

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

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Website: www.flcwarren.com

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

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music



“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!”



Land Acknowledgement Statement

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

Scan for online giving.



2026 Stewardship Sunday: Stations of Creation

This year's Creation Sunday leans heavily on Father Gilbert Joshtom's work, "Way of Beauty", which employs scripture, Laudato Si' (a Catholic encyclical that provides a moral and spiritual compass to create a more caring, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world) and sequences from Canticle of Creation by St. Francis of Assisi. Scripture passages are from Eugene Peterson's "The Message". Preparation Prayer by Peter W. A. Davison. Prayer of the Day by Miriam Therese Winter. Affirmation of faith adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003). Prayers are provided by Oratio Oecumenica; Zsuzsa Koltai, Ecumenical Working Group for Season of Creation, Hungary.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

Andrew Clarke

From the earliest of times, our Lutheran tradition has celebrated Creation through our liturgy, hymns (i.e. Earth and All Stars) and special occasions such as "Rogation" ("to ask" God's blessings, especially on the growing season) Sunday which is the 5th Sunday after Easter. Today, we go back to the beginning, and to the end, and even beyond that, to see the importance of Creation in scripture, our part in caring for that creation, and the love that the Divine has for all of it.

PREPARATION PRAYER

When long before time and the worlds were begun, when there was no earth and no sky and no sun, and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...

The silence was broken when God sang the Song, and love pierced the darkness and rhythm began, and with its first birth cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord, their love-songs sweetly befitting the Word; the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of creatures re-echoed it long.

Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared—its harmonies broken and almost unheard—the Singer comes to us to sing it again...

Our God is singing of love without end.

The language of love has returned as it came once before, the Song of the Lord is our own song once more...

...so let us sing with one heart and one voice the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice. To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise to you, Love Incarnate, we give you our praise.


OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty


#858

***HYMN OF PRAISE**


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,




al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb




who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

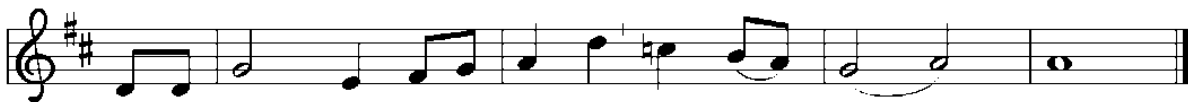


slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of power, God of people, you are the life of all that lives, the energy that fills the earth, the vitality that brings to birth, the impetus in making whole whatever is broken. In you we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free. You are the song the whole earth sings, the promise liberation brings, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

1ST LESSON: Genesis 9:11-17

Then God spoke to Noah and his sons: "I'm setting up my covenant with you including your children who will come after you, along with everything alive around you—birds, farm animals, wild animals—that came out of the ship with you. I'm setting up my covenant with you that never again will everything living be destroyed by floodwaters; no, never again will a flood destroy the Earth."

God continued, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and everything living around you and everyone living after you. I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth. From now on, when I form a cloud over the Earth and the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll remember my covenant between me and you and everything living, that never again will floodwaters destroy all life. When the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll see it and remember the eternal covenant between God and everything living, every last living creature on Earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I've set up between me and everything living on the Earth." The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104: 14-18, 24-30 (Spoken Responsively)

God brings grain from the land,
wine to make people happy,

**Their faces glowing with health,
a people well-fed and hearty.**

God's trees are well-watered—
the Lebanon cedars he planted.

**Birds build their nests in those trees;
look—the stork at home in the treetop.**

Mountain goats climb about the cliffs;
badgers burrow among the rocks.

**The moon keeps track of the seasons,
the sun is in charge of each day.**

What a wildly wonderful world, God!
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.

**Oh, look—the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.**

Ships plow those waters,
and Leviathan, your pet dragon, romps in them.

**All the creatures look expectantly to you
to give them their meals on time.**

You come, and they gather around;
you open your hand and they eat from it.

**If you turned your back,
they'd die in a minute—**

Take back your Spirit and they die,
revert to original mud;

**Send out your Spirit and they spring to life—
the whole countryside in bloom and blossom.**

2ND LESSON: Colossians 1:15-23

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence. You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay grounded and steady in that bond of trust, constantly tuned in to the Message,

careful not to be distracted or diverted. There is no other Message—just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. I, Paul, am a messenger of this Message.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 6:28-29

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:28-29

(Jesus says) “Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Today we will be looking at creation in light of the scriptures, our part in it, and the promises given by the Divine as pure gift. These stations are meant to be a conversation and explanation. Once the scripture passage is introduced, please read the bolded words.

1st Station: Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good.

2nd Station: Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

3rd Station: Romans 8:22

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

4th Station: Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

#556

verses 1 & 3

5th Station: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

6th Station: Matthew 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

7th Station: Mark 15:37

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

CONCLUSION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Earth and All Stars

#731

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Please join me in affirming our faith with the words below*

**We have faith in one God,
one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.**

**And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown
the special role of humanity to bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.**

**And we have faith in God's Spirit
who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle,
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures
and her bounty shared justly. So be it. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: For Jesus Christ we ask,

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all!

And also with you!

OFFERTORY[8AM]
[11AM]

Bread of Heaven
For the Beauty of the Earth
Senior Choir

Marc Jordan
John Rutter

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

When Long Before Time
verses 1 & 2

#861

- 1. When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream--**
- 2. The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful,

you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.
You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.
That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

With all creation, let us pray the words our Lord taught:

**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.**

COMMUNION HYMNS

Borning Cry
God of the Sparrow

#732

#740

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food,
we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CREATION SONG

Let All Things Now Living
verse 1

#881

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.**

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, live in peace with Creation...

And may the blessing of the Most Holy Trinity accompany you: The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the one God, to whom be glory, forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

#824

SENDING

Go in peace to love God, one another, and all creation!

Thanks be to God!

Please feel free to exit during the postlude.

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Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Carol Johnson in loving memory of Gail Larson.

*Altar flowers and organ vase given by John & Debbie Seastead
in loving memory of departed family members.*

Serving Today

Cantor

April 19

(8AM) Carolyn Worley
(11AM) Kevin Hunt

April 26

John Beard
Dave Campbell
Randy Britton
Cyndy Granger

Assisting Minister

(8AM) Kris Whitaker
(11AM) Joan Griesbach

Jen Kersey

Acolyte

(8AM) Jen Kersey
(11AM) Olivia Hecei

Allyx Hoden

Children's Message

Cheri Kellogg

Anna Bielawski

Digital Deacon

Heidi Colosimo

Keith Hedges

Counters

Barb Boger

Randy Britton

Randy Britton

Dace Campbell

Special thanks to all today's readers.

8AM: Barb Hill, John Kersey, John Beard, Barb Kersey,
Don Reed Kris Whitaker

11AM: Sandy Wachter, Addy Landrio, Keith Hedges,
Patrick Mulligan, Heidi Colosimo, Cheri Kellogg, Randy Witmer



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, Jordan Curtis, Erik Dippold*

April 19: *Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Jeff Granger, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Jan Thorpe, Katie Silvey, Margie Campbell, Laura Dieter, Jim Marquis, RoseMary Landon, Ralph Gallo*

April 12: *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, Mitch Tabol, Addy Landrio, Robert Cooper, Corey Spattifor, Christopher Saylor, Denny Hedges, Margie Campbell, Judith Melton*

April 5: *Kim Tome, Rose Troyan, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, 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, Linda Philhower, Dusty Johnson, Lori Lee, Roberta "Bobbi" Hessley, Sue Burke, Nicole Hall, Cody Fetzeck*

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!



LUTHERAN LEARNING CLASSES HAVE BEGUN!

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 for two more Sunday evenings (19th and 26th) 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!***

ELEVATOR PROJECT

Work on our new elevator project has begun. While this project is underway we will not have an accessible elevator. We will have limited access to Niewoehner Hall, the basement, upstairs classrooms and the parking spaces. 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. ***If you are able to park on the street, we ask that you please try to leave spots available for those with mobility concerns.***



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY/PLAYGROUND CLEAN-UP MAY 2ND.
 Meet in the parking lot at 10:00. Sign up in the Narthex or call Ralph Farone at 814-313-1393 to sign up. Donuts and water will be provided. Rain date is May 9th at the same time.



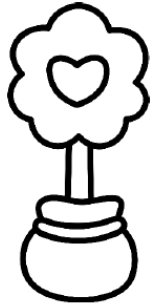
EARTH DAY WORD SEARCH

Name: _____

Date: _____

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l	h	h	k	j	h	s	p	t
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recycle
 earth
 air
 tree
 bulb
 plant
 glass
 plastic
 reuse
 water
 land
 can





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, April 19

CREATION SUNDAY

8:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
Elevator Kick-Off to Follow
9:28 AM **Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)**
11:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
Elevator Kick-Off to Follow

Monday, April 20

6:00 PM **Lutheran Learning (HP)**
1:00 PM Mahjongg (HP)
6:00 PM **Christian Ed (HP)**
6:00 PM Silver Winds Rehearsal (SY)
7:00 PM **Council (HP)**

Tuesday, April 21

5:00 PM Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
5:00 PM Widows' Group (HP)
6:00 PM **ESOL (UC)**
6:00 PM *WP Alice in Wonderland*
Parents Meeting (SY)

Wednesday, April 22

EARTH DAY

12:00 PM **Bible Study (NH)**
5:15PM **Handbells (SY)**
7:00 PM **Choir (CR)**

Thursday, April 23

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

Sunday, April 26

8:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
9:28 AM **Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)**
11:00 AM **Communion Service (SY)**
6:00 PM **Lutheran Learning (HP)**



SPECIAL EVENT: ELCA Accompaniment in the Middle East

When: Wednesday, April 22, 1 p.m. Central time

Where: Zoom meeting

Please join us for a special event to learn more about how continued and escalating conflict in the Middle East has impacted the ELCA's work in the region and our response — as well as next steps you can take to make a real difference.

Meet ELCA missionaries serving in the region, Rev. Mark & Jennifer LaChonce and Rev. Dr. Christy Lohr Sapp & Paul Sapp, who will share about their work and experiences as well as the continued work being done by local partners. These representatives from the region will also show you the best ways to provide immediate and effective support where it is needed most. We hope you can join us! Check out <https://flcwarren.com/calendar/news/> for the link to register for this free zoom event.

 **The New Americans:** 
What are your rights?

Immigration Trainings with Alexandria Iwanenko, J.D.

Immigration attorney with Amicangelo & Theisen law firm, Erie, PA

This will be a time of conversation, including questions and answers for those who are immigrants or refugees, and their advocates, friends, and community members. Come with your questions and concerns about what your rights are and what you should know in these times of increased ICE activity.

April 23, 2026
7:00-8:00 p.m.

ZOOM

Advanced registration is required for receiving the Zoom link.
Contact the synod office at nwpasynodelca@gmail.com OR
814-589-7660 prior to April 23.



Lutherlyn Spring Work Day
Saturday, April 25
9 am - 4 pm

It takes a lot of hands to prepare Lutherlyn for the many people who will visit throughout the spring and summer. Flower beds need to be weeded, firewood needs to be cut, fences need to be repaired, sticks and leaves need to be removed, as well as a variety of other jobs for volunteers of all ages and skill levels.

Lutherlyn provides all of the tools (and lunch prepared by Chef Lisa) and our volunteers provide the willing hands! **Let us know if you're planning to attend .**

Check out <https://flcwarren.com/calendar/news/> for the link to register. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Development Office at development@lutherlyn.com or 724-865-2161.

First Lutheran Church Presents:
Welcomed: Creating Space for All
A Diversity & Inclusion Educational Speaker Series

Supporting People Impacted by Suicide

*An Introduction to Suicide
Prevention & Mental Health*

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7 pm

**Presented by
Rev. Tara Eastman**

