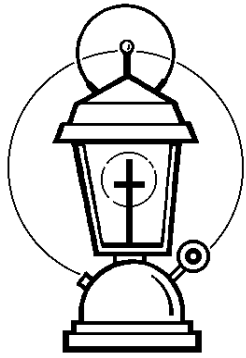


First Lutheran Church  
109 West Third Avenue  
Warren, PA 16365

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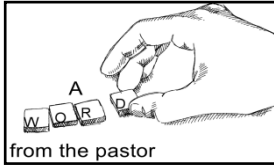
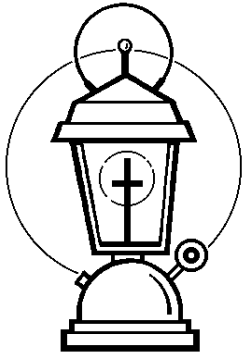


January 2014



**The January 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 Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! I pray that the season has brought light, love and abundance of God’s grace to you all.

During 2014, I thought I would share with you the special days of the Church year but before getting to the days let me explain how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America classifies the days of the Church Year. Including Sundays there are four categories:

1. Sundays – Every Sunday is a festival of the resurrection of Our Lord. Sundays take precedence unless a Principle Festival falls on a Sunday and then the Principle Sunday is primary.
2. Principle Festivals and Observances – Principle Festivals are: Christmas, Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord, Transfiguration, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity and Christ the King. Observances are: Ash Wednesday & the days of Holy Week.
3. Lesser Festivals – Additional days celebrating the life of Christ, the witness of those who accompanied Jesus and bore witness to him, and God’s gifts in the church. Lesser Festivals include: Name of Jesus, the Presentation, Annunciation, John the Baptist, the Apostles, the Evangelists, Joseph, Holy Innocents, Stephen, Visit of Mary to Elizabeth, Mary Mother of Our Lord, Holy Cross, Reformation and All Saints, Confession of Peter and Conversion of Paul. Lesser Festivals that fall on a Sunday may be observed if that Sunday occurs during those Sundays after Epiphany & Pentecost (green Sundays). However Lesser Festivals that occur on Sundays during Advent, Lent or Easter are always observed on the following Monday as the Sundays in these three seasons always take precedence.
4. Commemorations – these days acknowledge the lives of people who have followed Christ and have provided mission and inspiration through the church. There are many commemorations. Here are a few: Martin Luther, Harriet Tubman, Patrick, John XXIII, JS Bach, Kierkegaard and Nicholas.

Parishioners can find a complete list of the Lesser Festivals and Commemorations in the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) pages 15-17. If interested in learning more about these special days there is a superb resource, “New Book of Festivals and Commemorations,” Fortress Press by Philip Pfatteicher, 2008. You can also find resources by searching the internet.

Now to the month of January with Two Principle Festivals and three Lesser Festivals:

**The Epiphany of Our Lord – January 6:** The story of the Epiphany is found in the second chapter of Matthew. The word “epiphany” is Greek meaning “to reveal.” This is the day when the Wise Men (Magi) present the infant Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts foreshadow what is to become of this child. Gold, the gift for a king, frankincense, an incense used by the High Priest and myrrh, the fragrant perfume used for burial. The Wise Men are gentiles whose eyes are opened to Jesus as the Son of God. One of the emphasis of the Epiphany season is missionary activity to the world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord –** (first Sunday after the Epiphany). An epiphany story pointing to Jesus as the Son of God following his baptism. A voice comes from heaven, proclaiming Jesus as God’s son.

**Lesser Festivals for the month of January are:**

**The Name of Jesus – January 1:** This festival falls on the eight day of Christmas. Customary in the Hebrew world was to circumcise males on the eighth day of their birth. At the time the child is named. As told, Joseph names the child, Jesus meaning “He will save.” This festival originated much later in the life of the church perhaps to counter the excesses of the secular or pagan New Year’s celebration.

**The Confession of St. Peter – January 18:** Celebrating Peter’s confession that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” This day begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**The Conversion of St. Paul – January 25:** Celebrating the dramatic conversion of a fierce opponent to the Christian faith. Paul would become a prolific writer and theologian proclaiming Christ as the Son of God. His writings compose two-thirds of the New Testament. This day marks the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**Commemorations include:** Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, 1872 (January 2); Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968 (January 15); Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356; Pachomius, renewer of the church (January 17); Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156 (January 19); Agnes, martyr, c 304 (January 21); Timothy, Titus and Silas, missionaries (January 26); Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith (January 27) ; and Tomas Aquinas, teacher, 1274 (January 28).

May God open our eyes to the marvelous gift of love revealed to us through Jesus Christ!

Peace,

Pastor Dave



Remember we are still collecting Box Tops for Bethesda Children’s Home! There is a box on the table in the Narthex! The Women of the ELCA and all the kids and teens at Bethesda say “thanks!”



- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2014*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2014*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2014*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 20, 2014*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2014*



Senior Fellowship meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (September to May) 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 (sometimes)! We hope you will be able to attend Senior Fellowship with us! And 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. This month's program on January 14th is "A New Ytoear" with Eunice Harrington.

### **Pastoral Acts**

Completed Communion Instruction: Cole Chimenti, Aidan Flannery, Madelyn Rodgers, Rachel Rowland, Erica Stevenson (First); Eric Pierson (Bethany) and Mark Williams (St. John's).

Received into God's family by the Sacrament of Baptism, Allison Lynn Kellogg at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 22, 2013. Welcome Allison!

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**FOLLOW THE DAILY BIBLE READING** on First Lutheran's Website:

[www.firstlutheranwarren.com](http://www.firstlutheranwarren.com) Scroll down to the bottom of the page and find a new reading for each day. Also, follow the ELCA Prayer Ventures or get caught up with the latest news from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You can find this and much more on FLC's website. Take a look!

### **THE DIRECTORY IS COMING! THE DIRECTORY IS COMING!**

Thank you to everyone who had their photo taken for our directory! We'll get them assembled as soon as we can and make them available! January 26<sup>th</sup> is the last day to either turn in or email your photos!



*Allene Stahlman would like to thank everyone for their prayers!*

## YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

**Church council met December 9** with members of St. John's council to discuss how the arrangement with our shared ministry was working out. Council members had many positive things to say. Council members noted that all three congregations share the "Lutherans Together" page in their newsletters so upcoming events are announced to all. Bethany and First share our Lantern and St. John's prints their own newsletter. Members of each church are feeling more welcome to participate in activities held at any of the three churches. Council reminds us to wear name tags at services and thought it might be nice to put out extra paper tags for members from other congregations. This might help us distinguish people visiting from our shared ministry churches and other people who may be looking for a church home. The discussion lead to some of the benefits we can have by combining our efforts. Just as the holiday meals program with Trinity has become a win/win success for both 1<sup>st</sup> and Trinity, the shared ministry between 1<sup>st</sup>, St. John's and Bethany can strengthen our Christian presence as we go out into the community. Activities such as Relay for Life, Men in Mission, Stephen Ministry and the National Youth Gathering will certainly be strengthened by numbers. So if you see something interesting that St. John's or Bethany is doing don't be afraid to join in and likewise if members from those congregations drop by, welcome them with open arms.



**MISSION TRIP LUNCHEON SET FOR JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>** Join the 2013 mission trippers as they share their journey to the Big Apple with you! Hear about all the places we served and what we experienced! Enjoy NYC food (especially cheesecake!) and chat with everyone who participated! We look forward to thanking you for your generosity and sharing our memories! Lunch begins right after the 11:00 a.m. worship service!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** Our Annual Swedish Smorgasbord will be held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> right after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Cost for a ticket is \$12.00 and space is very limited! Purchase your tickets after worship beginning on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Randy Swanson, our own Swedish Chef, will be preparing all the delicacies you've come to expect! It will be a great meal!



# LUTHERAN'S TOGETHER – January 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>
January 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Christmas	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
January 12	The Baptism of our Lord	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
January 19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
January 26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff

## **Annual Congregational Meetings**



St. John's – The congregation will hold their annual congregational meeting immediately following the 9:30am service on Sunday, January 26, 2014.

First – The congregation will hold their annual congregational meeting immediately following the 10:00am service on Sunday, January 26, 2014. Please note there is only one service at First. There will be no Sunday School.

Bethany Lutheran Church held a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013. The 2014 budget was approved and the following members were elected to the Congregation Council: Lee Goldthwaite & Melissa Lemay – terms expiring December 2015; Michele Grubbs & Gordon Lubold – terms expiring December 2016.

## **ONGOING EVENTS:**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday – Women of the ELCA Bible Study at St. John's 1:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Senior Fellowship (worship, meal and (maybe) program at First 11:00am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Senior Fellowship (meal) at St. John's noon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Lutheran Men in Mission @ First 7:03 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday – Joan Nabert Circle at First 1:00 p.m.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday - Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. John's at 10:00 a.m.
- Each Wednesday – Workshop (quilts for Lutheran World Relief) at First at 9:00 a.m.  
– Bible Study at First Lutheran at noon
- Each Thursday – Prayer Shawl Ministry at First 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



**Balance: Stability produced by even distribution of weight or forces.** Our lives are delicately balanced. A small shift in one area of life can set us off balance. A major change can send us spinning out of control. Stephen Ministers can help when life gets out of balance. They listen and care, and, most importantly, bring the stability of Jesus' love and grace into people's lives. If your life or that of someone you know has shifted out of balance, consider Stephen Ministry. Please contact Pastor Dave at 723-6450 or via email: [pastor@firstlutheranwarren.com](mailto:pastor@firstlutheranwarren.com)

### **FOOD FOR LOCAL CHILDREN**

A program is being introduced to help children have enough nourishment over the weekends when they are not in school. It is starting at Allegheny Elementary School where over 60% of the students receive reduced or free lunches. Food will be given to students on Friday for the weekend. The Sheffield Food Pantry is working with 2nd Harvest and the school district.

The Sheffield Food Pantry has gone out on faith to sponsor 50 children for 1 year for \$7500. \$150 per child per year. We are trying to raise at least that much money. We would like to support every child that is eligible and wants to participate in the program, 120 or more for \$18,000. Please make checks out to the Sheffield Food Pantry and designate it Backpack. Each area will support their own children. Please give above and beyond what you give to the Food Pantry, both programs need your support.

### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines with sustained winds of nearly 150 miles per hour. It is the strongest typhoon in the world this year, and possibly the most powerful ever to hit land. Over 30,000 people were killed by the storm and hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes. Millions of others have been affected.

With your help, LWR can assist **with sustainable solutions and a lasting promise of support.** LWR's staff on the ground are conducting a rapid damage and needs assessment to best determine our response. Depending on the needs, possible responses might include:

- a cash-for-work program that helps get cash into the hands of those who need it and aids in the clean-up of storm debris from places like schools, roads and other public spaces;
- distributing non-food items, such as shelter repair kits, Personal Care Kits, or Baby Care Kits; or
- distributing Mission Quilts that provide warmth and comfort to disaster-affected families;

Please help be the feet and hands and heart of Jesus to folks so devastated by the storm. You can go online ([www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)) to make a donation or checks payable to "Lutheran World Relief" (in the memo line just write "hurricane") can be dropped off at the church. Thanks!

## First Lutheran January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Gerry Tassone
4	Ron & Cindy Hillard (22)
6	Sandy Britton Johanne Forney Phil Howard Roberta Stewart
8	Charles & Rita Cox (14) Kevin Downey Denny Hedges
10	Jill Fraser Carolyn Jacobson
11	Jean Ballard
12	Katie Downey Rachel Labowski Earl & Linda Ross (6)
13	Randy Witmer Randy & Colleen Witmer(18)
14	Ed Carr Lilly Downey Ryan McGuinness Hallie Rigg
15	Kaelah Knupp
16	Brianna Check Mary Ann Mead
18	Tim Bleech Toby Holland
19	Janet Hansen

20	Butch & Bonnie Lucia (63) Jim Rapp Dee schultz
23	Katie Koerselman
25	Marilyn Dahlgren
26	Taige Honhart
27	John Stewart
28	Terry Blair Caitlyn Wachter Heather Williams
29	Susan Stewart
30	Helen Blank
31	Jeanne Reinard Charlette Russell Claude & Nancy Parker (61) Tom & Dee Schultz (44)

<u>Bethany Birthdays</u>	
15	Marlene Austin
19	Jesse Johnson
20	Eric Berry Richard Foley
23	Michele Mattison
28	Madeline Fiscus
31	Lee Goldthwaite



January 5<sup>th</sup>- Mission trip luncheon following 11:00 am worship  
 January 18<sup>th</sup>- Winterfest at Chapman Dam



**Saturday, Jan 4, 2014: Planning breakfast!** Food is set on the table at 8:28 a.m.

## **T.A.P. 2013-2014**

### **"Pressing On Toward the Goal"**

- 1<sup>st</sup>- No TAP
- 8<sup>TH</sup> – Regular TAP
- 15th Beach Party
- 22nd – Junk Night – bring in junk that Pastor Jeff asks for and win points for your table.
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Super Bowl/Sports Party- bring your family to dinner and wear team attire.





**January Altar Guild:** (8AM) Hope Green and Sally Kittner (11AM) Lori Howard, Kathy Southwell and Peggy Nelson **Ushers:** (8AM) Barry and Irene Keller, Jan Peterson and Marilyn Dahlgren (11AM) Harry Boekeloo, Ed Carr, Joe Colosimo, Al Dennis, Jim Moore, Jack Elder, Orren Wood, Zachary Ballard and Dale Clark

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>		<b>11:00</b>
1/5		Kersey Family		Peggy Nelson
1/12		Dan and Kathy Knupp		Lori Nowacki
1/19		Jo Loree		Jeanne Reinard
1/26			10am-	Sue Reinke
	<b>Visitor Greeters</b>			
1/5		Jo Loree		Denny and Vonda Hedges
1/12		Doris Sadler		Phil Howard
1/19		Randy and Sandy Britton		Charles Merroth
1/26			10am-	Jim and Alice Rapp
	<b>Acolytes</b>			<b>Acolytes</b>
1/5		Taige Honhart		Allison Koebley & Madelyn Rodgers
1/12		Christie Hillard		Emily Koebley & Stephanie Rowland
1/19		Liam Stevenson		Elyse Hedges and Haley Justice
1/26			10am-	Aidan Colosimo and Cole Chimenti
	<b>Assisting Ministers</b>			<b>Assisting Ministers</b>
1/5		Kris Whitaker		Linda Ross
1/12		Elizabeth Beardsley		Donna Trubic
1/19		Randy Britton		Rodger Tubbs
1/26			10am-	Denise Whipp
	<b>Cantors</b>			<b>Cantors</b>
1/5		John Beard		Donna Trubic
1/12		John Beard		Randy Baughman
1/19		John Beard		Denny Crandall
1/26			10am-	Brenda Hunter
	<b>Crucifers</b>			
1/5		Kayla Kuppertz		
1/12		Rachel Labowski		
1/19		Erica Littlefield		
1/26- 10am		Curtis Royek		
	<b>Nursery</b>			
1/5		Diane Stenstrom/Sydney Ewing		
1/12		Joyce Rowland/Stephanie Rowland		
1/19		Jean Ballard/Vickie Brooks		
1/26		Amy & Kevin Downey		

