May Lantern is due to the office by Sunday, April 12, 2026. You can send it via email or by dropping it by the office.
- Come join us for fun, fellowship and service as we assemble the May Lantern on Tuesday, April 28 at 10AM.

## YES, I CAN!

I cannot end poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot stop war, but I can offer peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of someone who is dying.

These may seem like small acts, yet they are far harder—and far more meaningful—than any grand plan for social change. Christ reminds us of their worth: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40, NIV).



## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2026

**Elevator & Accessibility Project Kickoff:** The congregation is invited to learn more about the elevator and accessibility improvement project, with information sessions, pledge forms, and the **official fundraising campaign launching April 19**. The total project cost is approximately \$434,430, with \$370,000 to be raised through grants and individual contributions.

**Creation Sunday:** Stewardship of Life's **Creation Sunday will be observed on April 19**, featuring educational displays in the narthex that highlight stewardship of God's creation. Members are encouraged to take time to view the displays and reflect on faithful care for the earth.

**Easter Outreach Meal:** Witness Committee is preparing for the Easter hot meal on the Saturday before Easter, and **volunteers—especially drivers—are urgently needed**. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and online sign-ups are now available for those willing to help serve the community.

**Strong Financial Position & Mission Support:** The church continues in a very strong financial position, running well ahead of budget. As part of ongoing mission support, Council approved a \$1,000 gift from the Thomas Huber Memorial Fund to support prison chaplain and missionary Zach Wolf and his family.

**Property & Accessibility Updates:** Preparations are underway for the elevator project, and recent property improvements include restroom occupancy locks and water-damage prevention work. Additional accessibility repairs, including the automatic parking-lot doors, are under review as funds allow.



### RAIN: A GENTLE REMINDER OF GOD'S CARE

A rainy day can be many things ...  
It can be moisture for the farmer's garden,  
Or the picnic that has to be postponed;  
It can be the replenishing of a stream,  
Or the overflow of a flood;  
It can be relief from a hot summer day,  
Or the chill of an autumn wind.  
The rotating cycle of clouds to Earth  
Is part of Nature's plan  
For stability throughout the Universe,  
As old as the hills,  
And dependable as the seasons.  
Rain and sunshine are equal partners  
In the daily expression of God's love.

— Jeanne D. Birrell

# Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

## PRAYER STATIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

As we welcome little signs of spring - the crocuses bursting through wet fallen leaves, the geese announcing their arrival back north, and the pussy willows' fuzzy catkins stretching toward the sky - we are reminded of the renewal of creation all around us. In February, our NWPA Green Team joined forces with [NWPA WELCA](#) and attended the Grown-Up Winter Retreat at [Camp Lutheran](#) in Prospect, PA. Tracy Heutsche, a new member of our Green Team and an active member of NWPA WELCA, designed a collection of Creation Prayer Stations focused on various aspects of climate change and environmental stewardship, framed within a Christian context. Each station contained a brief explanation of the issue, a related Bible verse, and a final prayer. Tracy set up the stations in Baker Chapel for the weekend and gave a short presentation on the Green Team, WELCA and how to use the prayer stations. The themes included:

- **Wisdom and Humility:** For Indigenous Peoples' wisdom in caring for the land and for humility in modern society to learn from them.
- **Social Justice:** For the protection of the poor, the elderly, and the Global South; who are most vulnerable to climate change and for international justice and equitable sharing of resources.
- **Scientific and Political Action:** For wisdom, clarity, and integrity for climate scientists and for courage and justice for government leaders and policy makers.
- **Ecological Preservation:** For the protection and restoration of ecosystems including: *glaciers, oceans, soil and sustainable agriculture, forests, migratory species, and clean air.*
- **Cultural and Economic Transformation:** For a transition from a "Throwaway Culture", for clean energy innovation and for urban sustainability.
- **Spiritual Call to Action:** How to have a voice in climate advocacy.

*These stations remind us that prayer catalyzes our obedient action. Stewardship and intercession go hand-in-hand in the Christian life. We pray for God to give us the strength to carry out our obligations not to escape them. The global church is being called to show Christ's love in a concrete, sustainable way in response to the climate issue. By supporting the environment, we are promoting both the glory of God's creation and the destiny of humanity. Even while the path to a healed Earth may be difficult and drawn out, believers travel it with unwavering hope. This hope is grounded in God's character, which assures us that everything is being made new, rather than in human optimism. We participate in God's redemptive work when we plant trees, lessen our carbon footprints, and advocate for environmental justice. Every tiny deed of kindness is a prayer in action, a sign leading to the Kingdom, when creation will at last be freed from the shackles of deterioration.*

[PrayerVest.com](http://PrayerVest.com)

For more information on how your congregation may use these Creation Prayer Stations or others that NWPA WELCA have developed please contact Tracy Heutsche at (814)392-4608.

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 The 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 2026


























## FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

		
1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition	5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners
5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart	5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answers: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."