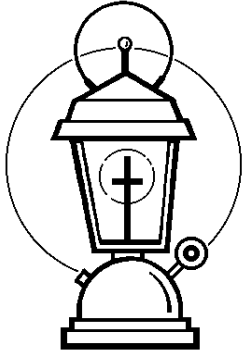


First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
Warren, PA 16365

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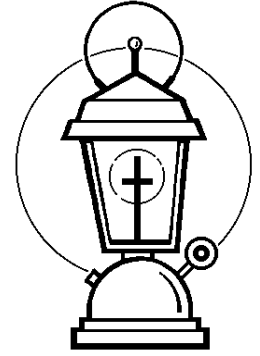
September 2014



The September Lantern

“Reaching Upward and Reaching Outward”

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently, the ALS Association has presented a campaign that has caught the attention of the public in its efforts to raise awareness and funds to combat a terrible disease. ALS stands for *Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis* or more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. The campaign is called the Ice Bucket Challenge where people challenge each other to receive a bucket of ice water over their heads and make a donation. Several folks even record the moment and put it on Facebook for all to see. This simple but fun program appears to be bringing ALS to the attention of the people and raising considerable funds.

Not to steal the ALS’ thunder but I want to suggest that as Christians we have a water challenge of our own. In reality the majority of us in the Lutheran tradition didn’t have much to say about it when it happened because we were perhaps days, weeks or a few years old. Our parents brought us sleeping, fidgeting, perhaps even crying to the font and there the pastor poured water over us three times in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was unexpected and for those of us light sleepers we may have been jolted awake by the water (and sometimes it was c-c-c-cold) that streamed over our tiny heads.

Now the challenge here is not that we HAVE to do something. God has already done that for us. He receives us into his family, forgives our sin and promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The challenge for us is - do we remember these gifts God gives us each day through the waters of our baptism? Are we able to take what God has given and share it with others? Can we forgive as we have been forgiven? Can we receive others as God has received us? Can we offer the cup of cold water, visit the sick and imprisoned or clothe those in need as Christ has done for us?

The answer to these questions is a BIG “Yes” that the Holy Spirit has placed in our hearts.

Take the Baptismal Challenge and remember your “new” birthday, the day of your Baptism and God’s gifts to you. But don’t stop there the real challenge is getting past the daily distractions we encounter and follow Jesus’ call to mission to proclaim God’s love to the world!

Blessings!

Your Servant in Christ,

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
September 7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
September 14 Holy Cross Day	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave
September 21 Matthew, Apostle & Evang.	Pastor Dave	Pastor Jeff
September 28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Jeff	Pastor Dave

PASTORAL ACTS

MARRIAGES:

Jessica Kramer and Brandon Arnold were united in marriage on Saturday, August 23 at First Lutheran Church. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Arnold!

Donna Rogers and Scott Anderson were united in marriage on Saturday, August 30 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Anderson!

Congratulations to Bobbie Stanton and Debi Stanford who were united in marriage on Wednesday, August 6. Bobbie and Debi were married by Glen Carlson at the district justice office in Youngsville.

FUNERALS:

A service of new life was celebrated for Martin "Gene" Nelson on Monday, August 11 at First Lutheran Church. Gene joined the Church Triumphant on Thursday, August 7.

A service of new life was celebrated for Scott Edward Steffan on Saturday, August 16 at Bethany Lutheran Church. Scott joined the Church Triumphant on Thursday, August 14.

A Graveside service was held for Theodore Olson at the Youngsville Cemetery on Saturday, August 23. Theodore joined the Church Triumphant on December 5, 2013.

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

BETHANY COUNCIL NOTES

Received pastors' and treasurer's reports

Worship will change to Feast and Celebration liturgy in September

New home communion sets were purchased for Communion Stewards

Approved participating in Stephen Ministry program should there be members of the congregation who want training as Stephen Ministers

Lease was extended for one month (ending Aug. 31) – council will determine next steps in making sure parsonage is vacated and home items removed

Sunday School begins on September 7

Bible Study on Tuesdays will begin the book of James

Continued discussion on giving permission for pastors to conduct same sex marriage services at Bethany.

New council members will need to be recruited for next year as three council members are required to step down after serving two consecutive terms.

Next council meeting is September 8 at 7:00pm

BETHANY BIBLE STUDY

Come join us on Tuesdays at Bethany at 2:00pm for a time of fellowship and learning. No prior Biblical knowledge required! The group has completed its study of Mark and will begin to review the book of James. Everyone is welcome.

BETHANY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/2	Toni Barr Argeny David & Melissa Lemay	9/10	Rachel Lemay Tom & Jean Dunn
9/3	Marc Zevotek	9/12	Avella Lubold
9/4	Melanie McMillen	9/17	Cailyn Scalise David & Nancy Benson
9/5	Daniel Pierson Marc & Leslie Goldthwaite	9/21	Lucas DeVault
9/6	Kim DeVault	9/22	Mary Ann Neall David & Jessica Anundson
9/7	Jason & Melissa Hunt	9/23	Aaron & Michele Mattison Bob & Alice Stewart
9/8	Jill Baker David Benson Brandon Kipp	9/25	Mary Young



Pastor Jeff will be hosting an informational meeting regarding the **2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering** on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 6:00 P.M. AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** (we will meet in the dining hall). We'll discuss dates, transportation, fund raising, meetings, and more. If you have a child who is a member of First, St. John's or Bethany who is going into 8th-12th grade this year, they are eligible to attend. This is a very important meeting, so please plan to attend if interested!

First Lutheran Church Council

Church Council met on Monday, August 18th. Council approved a motion from property committee to begin work on renovation of the office space. In order to keep costs down, most of the labor will be supplied by members of the property committee. Members of the congregation who would like to help with this effort are encouraged to contact Kevin Downey for work bee times. Council is also asking for input from members of the congregation on ways to expand our membership. If you have ideas please share them with the council. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, new acolyte and worship assistant robes were ordered and have arrived. They will be dedicated in September. 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.



CHOIR AND BELLS BEGIN REHEARSALS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD! See Jack Hemink or any choir member if you would like to join in the singing!



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

Sunday's Cool and TAP on the way! Sunday's Cool will begin on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7th at 9:31 in the sanctuary. TAP will begin the following Wednesday (10th) at 3:47 p.m. Registration forms for TAP will be mailed and once again, First Lutheran and First Methodist will be providing bus service from St. Joe's and WAEC for students participating in their programs. We look forward to a new year Christian Education for our church family!



Finger Lickin' Good!

There is no better way to kick-off the fall season than with a yummy chicken bar-b-que. The annual Rally Day Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 7, 2014**, at 12:30pm following our 11am service.. This year we welcome back John Beard, who is most known to us as one of our cantors for the 8am services. He will be grilling right outside our church doors. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex, so that we will be able to properly plan for the number of chickens. You are asked to bring a dish to share, as well as your own table service. Beverages will be provided. We will have some fun events in addition to the food, so you won't want to miss this picnic! We hope to see you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Produce express humming along! Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made the day go so smoothly! **We served 102 families in August!** The next distribution date is Thursday, September 18th. 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!

FIRST LUTHERAN SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

9/1	Ciara Whipp	9/16	Randy Baughman
9/2	Lynn Williams		Sorren Check
9/3	Walt Griesbach		Mary McNett
9/4	Butch & Cathy Southwell (27)		Anthony & Sandra Ponick(36)
9/5	Melody & Thomas Traub (22)	9/17	Cheri Kellogg
9/6	Barry Keller		Bob Uhr
	Trevor Rodgers		Jon & Stephanie Ferrie (3)
9/7	Brynn Littlefield	9/18	Betty Knupp
	Leif Stevenson	9/19	Sydney Cronmiller
	Colleen Witmer	9/21	Stacy Cronmiller
9/8	Jack Holland	9/23	Jan Peterson
9/9	Kate Reed	9/24	Elnora Franklin
	Jim & Demeyer Pearson (64)		Darren Trubic
9/10	Andy Gausman	9/26	Heidi Colosimo
	Blanche Jenkins	9/27	Pete Carlson
9/11	Rob Buerkle		Kim Moore
	Jack Jones		Lou Rich
	Haley Justice		Jake Trubic
	Scott & Tammy Koerselman (15)		George & Carol Means (60)
9/12	Barb Campbell		Robert & Joan Reist (34)
9/13	Shawn Ristau		Leif & Marjie Stevenson (17)
	Ryan & Emily Hecei (6)	9/28	Lori Eaton
9/14	Tammy Koerselman		Bill Mickle
	Beverly Moore		Erin Williams
	Andy & Jane Beardsley (29)	9/29	Courtney Baughman
9/15	Dennis Crandall		Chris Wenzel
	Allen McIntosh	9/30	Amanda Anderson
	Bill & Karen Caldwell (41)		Doris Sadler



FOOD FOR THE POOR

A representative from the Food for the Poor program will be with the members of St. Johns and First on Sunday, September 14. The Rev. Dr. John F. Roth, retired, of Palmetto Bay, FL will be preaching that Sunday. Pastor Roth has served several congregations in the Florida-

Bahamas Synod and has been a speaker for Food for the Poor for over 13 years. Food For The Poor, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization based in Coconut Creek, Florida, USA that provides food, medicine, and shelter, among other services, to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you notes!

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church

Thank you to each and every person who in some way eased our burden during these difficult days. The music was uplifting and beautiful. The spoken words were meaningful and heartfelt -they lifted our spirits. The delicious dinner and time of fellowship after the funeral provided us with a time to nourish body and soul. We thank all of you for touching our lives in such a beautiful, Christ like fashion.

Sincerely, The family of Martin (Gene) Nelson

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

Sundays		Communion Worship Service at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
	9:31 a.m.	Sunday's Cool (Preschool through 12th)
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
1st Monday of Month	1:30 p.m.	Communion Service at Warren Manor
4th Monday of Month	1:00 p.m.	Women of the ELCA Joan Nabert Circle
Tuesdays	2:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study
1st Tuesday of Month	1:00 p.m.	St. John's Bible Study
2nd Tuesday of Month	11:00 a.m.	Senior Fellowship
3rd Tuesday of Month	7:30 p.m.	Lutheran Men in Mission
Wednesdays	9:00 a.m.	Ladies Workshop (Quilt making)
	Noon	First Lutheran Bible Study
	3:47 p.m.	TAP
	5:15 p.m.	Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir practice
	7:30 p.m.	Senior Choir (<i>We welcome new singers!</i>)
Thursdays	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry

There's an app for that!

These days, there's a smartphone app for just about everything. But what about spiritual concerns? Where can you turn?

- Depressed? Try the joy app. Read Isaiah 51:11.
- Tired? Try the renewal app. Read Isaiah 40:30-31.
- Unsettled? Try the peace app. Read Philippians 4:7.
- Unloved? Try the love app. Read Romans 8:38-39.
- Worried? Try the refuge app. Read Psalm 46:1.
- Fearful? Try the power app. Read 2 Timothy 1:7.
- Guilty? Try the forgiveness app. Read Colossians 1:13-14.
- Praying? Try the prayer app. Read 1 John 5:14-15.

The Scriptures are God's storehouse of meaningful applications for what we face every day. Think of the Bible as the iTunes Store of spiritual apps. Best of all, everything's free!

—Timothy Merrill

LESSER FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS IN SEPTEMBER

Three Lesser Festivals fall in the month of September. They are Holy Cross Day (14), Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (21) and Michael and All Angels (29). Two of these Lesser Festivals fall on Sundays this month and we will be observing them.

Holy Cross Day – September 14: The celebration of this day falls back to 335 AD on the day of dedication when Emperor Constantine built a basilica in Jerusalem. Because the day falls near the beginning of the academic year, the church takes the opportunity to relate the Cross of Christ to Christian schools and universities. The Roman Catholic Calendar lists this day as the “Triumph of the Cross.”

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – September 21: Matthew, sometimes called Levi, is noted by Mark to be the son of Alphaeus. It is believed that his name Matthew was given to him after being called to become a disciple. He was a tax collector for the Roman government. His name has been attributed to the Gospel since the second century. He is depicted in art as a winged man.

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia, 1654 – September 9. Peter Claver was born 1580 in Spain. At the age of 22 entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He was encouraged to respond to the mission fields of the new world and traveled to Columbia. He was ordained in 1616 and worked tirelessly to relieve the terrible sufferings of African American Slaves. While he faced fierce opposition by slave owners and others, he also found help through the generosity of others. He also provided ministry to those who were imprisoned because of the Inquisition and to those who were in the hospital. He died alone and ignored in 1654.

Jerome, translator, teacher, 420 – September 30. Jerome was born in 342. He devoted himself to the ascetic life. In 374 he traveled to Palestine and lived as a hermit in the Syrian desert where he learned Hebrew. He was ordained a priest and traveled to Constantinople and Rome. In 386 he settled in Bethlehem and proceeded to translate the Bible into Latin. This became known as the Vulgate and was the standard Latin version used by the Church for 1500 years. He died September 30 and is buried in Rome.

Other Commemorations in September: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872 (2); John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407 (13); Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, c. 258 (16); Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, 1179 (17); Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, 1961 (18).

At the core

Prayer is the core of our day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse, would be pithless, a straw blown in the wind. But how can you pray – really pray, I mean – with one against whom you have a grudge or whom you have been discussing critically with another? Try it. You will find it cannot be done.

—Amy Carmichael

September serving schedule

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

Altar Guild: (8AM) Denise Bleech and Karen Caldwell (11am) Stacey Simpson, Lois Ceriola and Cheryl Huber

Greeters

8:00 a.m.
9/7 Irene and Barry Keller
9/14 Kersey family
9/21 Dan and Kathy Knupp
9/28 Jo Loree

11:00

Diane Stenstrom
Melanie Traub
Denise Whipp
Lynn Williams

Visitor Greeters

9/7 Randy and Sandy Britton
9/14 Andy and Jane Beardsley
9/21 Jo Loree
9/28 Doris Sadler

Dale and Nancy Clark
Denny and Vonda Hedges
Phil Howard
Charles Merroth

Acolytes

9/7 Megan Koerselman
9/14 Jackson Knupp
9/21 Taige Honhart
9/28 Erika Stevenson

Allison and Emily Koebley
Stephanie Rowland and Elyse Hedges
Haley Justice and Christie Hillard
Aidan Colosimo and Cole Chimenti

Assisting Ministers

9/7 Don Reed
9/14 Kris Whitaker
9/21 Elizabeth Beardsley
9/28 Randy Britton

Roger Tubbs
Heidi Colosimo
Denny Crandall
Mary Donaldson

Cantors

9/7 John Beard
9/14 John Beard
9/21 Jack Donaldson
9/28 Jack Donaldson

Joan Griesbach
Kevin Hunt
Linda Ross
Brenda Hunter

Nursery (11:00)

9/7
9/14
9/21
9/28

Crucifers

9/7 Erica Littlefield
9/14 Curtis Royek
9/21 Taylor Whipp
9/28 Claire Abplanalp

