

**First Lutheran Church**  
**92 W. Walnut Street**  
**Washington, PA 15301**



Icøye  
ICH-THUS  
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

### Pastoral Perspectives June 2018

Grace and peace to you from God the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The American flag is flying at half mast, as ordered by the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, in memory of the victims of the most recent school shooting in the state of Texas.

On a recent music awards show the celebrity was asked by the producers to offer a moment of silence during the program and she said something like, *"Of course, we pray for the victims of the school shooting but we have to do more than just a moment of silence!"*

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> was the massacre of seventeen students in Parkland Florida and many signs had writing on them like *"we don't need your prayers, we want action"* or *"no more moments of silence, stop the killing now"*.

Grief, outrage and anger are all normal human reactions during these horrific events; those of you who attended the Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> witnessed how difficult it was for me to get through the sermon that night.

As Kimberly and I attended the Pirates Ball First Responders Night in early April, there was supposed to be a moment of silence for Cpl Brian Shaw (who was murdered while on duty) before the game began. Sadly, I heard someone having to give a loud "shhhhhsh" to be people talking so that other fans and first responders present could participate in the moment of silence.

These tragic events made me ponder and question why a moment of silence is now under attack. Do people really understand what a moment of silence truly is? The answer may surprise us!

A moment of silence is a period of silent contemplation, prayer or meditation or a gesture of respect particularly in mourning for those who have died recently in a tragic historic event. The concept of a moment of silence is as old as when the Quakers of Pennsylvania used it as part of their worship service.

We, as Lutherans, understand the importance of daily prayer in our lives. In his small catechism Luther wrote that we are to start our day and end our day in prayer to God!

Sometimes, during the highs and lows of life, all we have to sustain us is prayer! Luther once wrote, *“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing”*.

In Plass’ book titled, What Luther Says, there are 28 pages dedicated entirely to the word “prayer” alone!

On a recent shopping trip to Hobby Lobby I saw these words on a plaque:

**Rejoice always, pray continually. Give thanks in our circumstances  
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.**

*(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

The Holy Bible reminds us that we are to constantly be in prayer with God and yet, to the secular world, this may seem to be of little value or even useless; but again I quote Luther when he penned these words, *“I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours is prayer”*.

We can see how important prayer was to Luther and how important it is to our faith; for that moment of silence (or three hours) is a solemn request to God for help!

Prayer **is** action it is not inaction! Prayer is, and will always remain, an action! In the moments of silence we can contemplate, pray and meditate on how God wants to use us as instruments in this world; how we are to be the hands and feet of Christ. Where He can hear our most heart breaking words God listens and guides us! In prayer we can find the words or actions that are required for the situation at hand.

A man from Germany, who was a dear friend of my parents, once related a story to me about prayer. He lived with his parents and siblings in a rural part of Germany near the border of Poland. When enemy troops came through and were ready to loot the farm, rape the women and kill the livestock he asked the Russian officer if he could first have a moment of prayer. When he had finished praying he rose up and walked over to the officer and spoke to him. The Russians left without touching anything! Is the power of prayer miraculous? Yes! As a boy he saw his father do this three times in total and was an eyewitness to prayer saving his entire family when surrounding neighbours were not so fortunate!

To the world prayer may seem as though we are doing nothing but for us it is doing everything because God's Holy Word urges us to pray constantly. In the Bible alone there are six hundred and fifty different prayers!

Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer always meditated on the Word of God and prayed to God before making any decisions in his life and as fellow Lutherans we should always do the same.

We must never give up on the power of prayer which is our connection and way to converse with God. As Luther reminds us, *"Prayer is calling upon God's name."* It is here where we are to fear love and trust God above all things!

Rev. Robert B. Grewe



## Prayer in Schools

*"As long as there are mathematical exams in school there will always be prayer in school!"*

Ravi Zacharias

(Indian born Canadian- American Christian apologist)

**1st Lutheran**  
**Evangelism Report**  
**June 2018**

History has been made, after being put off for many years, making Jerusalem the capital of Israel. In our catechism class, Pr. Rob has been teaching that only God's Word is the center of our worship, not relics, or "false gods" in the form of secular objects or attitudes that we think are God sent.

**Defining Your Imprint On The World**

Archaeologists in Israel never know what they'll find next, and some of their discoveries can confirm the identities of certain Bible characters. For example:

In 1975, workers found pieces of 200 different bullae, which are seals made by imprinting a stamp onto clay. When the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, much of the city was burned, including libraries of ancient documents. But the clay seals on those documents were hardened in the fire and preserved.

The cache of bullae found in 1975 reportedly dates from the days of Jeremiah, and one of the seals has been identified as belonging to Jeremiah's assistant, Baruch. On the upper left side of the seal is a clear impression of a fingerprint, perhaps belonging to Baruch himself. The authenticity of the seal is disputed, but it's fascinating to think we may have a fingerprint from one of the men who wrote a portion of Scripture, as Baruch did under Jeremiah's guidance.

Baruch is one of those minor characters in the Bible whose example encourages us to be faithful wherever we are. He was Jeremiah's assistant and scribe, and the two men stood shoulder to shoulder amid a crumbling nation. Baruch lived in days like our own. Some of the older people remembered the great revivals of the past, but the younger generation had never known a time that wasn't corrupt.

The nation's leadership went from bad to worse, and the culture took a downward turn from which it would not recover.

Jeremiah stood firm to the end, God gave him an assistant, Baruch, who left his fingerprints on the history of the kingdom of God. Baruch defined his imprint on the world, and his example shows us how to do the same.

## **Live A Blessed Life**

First Baruch reminds us we are blessed. That's our identity and our very name. The word *Baruch* means "blessed." He is identified in the Bible as "Baruch the son of Neriah," and the word *Neriah* means "the Lord is my Lamp." What a great identity! Baruch knew he was blessed, and he came from a family who walked in the light of the Lord.

The book of Ephesians says, "Bless be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ----Walk as children of light" (Ephesians 1:3; 5:8).

## **Help Others With Their Ministry**

Second, we can leave an imprint by helping others with their ministry. In Jeremiah 32, the Lord told Jeremiah to purchase a field outside Jerusalem in an area under Babylonian domination. In other words, the land was worthless, a fool's investment. But the Lord wanted Jeremiah to symbolically demonstrate the future was bright for Israel. One day land would be bought and sold once again. Since Jeremiah was in prison, he needed someone to help with the transaction, and Baruch was there.

Jeremiah 32:12 says, "I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah." And Baruch superintended the legal processing of the document.

Your greatest work might be helping others with theirs. We shouldn't always be in the spotlight or performing in the center ring. Instead of asking, "What can I do?" ask yourself, "How can I help someone else in what they are doing?" It sheds a different light on things.

## **Proclaim the Message of God**

The next time we see Baruch, is in Jeremiah 36. Jeremiah is unable to move freely in Jerusalem, but God's Word isn't restricted. He told the prophet to write down some messages, and verse 4 says, "Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah."

The passage later tells of Jeremiah sending Baruch into the house of the Lord to read the messages he instructed Baruch to write on the scroll. This took enormous courage, but Baruch faithfully ascended to the temple, and read Jeremiah's sermon, proclaimed the Lord's message, and faced the ensuing controversy. The authorities called him into the scribe's chamber and demanded he read the words privately to them. "So Baruch read it in their hearing. Now it happened, when they had heard all the words, that they looked in fear from one to another, and said to Baruch, "We will surely tell the king of all these words'" (verses 15 – 16). Baruch had to go into hiding, but he was determined to proclaim the message of God boldly, regardless of its reception.

To make an imprint on our world, we must remember we are stewards of the Gospel of Christ and we must proclaim it boldly. If people reject our message, we should remind ourselves that the rejection of the Truth is nothing new. Jeremiah and Baruch tried to persuade their generation, but the king cut up the scroll with a penknife and burned the pieces in the fire; but he could not destroy the Word of God or thwart its purpose (verse 23).

God Bless

George Salvucci

## Stewardship

**Yard Sale will be held on June 16th from 8 AM to 2 PM.** Items you want to donate may be brought to the church and placed on the stage downstairs. Kim Chadwick will pick up items if needed.

**Gift Card Orders** are due the last Sunday of each month.

**RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER**—If interested, please see the Chadwick's for a catalog. Orders & payments due by June 17, 2018. Thank you!

**SUPPORT OUR CHURCH FUNDRAISER**—Anyone wishing to make a donation towards a gift card, please see Kim Chadwick. The gift cards will be purchased through Great Lakes Script. The cards will be used in our church. Please consider supporting this fundraiser.

Thank you!

Kim Chadwick

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who trust in me to do their flower arrangements weekly. It is an honor to do so.

I enjoy arranging for this beautiful House of God. It is a part of joy in volunteering!

Thank you!

Lisa Hager

## **FLC Church Council President's Perspective**

When we displace our thoughts of anxiety with the thoughts of scripture, something remarkable happens. We have the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, and God of peace is with us.

The most remarkable thing about the Bible is that even though it was written by over 40 people through a period of 1,500 years, in three different languages, controversial subjects, in 66 different installments, it all fits together like a master puzzle with a logical beginning and a logical ending.

All the way through the plot progresses in a very natural, rational way. There is one central character in every part of the Bible and every book of scripture-the Lord Jesus Christ. This book has a unity that cannot be explained in human terms.

The Bible is a book of units and of unity because it is both God and man. All scripture is given by inspiration of God. It is breathed out by God. Our joy is to study it everyday, to continue to trust it and continue to study it. We have a Bible that is small enough to hold in our hands, big enough to study forever, and deep enough to satisfy us through eternity.

Dennis Schmidt

WNALC

June 2018

It was delightful to see so many women and children at our Mother/Daughter Banquet. Danny's Catering did an outstanding dinner once again and our gentlemen waiters were fabulous. The ladies appreciate being waited on and no cleanup. Sandy Huffman brought back memories for many of us with her choice of music. Everyone's effort was greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to the Strawberry Festival after church on June 3rd. Please come and enjoy dessert and fellowship downstairs.

June 16th we will serve our \$5.00 lunch at the yard sale downstairs. There's always good bargains to be found. Another time to share with our church friends.

Circle meeting will be held at noon Thursday, June 28th upstairs. Leader will be Michelle Williams. Hostesses will be Linda Nickles and Kris Briggs.

No circle meeting in July. Church picnic instead.

God Bless,

Sonie Rea

## **EMBRACING HOPE ETHIOPIA**

Our church mission of supporting Hope for Ethiopia has fallen behind severely. All it takes is a dollar a week to keep up our commitment to this important mission.

Please remember this worthy cause that we decided as a church to support in love of neighbor.

Pastor Rob

**\$1 a week!**

**\$1 in the Love Envelope**

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## **HAPPENING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD**

**WORSHIP SERVICES begin at 10:00 AM!**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL and Best Hat Competition.**

**BRING ALONG SOMEONE TO CHURCH**

**GRADUATES RECOGNIZED AND RECEIVE PENS**

## Brand New Day

Dear Graduates,

As school draws to an end, I am reminded of a book that became an instant best seller several years ago entitled "ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN". There isn't anything new I can say today that you haven't already learned through the guidance and/or examples of your family, Pastor Rob, special teachers and role models. So allow me to summarize the finer points:

- A smile is a curve that sets a lot of things straight.
- Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.
- "You make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give." (Winston Churchill)
- "The person who has stopped being thankful has fallen asleep in life." (Robert Louis Stevenson)
- Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold — Be brave enough to paint outside the lines.
- Life isn't always easy—The right ATTITUDE makes ALL the difference.
- "Be slow to speak, Quick to listen, Slow to anger." James 1:19
- Prayer opens our eyes that we may see ourselves and others as God sees US.

God has a dream for you and you can live it if you want to. He will give you the tools to make it come true—but tools are meant to be used and to do so, skills need to be developed. The choices are now yours. How reassuring it is to know that God will always give you the **strength** and **sense** for what **He** wants you to do. Your First Lutheran Church family loves you and will always be here for you!

Sincerely,

Donna Bassi

## MUSICAL NOTE

For many years First Lutheran Church as been known for their Musical Ministry, for it's Adult Choir, Bell Choir and the Brass. A few years ago due to church funds, we had to let go of our Brass Choir.

Over the last year we have had some people quit in both choirs due to sickness, schooling, family conditions, and personal reasons. This is making it hard on both choirs.

In our Adult Choir we need more singers in all parts. In the Bell Choir we need more ringers to play bells. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ MUSIC TO BE IN THE BELL OR ADULT CHOIR.**

We need your help in both choirs. We can't do this without you. These are your choirs. Please consider joining us, if not, I don't know how long we can go on. Many churches don't have any choirs at all for this reason. Some don't even have an organist.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.** By the time you read this, our choirs will be done for the summer. Both choirs will start back in September. Hope to see you. Anyone is welcome in both choirs.

Adult Choir Rehearsal—Wed. 7:00 pm and Sunday 9:30 am.

Bell Choir Rehearsal—Thurs. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Next newsletter I will write about why I feel both choirs are important to our worship service and some reasons for them.

In Christ,

Your Organist/Musical Director,

Jerry



## Johann Strauss

Composer (1825–1899)

Austrian composer Johann Strauss surpassed his father, Johann Strauss the Elder's popularity and productivity, becoming known as the "Waltz King."

Johann Strauss, often referred to as Johann Strauss II, was born on October 25, 1825, in Vienna, Austria. His father, Johann Strauss the Elder, was a self-taught musician who established a musical dynasty in Vienna, writing waltzes, galops, polkas and quadrilles and publishing more than 250 works. Johann the Younger went on to write more than 500 musical compositions, 150 of which were waltzes, and he surpassed both his father's productivity and popularity. Compositions such as *The Blue Danube* helped establish Strauss as "the Waltz King" and earned him a place in music history. He died in Vienna in June 1899.

Johann Strauss, often referred to as Johann Strauss II or "the Younger," was born on October 25, 1825, in Vienna, Austria. He was the oldest son of Johann Strauss (the Elder), also a composer, but one whose reputation would eventually be eclipsed by his son's.

Strauss the Elder wanted his son to follow a different career path than he himself had followed, so Strauss II became a bank clerk while secretly studying the violin with a member of his father's company. His father left the family when Strauss was 17, and Strauss soon began openly embracing the musician's life, conducting a band in a Viennese restaurant when he was still a teenager, in 1844.

Strauss began composing for the Vienna Men's Choral Association in 1847. His father died two years later, prompting him to conflate his own and his father's orchestras, after which he mounted a successful career. In 1853, Strauss fell ill, and his younger brother, Josef, took control of the orchestra for six months. After recovering, he dove back into conducting and composing activities—a pursuit that proved to be stronger than ever, gaining the eventual attention of such luminaries as [Verdi](#), [Brahms](#) and [Wagner](#).

*An der schönen blauen Donau* (*The Blue Danube*; 1867) would be the piece that defined Strauss to the listening public, and the work still resonates 150 years later. Other Strauss waltzes include *Morgenblätter* (*Morning Papers*; 1864), *Geschichten aus dem Wienerwald* (*Tales from the Vienna Woods*; 1868) and *Wein, Weib und Gesang* (*Wine, Women and Song*; 1869).

### **June Lay Readers**

3rd Kimberly Grewe

10th

17th Lisa Hager

24th Dennis Schmidt

### **June Altar Flowers**

3rd Dave Looman

10th

17th Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten

24th Kathy Black

### **June Acolytes**

3rd Ashley McCartney, Aiden DeWalt, Emily Buel

10th Nathaniel Black & Wesley Black

17th Collin Berry & Lyndsay Berry

24th Logan Williams & Bailey DeWalt

### **June Ushers**

3rd T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

10th N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler

17th K. Carl; R. Fritz; C. Group; C.R. Group; T. Wright

24th A. Chadwick; M. Mazzotti; G. Salvucci; J. Sarver

### **June Altar Team**

Carolyn Wright & Joanne Marker

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1		17	
2	Michael Goga	18	John Rush
3	Ashley Burbank	19	Larry Sten
4	Richard Allinder		Penny Wetzel
5		20	Nathaniel Black
6	Janet Fischer	21	
7	Esther Sten	22	Betty DeGiovanni
8	Rori Popovich	23	John Kobuchi
	Thomas Reihner	24	Terry McNiff
9	Linda Platt		Sherman Marker
	Leo Shawin		Jackson Quedenfeld
	Elizabeth Gosnell	25	Bette L. Johnson
10		26	Linda Coleman
11		27	E. Matthew Lucas
12	Jean Kobuchi	28	Mary Kay McDonald
	Chris Gosnell	29	David Andretti
13	Betsy Bassi		Austin Forsberg
14	Kevin Serbak	30	Diane Antila
15	Linda Headley		
	Mark Verderber		
	Robert Tracht		
16	Emily Flowers		