

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 26, 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 [8AM]
[10AM]

***Thy Word
Cornerstone***

arr. Hayes
arr. Totnquist

***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**

God of Grace and God of Glory

#705

***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

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

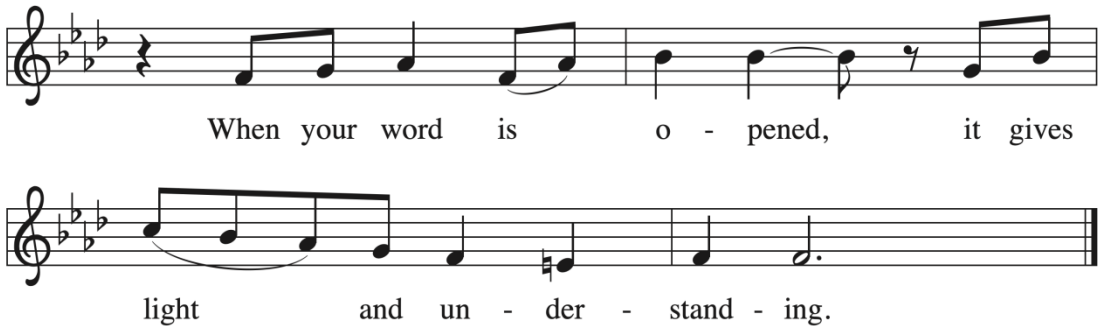
⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:129-136 *When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)*



Psalms 119:130

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

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¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
 therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
 it gives understanding | to the simple.**
¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
 because I long for | your commandments.
¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
 as you always do to those who | love your name. R**
¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
 let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
 and I will keep | your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
 and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
 because people do not | keep your teaching. R**

SECOND LESSON Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
 we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but

threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Pastor Ardelle Mason

Silence for reflection may follow.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Be Thou My Vision

#793

***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]
[10AM]

I Need the Every Hour
Life's Railway to Heaven
Mary Worley and Addison Gee

arr. Barry
arr. Patsy Cline

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

We Give Thee but Thine Own
Verse 1 & 2

#686

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.

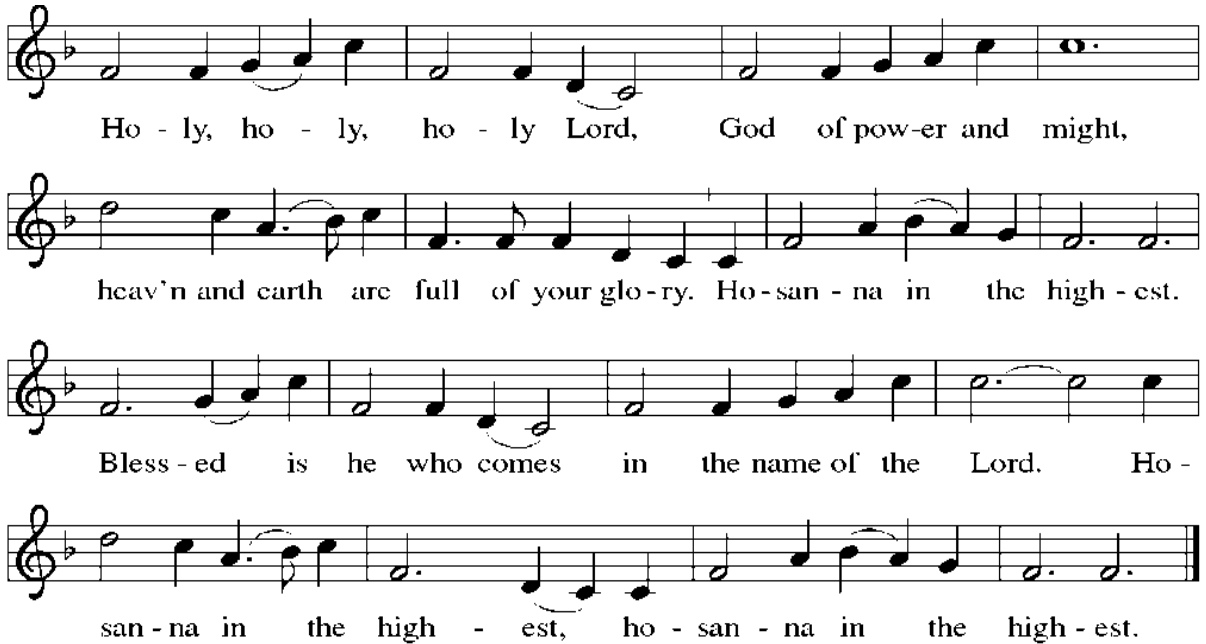
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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.

***EUCCHARISTIC 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!

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.

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.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesus Loves Me!
Rock of Ages

#595
#623

*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**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

#597

***LUTHER'S LOCKER BLESSING**

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Shine, Jesus, Shine

arr. Hayes

Please feel free to exit during the postlude

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Thank you to Cathy Peterson for ministering to us through music today.

Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Sally Hawkinson & John Hyde In honor of Sara and Gary Sawtelle.

Given by Joe & Heidi Colosimo in honor of the Mission Trippers



We welcome Reverends Ardelle and George Mason to our pulpit today. We thank them for being part of our Clergy Renewal Program, as Pastor Jeff and Kari enter the eighth week of their renewal time.

Ardelle is from Harrisburg, PA; George is from South Williamsport, PA.

Ardelle graduated from Indiana University of PA with a B.A. in Philosophy and George graduated from Penn State with a B.S in Forest Science. They met

at seminary and began their ministry together sharing an internship in a 5-congregation parish near Lock Haven, PA.

After graduation from The Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (George in 1977 and Ardelle in 1978) they were ordained in February 1978 to begin ministry as co-pastors in a 2-congregation parish near DuBois, PA.

They served as co-pastors in various parishes until semi-retiring after 30 years of ministry.

George then was called by the Allegheny Synod Council to serve as the Executive Director of Camp Sequanota and Ardelle was appointed by the Bishop and later called to be the pastor of a congregation in Somerset, PA.

In 2019 they moved to Youngsville and joined First Lutheran. They spend about 6 months in Warren County enjoying the mountains, the boat on the reservoir, gardening and time with Doris and Steve.

They also visit their daughter Michelle, granddaughter Kimberly, and their 3 great grandsons in Somerset County. The winter months are spent at their home in Murrells Inlet, SC (just south of Myrtle Beach), where they enjoy walking the beach and the slightly warmer winter weather with a lot more sunshine.

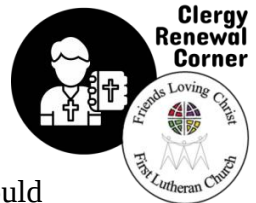
CLERGY RENEWAL UPDATE- FLC wants to hear your story!

As a part of our Clergy Renewal Program we want to chronicle the faith journey of our congregation. The youth of our church will be

interviewing the adults about their faith journey for a video about our church family's. There is a sign up in the narthex for time slots for interviewer and interviewees on *Sunday, August 23 from Noon to 3PM*

and on *September 19 from 10AM to 1PM* at First Lutheran Church. It should

only take about 20 minutes of your time. If these times and locations do not work for you, please contact Cheri to schedule another time and location. You can call her at 814-688-0640 or by emailing her at christianed@flcwarren.com.



Serving Today
Cantor

Assisting Minister

Acolyte

Children's Message

Digital Deacon

Counters

July 19

(8AM) John Beard

(10AM) Adri Hunt

(8AM) Elizabeth Dustin

(10AM) Colleen Witmer

Jen Kersey

Ryan Klenowski

Adri Hunt

Denise Whipp

Randy Britton

Gloria Genberg

Aug 2

Carolyn Worley

Kevin Hunt

John Kersey

Keith Hedges

Jen Kersey

Andrew Gausman

Jessica Long

Heidi Colosimo

Gloria Genberg

Barb Hill

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 Warren Area Refugee Resettlement Network.

The Clergy Renewal Program, particularly Pastor Jeff & Kari

July 26: 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

July 19: 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, Lynne Sears, Family & Friends of Phil Howard

July 12: Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Katie Silvey, Laura Dieter, Ralph Gallo, 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 – *DUE NEXT WEEK*



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.



We have added an element of collecting prayer requests at our Hydration Station. Please take a moment to pray over the collection of these prayer requests on the Clergy Renewal bulletin board.



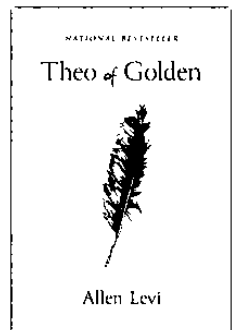
FRIDAY NIGHT OUT

Friday Night Out will be on August 7 at 6PM at Jackson Valley. They have a new policy regarding groups. Tables of 10 will have one check so please be prepared to pay with the exact amount. We will preorder our dinners but pay at the table where you are seated. Watch the narthex for the menu choices of entree and sign up to join us.

CLERGY RENEWAL SERIES EVENT SEPTEMBER 15TH AT 6:30 PM.

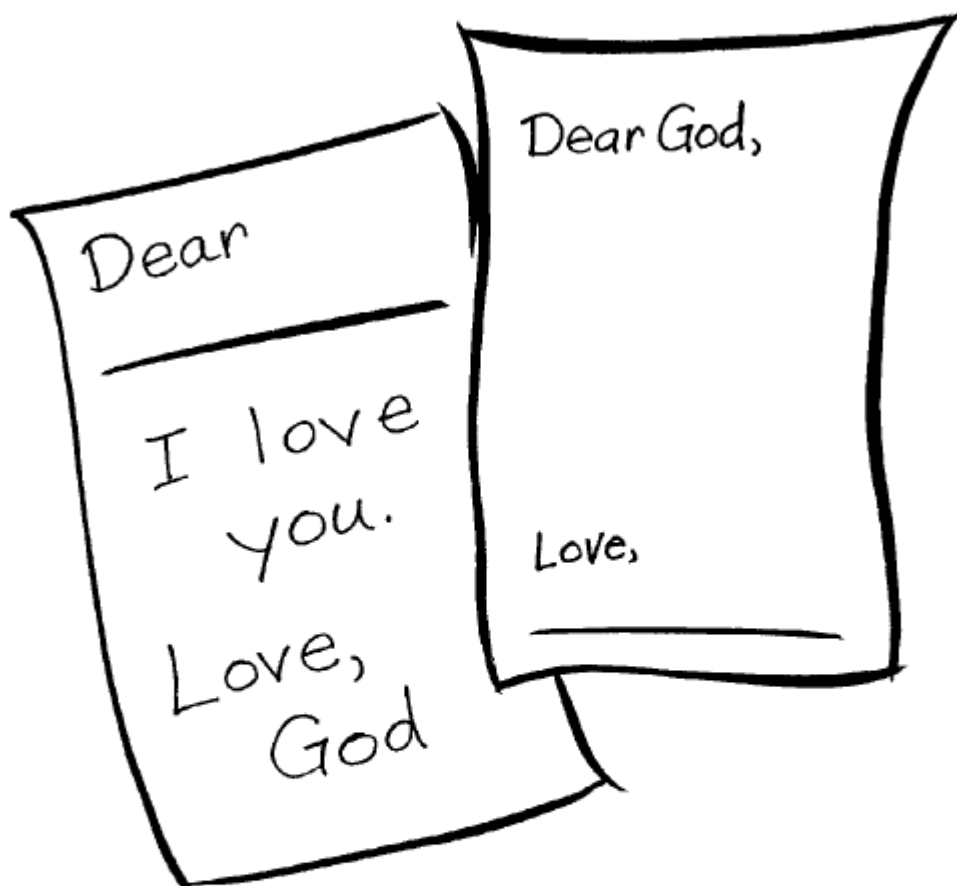
Join a discussion of the international best-selling book, *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. Copies of the book will soon be available in the narthex through a generous Thrivent grant.

Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression of outreach and affection. The old man, no stranger to sadness and loss, quickly becomes a welcome presence in the community but his new friends and neighbors wonder, who is Theo? And why is he here?



Love letters

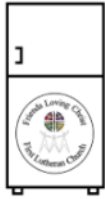
Write your name in the letter from God. Then write or draw a message of love to God.



Thank you for loving me no matter what. I love you, too. Amen

†this week

Look for hidden treasures of God's kingdom indoors and outside.



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, Y/Yard*

Sunday, July 26	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	4:00 PM	Watson Home Worship
Monday, July 27	1:00 PM	Mahjong (NH)
Tuesday, July 28	10:00 AM	August Lantern Assembly (HP)
	2:00 PM	Rouse Worship
	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	6:00 PM	Book Club (YR)
Wednesday, July 29	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NX)
Thursday, July 30	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
Sunday, August 2	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.

