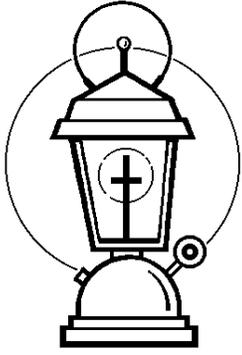


First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

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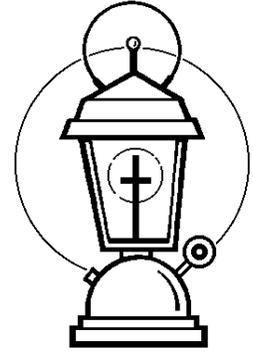
October 2014



The October Lantern

“Reaching Upward and Reaching Outward”

First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
814-723-6450
www.firstlutheranwarren.com
firstlutheran@westpa.net



From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. Luke 12:48b

Stewardship is about how we live and spend our lives, how we care for and nurture all that we have been entrusted with - our time, our resources, our relationships, our world, and, yes, our money, too - as followers of Jesus. As Christ's disciples, the words from our Savior in Luke's gospel apply as much today as they did nearly two thousand years ago. We are reminded to look at all God has placed in our care. It is easy to get caught up in the materialism of today's society, to look at our own wants as needs. It is easy to forget that Jesus calls us by our Baptism to continue the work He began on earth. The Holy Spirit works hand-n-hand with us(!) as partners(!) in bringing Christ's Good News to the world! It is our responsibility to ensure that we pass on the faith to the upcoming generations and to support the work of the Church here in our own community and throughout the world.

So, I invite you to become His missionaries. Now, I know what you're thinking - 'What, me? A missionary?' Well, yes. Think about it: missionaries use their resources to bring the Word of God to every corner of the world while they sacrifice themselves for something of lasting value. That's our calling as a child of God. I am encouraging you to sacrifice some of your resources, some of your wealth, for the Lord's work - here at Bethany, First and St. John's, and beyond Warren County's borders to wherever God's love, grace and mercy needs to be realized.

Over the next few weeks you will hear a little more about stewardship and will be encouraged to make a pledge to the ongoing ministry of God's work in this place. Our stewardship emphasis won't be heavy-handed. We will just be giving you reminders (nudges) here and there to think about and recognize that all our gifts, abilities and possessions come from God - and then to respond accordingly (joyfully!) to that recognition.

Giving is our choice. And God is inviting us to give back to Him a share of His gifts to us. Stewardship Sunday is October 19th. Prayerfully consider your contribution to the work of the Church, here in our own congregations and beyond.

Shalom,

Pastor Jeff and Pastor Dave



LUTHERAN'S TOGETHER – September 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 SCHEDULE

| Date | | First | St. John's & Bethany |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| October 5 | 17 th Sunday after Pentecost | Pastor Dave | Pastor Jeff |
| October 12 | 18 th Sunday after Pentecost | Pastor Jeff | Pastor Dave |
| October 19 | 19 th Sunday after Pentecost | Pastor Dave | Pastor Jeff |
| October 26 | Reformation Sunday | Pastor Jeff | Pastor Dave |

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral

A funeral was held for Sandra Ponick on Tuesday, September 9 at the Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home. Sandra joined the Church Triumphant on Friday, September 5.

“Rest eternal grants her O Lord and let perpetual shine upon her.”

Bethany Council Highlights

- Received Pastors' and Treasurer's Report
- In worship the congregation is using the “Feast and Celebration” liturgy
- Sunday School began on September 7 with three children. Sherry McMillen is the teacher.
- Designated Sunday, September 28 as the day to recognize graduates.
- Tuesday Bible Study continues go well with between 2-6 in attendance. The group is currently studying James.
- Sundays, October 12 & 19 have been designated as Stewardship Sundays. Persons are needed to stuff stewardship envelopes on Monday, Sept. 29 at 6:30pm at First, Warren.
- Much discussion on the parsonage situation. Contact will be made with the Warren County Jail to utilize inmates who are on “work release” to help clean the house.
- Approved permitting the pastors to perform same-sex marriage services at the church.
- Next meeting Monday, October 13 at 7:00pm



Equals at communion

After saving England from Napoleon's threats in 1815, the Duke of Wellington achieved hero status. One Sunday as the duke approached the altar for communion, a poor man from London's streets, wearing rags, knelt beside him. The indignant minister whispered for the vagrant to move away. “Don't you realize this is the great Duke of Wellington?” he asked.

When the duke overhead, he responded, “Leave him alone. We're all the same here. The ground is level at the cross.”

That's the spirit in which we celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. Paul says believers share the Lord's Supper by partaking of the “one bread” (1 Corinthians 10:17). Everyone at the communion table is equal in God's sight, needing his forgiveness and grace.

Stewardship is WORK

October brings falling leaves, pumpkins, scarecrows...and a special time in our church year that provides an opportunity for each of us to help with the continuation of our church's ministry. You will soon be receiving, in the U.S. Mail, a small packet of information regarding our Stewardship Campaign for 2015. It includes an Estimate of Giving card and we hope you will prayerfully consider your gift to God's work in our congregation. Please complete the card, place it in an envelope and return to the church on either Sunday, October 12 or 19th (or by mailing it to the church). It is through your generosity that our congregation can spread the message of God's love.

As a special thank you, the Stewardship Committee will be providing coffee and "goodies" following both church services of October 19th. We hope you will join us.

Our condolences to the family of Mrs. Patricia Tickner who died over Labor Day weekend in Zanesville, Ohio. She was the wife of Pastor John Tickner .



The family of Judith A. Barner would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those that helped mourn her passing and celebrate her life. She touched all our lives in so many ways. Judy had a passion for life and a steadfast love for her husband, children, grandchildren, family and friends. She will forever be missed, but the memory of her and the strength of her example will live on in the people that loved her.

With much appreciation –

The Family of Judith A. Barner – Jodell, Jason, Michele, Alaina and Curtis Barner.



Church Council **First Lutheran Church Council** met on Monday, September 15th. Council approved a motion from the Christian Education Committee that the youth going to the National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2015 be allowed to hold the following fundraisers on Sundays; Potato Bar October 12, Soup and Sandwich luncheon Dec. 7th, Easter Candy sales in February, National Youth Gathering Stock Sale March 8, 15, and 22, Basket Raffle on April 26, May 3rd and 10th, and a rummage sale on Saturday May 30th. To date there are 8 students signed up to go to the 2015 National Youth Gathering in Detroit. Council also approved a request from the Social Ministry committee to collect change with a tag line *\$ for dough* in the Narthex beginning in October. Money collected will be presented at the Thanksgiving service for food for the poor. Council also unanimously approved the motion to allow our pastors to officiate at same sex couple marriages. Council reminds everyone that Stewardship letters will go out in September. Please give prayerful consideration to your pledge and return the pledge card so our Finance Committee can make a reasonable budget.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



TRUST ME

Has anyone ever told you to "Trust Me," and then let you down?

Our Stephen Ministers are people you can really trust. They are committed to providing the best Christian care possible to their care receivers. They are people you can trust and depend on.



TWO DIFFERENT TIMES – LECTIONARY STUDY

Everyone is welcome to join the Lectionary Study! What's a Lectionary? The Lectionary is a book that contains the assigned Scripture readings for each Sunday of the Church Year and special occasions. Our Lectionary Study involves the review and study of the upcoming Sunday's Bible readings. The study gives folks additional insight into the readings and a greater understanding of the message that is shared on Sunday mornings. The study is offered at Bethany Lutheran Church, 110 Church Street, Sheffield on Tuesdays at 2:00pm and again on Wednesdays at First Lutheran, 109 West Third Ave., Warren at Noon. Come, learn, and enjoy a unique and wonderful fellowship. If you can't make one day come on another. See you there.

BETHANY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 10/2 | Marc Goldthwaite Daniel Monroe Mike/Margo Steffan | 10/18 | Noah heeter |
| 10/11 | Nancy Benson | 10/19 | Alyssa Bailey |
| 10/13 | Thomas M. Dunn Gordy Lubold | 10/21 | Ann Cochran |
| | | 10/23 | Rita Goldthwaite |
| | | 10/24 | Harold Schopper |
| | | 10/30 | Jim & Gloria Olson |

FIRST LUTHERAN OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/1 | Ron & Sharon Collman (20) Jerry & Carol Johnson (59) Joe Hillard Butch Southwell Bobbie Stanton | 10/17 | Romaine Stanton |
| 10/2 | Kayla Chambers Taffy Honhart Todd Smith | 10/18 | Chris Check |
| 10/3 | George Means | 10/19 | Julie Baughman |
| 10/4 | Gordon & Janis Bennett, Jr. (28) Denny & Elaine Crandall (39) | 10/20 | Jim & Lori Nowacki (30) |
| 10/5 | Nancy Lindblad | 10/21 | Debbie Backhus Bonnie Miller |
| 10/6 | Barb Kersey Gayle Neidig | 10/23 | Cindy Hillard Janine Steinle Denise Whipp |
| 10/7 | Art Zerbe | 10/24 | Mike & Jessica Flickner (5) Jim & Velma Zock (61) |
| 10/8 | Lindsey Baughman Ashley Taraska | 10/25 | Randy & Sandy Britton (34) Ruth Abplanalp |
| 10/11 | Jared Labowski | 10/26 | Bob & Jeannie Engstrom (51) |
| 10/12 | Sue Candraia Walter Royek | 10/27 | Steve Abplanalp Mandi Buerkle Trenton Downey Penny Lester |
| 10/14 | Randy & Julie Baughman (29) Roger Gausman Elaine Taraska | 10/28 | Jim Swanson |
| 10/15 | Bob & Melanie Ewing (31) Barry & Irene Keller (37) Chase Colosimo Julie Rhoades | 10/29 | Kaylynn Johnson Mckenna Mickle |
| | | 10/30 | Kris Soderberg |
| | | 10/31 | Chuck Merroth |

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

- 1 Crazy hat day – Wear a wacky one and get an extra point for your table!
- 8 Fall Fun Fest
- 15 T.A.P – Dinner color is **BROWN!**
- 22 Mittens, Scarves and Hats! Oh, my! Bring in a pair of mittens or a scarf or hat and we'll get them to kids who need them!
- 29 Halloween Theme – Wear your costume to T.A.P. – Family Dinner

SALAD AND SPUDS ON DECK FOR OCTOBER 12TH

Our first fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering will be a Potato and Salad Bar! Join us after the 11:00 a.m. worship (say around 12:21) at First Lutheran for a baked potato and salad with a bunch of toppings! Why, we'll even provide coffee and lemonade! AND, we'll take care of the clean up! Hope you can make it and, as always, thanks for your support!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Produce express humming along! Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made the day go so smoothly! **We served 105 families in September!** The next distribution date is Thursday, October 16th. If you are interested in volunteering for this outreach, please contact any member of the Social Ministry Committee (Vonda, Colleen, Meredith, Cathy, Shawn and Pastor



Jeff). We are never sure how much food we will be given to distribute, so many volunteers are needed for set up, distribution and clean up! Please prayerfully consider if you can help!

Did you know?

That you can make your regular contributions automatically from your bank account?

- You continue to support your church, even when you're away from home.
- Makes your budgeting easier
- Saves you the cost of checks and postage.

There are several ways to make automatic electronic payments. Call Tom Schultz or one of the Pastors at 723-6450 or Treasurer Don Reed at 723-4520 to learn more and find the best method for you!

WELCA Conference 2 Fall meeting at Tabor Lutheran Church, Kane, on Oct. 18th. The theme is "New Beginnings". The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. with a soup buffet at noon. There will be a Chinese auction for next triennial convention. The cost for the day is \$5.00 a person (paid there). For reservations call Joyce Kelley at 230-9345 by Monday, Oct. 13th. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table.

“Bread for Dough”

The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is approaching as is our annual “Change for World Hunger” collection to be donated at our Thanksgiving Eve service on November 26th. Beginning on October 26th, there will be a container in the narthex for your “bread” (pocket change – or dollars or checks!) to provide “dough” (food essentials) through the World Hunger Appeal. It’s amazing how a little “dough” (money) from a lot of people will provide a lot of “bread” (food essentials) for needy families both here and abroad! Still confused? Don’t be! Simply place your change in the container up ‘til Thanksgiving Eve and know that you have made a difference in the lives of other people! Thanks for your support!

Tuesday, Oct. 21: Annual Community Sauerkraut Supper

Come and taste the fruits of our labor as the Lutheran Men in Mission dish up some of the best homemade sauerkraut you have ever tasted!! The food is served continuously from 5:03 – 6:47 p.m. and a freewill offering will be taken. Bring your friends! Bring your relatives! Bring strangers off the street! We look forward to seeing everyone there!



To the First Lutheran & St. John’s Lutheran Church Families:

Food for the Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Pastor Roth on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters of Latin America and the Caribbean, we thank you for having shared in their lives. They, and you, are blessed by your generosity.

In Christ, The Food for the Poor Family

Halloween Trunk ‘R Treat!



Once again, the Witness Committee of First Lutheran Church is sponsoring a “Trunk ‘R Treat” Halloween event on Friday, October 31st. Please consider participating by handing out treats from your decorated car trunk. We also need help with refreshments and indoor games and crafts. Sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

FILL A SHOEBOX WITH LOVE!



For years Operation Christmas Child has been providing shoeboxes – over 100 million of them! - filled with gifts for kids in the United States and around the world. This year Bethany, First and St. John’s will be collecting filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Simply pick up a “HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX” sheet at church, fill your box and bring it back to church by Sunday, November 16th! It’s that simple!

And it’s fun, too! Kids and grandkids love shopping for kids their age!! If you have any questions, simply call Ellen at Bethany, Brenda at St. John’s or Pastor Jeff at First! Help us reach our goal of 50 boxes!

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 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 is on October 14th. **LIFE ON THE REZ** with Mike and Sandy Wachter sharing highlights of this past summer’s Mission Trip.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH! Join us as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with our friends from First Presbyterian. This joint service will be held at First Lutheran at our 11:00 a.m. worship service. We look forward to a combined choir as well as an uplifting message from First Presby’s new pastor, the Rev. Jeff Ott. We will also have a reception after worship for an extra time of fellowship. Join us as we celebrate our unity in the body of Christ!

October serving schedule

Ushers: (8AM) Tim Bleech, Don Reed and Gayle Neidig (11AM) Tom Schultz, Gary Candreia, Cheri Kellog, Jim Pearson, Ralph Farone and Earl Ross **Altar Guild:** (8AM) Tana Fegely and Elaine Taraska (11am) Sue Candreia, Sandy Wachter and Roberta Stewart

Greeters 8:00 a.m.

10/5 Gayle Neidig
10/12 Jan Peterson
10/19 Don and Kate Reed
10/26 Doris Sadler

11:00

Jim and Velma Zock
Bonnie Abplanalp
Jean Ballard
Dale and Nancy Clark

Visitor Greeters

10/5 Randy and Sandy Britton
10/12 Andy and Jane Beardsley
10/19 Jo Loree
10/26 Doris Sadler

Jim and Velma Zock
Charles and Rita Cox
Dale and Nancy Clark
Denny and Vonda Hedges

Acolytes

10/5 Liam Stevenson
10/12 Megan Koerselman
10/19 Jackson Knupp
10/26 Erika Stevenson

Jack Holland and Aidan Flannery
Rachal Rowland and Abby Koebley
Nathan Labowski and Jared Labowski
Allison Koebley and Emily Koebley

Assisting Ministers

10/5 Barb Kersey
10/12 Don Reed
10/19 Kris Whitaker
10/26 Elizabeth Beardsley

Bob Engstrom
Joan Griesbach

Meredith McIntosh

Cantors

10/5
10/12
10/19
10/26

Kevin Hunt
Randy Baughman
Denny Crandall
Brenda Hunter

Nursery (11:00)

10/5 Diane Stenstrom
10/12 Joyce Rowland and Stephanie Rowland
10/19 Kevin and Amy Downey
10/26 Joe and Denise Whipp

Crucifers

10/5 Zach Ballard
10/12 Kayla Kuppertz
10/19 Erica Littlefield
10/26 Confirmands

True heroes

We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

—Fred Rogers, Presbyterian minister and "hero" of *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*

October Lesser Festivals & Commemorations

LESSER FESTIVALS

ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST – October 17: Luke was a Gentile physician and companion to Paul. He is known as the author of a two volume set in the Bible, The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles. Some suggest that he was one of the seventy commissioned by Jesus. Another legend says he was the other disciple with Cleopas on the road to Emmaus. He supposedly preached in Bithynia and died at the age of 84 in Boetia (central Greece). Luke is depicted as a winged ox.

SIMON and JUDE, APOSTLES – October 28: Little is known about either of these apostles. They are paired together in Luke and in Acts. Luke calls Simon a Zealot and Jude is thought to be the brother of James the Younger. Both are suggested to have worked the mission field in Persia where they were martyred on the same day.

REFORMATION DAY – October 31: This is the day Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg church. The Theses were concerned about the sale of indulgences. This is the only day that is peculiar to the Lutheran Church. If the day does not fall on Sunday, it is traditionally transferred to the closest Sunday prior to the 31st.

COMMEMORATIONS

William Tyndale, translator, martyr – October 6: Tyndale was born in 1494 and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. In 1522 he began translating the Bible into English. The Bishop of London refused to support him so he travelled to Hamburg. His work from the Hebrew and Greek texts continue to be the basis of the Revised Standard Version. Tyndale was arrested as a heretic in 1535 and burned at the stake near Brussels in 1536.

Theresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church – October 15: Theresa was born to a Spanish family in 1515. After entering a Carmelite monastery in 1535 she converted to a life of perfection and began a community following the primitive rule of the Carmelites. She was a woman of strong character and gave influence as a spiritual writer. She is known to lead a life of contemplation and activity. Theresa died October 4, 1582.

James of Jerusalem, martyr – October 23: James, the brother of our Lord became a follower of Jesus as a witness of the resurrection. According to Paul and Acts, James was present in Jerusalem providing a resolution between Jew and Gentile at the Council of Jerusalem. According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, James was stoned to death around the year 62.

Other commemorations: Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, 1226 & Theodore Flidner, renewer of society, 1864 – October 4; Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, 1787 – October 7; Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, c. 115 - October 17; Philip Nicolai, 1608 Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters – October 26.

First of all ...

At the southwestern edge of New Zealand, a *National Geographic* writer traveled with a local guide along paths strewn with river pebbles. Suddenly the guide bent to pick up a finger-long sliver of “greenstone” — jade — shimmery and smoothed by the river. He handed it to the journalist, saying, “Our people have a tradition that you don’t keep the first piece you find. So I’m giving it to you.”

Throughout Scripture, “first fruits” signifies people giving their best back to God because he first gave the best of himself to humanity. Ultimately, Paul teaches, “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died” (1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV).

In response to this gift of life, we give our own first fruits to God; for example, we might spend early-morning time in prayer, set aside an offering as our first budget item, and make sure our first words to family each day are sweet ones.

SUNDAY'S  COOL

Extreme
LOSERS