

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 West Third Avenue, Warren, Pennsylvania

Phone: 814/723-6450

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Website: www.flcwarren.com

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

Jack Hemink, Minister of Music



September 6, 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

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

Richard Purvis

*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

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

#864

*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: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 119:33-40 *I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*



Psalms 119:35

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

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³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way[|] of your statutes,
and I shall keep it[|] to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall[|] keep your teaching;**
I shall keep it with[|] all my heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of[|] your commandments,
for that is[|] my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to[|] your decrees**
and not to[|] unjust gain. R

- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from be-¹ holding falsehood;
give me life¹ in your way.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise¹ to your servant,
which is for¹ those who fear you.**
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach¹ that I dread,
because your judg-¹ ments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for¹ your commandments;
by your righteousness en-¹ liven me. R**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

Pastor Michael Long

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

#603

***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: ... Merciful, God.

C: ...receive 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]

Adagio

Pass It On

Anna Bielawski & Jessica Long

Gustav/Merkel

Kurt Kaiser

***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.

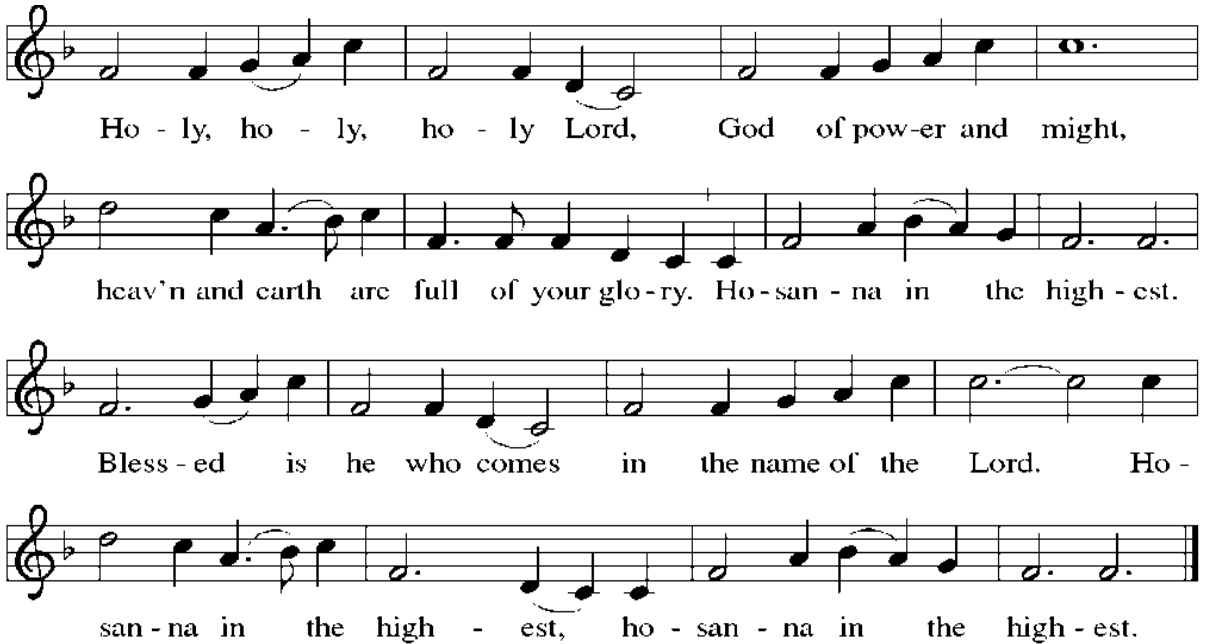
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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.

***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!

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 [10AM]

Come Thou Fount

J. Wyeth

Anna Bielawski and Jessica Long

When We Are Living

#639

*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**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#543

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Gordon Young

Please feel free to exit during the postlude

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We welcome Pastor Michael Long to our pulpit today. We thank him for being part of our Clergy Renewal Program, as Pastor Jeff enters into his final month of renewal time. Rev. Long is a retired elder and full member of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is married to Maryann (also a retired United Methodist elder) and father to Anna Bielawski and Jessica Long. Born and raised in Terre Haute, IN, he is a graduate of Indiana State University and Asbury Theological Seminary.

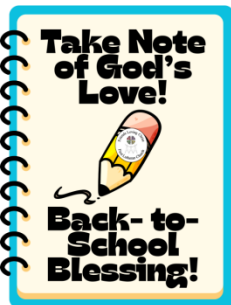
Today's Altar Flowers

Given by Mike and Sandy Wachter in honor of their 56th Wedding Anniversary.

Given by Ed Carr in loving memory of Barb Carr.

*Organ vase given in Dave and Trina Campbell
in loving memory of Barb Campbell.*

	September 6	September 13
Serving Today		
Cantor	(8AM) Anne Benson (10AM) John Hyde	Carolyn Worley (11AM) Carolyn Worley
Assisting Minister	(8AM) Kris Whitaker (10AM) Susan Stout	John Kersey Cathy Southwell
Acolyte	Jen Kersey Allison Kellogg	Jen Kersey Regan Moore
Children's Message	Cheri Kellogg	Cynthia Klenowski
Digital Deacon	Denise Whipp	Heidi Colosimo
Counters	Lyn McDaniel Addy Landrio	Addy Landrio Mary Worley



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

We still have some names left to pray for this school year. We have placed the names of all our students and school employees on keychains. Please take a keychain before you leave and pray for the name you find there through out the year. Feel free to reach out and connect with that individual. Let them know that they have your support and that God is working through you in their lives.

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

September 6: 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, Margie Campbell, Judith Melton, Mike Doty, Freyja Nordin, Penny Lester, Jeff White

August 30: Kim Tome, Holly Schubert, Bonnie Gray, Velma Zock, Janet Wilson, Sarah Downey, Jeff Bastow, Elaine Powers, 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

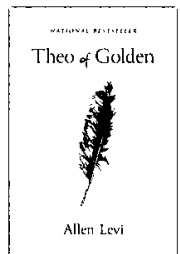
August 23: Christopher Smith, Brooke Benton, Annabelle Hartman, Carol Stone, Mike Madigan, Katie Silvey, Laura Dieter, Ralph Gallo, Cindy Hillard, John Morrissey, Chuck Merroth

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!

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 were purchased through a Thrivent Action grant and are available for participants to borrow. They are located on a table in the narthex. Check one out and don't forget to return it so that others may read it, too.

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?



FRIDAY NIGHT OUT

Friday Night Out will be September 11th at the Peppermill. Note the time change this month. We will meet at 6:45PM, and order off the menu. Sign up in the narthex. We hope you can join us.



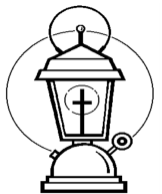
FLC wants to hear your story!

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. There is a sign up in the narthex for time slots for interviewer and interviewees 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.



LANTERN INFO DUE DATE- SEPTEMBER 12

If you have any information for the October Lantern, please have it to the office by September 12. You can email it to Jess at office@flcwarren.com or drop it by the office any time Monday through Friday between 9AM and Noon or 1PM and 4PM.





SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Fall is coming quickly & Senior Fellowship is right around the corner! For several reasons, we will begin a little differently this year. Our first Sr.

Fellowship - which is Tuesday, September 8th - will be worship only. We will return to worship service/luncheons on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. We will have a team calling a week beforehand, to remind congregation members and friends about the date. The cooks appreciate your responses, as it helps to plan for the correct number of meals. If you weren't on a list last year & would like to be on one this year, please notify Jess in the church office & we will make sure that you get a call! We look forward to seeing you on October 13th!

**COME FROM AWAY
SIGN OUR SET**

WHAT TO WRITE?

1. The name of someone you love, lost or wish to see again.
2. A message of hope, kindness, or remembrance.
3. Your name.

Because...You Are Here

SEPT 17-20 STRUTHERS LIBRARY THEATRE

CHECK OUT THE PALLETS IN THE NARTHEX!

I'm sorry

Matthew 18:15-20

Nobody's perfect. We all make mistakes. We need to say we're sorry to make things right with other people. There are many ways to say "I'm sorry." Jesus is with us always no matter what we do.

Solve the puzzles by placing the correct vowels in the blanks to discover a few different ways to say "I'm sorry".

1 = A 2 = E 3 = I 4 = O 5 = U

1. ____ PS, S ____ RRY!
4 4 4

2. ____ G ____ F ____ D
3 4 4 2

3. PL ____ S ____ F ____ RG ____ V ____ M ____
2 1 2 4 3 2 2

4. ____ M ____ D ____ M ____ ST ____ K ____
3 1 2 1 3 1 2

5. ____ M S ____ RRY ____ H ____ RT Y ____
3 4 3 5 4 5



How do you show someone you're sorry?

Draw a picture of it here.



Dear Jesus, thank you for forgiving us. Amen.



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, September 6	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	10:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
Monday, September 7	LABOR DAY- OFFICE CLOSED	
	1:00 PM	Mahjong (NH)
Tuesday, September 8	11:00 AM	Senior Fellowship (SY)
	1:30 PM	Stewardship (HP)
	5:00 PM	Ukrainian Bible Study (YR)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)
	6:00PM	WP Rehearsal (SY/CR)
	6:30 PM	Walking Tour.
Wednesday, September 9	12:00 PM	Bible Study (NX)
	5:15 PM	Handbells (SY)
	6:00 PM	WP Players (NH)
	7:00 PM	Choir (CR/SY)
Thursday, September 10	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl (HP)
	6:00 PM	ESOL (UC)\
Friday, September 11	6:45 PM	FNO @ Peppermill
Saturday, September 12	10:00 AM	Adopt-A-Highway
	11:00 AM	Baby Shower (NH)
Sunday, September 13	8:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)
	11:00 AM	Communion Service (SY)

Adopt-a-Highway/Playground Clean-Up **Sept 12th (rain date Sept 19th)**

Meet in the parking lot at 10:00. Donuts and juice provided before we head out. Let's join our Brothers and Sisters of the ELCA during this time to celebrate "God's work. Our hands." Sign up in the Narthex or call Ralph Farone 814-313-1393

