

First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

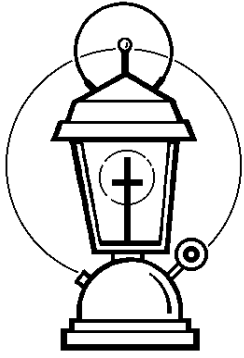
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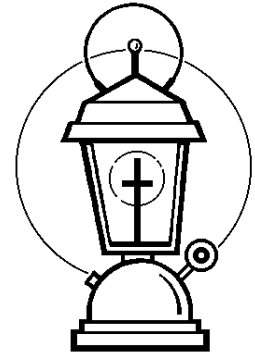
January 2015



The January 2015 Lantern

"Reaching Upward and Reaching Outward"

First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
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Dear Friends in Christ,

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

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year! In January we are still celebrating the Christmas season with day 8 (January 1) through day 12 (January 5). I pray that you have been wrapped in the love and light of our God who gives us the promise of new life through Emmanuel, God with us.

On January 4, we have the opportunity to celebrate the Service of Lessons and Carols with our brothers and sisters in Christ at First Presbyterian. Please join us at 10:00am. This is an awesome opportunity to worship together in Word and Song, meet old and new friends, and celebrate a common mission we have in Christ. Share the adventure! Park at First Lutheran's lot and walk across the street to meet, greet and worship with our neighbors.

Please keep in your prayers, Pastor Toby Holland, the next son of First Lutheran Church who has been accepted to serve as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pastor Toby has been assigned to the Allegheny Synod and is currently interviewing with a congregation for a call. We ask God to bless Toby, Jody, Jack and Natalie as they prepare to make this next step in their lives!

The Annual Congregational Meeting is rapidly approaching and I want to remind committees, organizations and individuals to please get your requests for the Special Gifts Fund to John Kersey, Finance Committee, Chairman as soon as possible.

Also, please be aware that the Congregation Council will recommend at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on January 25 – to begin holding congregational meetings in December of 2015 for the purpose of elections and determining a budget so that terms served and the budget will start January 1. An informational meeting and other business would be held later at a time yet to be determined.

Looking ahead, for the first time since the formation of the ELCA in 1988, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod will hold a joint Synod Assembly in June 2015 at Thiel College. Each synod will hold separate business meetings, but worship and special presentations will be held together.

That's all for now! God bless us all as we begin this new year.

Your Servant in Christ

Pastor Dave



LUTHERAN'S TOGETHER – JANUARY 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
January 4*	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
January 11	The Baptism of Our Lord	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
January 18	The Conversion of Paul	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
January 25+	The Confession of Peter	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff

*Please note – only the 8:00am service will be held at First Lutheran. The second service begins at **10:00am** at First Presbyterian Church, Market & Third, Warren.

+ First Lutheran's Annual Congregational Meeting. **One worship service only at 10:00am** followed by meeting.

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Welcomed into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism are: Kayle Marie and Taylor Elizabeth Bell on Sunday, December 21 at Bethany Lutheran Church. Kayle and Taylor are the children of Kevin and Heather Bell. Welcome Kayle and Taylor!

Affirmation of Baptism

The following individuals were received as adult members of our church family through the rite of Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, December 28:

At Bethany: Lori McCune & Gladys Pierson

At First: Barbara Boger, Jennifer Mowrey, John Schwone and Anthony Tridico.

Please welcome our newest adult members!

Funeral

A funeral was held for Bryan Smith at First Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 1, 2014. Bryan joined the Church Triumphant on October 25, 2014.

A funeral was held for John Kiser at the Peterson Blick Funeral Home on Saturday, November 29. John entered the Church Triumphant on November 25.

“Rest eternal, grant them, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them.”

BETHANY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1/15	Marlene Austin
1/19	Jesse Johnson
1/20	Eric Berry Richard Foley
1/23	Michele Mattison
1/28	Madeline Fiscus
1/31	Lee Goldthwaite

FIRST LUTHERAN JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1/2/15 Gerry Tassone	Cont.
1/4/15 Ron & Cindy Hillard (23)	1/15 Kaelah Knupp
1/6 Sandy Britton	1/16 Brianna Check
Johanne Forney	Mary Ann Mead
Phil Howard	1/18 Tim Bleech
Roberta Stewart	Kohl Feeny
1/8 Charles & Rita Cox (15)	Toby Holland
Kevin Downey	1/19 Janet Hansen
Denny Hedges	1/20 Butch & Bonnie Lucia (64)
1/10 Carolyn Jacobson	Jim Rapp
1/11 Jean Ballard	Dee Schultz
1/12 Katie Downey	1/23 Katie Koerselman
Rachel Labowski	Jessica Kramer
Earl & Linda Ross (7)	1/25 Marilyn Dahlgren
1/13 Elizabeth Miller	1/26 Taige Honhart
Randy Witmer	1/28 Terry Blair
Randy & Colleen Witmer (19)	Caitlyn Wachter
1/14 Ed Carr	Heather Williams
Lilly Downey	1/30 Helen Blank
Ryan McGuinness	Nancy Clark
Autumn Mickle	Joan Greisbach
Peggy Nelson	1/31 Jeanne Reinard
Dave Rigg	Charlette Russell
Hallie Rigg	Tom & Dee Schultz (45)



FIRST LUTHERAN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- New Members will be received by affirmation of Baptism on December 28
- Members are encouraged to attend Festival of Lessons and Carols at First Presbyterian on January 4 at 10:00am. There will be no 11:00am service at First Lutheran.
- First Lutheran will be participating with Trinity Episcopal and First Presbyterian preparing Christmas meals for delivery to those in need.
- Approved 2015 budget for recommendation to congregation at January 25 annual meeting.
- Recommending line item #7016 FLC Maintenance be removed from First Lutheran Church's Budget and be placed in the Capital (Property Improvement) fund.
- Recommending that the congregation beginning in 2015 approve holding a special congregational meeting on the first Sunday of December for the purpose of elections (council, audit committee and nominating committee), the adoption of the budget and the distribution of monies from the Special Gift Fund.
- Recommending that the congregation beginning in 2016 hold its regularly called annual meeting on the first Sunday of February for the review of the annual report and other business.
 - Council has directed the music and worship committee to once again consider how we can include a children's service.

Saturday, Jan 3, 2015: Planning breakfast!
Food is set on the table at 8:28 a.m.
Hope to see you there!



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEW YEAR'S PROGRAM

Senior Fellowship meets the 2nd 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! Depending on the month, we may have a program after lunch. 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! On January 13th we will have a **New Year's program** hosted by Eunice Herrington!



NO SUNDAY'S COOL ON JANUARY 4TH

Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will begin at 10:30 on the 4th, so we will begin our 2nd semester on the 12th of January!



Sunday, January 4th – New Year's Bowling Party! We will meet at the church at 1:30 and head up to Jamestown for a couple of games. And, yes, the prize bag will be there! Cost is \$3.00/game (PJ has buy one/get one free tickets) and it's \$2.00 to rent shoes. Bring extra money if you want to order food.

Saturday, January 17th – POLAR PLUNGE at Winterfest! Yep, we're doing it again and looking for more brave (read: crazy) people to participate. Get a registration and sponsor form from pastor Jeff and we'll make sure we have our meet times together as we get a little closer to the event. Be sure to bring a towel and dry clothes (a barrel of fire might not be a bad idea, either J)

T.A.P. 2014-2015 "Don't conform, be transformed"

JANUARY SCHEDULE

- 7 T.A.P. - Welcome back and to 2015!
- 14 T.A.P. – dinner color is FLANNEL
- 21 T.A.P. Junk Night – bring in junk (that PJ asks for!) and win points for your table!
- 28 Super Bowl/Sports Party – Bring your family to dinner and wear team attire!

The Bells are Ringing

The Joyful Sounds Bell Choir of First Lutheran will be "ringing in the season".
Concert at Holy Redeemer Church Friday, January 9th 7:00 PM Concert.

JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

Ushers: (8AM) Barry & Irene Keller, Jan Peterson, Marilyn Dahlgren (11AM) Harry Boekeloo, Ed Carr, Joe Colosimo, Al Dennis, Jack Elder, Jim Moore, Orren Wood, Zack Ballard, Dale Clark

Altar Guild: (8AM) Anne Benson, Marilyn Dahlgren (11AM) Lori Howard, Cathy Southwell, Peggy Nelson

Greeters	8:00 a.m.	11:00
01/4	Barry & Irene Keller	at Presbyterian Church
1/11	John, Barb, & Jen Kersey	Gary & Penny Lester
1/18	Dan & Kathy Knupp	Mary Ann Mead
1/25	10:00 AM Chuck Merroth	

Visitor Greeters		
01/4	Andy & Jane Beardsley	at Presbyterian Church
1/11	Joan Loree	Jim & Velma Zock
1/18	Doris Sadler	Charles & Rita Cox
1/25	10:00 AM Dale & Nancy Clark	

Acolytes		
01/4	Jackson Knupp	Jack Holland & Devin Colosimo
1/11	Kaelah Knupp	Elizabeth Koebley & Elyse Hedges
1/18	Erika Stevenson	Jared Labowski & Hunter Feeny
1/25	10:00 AM Emily Koebley & Stephanie Rowland	

Assisting Ministers		
01/4	Randy Britton	at Presbyterian Church
1/11	Barb Kersey	Bob Engstrom
1/18	Don Reed	Roz Hupp
1/25	10:00 AM Meredith McIntosh	

Cantors		
01/4		at Presbyterian Church
1/11		Donna Trubic
1/18		Linda Ross
1/25	10:00 AM Joan Griesbach	

Nursery (11:00)	Crucifers (11:00)
01/4	at Presbyterian Church
1/11	Curtis Royek
1/18	Zack Ballard
1/25	(10:00 AM) Taige Honhart



Produce Express is now a Drive Thru!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped bag veggies, register the folks, brought food to the cars, loaded the cars, directed traffic, and more!! Word about the Produce Express is getting out, too! Our next distribution is on **Thursday, January 15th 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!



Twelfth Night Concert First Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 11 at 4:00 PM. Come and enjoy the Chautauqua Chamber Singers in this musical closure to the Christmas season. Readings from the Bible and other sources will be interspersed with selected choral music performed in full Renaissance costume by this vocal ensemble.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO BETHESDA

First Lutheran was able to provide laundry baskets, board games, picture frames and a quilt for the 16 foster families at Bethesda Children Home in Meadville. Special thanks to the Social Ministry committee (and a grant from the Special Gifts fund), the workshop ladies for providing the hand-made quilts and the 6th – 8th grade TAP class for shopping! You made their Christmas that much more bright!!

JANUARY - FOCUS ON FESTIVALS

In January the Lutheran Church celebrates two Principle Festivals and three Lesser Festivals.

PRINCIPLE FESTIVALS



A Light to the Nations

The Epiphany of Our Lord – January 6

The Western Church celebrates this day as the arrival of the magi (kings) to the home where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were staying. The magi were gentiles whose eyes were opened to see Jesus as the son of God. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning, “to open” or “reveal.” They presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gifts that were fit for a king, priest and for burial.

In Europe it is common on this day for the blessing of houses. By tradition the magi’s names were Kaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. As a sign of this blessing, an inscription would be chalked over the door as follows, 20 + K + M + B 15. The letters were understood to represent in Latin, *Christus mansionem benedicat* meaning “Christ bless this house.” The story of the Epiphany is found in Matthew 2:1-12.

The Baptism of Our Lord – January 11 (first Sunday after the Epiphany)



The Baptism of Our Lord is always the first Sunday after the Epiphany. Jesus’ baptism marks the beginning of his public ministry. The story is recorded in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke).

LESSER FESTIVALS

The Name of Jesus – January 1

In the tradition of Jewish law, eight days after the birth of Jesus, he is circumcised and given his proper name. This day was not celebrated until well after the sixth century.

The Confession of Peter – January 18

Remembering Peter’s amazing confession when Jesus asks, “Who do people say that I am?” Peter’s response is, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” This day marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Conversion of St. Paul – January 25

Remembering Paul’s dramatic conversion on the way to Damascus to become a devout follower of Christ. This day marks the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



Volunteers Needed for Christmas Meal Deliveries

Once again the Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church has invited us along with other churches to join them in preparing, packaging and distributing holiday dinners. The meal preparation will take place at First Lutheran Church.

Christmas dinners will be delivered on Thursday December 25th. Help is needed with the preparation of the dinners as well as delivering and cleaning up. **You can also help by donating cookies.** Cookies can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church no later than 5:00 Wednesday evening (Dec 24th). Please watch for the sign-up sheet on the table in the FLC narthex.

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. Questions? Call or email Denise Whipp: cell) 730-0121 denise.whipp@era.com.