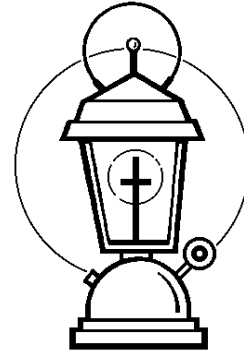
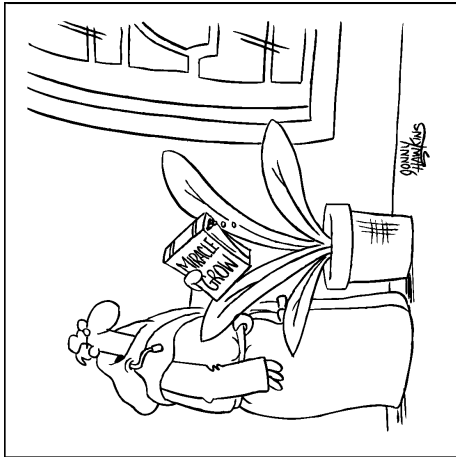


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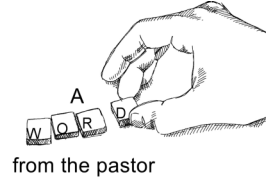


The Lantern

February, 2012

“Reaching Upward and Reaching Outward”

First Lutheran Church
109 West Third Avenue
814-723-6450
www.firstlutheranwarren.com



from the pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Many years ago I was assigned to Harrisburg State Hospital during my education in seminary. There, I served as a chaplain to the patients in the infirmary and to the geriatric ward. Those of us who came from the Roman Catholic, Episcopal or Lutheran traditions were encouraged to wear a clerical collar so that we could be identified as chaplains. During my wanderings through the Hospital campus it was not unusual for a patient/resident to approach me and say, “Bless me, Father.” Initially, when I received such a request, I would say, “I am not a Roman or Episcopal priest, I am a Lutheran seminarian.” I noticed that the person making the request would stand there staring at me and not say a thing. It was an awkward moment. Finally, the person said, “OK, chaplain, give me a blessing!” At that moment I realized they didn’t care what denomination I represented nor as a Lutheran am I addressed as “Father.” All they wanted to know was that God still cared...that God loved them...that God forgives them. From that moment on I learned that it wasn’t about me, it was about the person reaching out for a blessing.

As we look around we can easily see how family, neighbors, parishioners, and even ourselves need to hear that blessing - to be reminded of God’s love, care, forgiveness and that we are not alone. We can easily be blinded to the needs of others through our feelings of inadequacies, or need to try to fix whatever the issue is that is creating problems for our family member and neighbor.

(continued on page 7)

Our MISSION STATEMENT...

The congregation of First Lutheran Church is a community of caring individuals brought together around the cross of Christ Jesus.

First Lutheran is a place of healing where the broken are helped in finding wholeness. Once whole again, that person of faith reaches out instinctively to others. This is God's gift of community in the church.

Fed by Word and Sacrament, this community strives to live out the baptismal faith in daily living. In other words, "What does God have in store for me in my life today?"



LUNCH WITH PASTORS!

This opportunity will resume this year with a sign-up in the narthex. Lunch will be by reservation at 1:00 p.m. on a selected Sunday at Chido's. Families are encouraged to participate with the aim that all can be better acquainted to

better serve God and each other. Plan to join us by signing-up in the narthex. Thank you!

Transfiguration

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

—Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Nicole Cox
2/2 Rozalind Hupp
2/4 Jodi Elmquist
Lois Hodas
Ramsey Llewellyn
Carol Means
Dennis Stromdahl
Karen Zock
2/5 Glenn Fegely
Don Worley
2/6 Sydney Ewing
Keith Hedges
Ellen Seiz
Mark Simpson
2/7 Jeannie Engstrom
Sherrie Flannery
Jason Thomas
2/9 Anna Mae Bleech
Hope Thomas
2/11 Ellis Beardsley
Hillary Bertch
Nathan Neidig
2/13 Alyssa D'Alessandro
2/14 Becky Zerbe
2/15 Harry Boekeloo
2/17 Fran Allen
Keith Bertch
Derrick Koerselman
2/19 Sally Kittner
2/20 Brian Check
Emma Colosimo
2/21 Abigail Bennett
2/22 Brent Long
2/24 Kathy Knupp
Kathy Smith
2/26 Liza Buerkle
Mary Donaldson
Pastor Jeff Ewing
2/27 Debbie Hunter

BIRTHDAYS CONTINUED

2/28 Kayla Kuppertz
Melissa Marfink
Katie Stewart
2/29 Shirley Yeager

FIRST LUTHERAN FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/7 Don & Carolyn Worley (19)
2/25 Pastor Jeff & Kari Ewing (23)
2/27 Jim & Mary Kay Young (52)

*If your name has been
inadvertently left off of our
birthday and/or anniversary list,
please call the church office
(723-6450) and let us know. After
all, we want everyone to know when
your special day(s) are!!*

WEEKLY MEETING TIMES:

WEIGHT WATCHERS MEET

Mondays 9, 4, & 5:30
Wednesday 12:15
Thursdays 5:00 & 6:30

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Saturdays 6:30 p.m.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Mondays NOON

FIRST LUTHERAN

2/1	9:00am	Workshop
	Noon	Bible Study
	3:50pm	TAP
	5:15pm	Handbells
	7:30pm	Senior Choir
2/2	10 & 7	Prayer Shawl
	6:00pm	Art League
2/5	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:21am	Sunday's Cool
	9:30am	Adult Class
	11:00am	Holy Communion
2/6	6:30pm	Witness
2/7	7:00pm	Property
2/8	9:00am	Workshop
	Noon	Bible Study
	3:50pm	TAP
	5:15pm	Handbells
	7:00pm	Welcome Club
	7:30pm	Senior Choir
2/9	10 & 7	Prayer Shawl
2/12	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:21am	Sunday's Cool
	9:30am	Adult Class
	11:00am	Holy Communion
2/13	6:00pm	Stephen Ministry
2/14	11:00am	Senior Fellowship
	6:30pm	Social Ministry
2/15	9:00pm	Beacon Light
	9:00am	Workshop
	Noon	Bible Study
	3:50pm	TAP (Last one)
	5:15pm	Handbells
	7:30pm	Senior Choir
2/16	10 & 7	Prayer Shawl
	9:00pm	Beacon Light
2/17	9:00pm	Beacon Light

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

2/19	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:21am	Sunday's Cool
	9:30am	Adult Class
	11:00am	Holy Communion
	2:00pm	Sled Riding at Chapman Dam
2/20	9:00am	Beacon Light
	6:00pm	Christian Ed
	7:00pm	Church Council
2/21	5:03-6:47	LMM Shrove Tuesday supper
2/22	7:15am	Ash Wed. retreat
	9:00am	Workshop
	Noon	St. Paul Ash Wed. Service
	5:15pm	Handbells
	7:00pm	Ash Wed. Service at First Lutheran
2/23	10 & 7	Prayer Shawl
	6:00pm	Stephen Ministry
2/26	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:21am	Sunday's Cool
	9:30am	Adult Class
	11:00am	Holy Communion
		1st Communion
2/27	1:00pm	Joan Nabert Cir.
	7:00pm	Worship & Music
	7:00pm	Genealogy
2/28	6:30pm	Lenten Service at St. Joseph Catholic
	?	Cluster meeting First Lutheran
2/29	9:00am	Workshop
	Noon	Bible Study
	5:15pm	Handbells
	7:30pm	Senior Choir

TAP IS FINISHING STRONG!

Our last TAP of the season is scheduled for this month but we are going out with a bang!

February 1—Sports Night

February 8—Regular TAP

February 15—last Day of TAP (Special Event)

shhhh it's a surprise!

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE STUDENTS AND ADULTS WHO MAKE TAP POSSIBLE EACH WEEK. WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT, THIS GREAT OUTREACH AND MINSITRY WOULD NOT HAPPEN! THANK YOU!



- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5
- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19
- Presidents Day, February 20
- Ash Wednesday, February 22
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26



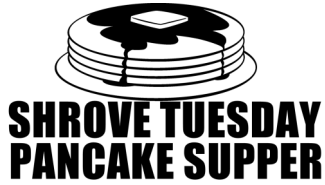
Senior Fellowship meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month (September to May) beginning at 11:00 a.m. for a Eucharist Worship service and hymn sing, followed by a wonderful luncheon at noon with a program sometimes following the meal! **On Tuesday, February 14th, Carolyn Worley will be here to tell us all about the**

ELCA's National Assembly (she went as one of our Synod's representatives)!

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS—Forty

This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).





Tuesday, Feb. 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Come and taste the awesome flapjacks whose recipe has been handed down from generation to generation since the last millennium! A free will offering will support the LMM Scholarship fund for Gettysburg seminarians. Dinner will be served continuously from 5:03 – 6:47 p.m. We're getting high class, too. We'll have A Matra D seat you when you get there! (Yeah, we're houti toiti this year!) It's a good meal for a great cause and you even have some fun while you're there!!

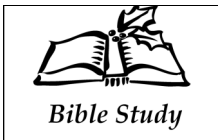


PACK WELL!

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series, www.rethinkchurch.org/lent



Our weekly bible study continues at noon on Wednesdays. We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. We hope you can join us!

Quotables:

"To love another person is to see the face of God."
—Lyrics from *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg

* * *

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."
—Anne Bradstreet

* * *

"Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof."
—Kahlil Gibran

OPTIMIST OR PESSIMIST?

Take a look at this line of type:

GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"? Or are you an optimist who read it as "God is now here"?



The Library committee is currently looking for volunteers to help keep our books up to date and our shelves full! It's not a lot of work, but it is important work. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact Barry Keller at 779.9669



Our Ash Wednesday worship services will take place on February 22nd. The first service will be held at St. Paul Lutheran church at noon and the evening service will be held at First Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. We hope that you will join us as we begin our Lenten discipline.



February Altar Guild: (8 a.m.) Carol Johnson & Sally Kittner (11 a.m.) Mary Donaldson, Peggy Nelson & Cathy Southwell **Ushers:** (8a.m.) Claude Parker, Tim Bleech, Don Reed, Dan Knupp, & Gayle Neidig(11a.m.)Tom Schultz, Cheri Kellogg, Jim Pearson, Steve Abplanalp, & Ralph Farone

Greeters: 8:00 a.m.

2/5 Carol Johnson
2/12 Barry & Irene Keller
2/19 Barb Kersey
2/26 Dan & Kathy Knupp

11:00a.m.

Jean Ballard
Dale & Nancy Clark
Heidi & Joe Colosimo
Charles & Rita Cox

Visitor Greeters:

2/5 Harry & Dot Boekeloo
2/12 Joan Loree
2/19 Doris Sadler
2/26 Randy & Sandy Britton

Jim & Alice Rapp
Jim & Velma Zock
Bonnie Abplanalp
Gail & Ruth Cobb

Acolytes:

2/5 Kayla Kuppertz Emily Koebley/Katelyn Hecei
2/12 Taige Honhart Elyse Hedges/Taylor Hopshire
2/19 Liam Stevenson Nic Allen/Curtis Royek
2/26 Jackson Knupp Zackary Ballard/Haley Justice

Worship Assistants:

2/5 Don Reed Denise Whipp
2/12 Carolyn Worley Jim Zock
2/19 Kris Whitaker Heidi Colosimo
2/26 Elizabeth Beardsley Denny Crandall

Cantors:

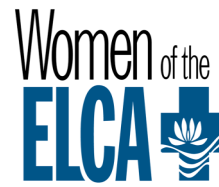
2/5 Carolyn Worley Mary Worley
2/12 Carolyn Worley Jen Koebley
2/19 John Beard Bob Engstrom
2/26 John Beard Linda Ross

Nursery

2/5 Sherrie & Shane Flannery
2/12 Bonnie & Ed Abplanalp
2/19 Peggy Nelson/Stephanie Rowland
2/26 Diane Stenstrom/Sydney Ewing

Crucifer

Jordi Ewing
Sydney Ewing
Andrea Hall



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Taking the time to cut off the box tops and bring them to the box on the table in the narthex. It's a painless way to give and it does so much! Thanks! The kids at Trinity Center say THANK YOU!



We have lots of coffee and tea in stock right now. If anyone would like, or need some, they can contact Diane Stenstrom and she can arrange that they get some. The Women could also use a few volunteers to help with the coffee sales.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Remember our Prayer Shawl Group gets together each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to knit and pray. If you would like to join in this incredible ministry, just show up—they'll even teach you how to knit and Carolyn will help guide the prayer time together. "Pray without ceasing" is an admonition this group takes seriously!!



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Here is a schedule for our Midweek Service schedule with Holden Evening Prayer. We will again be traveling to various congregations with goodies and discussion (affectionately known as "stump the chumps") after worship. Worship will be on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m.

2/28 St. Joseph's Pastor Beth preaching
3/6 First Presbyterian Father Matt preaching
3/13 First Lutheran Monsignor Lucas preaching
3/20 Holy Redeemer Pastor Jeff preaching
3/27 Trinity Episcopal Pastor Ellie preaching



Simply Giving

Do you have a 2012 resolution regarding being more organized with your financial items? If so, the Stewardship Committee brings this reminder regarding the **Simply Giving** program available to our congregation. This program, affiliated with Thrivent, allows congregation members to have their donations automatically deducted from their checking or savings accounts, and transferred to the church's account(s). You may choose to have this money transferred weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. You also designate how much will be put into each church fund, such as Current & Benevolence, Building, Memorial, etc.

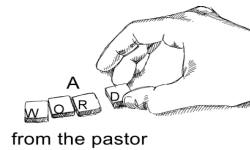
What do you have to do? Complete a Simply Giving Enrollment Form (available in the church office or the table in the narthex) and attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. Our church Financial Secretary, Tom Schultz, will be happy to help you with this process. He states that we have some families already doing this, and it is an easy way for you to keep up-to-date with your church giving. Amounts may be changed at any time, or you may discontinue the process, with just the re-filing of the form.

Tom wants to reassure our Simply Giving members that they will continue to receive quarterly statements, and a final end-of-year statement, for use in tax preparation. For further information, contact the church office.



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

On Sunday, January 15th, Randy and Julie Baughman, their children, Lindsay, Courtney and Jordan along with Randy and Julie's, mom's Phyllis Jordan and Dawn Baughman joined our fellowship here at First Lutheran! Please be sure to welcome them when you see them!!



from the pastor

(continued from page 1)

But it is not about us. God has already taken care of us through the wondrous gift of his son, Jesus. Through Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection God has blessed us with the gifts of love, forgiveness and salvation. Maybe we need to be reminded of that...maybe we need to hear that over and over again. And we are told of God's love over and over again every Sunday with the absolution at the confession, the proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of Holy Communion. Yes, God has blessed us. Be assured of what God has done. Now go and be a blessing to others!

Peace & Blessings.

Pastor Dave



Council Meeting Highlights (January 2012)

Your Church Council met on January 3rd and 16th, with the following highlights:

- Review and approval of the 2012 budget, to be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval
- Review and approval of five requests from the Special Gifts Fund, for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting
- Discussion regarding continuation of discussion on the shared ministry model, as presented by the six churches of our cluster. Council voted not to recommend this model, but emphasized that the FLC Council believes in shared ministries/programs and encourages continued exploration of ways to share with our fellow Lutheran churches
- Report on giving for 2011, with expenditures exceeding revenues by approximately \$10,900

Submitted by Penny Lester



It's party time again at the Ewing house! The big game starts at 6:30, on **Sunday, February 5th**, so bring a bag of munchies or some pop to share and we'll provide the tacos and nachos! We'll have to cut the party off at 1/2 time 'cause we lost our February snow day!

Join us on **Sunday, February 19th** for a sled riding party of epic proportions at Chapman Dam State park! We'll leave the church around 2:00 p.m., so dress warm and get ready for some great rides! It'll be a blast! Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex!



Our annual trip to St John's, Erie, for the Ash Wednesday Retreat is set for **February 22nd** and is open to **6th—12th** graders! Space is limited, so sign up early! Cost is \$15.00 and we leave at 7:15a.m. We'll be home around 5:30 p.m. T-shirt and lunch are included!

YOUR 2012 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



The deadline for the next edition of the Lantern is February 15th. Please drop them off at the office or e-mail (preferred) any articles to jeff@firstlutheranwarren.com Thanks!



Congregational Annual Meeting Highlights (January 2012)

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 22 with the following action items:

- Election of four members to three year terms on Church Council: Marilyn Dahlgren, Nancy Lindblad, Meredith McIntosh and Shawn Ristau with special thanks to outgoing members Sherrie Flannery, Penny Lester and Craig Whitaker.
- Election of Nominating Committee for 2013: Sherrie Flannery, Lori Howard, Penny Lester, Gayle Neidig, Hallie Rigg and Craig Whitaker.
- Election of member to serve on Audit Committee: Gary Candrea.
- Reports were accepted as presented in the Annual Meeting Booklet.
- Don Reed presented the 2012 Current and Benevolence Budget and the Capital Budget, which were discussed and passed unanimously.
- Six projects from the Special Gifts Fund were approved unanimously: National Youth Gathering 2012 (\$3,500), Family Services Special Needs (\$1,000), The Crossing (\$400), Warren Area Student Union (\$300), Preaching Seminar (\$500) and House of Hope (\$1,000).

The congregation voted not to continue discussion of the model for six congregations to be served by two pastors, two interns and two lay leaders. The Council submitted a statement that included its belief that our church "remains steadfast to working with all of the Lutheran congregations. We need to seek creative ways to work cooperatively together in witness and worship."



Giving “props” to the Property committee!

You may have noticed a few of the projects the property committee have been working on, but in case you haven't, take notice:

- ◆ Beautifully painted doors as you come into the narthex
- ◆ The finishing of the wall in the kitchen downstairs off of old fellowship hall
- ◆ The choir room— one word— wow!
- ◆ The work being done in the sanctuary around the organ—they are going to be building a small platform for the piano.
- ◆ The “new” (read recycled) pew for the ushers on the back wall of the sanctuary.
- ◆ New wiring (not that you see it, but know that it's been done).
- ◆ Much more, too!

These guys meet on most Saturday mornings and invite you to come and be part of the fun— really, it is fun! This editor is always amazed that so much work can be done while laughing so much! So when you see Kevin, Jack, Tim, Bob, Jim, Ken, Zack and Brandon, thank them for their dedication to our building to serving our church family!



ST. VALENTINE'S SACRIFICE

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.



A man smelling of beer sat down next to a priest on the subway. The man had lipstick smeared on his cheek and a bottle of whiskey hanging out of a torn jacket pocket.

The man opened up the newspaper and after a few minutes asked the priest, “Father, what causes arthritis?”

The priest said, “My son, it's caused by sleeping around with cheap women, loose living, too much alcohol, a general contempt for your fellow man, and a lack of bath.”

“Well, I'll be.” the man said.

After a few minutes, the priest felt bad about his outburst and said, “I'm sorry, son. How long have you had arthritis?”

“Oh, it's not me, Father,” the man said. “I was just reading that the pope has it.”



CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR COLLEGE AND MILITARY

The Social Ministry committee will be sending care packages to our military and college folks on Tuesday, February 7th. If you would like to bake some homemade goodies or provide items for the care packages like gum, razors, candy bars, pens, pencils, etc... please bring them to Niewoehner Hall or the Kitchen no later than noon that day. If you would like to bring them in on Sunday or Monday, that would be fine, too. If you can, please cut and/or bag the homemade treats you are bringing in.

ADDRESSES NEEDED!

If you have someone in the military or in college please e-mail or call the church office with your child's address by Monday, February 6th.

"Spirituality is attention to the life of the Spirit in us.
It is contemplating the unspeakable beauty of
our loving God."

-Henri Nouwen