

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

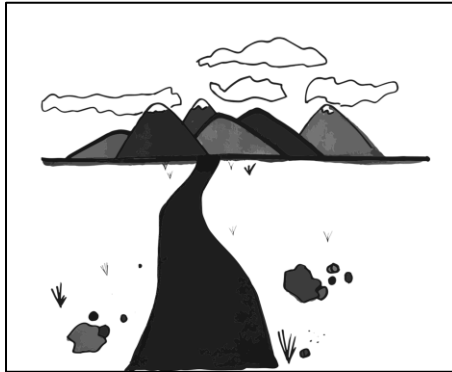
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The Rev. Jeffrey B. Ewing, Pastor, pastor@flcwarren.com

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music



Setting III
May 3, 2026



“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 (Onödowá'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.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

PRELUDE

To Greet the Morning

David Paxton

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

#367

***GREETING**

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

***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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

Psalm 31:5

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

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¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame;
deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ¹ ear to me;**
make haste to de- ¹ liver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me,**
for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength. R

⁵ Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, ¹ God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are ¹ in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ¹ persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant;
save me in your ¹ steadfast love." **R**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Presider: The Holy Gospel according to ...

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL LESSON: John 14:1-14**

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Presider: The Word of God. The Word of life.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Ewing

Silence for reflection may follow.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#810

***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

A: Merciful God,

C: receive 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]

*O That the Lord Would Guide My Way
Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*
Senior Choir

Gordon Young
Robert Jo Powell

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Blessing, Honor, and Glory

#433

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!

Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!

Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.

Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb of God.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

**that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.**

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... (the preface is sung)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** *Congregation:*



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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

Thanks be to God!

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

I Come With Joy
I Received the Living God

#482

#477

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Be Not Afraid

#388

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Holy One,

C: **through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.**

**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.**

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

*BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING

*HYMN

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

#389

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Hal Hopson

Please feel free to exit during the postlude.

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Last Week's Altar Flowers

Given by Lynn Williams in loving memory of Jeanne Williams.

Given in loving in memory of "Aunt" Elaine Steis by the Bussoletis.

Today's Altar Flowers

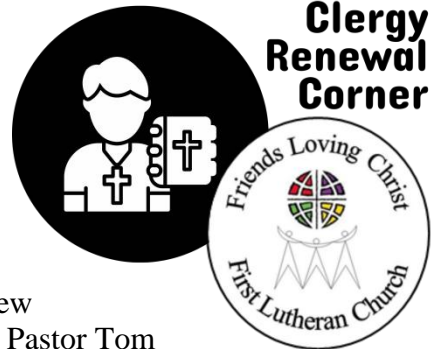
*Given in loving memory of Barb Carr
who is sadly missed by husband, boys, family and friends.*

Given in loving memory of Paula Southwell from her family.

Serving Today	May 3	May 10
Cantor	(8AM) Carolyn Worley (11AM) Patrick Mulligan	John Beard Tom Pierotti
Assisting Minister	(8AM) Elizabeth Dustin (11AM) Keith Hedges	John Kersey Addy Landrio
Acolyte	(8AM) Jen Kersey (11AM) Allison Kellogg	Jen Kersey Justin Klenowski
Children's Message	Pastor Jeff	Cynthia Klenowski
Digital Deacon	Penny Lester	Denny Pearson
Counters	Dave Campbell Gloria Genberg	Gloria Genberg Cathy Hall

CLERGY RENEWAL CORNER

After 2 years of planning (and praying for a successful application), Pastor Jeff and Kari's renewal journey will begin in June. We are blessed to have them as our congregational leaders and equally blessed that this opportunity is available for them and their family. As Dr. Seuss wrote in his beloved children's book, **Oh, the Places You'll Go!**, we are excited about their journey, as well as the activities our church will be undertaking as we take time to renew ourselves with various activities as outlined in our application. Pastor Tom Pierotti (phone 724-355-9933) will be our Pastor Administrator-in-Charge, and Sunday pulpit responsibilities will be covered by Pastor John Coleman, Pastor Michael Long, Pastors Ardelle and George Mason, as well as Pastor Pierotti. Please mark **Sunday, May 31, 2026 as our Farewell Brunch. There will be one church service at 9am**, followed by a brunch celebrating Pastor and Kari. Watch this space for weekly updates!



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*

May 3: *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, Mike Doty*

April 26: *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, Family & Friends of Madolyn Elder, Family & Friends of Jim Marquis*

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

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!

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.*** If you would like to contribute financially, pledge cards are available or simply mark your offering envelope and drop either in the regular offering plate or drop it by the office.



ORGAN CONCERT- HUNTER PETERSON- MAY 9 @ 1PM

Hunter Peterson will perform an organ concert this Saturday at 1PM, right here at First Lutheran Church! He will be featuring works by Bach, King, Langais, and Widor.



CONFIRCAMP PARENTS MEETING SET FOR MONDAY, MAY 4TH AT 6:30 P.M.

Confirmation camp this year is for students who will be entering 8th, 9th and 10th 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 14th (NOT Father's Day) until Friday, June 19th. Cheri

Kramer will be our teacher this year as Pastor is away on his clergy renewal. Camp pick up is AFTER DINNER around 6:00 p.m. Registration forms are on-line at Lutherlyn's website. At our parents meeting, you can turn in your payment and get more information about the week. Please touch base with Pastor Jeff if your child/grandchild needs to make up some work or if you have any questions beforehand. **See you on May 4th at 6:30 p.m.!**

SHOE DRIVE Clean out those closets! Throughout the month of May our Social Ministry Committee, along with House of Hope volunteer Cathy Southwell, will be collecting used boots and shoes, a long-standing fundraiser for House of Hope. Look for the box in the Narthex. They have partnered with the organization Funds2org, who pick them up quarterly. They place 25 pairs of shoes in decent condition in bags provided and are paid by the pound. They rejoice over men's work boots!



The shoes are shipped to third world nations where they are then given to small local business owners to help entrepreneurship. It is not a handout but a hand up is one of the sayings. This also keeps shoes out of landfills.

Also the House of Hope residents can participate and it gives them a chance to give back.

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**





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, NX/Narthex, K/Kitchen*

Sunday, May 3	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:28 AM	Sunday's Cool (YR/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
Monday, May 4	1:00 PM	Mahjonn (NH)
	6:00 PM	Silver Winds Rehearsal (SY)
	6:00 PM	WP AIW Rehearsal (UC)
Tuesday, May 5	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	6:00 PM	WP AIW Rehearsal (NH)
	7:00 PM	RIC Speaker: Supporting People Impacted by Suicide (NX)
Wednesday, May 6	12:00 PM	Bible Study (HP)
	5:15PM	Handbells (SY)
	7:00 PM	Choir (CR)
Thursday, May 7	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
	6:00 PM	WP AIWC Rehearsal (SY)
Saturday, May 9	1:00PM	Organ Concert: Hunter Peterson (SY)
Sunday, May10	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	9:28 AM	Sunday's Cool (OFH/NH)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	4:00 PM	Warren Philharmonic Concert (SY)



Friday Night Out will be at the Arbor House on May 15th at 6PM. We'll order off the menu. Seating is limited to 28 people. A few spaces remain so sign up in the narthex if you would like to join us!

PHILHARMONIC MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT- MAY 10- 4PM

The Warren Philharmonic is returning to First Lutheran for their Mother's Day concert next Sunday. The concert title is *Bach in America* and will feature the Mecham Duo on violin.

