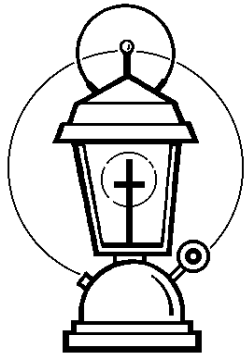


First Lutheran Church  
109 West Third Avenue  
Warren, PA 16365

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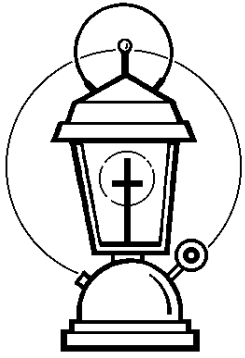


April 2014



**The April Lantern**  
**“Reaching Upward and Reaching Outward”**

First Lutheran Church  
109 West Third Avenue  
814-723-6450  
[www.firstlutheranwarren.com](http://www.firstlutheranwarren.com)  
[firstlutheran@westpa.net](mailto:firstlutheran@westpa.net)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, the sun is shining and there is more grass showing than snow! The official first day of spring is just three days away as of this writing and Judy has a couple of tulips and daffodils blooming on the dining room window sill. I am not yet ready to walk around in shorts and my flip-flops but the warmer weather is on its way. I'm not knocking the colder weather as I know there are many of you out there who like the snow and winter sports but I guess that's what makes us unique. I happen to like the warmer weather. Whether you're a cold or warm weather lover or somewhere in between, living here in northwestern Pennsylvania means we have to wait as we cycle through the seasons. Waiting is not always an easy thing to do. We like having things done under our time limits but after all we cannot control time – we can only adjust (and that adjustment doesn't always come through our control) our living to the time we are given. Consider some of those things in our life that take time:



- ◆ Healing takes time.
- ◆ Establishing relationships and trust takes time
- ◆ Mending relationships and trust takes time.
- ◆ Learning takes time.
- ◆ Gaining experience takes time.
- ◆ Growing up takes time.
- ◆ Farming takes time.
- ◆ Hobbies take time.
- ◆ Cultivating talents take time.
- ◆ Patience takes time.
- ◆ Negotiations take time.
- ◆ Answers to prayer takes time (in God's good time).
- ◆ Studying the Bible takes time.
- ◆ Answers to prayer takes time (in God's good time).

Being a Christian takes time. What better time to begin or re-start the journey than now as we prepare to enter Holy Week? Following Christ on Palm Sunday into Jerusalem as he knows where his destiny will lead him. Join him in the upper room on Maundy Thursday and hear again as we are reminded of the new commandment to love one another as God has loved us. Share in the meal of the Lord's supper as we are strengthened through his body and blood to serve him in our daily work. Walk with us to the cross and witness his sacrifice that we might come to know God's forgiveness poured out for all. Witness the new light which shines upon us all during the Vigil of Easter. Listen to the Old Testament stories of God's desire to save his people. Reaffirm your baptism and celebrate the joy of the resurrection as we sing praise Christ who promises us new life. Celebrate the springtime of your life on Easter Sunday. The life of a Christian takes time. But it is a blessed time well spent.

Easter blessings! Pastor Dave



## **Easter Services – April 20**

Bethany Lutheran Church – 11:15am  
First Lutheran Church – 8:00am & 11:00am  
St. John's Lutheran Church – 9:30am



Senior Fellowship meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month beginning at 11:00 a.m. for a Eucharist Worship service and hymn sing, followed by a wonderful luncheon at noon with a program following the meal ! If your name is not on our "call" list please call the church office at 723-6450. This month's program is on April 8<sup>th</sup> and is a round table discussion "New Beginnings and God's Awesome Love".

### **YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Pastor Dave, Pastor Jeff, Andy Beardsley, Denny Crandall, Marilyn Dahlgren, Kevin Downey, Barb Kersey, Amy Kuppertz, Nancy Lindblad, Meredith McIntosh, Shawn Ristau, Ken Rowland, Mike Wachter and Colleen Witmer.** If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding our church family, please let them know!

**Church council met March 17, 2014** Council approved a request from the Christian Education committee to hold three fundraisers, a potato bar, mother's day raffle and the annual rummage sale to raise money for their mission trip in July.

The Witness committee reminds us that Easter dinners will be prepared and delivered the Saturday before Easter on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Drivers will be needed.

Council approved that the property committee contact Rick Larson architect and or Watts Office to see if either of them would be interested in giving estimates on reconfiguring the office space and to find out how much such estimates would cost. Pastor Dave indicated that there is plenty of unused or underutilized space and that Dee does not have direct eye contact with the entry. Council approved contacting them for estimates.

Council approved a motion from the Social Ministry committee to use the original special gift of \$3000.00 given for the head start back pack program for the Produce Express program. The Backpack program would have served 29 families but the Produce program will touch more lives and include the head start children that the original backpack program was intended to serve.

Council approved the new employee handbook and noted that the personnel committee will have to meet on a regular basis to keep it current with new laws.

Council approved the new building usage form and thanked all members of the building usage committee and personnel for their hard work.



## LUTHERAN'S TOGETHER – April 2014

(Informing the families of Bethany, First, and St. John's Lutheran Churches of the worship, service and fellowship opportunities)

### Sunday Morning Worship:

First: 8:00am & 11:00am      St. John's: 9:30am      Bethany: 11:15am

### Sunday School

First: 9:30am      St. John's: 10:45am      Bethany: 9:45am

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>		<b>First</b>	<b>St. John's &amp; Bethany</b>
April 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
April 13	Passion of Our Lord	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
April 20	Resurrection of Our Lord	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
April 27	2nd Sunday of Easter	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave

### **PASTORAL ACTS**

BAPTISMS Received into God's family by the Sacrament of Baptism, Frederick George Backhus V at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 16, 2014. Welcome Frederick!

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY TRANSFER Keith Bertch and Ashley Mathers were received as members by transfer on March 23, 2014. We welcome Keith and Ashley as new members of the First Lutheran family!

FUNERAL A celebration of new life was given for Janet L. Hause who joined the Church Triumphant Thursday, March 6, 2014. The funeral was held at First Lutheran Church on Monday, March 10, 2014.

"Rest eternal grant her O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon her."

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### **MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

WARREN – Tuesdays @ 7:00pm  
April 1 – St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Church

SHEFFIELD – Wednesdays @ 7:00pm  
April 2 – St. Anthony's Roman Catholic  
Church

April 8 – Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church

April 9 – Tiona United Methodist Church

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## Holy Week Services

April 17 – **Maundy Thursday**: @ First Lutheran, 7:00pm. Service of Holy Communion with Trinity Episcopal, First Presbyterian, Bethany, St. John's & St. Paul Lutheran Churches. Preaching will be the Rev. Leroy Beckes, retired, Presbyterian Church (USA).

April 18 – **Good Friday**: @ Sheffield United Methodist, Noon-3:00pm, The Words from the Cross.  
@ First Lutheran, 12:30pm, Good Friday Liturgy  
@ St. John's Lutheran Church, 7:00pm, Tenebrae Service

April 19 – **Vigil of Easter** @ St. John's Lutheran Church 7:00pm – Service of Light, Service of Readings, Affirmation of Baptism & Holy Communion

## LESSER FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS IN APRIL



**April 25 – Mark, Evangelist** – Named John Mark, he was an associate of Paul and due to a dispute went off on a missionary journey with Barnabas. Mark would later be reconciled with Paul. He eventually became a companion to Peter and was known as his interpreter. He is considered to be the author of the earliest Gospel and uses much of his writings from his interpretation of Peter. According to tradition, Mark became the first bishop of Alexandria and was martyred there in 64 AD. In 829, his remains were moved from Alexandria to the basilica that bears his name in Venice. The commemoration of Mark is not celebrated in the Roman Church until the twelfth century. The traditional symbol for Mark is the lion.

### Commemorations -

April 4 – Benedict the African, confessor, 1589; 6 – Albrecht Durer, 1528; Matthias Grunewald, 1529; Lucas Cranach, 1553, artists; 9 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1945; 10 – Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, 1557; 19 – Olvavus Petri, priest, 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, 1573; renewers of the church; 21 – Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, 1109; 23 – Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960; 29 – Catherine of Siena, theologian, 1380.

We will highlight three of these commemorations:

April 6 – Albrecht Durer, 1528; Matthias Grunewald, 1529 and Lucas Cranach, 1553, artists. Durer was a painter and engraver. He was a leader of the German Renaissance School who eventually settled in Nuremburg. His works centered on the creation, the human body, animals and flowers. He never renounced his Catholic faith but was sympathetic to the Reformation. Grunewald is another painter during the Reformation era. His original surname was Gothardt. He was not as widely known as Durer but his works are highly valued. He was fascinated by the crucifixion as a subject for his painting. By the time of his death he had secretly sided with the Reformation. Cranach was a friend of Martin Luther and a portrait artist. He was very much an evangelist for the Reformation and was respected by the humanists of his day. Cranach was a contemporary of Durer but his works were much lighter and more of a joyful theme.

April 21 – Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, 1109 – Anselm was born in Lombardy. He attended school in France and became a monk. He was renowned as a teacher and spiritual director. Anselm was persuaded to visit England and became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Much of his career was spent dealing with the conflict between the church and state. Anselm was known as a leading theologian and philosopher.

April 23 – Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, 1960 – Toyohiko Kagawa was disowned by his wealthy family when he became a Christian. He attended the Presbyterian Seminary in Kobe and became involved in working in the slums of Shinkawa. Kagawa studied modern social techniques at Princeton and returned to Japan and worked towards improvements in social conditions. He was imprisoned in 1940 for his opposition to the war. Following the war he was a leader in the movement for democracy in Japan.

## April serving schedule

**Ushers:** (8AM) John Kersey, Bill Caldwell and Don Worley (11AM) Lynn Williams, Dennis Hedges, Keith Hedges, Randy Witmer, Gary Lester and Jim Zock **Altar Guild:** (8AM) Barb Kersey and Carol Johnson (11AM) Elsa Redding, Meredith McIntosh and Peggy Nelson

### Greeters

	8:00 a.m.	11:00
4/6	Harry and Dot Boekeloo	Jean Ballard
4/13	Randy and Sandy Britton	Dale and Nancy Clark
4/20	Marilyn Dahlgren	Joe and Heidi Colosimo
4/27	Carol Johnson	Charles and Rita Cox

### Visitor Greeters

4/6	Andy & Jane Beardsley	Bonnie Abplanalp
4/13	Joan Loree	Charles and Rita Cox
4/20	Harry & Dot Boekeloo	Dale and Nancy Clark
4/27	Doris Sadler	Denny and Vonda Hedges

### Acolytes

4/6	Erika Stevenson	Nathan and Jared Labowski
4/13	Liam Stevenson	Allison and Emily Koebley
4/20	Megan Koerselman	Stephanie Rowland and Elyse Hedges
4/27	Jackson Knupp	Haley Justice and Christie Hillard

### Assisting Ministers

4/6	Randy Britton	Roz Hupp
4/13	Barb Kersey	Meridith McIntosh
4/20	Don Reed	Toby Holland
4/27	Kris Whitaker	Linda Ross

### Cantors

4/6	John Beard	Bob Engstrom
4/13	Carolyn Worley	Kevin Hunt
4/20	Carolyn Worley	Randy Baughman
4/27	John Beard	Adri Hunt

### Nursery

4/6	Sherrie & Shane Flannery
4/13	Diane Stenstrom & Sydney Ewing
4/20	Joyce & Stephanie Rowland
4/27	Jean Ballard & Vickie Brooks

## **Bethany News**



Church Council Notes from March 13, 2014

- Accepted reports from the pastors and treasurer
- Reviewed Lenten and Holy Week Schedule
- Pastor Dave reported that Debbie Koza and Avella Lubold have been trained as Communion Stewards to provide communion on a regular basis to Bethany's sick and home bound.
- Reviewed and accepted the minutes of the congregational meeting.
- Pastor Blank reported that the first Bible study went well with five people in attendance
- Instructed the secretary to order envelopes for 2015.
- Council wants to review the investments in May and have conversations with Thrivent and other firms regarding their programs.
- Next meeting is April 14.

## **BIBLE STUDY AT BETHANY**

Everyone is welcome to join in the new Bible Study that will be held on Tuesdays at 2:00pm. We meet in the council room located at the back of the education wing.

Our study is on the Gospel of Mark. Participants are welcome to bring their own Bibles or we'll have copies available to use. Whether you're a novice to reading the Bible or a long time reader of scriptures we welcome you to join us for a time of learning, great discussion and fellowship. Feel free to bring a friend.

Pastor Dave is leading the study. If you have any questions please call the church office at 968-3912.



## **OFFICE HOURS AT BETHANY**

The Administrative Assistant's hours are Tuesdays & Fridays;

9:00am – 2:00pm

Pastor Dave's hours are Tuesdays: 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Bethany's Phone is 968-3912. If you need to reach Pastor Dave or Pastor Jeff please call First Lutheran at 723-6450 or email: Pastor Dave –

[pastor@firstlutheranwarren.com](mailto:pastor@firstlutheranwarren.com) or Pastor Jeff – [jeff@firstlutheranwarren.com](mailto:jeff@firstlutheranwarren.com) .

Email address for Bethany is: [Bethanylcsheffield@westpa.net](mailto:Bethanylcsheffield@westpa.net)

## **CHANGES TO BETHANY'S PRAYER CONCERNS LISTING**

Every Sunday a listing of prayer concerns are inserted in the bulletin. In order to keep these concerns up to date, beginning in May the names will be placed on the list for a three week period. Following three weeks the name will be removed from the list. Names may be returned to the list by contacting Becky Petruney at the church office. Please be sure when submitting names for the Prayer List that permission is received from the individual(s) who is (are) to be included on the list. Thank you!

## **Bethany Birthday's**

4/1	Katlyn Barnes	4/16	Rich Pierson
4/2	Margo Steffan	4/19	Tom Dunn
	LuAnn Timmins	4/20	Corbin Fiscus
4/6	Jim Olson	4/22	Scott Steffan
4/7	Olivia Hunt	4/26	Jared Zevotek
4/8	Jeff Scalise		

### First Lutheran March Birthdays and Anniversaries

4/1	Linda Ross Al Stenstrom	4/16	Kingston Check Kaylin Passmore
4/2	Cathy Bertch David Blank	4/14	Addison Ristau Cory Ristau
4/3	Cheryl Huber	4/19	Matt Andersen Jane Beardsley
4/4	Michael Check Elyse Hedges	4/20	Sarah Rice Ava Young
4/6	Carolyn Worley	4/21	Tim & Mary Ann Lucas (32) Seth Campbell Joel Heffner
4/7	Margaret Tiffany Backhus Allyx Hoden	4/22	Megan McGuinness Craig Thomas
4/8	Peyton Reist	4/23	Keith & Heidi Hedges (20) Aidan Colosimo Sandra Ponick Mary Worley
4/9	Rick Frederick	4/24	Joe & Heidi Colosimo (15) Isabelle McMonigal
4/10	Emily Gausman Elizabeth Nuhfer	4/25	Amy Justice
4/11	Joyce Rowland	4/26	Debi Stanford
4/13	Andy Beardsley George Boyer, Sr.	4/27	Cheryl Saporito
4/14	Bonnie Lucia Beth Nelson	4/28	Kevin Hunt
4/15	Brad & Kathy Smith (25) Addison Hecei John McCool Jim (W.) Pearson (Sr.)		



**Farewell!** God's blessings to Rick, Dee, Ben and Adam Frederick as they head to Lexington, KY. Rick has accepted the camp director's position at Burnhamwood Camp and Conference Center, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA. Rick begins his ministry on March 25 and wife, Dee and son, Ben will join him after Ben's graduation in June. We'll still see Dee and Ben in worship for a few more months. Rick is rostered in the ELCA as an Associate in Ministry. He had been serving as director of Wesley Woods, Grand Valley. Son, Adam is a private in the Marines.

## Scarred — for eternity

If God raised Jesus from the dead, why didn't God fix him up? Why scars? Why the print of nails that you could feel with your fingers? Can it be that the gospel ... is saying to us in our waiting: "You will not see Jesus Christ unless you see the wounds"? Somehow we must understand that the resurrected Christ is forever the wounded Christ. Living, but never fixed up. Not bound by death, yet scarred for eternity. The deaf have a sign for Jesus. Quickly they make this sign many times during their worship: the middle finger of each hand is placed into the palm of the other. Jesus, the one with wounded hands. And when they touch the place, they remember. They hear the name in their own flesh.

—John Vannorsdall





**eXtreme Losers:** YOUTHFEST – On April 4-6 the Losers will be heading to Lutherlyn for a youth gathering for NWPA and SWPA students! Please keep them (and the chaperones) in your prayers!

**SPRING CLEAN UP!** Speaking of Lutherlyn, we will also be giving them a hand with getting the camp ready for the summer programming on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> (we may leave on Friday and spend the night). Wear grungy clothes and bring some other clothes to change into for the ride home! Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board!

**HELPING WITH CINCO –** Again this year the Losers (and the FLC3 gang) will be manning the water stations for the Cinco Races on May 3<sup>rd</sup>! We will need about 15-20 folks to help from 8ish-11:30 a.m. Can you help? We hope so! There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex!

### **Buck-a-Chick Good Gifts Fund Raiser**

Our Sunday's Cool children will be in the narthex each Sunday during Lent to encourage folks to purchase and decorate a paper chick for themselves or in honor of friends and loved ones. We'll hang the colorful chicks on the big bulletin board, too. The funds raised will benefit ELCA World Hunger and help provide families in need with chickens, other animals and the resources they need to escape hunger and poverty for good. Thanks for helping our Sunday's Cool kids raise money for families who need a helping hand (and a chick or two!)

### **Volunteers Needed for Easter Dinner Deliveries**

Once again we will join Trinity Memorial Church in assisting with preparing and delivering Easter dinners on **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Help is needed with the preparation of the dinners as well as delivering and cleaning up. **You can also help by donating cupcakes.** Cupcakes can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church beginning on Good Friday (4/18) until 9:00am Saturday morning.

The schedule is as follows for April 19<sup>th</sup>:

- 8am – 1pm – cooking and assembling
- 10am – 1pm – driving teams (2-4/car)
- 11am – 2pm – clean up

Children and teens can accompany drivers as there must be at least two individuals in each car. This involvement for teens can be counted for students' Service Projects.

Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex beginning Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Please call/text/email Denise Whipp 730-0121 [denise.whipp@era.com](mailto:denise.whipp@era.com). Thank you!

### **The perks of giving**

Although National Volunteer Week is officially observed in April, every week thousands of volunteers help people in need. As volunteers can attest, sharing one's time and talents leads to many intangible benefits.

New research shows that volunteering and giving also provide physical and emotional advantages. Givers report an improved sense of well-being, lower stress levels, better physical health, an enriched sense of purpose in life and increased happiness. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself."

