

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



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

Pastoral Perspectives for May 2018

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

Martin Luther was quoted as saying that the Gospel of St. John was gold! Therefore, it was seen by the reformer to be the most valuable and most precious of all the writings in the Holy Bible. Why is that? Well, it is due to the fact that St. John's Gospel is the one work that concentrates on salvation from its beginning to end!

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus offers His followers final instructions at the Last Supper in the 13th chapter.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (*ESV Bible St. John 13:34*)

Here at First Lutheran we are falling short of that new commandment to love one another; it isn't out of spite but rather it is more to do with being 'out of sight and out of mind'.

Sadly, we realized three years ago that our finances were not what anyone thought they were. Drastic actions were taken by the council to stop the massive bleed of church funds into the red. In doing so, our congregation voted to temporarily drop two of three missions that we were supporting until we were in a better financial situation. The problem now is that we have forgotten also our commitment to the young girls from Hope for Ethiopia!

I understand that you may be thinking, “The church is asking for more money?” Nope! I think if we are better stewards we can easily fulfill our commitment to these young ladies by putting aside \$1.00 a week from our regular giving. Our treasurer has assured the council and me that this small offering would make a huge impact on being able to fulfill the new commandment that Jesus has given His followers in the treasure known as the Gospel of St. John. God willing we will be able to once again support our two mission churches as well.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

King James Version or the King James Bible

The King James Version of the Bible, which was written for the Church of England, was started by 50 scholars in the year 1604 and completed in 1611.

The KJV includes the 39 books of the Old Testament, a section containing the 14 books of the Apocrypha (accepted by the Roman Catholics but not the Protestants) and the 27 books of the New Testament.

Martin Luther, while in hiding in the Wartburg Castle after being convicted of heresy against Rome, translated the New Testament in 1522. He later translated the Old Testament, completing the Holy Bible in 1534. He translated all 66 books into the German language. This means that the Lutherans had the Word of God in their own language 77 years before England did! Yet, Luther in his passion for God's Holy Word never stopped trying to revise his version and making the Word of God more accessible to his people while making it easier to understand.

For the Lutheran church the KJB or the KJVB contains 14 books too many; the Lutheran Study Bible does not contain the Apocrypha and neither does the English Standard Version of the English/ German translation of the Bible by Crossway Bibles of Wheaton, Illinois which are the Bibles I use daily.

Upon researching the popularity of the KJVB I found it interesting that Lutherans aren't even listed in the top 5 of users of this version of the Holy Bible. Interestingly enough, the King James Version of the Bible is mostly used by the following denominations within the protestant churches around the world. So who is on the list of who uses the KJVB is as follows:

- 1) Baptists
- 2) Pentecostals
- 3) Episcopalians/ Anglicans (Church of England)
- 4) Presbyterians
- 5) Mormons

Henry was being shrewd when he made himself head of the church as well as being the king of the nation; the church Catholic in England was the only

economic source that rivaled that of the king of England. Afterward, he owned the wealth of both the church and the state becoming the richest man in the land! My favourite seminary professor used to call refer to the Anglicans as “Henry’s boys”: named after King Henry the VIII who sought to rule the church in England so that he would no longer need approval on his marriages and divorces.

Although there are times when the KJVB sounds pretty like in the 23rd Psalm the ancient *British style* English is usually lost on the average listener today. Shockingly, in the rush to publish the KJVB in 1631 Barker’s press mistakenly printed the following: **“Thou shall commit adultery”**! This version of the Bible has become known as the *“Wicked Bible”*.

Yet, a good little German composer who was living in England has forever saved the KJVB in his beautiful music. George F. Handel’s *Messiah*, composed in 1741. Although it was only received somewhat warmly at its debut, it is now one of the most popular western pieces of music in the world!

The tragedy was that the church in England was a long time in becoming ready to give this gift to the people. They killed anyone who had attempted to translate the Bible into the language of her people centuries before! William Tyndale who, like Luther, copied the texts directly from the original Hebrew and Greek was murdered for his translation in 1536! Over 150 years earlier, in 1386 John Wycliffe translated the Holy Bible from the Latin Vulgate into what is called today as “middle English” which was the common language of the people of the time! Both of these English theologians were burned at the stake for heresy for their actions of trying to bring the Word of God to their people.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

1st Lutheran
Evangelism Report
May 2018

It is amazing how our Lord and the Holy Spirit work. As of recent my readings have been in the Psalms and the life of King David. I wish for no one the experience of losing a child. But a far greater tragedy is to lose the opportunity to know Jesus Christ intimately. How grateful we are that our children know and love Him. Life has meaning for us simply because we have the assurance, when this life is over, that we will all be reunited.

Life comes crashing down. It happens for every one of us ----not always with planes or automobiles or loss of family members or failed marriages. Somehow, all the same, life comes crashing down. The loss of one's own child may well be the most excruciating blow a loving parent can endure, but you can be certain that every other tragedy life dispenses offers its own unique form of suffering.

How wonderful then, is that moment when you discover you can run into the arms of a Father who loves you and weeps with you. What an incredible moment when you fully comprehend that healing is possible. In **Psalm 138.7**, David wrote, "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me."

He is ever faithful, He is ever present and attentive. One of the things we discover in the psalms is that we not only have a Lord God and a Savior when we face tragedy----even incomparable pain like the loss of a young beloved child-----but we have a wonderful Friend in the bargain.

Let Us Worship the Lord Courageously

David is determined that nothing should come between him and the worship of God.

In the opening refrain of **Psalm 138**, he writes, "Before the gods I will sing praises to You" (**v. 1**). The word *gods* refers to the pagan deities and leaders of the nations surrounding Judah. Our modern world is filled with false gods, and so was David's. He is showing a bit of godly arrogance here. In effect, he is saying, "Some people I know will fall silent while they're surrounded by pagan statues. But I intend to walk right up and worship You in the very midst of them all! I'm not ashamed of my Lord and my God."

Do you feel cultural pressure? The heat is rising for Christians in our society. There is more and more outright hostility for those who would claim Christian allegiances. I can remember when it was much more common to see families in restaurants joining hands around the table to thank and praise God before eating. Our family still does this---how about yours? It 's wonderful to see a family boldly praying together at another table. I try to encourage such families as I see them.

David said, "I couldn't care less what they think! I plan to praise my God in front of pagan gods. I plan to speak of my God even to those who deny Him." David praised God courageously---with his heart, his soul, and his mind. We see God transform him and fill him with renewed faith and resolution. Would you like to hear about the future world he sees?

All Kings of the Earth Will Praise the Lord

Every knee shall bow; that will be the scenario.

Every King, president, premier, and prime minister across the expanse of the globe will bow before King Jesus and give Him the glory. The Bible tells us that "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Rev. 11:15). All people groups and all cultures will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. And Paul adds that "at the the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10 – 11). So we can see that John caught a glimpse of that breathtaking new world, and Paul was allowed a hint of it too. Before either of them lived, God revealed the same future vision to David. "All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord," he wrote. And God gave him this glimpse in the midst of his worldly problems. "Now I praise You in my solitary suffering, " he said. "Someday we will all be praising You in Your glory."

When trouble comes.....

Sometimes God takes us through it,

Sometimes He helps us in it,

Sometimes He keeps us from it.

God Bless,

George Salvucci

THANK YOU

Blessed brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, our church family here at 1st Lutheran Church,

Emogene and I and our granddaughter Trisha and her family wanted to take this opportunity to use our church newsletter to thank you all for your prayers and kind thoughts that you have given and sent us during the time our son Matthew was in the hospital, and ultimately when he went to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, last Thursday, April 12th.

All your prayers and well wishes were felt, needed and appreciated. I don't know how we would have gotten along without them, our faith, and our Pastor Rob, who was with Matthew and our family and loved us and guided us all, and guided Matthew directly with love and prayers as he went into the arms of our Lord Jesus.

Thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts and for your prayers, and for being a true church family.

God bless you all,

George & Emogene Salvucci and Family

THANK YOU

Karen Coleman and her family wishes to thank Pastor Grewe and the congregation of First Lutheran Church for their prayers and support thru her illness and recovery!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Please join us on **Saturday, May 19th from 9:00 am to noon** to work on the church yard—weather permitting.*

Many hands make light work and add to the beauty of First Lutheran. Feel free to stay for the length of time that suits your schedule.

All help is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all,

Vickie Group

FLC Church Council President's Perspective

Some Things I think.

The voluntary contributions from some of our members should be appreciated by all and sometimes I think that goes unsaid.

Some examples would be Vickie Group and her daughter Caitlin: they cut our grass from April-November. I can't tell you how many wonderful comments are made from non-members about how nice the property of the church looks.

Next would be Jeff Ulanich, George Salvucci, and Mark Black for all the church maintenance and repairs they do inside and out. They are here almost every day working on something. Jeff and Mark are always keeping an eye on the church by driving around it late at night and early in the morning.

Also, the fundraising done by the Chadwicks has been so helpful. The Christmas window ornaments, the gift card program, vendors, and the church calendar have all helped generate tremendous income for the church.

We need to all lend a helping hand to be a part of and continue these programs.

Finally would be the women of the church who have volunteered for years. Sonnie Rae, Joyce Streater, Emogene Salvucci, Linda Coleman, Joanne Marker, Carolyn Wright, and Betty DeGiovanni have helped organize and host food for a countless number of events at the church.

Another thought would be to start having a Sunday where we try to bring someone new to the church, whether it be a family member who has not come for a while or a friend. If we don't ask, they will not come. By asking and bring new people, we may get some to say yes and help our church grow, and that should be a goal as Christians and Lutherans.

Dennis Schmidt

Stewardship Committee

We are truly humbled by the *amazing response* to our most recent Vendor and Craft Event. Our Church was supported by 17 wonderful vendors, who not only donated \$25 as table donation and an auction item, but purchased raffle tickets, food from the cafe and baked goods. Friends were made this day. Prayers were offered to a Vendor whose husband is recovering from a motor vehicle accident. God was glorified!

□ **We want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to, well, everyone!** □

Thank you to Pastor and Council for supporting this Event!

Thank you to the Congregation!

Thank you to the shoppers!

Thank you to our bakers!

Thank you to the Ladies of the Church!

Thank you to George for creating our signs!

Thank you to George, Jeff and Mark, who fixed the curtain!

Thank you to Lisa and Richard!

Thank you to the Vendors!

If we missed anyone, please accept our apologies! This day was a true team effort!

We made \$450 from table donations.

We made \$100 from Popcorn Willy popcorn sale.

We made \$428 from raffle tickets.

From those items listed, we made **\$978** to benefit our Church! Such a blessing!

In our family, we say ***God is Good***, to which someone else will reply, ***Always or All the time!***

So to Our Wonderful Church Family....***God is Good!***

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee □

WNALC

May 2018

Women of the Church thank everyone who contributed to our Craft/Bake Sale & Café at the Vendor's Sale. It was great to see so many church friends and we made over \$600.

Board Meeting will be held May 1st in the Lounge.

Mother's , daughters, aunts, cousins, and friends are sincerely invited to our Banquet on Monday, May 14th at 6:30 pm. Danny's Catering is preparing our delicious meal and the gentlemen of the church will be our servers and clean up crew. Entertainment will be provided by Sandy Huffman. All women and friends are invited. Tickets may be purchased from Joyce Streater, Linda Coleman, Emogene Salvucci, Carolyn Wright and Sonie Rea. Reservations are due by May 7th.

Adults \$12.00

Children 6-12 - \$7.50

5 and under—free

Circle Meeting will be held Thursday, May 31st at noon.

Sonie Rae—Leader

Carolyn Wright & Sonie Rae—Hostesses

Meeting will be held upstairs in the Lounge.

Have a blessed month.

Sonie Rea

Adult Catechism meets on Tuesday, at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM; you may choose which time is best for you.

Adult Choir practice is on Wednesday's at 7:00 PM and Sunday's at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join the choir! Last practice for the summer will be on Sunday, May 27th.

Bell Choir practice is on Thursday's at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. The last practice for the summer will be May 10th.

YOUTH GROUP 2018

Greetings to you all, young and old! Our youth group has met and we have planned the year ahead. As you can see, we will be very busy and not only learning more about God, but having fun while doing it! If you know of any youth who may be interested in joining our merry little band of youth, we welcome them with open arms.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pr. Rob :)

May 25th—Mini golf?

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

Honor Mom. Help a Mom.

On Mother's Day, May 13th you have an opportunity to honor your Mom while also helping a Mom living in a slum area in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Embracing Hope is asking folks to consider giving a gift in honor of Mom this year. Embracing Hope is a ministry focused on preventing orphans and preserving families through Gospel-centered holistic interventions. For every gift given, a card will be mailed to you to give to Mom and for donations over \$60, you also get a free t-shirt. Visit their website at www.EmbracingHopeEthiopia.com/MothersDay2018 for more information. Thank you for honoring your Mom while helping a Mom in Ethiopia this year.

SHEEP AND THE SHEPHERD

If you could be any animal what would you be?????

The Bible tells us that we are sheep and God is our shepherd (**247 x's in the Bible**)

Why sheep? Why not another animal with a bit of flair, a bit of class?

Good Sheep Facts:

1. Know their mother by her voice.
2. Have best friends.
3. Have an excellent memory - Can remember as many as 50 people for up to 2 years.

Bad Sheep Facts:

1. Just about the **DUMBEST** animals in the world.
2. They have no **DIRECTION**. **Even in a perfect place with green pastures and still waters, they wander off and become lost.**
3. They are **DEFENCELESS**. Can't fight, poor runners so can't flee, and they can't scare anything away. So what does a sheep do when danger comes? **They panic! They gather closely together and run in circles, hoping the bear will choose another sheep. Without a shepherd to protect them - eaten 1 by 1.**

When God says that we are sheep who need a shepherd, he doesn't mean it as a compliment. It's just a good picture of who we are and what we need. We cannot survive without God.

When you say, "The Lord is my shepherd, and I am His sheep" you are saying something very special –

"I choose to **trust God and His plan for my life.**"

Only God can care for you and me - His poor, lost, not-so-smart sheep.

He knows everything about us and loves us anyway.

He only wants 3 things:

1. Obey His rules. When God says, "DON'T" He's really saying don't hurt yourself!
2. Don't wander off - Stay RIGHT by His side
3. WHEN you make a mistake – RUN!!!! As fast as you can back into His arms!

Let's Pray: **Thank you God for "Your goodness and mercy that follows us all the days of our life. Help us to choose to dwell in the house of the Lord forever."**

AMEN

By Donna Bassi

TREASURER'S MAY REPORT

From the Treasurer,

Please note below the balances of our Income and Directed Expenses for the 1st quarter of 2018.

The balances of the attached accounts are from records going back to 2010.

Note that we have several directed funds including General Restoration, Pipe Organ, Roof Replacement, etc... Some of these goals may not be widely known, so this report is overdue.

Contributions towards these goals are accepted at any time, just note on your donation the specific fund that you wish to contribute to.

I don't show the day to day operation expenses in this report, they are taken from the Loose and Envelope contributions and cover expenses such as Payroll, Office Supplies, Taxes, etc...

I will ensure that these reports are included in the newsletter quarterly, to record our progress towards these goals.

If you have any questions about these funds or any others, please contact myself or any member of the Council for clarification.

Chris Gosnell

2018

Offerings Sheet Categories	STARTING BALANCES	Jan	Feb	Mar	1 st QTR
Loose Offering		\$84.00	\$339.00	\$542.25	\$965.25
Envelope Offering		\$11,005.00	\$11,141.00	\$11,108.32	\$33,254.32
Maintenance Fund	\$573.05	\$1,084.00	\$1,029.00	\$1,301.00	\$1,473.88
Sub-total		\$12,173.00	\$12,509.00	\$12,951.57	\$37,633.57
Other		\$1,276.71	\$9,480.70	\$3,455.34	\$14,212.75
Christmas Card	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Embracing Hope	-\$2,140.28	\$77.00	\$106.00	\$363.00	-\$2,138.28
Interest Checks		\$22.71	\$22.71	\$20.52	\$65.94
Lenten Dimes	\$8,012.34	\$0.00	\$290.00	\$397.00	\$8,699.34
Memorial NALS		\$345.00	\$100.00	\$175.00	\$620.00
Organ	\$24,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastors Benevelence		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,625.00
Restoration	-\$2,594.82	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Roof	\$10,770.75	\$303.00	\$2,600.00	\$523.00	-\$2,469.82
Special Giving		\$155.00	\$60.00	\$21.00	\$14,196.75
Sunday School		\$0.00	\$24.00	\$1.00	\$236.00
Thankoffering	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
WNALC	3198.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$347.32	\$70.00
Fundraising Profits	\$4,774.82	\$15.00	\$3,612.99	\$260.00	\$3,402.52
Other Deposits		\$289.00	\$40.00	\$1,347.50	\$6,812.94
Windows		\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,676.50
					\$2,500.00



GUSTAV HOLST

Born: 1874

Died: 1934

Nationality: BRITISH

Gustav Holst was born in Cheltenham in 1874. He began composing while at Cheltenham Grammar School and spent two months at Oxford learning counterpoint before being sent to London to study composition under Stanford at the Royal College of Music. Stanford found him hardworking but not at all brilliant and their lessons were often frustrating.

He met Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1895, the two quickly becoming friends and beginning their lifelong habit of playing sketches of their newest compositions to each other. At college he also learnt Sanskrit at University College, London and whilst he was never fluent, he was able to read from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and to translate hymns from the Rig Veda. Holst left college in 1898, playing the trombone in the Carl Rosa Opera Company and later Scottish Opera.

He married Isobel Harrison in 1901 and taught at the James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich for two years before being appointed Director of Music at St. Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith in 1905, where he continued to teach until the end of his life. Holst's heavy and exhausting teaching schedule meant that time left available for composition was often fragmented.

It took him more than two years to write *The Planets* (1914-16), a work he never considered to be his best. The immediate success of this work was a source of consternation to the composer. Between 1920 and 1923 Holst's working life became increasingly demanding: he was teaching at the RCM and University College, Reading, as well as conducting and recording. His popularity as a composer reached its height, as indeed did the level of stress. For the whole of 1924 Holst was ordered by his doctor to cancel all professional engagements and to live in the country, where he was able to continue composing. On his return to London in 1925 he gave up all teaching except at St. Paul's.

His later works, such as the *Choral Symphony* (1923-4) and *Egdon Heath* (1927) for orchestra, which he believed to be his best, were found by critics and audiences alike to be bewildering and too 'cerebral' but Holst remained confident and unperturbed. The years from 1927 to 1933 were the most creative period of the composer's life. The town of Cheltenham organised a Holst Festival in 1927 with concerts at the Town Hall.

In his final years Holst was to remember it as the most overwhelming musical event of his life. He accepted the Howland Memorial Prize from Yale University in 1929 for distinction in the arts and the gold medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1930. He was appointed visiting lecturer in composition at Harvard University in January 1932 but soon after became ill. On his return to England in the summer of that year, Holst's health continued to decline. He died on 25 May 1934.

May Lay Readers

6th Kimberly Grewe

13th Kris Briggs

20th Jill Sabol

27th Dennis Schmidt

May Altar Flowers

6th Quedenfeld

13th Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten

20th Gosnell

27th Chadwick

May Acolytes

6th Nathaniel Black & Ashley McCartney

13th Nathaniel Black & Wesley Black

20th A.J. Chadwick & Andrew Serbak

27th Brice Berry & Collin Berry

May Ushers

6th A.J. Chadwick; M. Mazzotti; G. Salvucci; J. Sarver

13th K. Behrens; T. Fritz; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

20th J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams

27th C. Gosnell; J. Luketich; S. Ringer; D. Schmidt

May Altar Team

Kelly Gosnell and Julie Tracht

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1		16	
2	Carlin Gerba	17	Sandra Martin
3	Jessica Muise	18	Robert Christian
4		19	Kim Chadwick Todd Shumaker
5	Kathy Arlia	20	Lauren Jobes
6			Melissa Carpenter
7			Missy Cunko
8	Alfred Davidson	21	June Jones
	Jack Metcalf		Sarah Bittner
	Cathy Allinder	22	
9		23	Keith Bassi
10	Matthew Popovich	24	Teresa Maust
	Klaus Behrens	25	
	Rexanna Quedenfeld	26	
11	Christian Umbach	27	Vickie Group
12	Ryan Allinder		John Sakerka
13	Beverly King		Kelly Gosnell
	Cristina Serbak		Erica Pollo
	Derek Ford	28	Casie Trabucco
14	Maxwell Dragich	29	
15	Jennifer McWreath	30	Brian Gavazzi
	Helen Swank		Justin Gavazzi
		31	Marianne West and Mark Sterrett