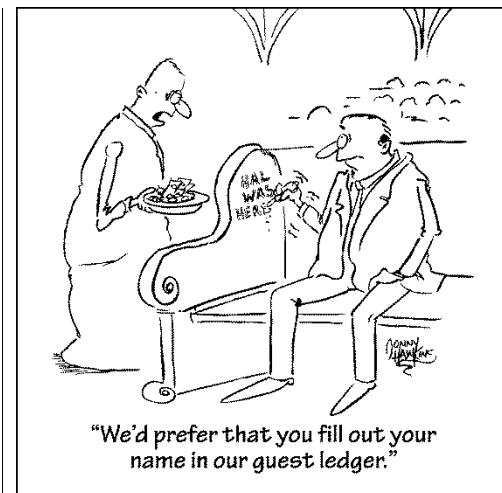


First Lutheran Church  
109 West Third Avenue  
Warren, PA 16365

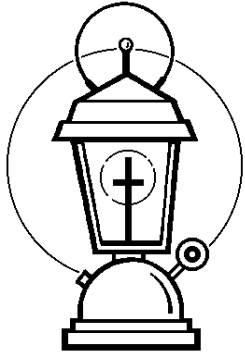
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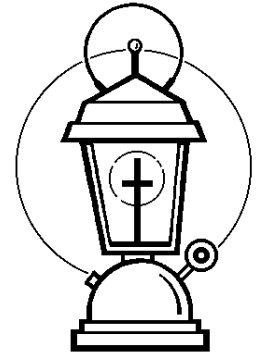
APRIL 2015



## The April 2015 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 Members and Friends:

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

New life comes with the Easter proclamation, Alleluia, Alleluia Christ is risen!

The earth rejoices in all its spectacular glory. The people of God are filled with hope in the promise of new life. Every one of us have been marked by the cross of Christ and given the gift of eternal life. In death new life is found. Even in transitions amidst life's struggles new life/ new beginnings are created. Thanks be to God for the resurrection of our Lord.

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed Easter to you all.

Pastor Dave

### **SENIOR PASTOR DAVID BLANK ACCEPTS NEW CALL**

Pastor Dave has accepted a call to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3215 Four Mile Road, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. St. Luke's is a part of the ELCA's Lower Northwest Michigan Synod. He will be at First through the month of April and will be taking two weeks' vacation during the first weeks of May. His last Sunday in Warren will be April 26. If you would like to know more about the St. Luke's congregation, please visit their website at: [www.stlk.org](http://www.stlk.org) or Facebook page St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids.

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

*The Passion of Our Lord (Palm Sunday) – March 29. Services will held during the normal Sunday worship hours for Bethany, St. John's and First.*

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 –**

*12:00 noon – First Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Jeff Ott, First Presbyterian Church, preaching. Service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.*

*7:00pm – Joint communion service at First Presbyterian*

**Good Friday, April 3 –**

*12:30pm – First Lutheran Church – Good Friday Liturgy*

*7:00pm – St. John's Lutheran Church – Tenebrae*

**Saturday, April 4 –**

*7:00pm – St. John's Lutheran Church -The Great Vigil of Easter*



## COMBINED COUNCILS MEET

On Thursday, March 26, Church Councils from First, Bethany, and St. John's met with the Bishop to discuss what impact Pastor David's leaving would have. Bishop Jones assured councils that he was not looking for answers Thursday but wanted to present questions that needed to be addressed in the near future. The process of finding a replacement for a departing pastor could take an average of 18 to 24 months. Short term and long term questions for consideration included;

Do the three churches still desire to work together? Do we want a more formalized long term commitment or just keep the more informal arrangement and have Bethany and St. John's continue to purchase services from First?

How many hours would each Church require and at what cost? How do we determine the cost to each congregation?

What short term needs could be filled through lay ministers, communion stewards or other members of the congregation?

If the churches still want to work together do they still need two pastors or can others such as supply ministers, lay ministers, youth leaders and communion stewards fill those needs?

Bishop Jones confirmed that Pastor Jeff was called to First and therefore will continue his ministry there. The question remains, however, does Jeff become the senior pastor, if so what are his responsibilities? If we have only one pastor and rely on supply or lay ministers how does that change the hours of worship? If we look for another pastor, who should make up the call committee?

Do we look for a youth leader or youth pastor?

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the councils if you have thoughts or concerns about these or other questions. Each of the councils will meet again the beginning of April separately and then come together with the Bishop on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss our next step. We ask your prayerful consideration.

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### Four lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

**“The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter,”** Martin writes. “The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life.”



## LUTHERAN'S TOGETHER – APRIL 2015

(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 SCHEDULE

Date		First	St. John's & Bethany
April 5	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
April 12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
April 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
April 26	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	(Plans for this service in progress)	

### **PASTORAL ACTS**

#### **Funeral**

A funeral was held for Doris Barirde on Monday, March 9 at Peterson Blick Funeral Home. Doris joined the Church Triumphant on March 5, 2015.

*"Rest eternal, grant her, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her."*

Bethany Members - remember the second Sunday of the month is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring your non-perishable food items to church and give so others may live!

First Members – may bring their non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army on any Sunday. A collection box is located in the narthex.



### **BETHANY COUNCIL**

The 2015 Council members are: Kevin Bell, Lee Goldthwaite, Michele Grubbs, Jenelle Johnson, Debbie Koza, Melissa Lemay, Gordon Lubold, and Sherry McMillen.

### **A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF BETHANY**

To the Congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church:

I would like to propose an idea to you. It is not new, but I think it is something that we should seriously think about and maybe try.

In the past we have had several ecumenical groups. What I am thinking and proposing is that we try to get several people from other churches and maybe some from the community that would like to see our community come together for more than just money making events.

The group would plan community events, such as picnics, talent shows, movie presentations, etc. Wherever possible, the group could report on things that the individual churches are doing and all the churches could come together to help - kind of pulling all resources to improve the outcome.

If anyone is interested, please see me, Debbie Koza. Thank you for your consideration - Debbie

## BETHANY APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

## FIRST LUTHERAN MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/1	Linda Ross Al Stenstrom	4/16	Kaylin Passmore
4/2	Cathy Bertch Pastor David Blank	4/17	Addison Ristau Cory Ristau
4/3	Cheryl Huber	4/19	Matt Andersen Jane Beardsley
4/4	Elyse Hedges	4/20	Sarah Rice Ava Young
4/6	Carolyn Worley	4/21	Joel Heffner Joe Whipp
4/7	Margaret Andrews Allyx Hoden	4/22	Megan McGuinness Craig Thomas
4/8	Peyton Reist	4/23	Keith & Heidi Hedges (21) Aidan Colosimo
4/9	Elaine Crandall		Mary Worley
4/10	Emily Gausman Elizabeth Nuhfer	4/24	Joe & Heidi Colosimo (16) Mirielle Honhart
4/11	Joyce Rowland		Isabelle McMonigal
4/13	Andy Beardsley George Boyer	4/25	Amy Justice
4/14	Bonnie Lucia Beth Nelson	4/26	Debi Stanford
4/15	Brad & Kathy Smith (26) Addison Hecei	4/27	Cheryl Saporito
	Jim W. Pearson	4/28	Kevin Hunt
4/16	Kingston Check	4/29	Emily Koebley



**First Lutheran Church Council met Monday March 16, 2015**, with 12 members present. Council approved a motion to ask Creative preschool to move into First Lutheran Church for the 15-16, 16 -17 school years with review after the first year. Creative preschool is currently housed at First Methodist Church and is in need of a new site. Council members felt this would be a good outreach for our Church and cost us little as the preschool pays all their costs through tuition.

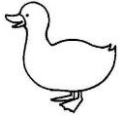
Council also acknowledged the decline in current and benevolence giving and attributed it to the harsh winter weather. With spring fast approaching Council hopes more members will find their way back to church and remember to fulfill their pledges.

Council also approved a motion from the Christian Education committee to put a table in the Narthex late April and/or early May in order to accept donations for the National Youth Gathering project which is "Books for Detroit". Scholastic is partnering with the youth gathering so that packets of preselected books will be shipped to Detroit schools at a cost of \$35 per packet.



## SUNDAY'S COOL EASTER CELEBRATION

What would Easter Sunday be without our annual egg hunt during Sunday's Cool?! We look forward to seeing all kids (Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> as we make crafts for our homebound folks, hunt for the eggs and even serve up a Easter Sundae Bar! The fun begins at 9:30!



## Buck a Duck drive for ELCA Good Gifts! DUCKS VS. CHICKS HAS A WINNER!

It was a close race, but after all the little birdies have been counted up, it turns out the ducks have won by a nose (well, a bill) - 104-95. Thank you to all who participated in and helped raise \$215 for ELCA Good Gifts (a ministry that helps provide animals and training for farmers in developing countries). Your Lenten gift will go a long way in helping these farmers become self-sufficient. Thanks, again!



## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING “BOOKS FOR DETROIT”

According to a National Adult Literacy Survey, 47 percent of Detroiters are functionally illiterate, and reading test scores for Detroit students reflect poor reading skills as well. A number of factors contribute to this, including economic disparity and the lack of quality educational offerings. The ELCA Youth Gathering is partnering with Scholastic to do our small part to provide Detroit children and youth with access to quality educational materials.

The Gathering has a goal to provide at least \$100,000 in Scholastic summer reading book packets for Detroit students. Our partner, the Mission Investment Fund, a financial ministry of the ELCA, has offered a lead gift of \$30,000 for Scholastic summer reading books for Detroit students. Books are organized in packets and each packet costs \$25. Recipients receive books that Detroit teachers have identified as key to curriculum in the year ahead.

Our congregation can help! The students going to Detroit this summer will be in the Narthex collecting donations on April 12, 19 and 26 (checks can be written to “First Lutheran Church – please put “books” in the memo line). Any amount will help! Will you join us and help close the reading achievement gap in Detroit? We hope so and thanks for your support!



**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> PROGRAM** is (trying again) “**Days Gone By**” with Sharon Gage. Where will our trip down memory lane take us this year? No idea, but you can be it will be a fun ride! Senior Fellowship meets at 11:00 a.m. for a Eucharist Worship service and hymn sing, followed by a wonderful luncheon at noon! We hope you will be able to join us! If your name is not on our “call” list (we need to have an accurate count for the kitchen staff), please call the church office at 723-6450 and we'll be sure you get a reminder phone call each month!



**WELCA Conference 2 Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 11, at Hessel Valley Lutheran Church in Chandlers Valley.** The meeting begins at 11:00am with lunch at noon. Dr. Julia Boozer will be the afternoon speaker. Her topic is the history of the Scandinavian Lutheranism in the valley. We will be supporting the Food Pantry of Sugar Grove and “In-kind gifts for patients of North Warren Hospital. The registration fee is \$10.00 with a deadline of April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Joyce Kelley 930-2345 for registration and for more information.



**BENEFIT DINNER SET!** The LMM will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:45 p.m. Salad, bread, spaghetti and dessert are all on the menu! Watch the bulletin for more information.



***Produce Express!***

Thanks to all the volunteers who help bag veggies, register folks, bring food to the cars, load the cars, direct traffic, and more!! Word about the Produce Express is getting out, too! Our next distribution is on **Thursday, April 19th from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** You can volunteer anytime between 12:30-4:30, though!



We need about 20 folks to make this a smooth operation and an effective ministry and outreach. Want to help? Simply call pastor Jeff or sign up in the narthex!

**APRIL SERVING SCHEDULE**

**Ushers:** (8AM) John Kersey, Bill Caldwell, Don Worley (11AM) Lynn Williams, Denny Hedges, Keith Hedges, Randy Witmer, Gary Lester, Jim Zock **Altar Guild:** (8AM) Anne Benson & Barb Kersey (11AM) Peggy Nelson, Cathy Southwell, Penny Lester

**Greeters 8:00 a.m.**

- 4/5 Anne Benson
- 4/12 Cathy Bertch
- 4/19 Harry & Dot Boekeloo
- 4/26 Randy & Sandy Britton

**Visitor Greeters**

- 4/5 Randy & Sandy Britton
- 4/12 Andy & Jane Beardsley
- 4/19 Joan Loree
- 4/26 Doris Sadler

**Acolytes**

- 4/5 Erika Stevenson
- 4/12 Liam Stevenson
- 4/19 Megan Koerselman
- 4/26 Jackson Knupp

**Assisting Ministers**

- 4/5 Barb Kersey
- 4/12 Kris Whitaker
- 4/19 Elizabeth Beardsley
- 4/26 Randy Britton

**Cantors**

- 4/5 Carolyn Worley
- 4/12 John Beard
- 4/19 John Beard
- 4/26 John Beard

**Nursery (11:00)**

- 4/5 Sherrie & Shane Flannery
- 4/12 Diane Stenstrom/Rachal Rowland
- 4/19 Joyce & Stephanie Rowland
- 4/26 Amy & Kevin Downey

**11:00 a.m.**

- Melody Traub
- Denise Whipp
- Lynn Williams
- Jim & Velma Zock

- Vonda Hedges
- Phil Howard
- Charles Merroth
- Jim & Alice Rapp

- Allison Koebley/Rachal Rowland
- Cole Chementi/Nickolas Brooks
- Christi Hillard/Haley Justice
- Aidan Colosimo/Aidan Flannery

- Mary Donaldson
- Bob Engstrom
- Rosalind Hupp
- Meredith McIntosh

- Linda Ross
- Denny Crandall
- Nicki Tremblay
- Kevin Hunt

- Curtis Royek
- Taylor Whipp
- Zack Ballard
- Taige Honhart

**SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY!** The Social Ministry Committee continues to collect your donations to help keep the pantry at the Salvation Army stocked so that no one in our community will go hungry. The collection box is in the narthex at all times. However, we know that many of us get to church without remembering to bring items for this collection. If this has happened to you, we would like to offer you another way to become a participant in this valuable ministry. We are now going to place a smaller box on top of the collection box that you can put monetary donations into. Members of the Social Ministry Committee will use this money to make purchases of grocery items to be taken to the Salvation Army along with the grocery items that are in the collection box. Thanks so much for helping the Salvation Army Food Pantry!





