

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

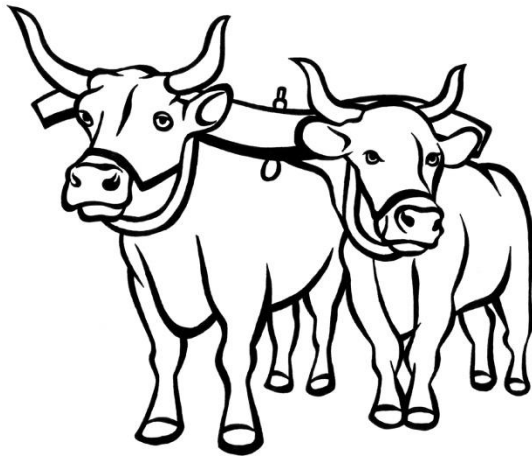
Phone: 814/723-6450

Email Office: office@flcwarren.com

Website: www.flcwarren.com

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

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music



July 5, 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

Day by Day

Rachel Porter

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

#742

Anne Culbertson, recorder

*GREETING

P; The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

Response: And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise ¹ you, O Lord,
and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory ¹ of your kingdom
and speak ¹ of your power,**

¹² that all people may know ¹ of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹ of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- ¹ out all
ages.**

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in ¹ all your works.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down. **R**

SECOND LESSON Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Tom Pierotti

Silence for reflection may follow.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Day By Day

#790

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

Congregation:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand
of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: ... God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

A: The Peace of the Lord is with you! **C: And also with you!**

MEAL

OFFERING *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC [8AM]

Lord of All Hopefulness

Paul Manz

[10AM]

Gentle Shepherd

Gaither

Trio: Brenda Hunter, Linda Ross, and Dave Campbell

arr. Mauldin

Reading: Keith Hedges

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

We Give Thee but Thine Own

#686

Verse 1 & 2

**1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord is 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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** *Congregation:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***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**

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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. **Gluten 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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling
Give Me Jesus

#608

#770

*BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

C: Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

I Come with Joy

#482

Verse 3 & 5

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends
Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Compassionate God

**C: through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✚ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Lord of All Hopefulness

#765

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Horatio Parker

Please feel free to exit during the postlude

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Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Romaine Stanton in loving memory of Tom.

Given by Jeff & Cyndy Granger in honor of our First Lutheran family.



We welcome Pastor Tom Pierotti to our pulpit today. We thank him for preaching today, as well as directing our pastoral leadership while Pastor Jeff and Kari enter the fifth week of their renewal time.

Pastor Pierotti graduated from Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg in 1976 and recently was honored with the 50th celebration of his ordination. His first call was to Zion’s Lutheran Church in Greensburg, PA. While there, he pursued a Master of Sacred Theology degree in Advanced Pastoral Care from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. That led to several years of non-parish ministry, first as Director/Developer of the Warren Pastoral Counseling Center and later as Vice President of Lutheran Social Services of New England.

He returned to parish ministry in Butler, PA in 1998. Through his interest in politics, he developed “Citizenship and Discipleship”, a confirmation program which involved helping students to understand the relationship between faith and politics. This always included a trip to Washington, DC and interviews with our US Senators and Congressmen, worship at the National Cathedral, and a visit to the Gettysburg Seminary.

He has four adult children, all of whom have their own careers and live within a one days’ drive. He loves gardening, woodworking, being in the woods or on a golf course. Pastor is also very much involved with our local refugee and resettlement group, WARRN (Warren Area Refugee and Resettlement Network).

Serving Today
Cantor

July 5
(8AM) John Beard
(10AM) Dave Campbell
(8AM) Don Reed
(10AM) Cyndy Granger

July 12
Anne Benson
Dave Campbell
Kris Whitaker
Heidi Colosimo
Jen Kersey
Reagan Moore
Cynthia Klenowski
Penny Lester
Barb Boger
Cathy Hall

Assisting Minister

Acolyte

Children’s Message

Digital Deacon

Counters

Jen Kersey
Justin Klenowski
Cheri Kellogg
Keith Hedges
Jane Beardsley
Barb Boger

CLERGY RENEWAL UPDATE- Hike with Linda Ross

As a part of the Clergy Renewal Program I was asked to lead a couple of hikes for the congregation. The first hike will be on July 19. We Will enjoy a 2 to 3 mile hike in the area of the Irvine-Newbold estate in Irvine. This will mostly be a flat hike starting at Anders Run Trailhead parking area and ending on Dunns Eddy Road. We wil meet there at 2PM. For those who feel they cannot walk back up the hill to the start point, there will be another parking area at the bottom. Please wear supportive, closed toe shoes. For any questions you may contact me, Linda Ross, 814-688-5908



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*

The ongoing ministries of WARRN.

The Clergy Renewal Program, particularly Pastor Jeff & Kari

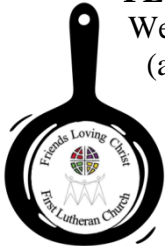
July 5: *Larry Rambish, Alyssa Dennewitz, Ron & Lois Hart, Connie Buerkle, Terry Pearson, Val & Nancy Condio, Brent Casey, Kristin Frick, Joel Nowacki, MaryBeth Nawrocki, Ariel Mickle, Dee Schultz, Addy Landrio, Christopher Saylor, Margie Campbell, Judith Melton, Mike Doty, Freyja Nordin, Penny Lester, Family and Friends of Nancy Linblad*

June 28: *Kim Tome, 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, Jim Rapp, Linda Philhower, Dusty Johnson, Lori Lee, Roberta "Bobbi" Hessley, Sue Burke, Nicole Hall, Cody Fetzeck, Teri Granger, Jim Berkey, Friends and Family of RoseMary Landon*

June 21: *Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Katie Silvey, Laura Dieter, Ralph Gallo, Phil Howard, Cindy Hillard,*

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!

FLC HERITAGE COOKBOOK



We want your favorite family recipe(s)! We are creating a cookbook of First Lutheran (and Friends) Recipes, as detailed in the flyers available in the narthex and online on FLC Facebook and website. With your recipe, please include a short description of why this recipe is important to you and/or your family. For instance, "We always served this on Christmas Eve", "This was a favorite recipe when we went camping", or "My grandchildren love to make this with me each Thanksgiving". Recipes may be submitted electronically or in writing, and are

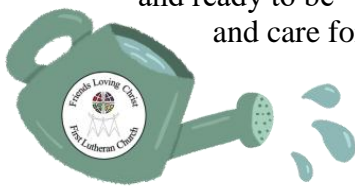
due no later than Sunday, August 2, 2026. *Need more information?*

Check with Vonda Hedges, Penny Lester, Elsa Redding or Mary Kay Young.

SUMMER HYDRATION STATION MINISTRY The summer heat has arrived and our hydration station has been well utilized. We are most in need of cases of water (8oz – 10oz preferred) and electrolyte packets. Our hydration station ministers to the unhoused, children in our community, neighbors who spend their workdays outside in the summer heat, and people who just happen to pass by. We provide cold bottled water, electrolyte packets, sun tan lotion packets, aloe packets, and wet wipes. If you are able to help with this ministry in any way it is greatly appreciated.



FIRST LUTHERAN GARDEN BOXES ARE AVAILABLE!- The table beds are back in our parking lot and ready to be “adopted”! We welcome and encourage gardeners who want to plant and care for their planters at the church. As we did last year, you may take one of the containers home and care for it this summer (and return in the fall). The planters feature improved soil (we learned from our mistakes last year)! Piper VanOrd (Allegheny Outfitters) has donated some plants; they are available on a first come basis.



Please sign up for a planter in the narthex this Sunday (see Cathy Hall or Ralph Farone), or in the church office during the week. Flyers with more details are available. Hope to see you “in the garden”!

Would you like your very own First Lutheran Church cloth bag?

If you didn't get one as a BINGO prize, we have extras! For a donation of \$2.00, we'd love for you to have a bag. All donations will go to the Allegheny River Clean-Up this fall. Thanks for helping the environment, first by using a cloth reusable bag AND the river clean-up efforts. Bags will be available in the church office or in the narthex after Sunday services.



FRIDAY NIGHT OUT



Friday Night Out will be on July 17th at 6PM at Docksidiers on the deck. This is always a popular dinner so be sure to sign up in the narthex.

We'll order off the menu. Our FNO dinner at the Clarendon Veterans' Center offered a world of volunteer opportunities. One of these is working at the Warren County Fair admission booth which is a large fundraiser for the Center. Check out Bee Courageous at Garden Grub on Facebook for dates and times available. Help is also needed at the Center in a variety of areas. Contact Sandra Blum for more details.

THRIVENT CHARITABLE IN WARREN ON JULY 14TH

Josh Dluhos, a Charitable Solutions Consultant with Thrivent Charitable, will be in Warren on Tuesday, July 14 along with Vince Kremer, a Financial Advisor with Thrivent Financial.

Thrivent Charitable helps donors create strategic charitable giving plans and establish personal charitable funds.

If you would be interested in meeting with Josh and Vince, contact Don Reed at dreed107@verizon.net or reach out directly to Vince at vince.kremer@thrivent.com.

To learn more about Thrivent Charitable, go to their website at <https://thriventcharitable.thrivent.com>.



Thrivent Charitable™, the marketing name for Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing®, is a public charity that serves individuals, organizations and the community through charitable planning, donor-advised funds and endowments. Thrivent Charitable works collaboratively with Thrivent and its financial advisors. It is a separate legal entity from Thrivent, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

LUTHER'S LOCKER 2026

As we work with the “*Helping Our Children*” community committee, it is time once again to roll out **LUTHER’S LOCKER!** This year, we need to complete our donation campaign by **Sunday, July 26, 2026!**

First Lutheran Church has committed to supplying the following for the Warren Area Elementary Center) (WAEC) and Beaty Warren Middle School: (BWMS).

1. Snacks for the disadvantaged WAEC students - provided at the beginning of each marking period:

As in the past, we will be collecting packages of **Animal Crackers, Goldfish Crackers,** and **Mini-pretzels** and also accepting cash donations for these. We learned that WAEC continues to have a very high number of low-income families.

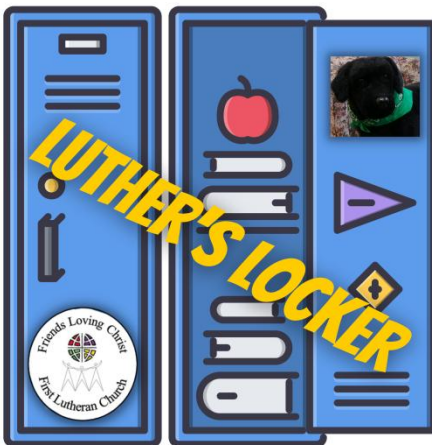
2. Specific clothing items for girls: at the Beaty Warren Middle School:

Girls Underwear – sizes small (5/6), medium (8,10), large (12,14), and extra- large (16,18).

Women’s Underwear – sizes 5, 6, 7, and 8

3. Other Items as needs arise.

As is our practice, you will find cards in the narthex for the specific items needed this year, as well as donation envelopes.

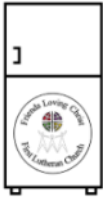


As we are mindful of God’s grace and blessings, we once again welcome the opportunity for
“God’s Work, Our Hands”
to help some of the youngest in our community.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"

[Matthew 25:40](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



Refrigerator Schedule

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS
Monday, Wednesday, & Saturday
at 6:30 PM

*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, July 5	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
Monday, July 6	1:00 PM	Mahjong (NH)
	6:00 PM	Shakespeare (SY/Y)
Tuesday, July 7	11:00 AM	Celebration of the Life of RoseMary Landon
	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	6:00 PM	Shakespeare (SY/Y)
Wednesday, July 8	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NX)
	6:00 PM	Shakespeare (SY/Y)
Thursday, July 9	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
	11:00 AM	Celebration of the Life of Nancy Linblad
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	6:00 PM	Shakespeare (SY/Y)
Friday, July 10	6:00 PM	Shakespeare (SY/Y)
Sunday, July 11	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)

PASTORAL OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Pierotti is available most Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings. If you wish to set up a specific time with him, please contact him directly at 724-355-9933.

