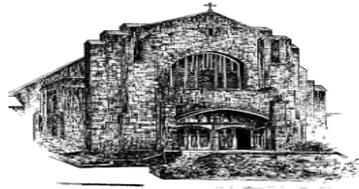


First Lutheran Church
92 W. Walnut Street
Washington, PA 15301



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ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

SEPTEMBER 2017

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVES SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Some years back I had the pleasure of meeting the Lutheran Bishop of Iceland; his English was excellent and we spoke about the modern challenges of the church today. He mentioned that attendance was at the top of the list in Iceland; just as it is in North America. The Bishop later asked me, *“Do you know what the definition of Icelandic paranoia is?”*

I answered, *“No.”*

He then responded, *“When you have a feeling that there might be someone sitting in the pew behind you!”*

As we grow closer to the anniversary of the 500 years of the Reformation I looked up the top ten populations of Lutherans in the world. It shows the percentage of the population that is of the Lutheran faith.

1st Iceland 94%	6th Greenland 80%
2nd Norway 90%	7th Namibia 50%
3rd Denmark 90%	8th Germany 30%
4th Sweden 90%	9th Estonia 26%
5th Finland 86%	10th USA 6%

The countries at the top of this list have Lutheran as their national religion. While the numbers look impressive but, as Bishop of Iceland joked, the fact that people are baptized into the Lutheran Church does not mean that they regularly attend services! When I studied in Wittenberg, Germany one of the German pastors told me that there is a movement for Germans to return to the church after they suffer their first heart attack!

The question we need to ask is, *“Do we at First Lutheran have something going on at church to keep people interested in the Word of God and in the Lutheran traditions?”*

The answer is **YES** as we will once again be in full program mode as September arrives. We will be busy with: our Sunday school for adults and children; adult catechism classes; confirmation classes; choir; bell choir; WNALC women’s group; youth group; movie and a meal. We have all this and more to look forward to this fall.

So I invite you to please join us as we look to learn and to grow in God’s Holy Word and celebrate our 500th year of standing fast in the Word of God here at First Lutheran.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

**First Lutheran
Evangelism Report
September 2017**

Welcome back, after our short summer repose. Summer seems to be going by fast, and fall will be approaching. Please remember this is your newsletter, and all are invited to contribute your thoughts and blessings. I was reading from Turning Points.....

Glory Where Glory Is Due

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57*

Most Lutheran (Protestant) Christians are familiar with what is referred to as the Common Doxology which begins, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise Him, all creatures here below." It was composed in 1674 as the final verse of two hymns used in morning and evening worship at England's Winchester College. There is a world of theology and counsel bound up in the phrase "from whom all blessings flow" and there is a world of danger in forgetting that God is the source of all we have: victory, strength, blessing, success ----it all comes from Him. The danger is that we might accumulate credit unto ourselves for our victories and success instead of giving credit and glory to Him.

That is, we put ourselves in the place of God as the source of all that is good. Everything can be traced back to God. Yes, we may use our intelligence and skill in daily life ----but where does intelligence and skill come from? As the Doxology says, we "praise God from whom all blessings flow." Some blessings come directly and some indirectly. But He is the source of them all.

Make sure to give credit, glory and thanks to God for what He enables you to accomplish in life.
[Recommended reading: *1 Chronicles 29:11 – 14*]

God Bless
George Salvucci

**First Lutheran
Thoughts & Tidbits
September 2017**

Our sister Joanne Reck sent some thoughts and tidbits that she felt we might enjoy:

Remember

“Dance as if no one is watching
Sing as if no one is listening
And
Live each day as if it were your last.”
---Old Irish Proverb---

Guardian Angel

“Here’s a little Angel God sent to care for you.
For He loves you dearly, He wants to see you through
Each trial & tribulation the world may send your way.
She will give you special comfort & protect you every day.
“I wrap my wings around you & listen to you pray”.

Just when you think you know exactly how it’s going, some unexpected possibility shows up, and it begins to get even better!!!

Amen

Maintenance and Repair Report

We had a lot of rain and near tornado storms this season, the church took in a lot of water. The new sump pump worked well, and we are blessed having the Group family donate it. The 2nd sump pump was repaired just in time for the rain storms, and worked great. In each case, there is so much water, that it gets past the ability of the sump pumps keeping up, but the clean-up crew were all there to squeegee and mop up the excess water, without a lot of damage.

Our neighbors reported the big trucks cutting through our church parking lot, collapsing our black top in the center, breaking up the cement at both entrance and exit of the lot, which will make it necessary to Put up “No Through Traffic” + “No Large Truck Signs”, and chain closed the rear exit during the week.

Larry Sten and Olivia patched the front driveway entrance, and we have volunteers that will be replacing the broken out cement on the exit apron. We are calling the trucking company that collapsed our black top, but do not hold out too much hope in getting it repaired. We will have to decide how to go about the blacktop repair at the center of the lot. Thank you to all who helped fix the lot.

We have replaced and repaired the **30+ slate tile** on the main roof of the church, Nicolella Roofing has also repaired over **200+ feet** of rubber seam on the school building roof. We are still having some spot leaks, some due to the old building next to our church “throwing loose slate tile onto our rubber roof and puncturing it.

Bids have come back, and we have contracted to have our dilapidated main chimney taken down and rebuilt in brick. This was critical to be done before winter, Nicolella Roofing reported that due to it being hit with lightening, it destroyed the sand stones and they were in danger of falling down. We were not able to remove the chimney completely, as our boilers and hot water tanks vent out through it.

The work to keep up the church goes on, and we are blessed and thank those of you who volunteer to do a lot of the work, and to fund the work done when needed. God Bless You, and thank you.

George Salvucci

September Lay Readers

3rd Kris Briggs
10th Sonie Rea
17th Dennis Schmidt
24th Kyle Glozier

September Altar Flowers

3rd Chadwick
10th Tom & Carolyn Wright
17th Dennis Schmidt
24th Allan Zimmerman

September Acolytes

3rd Matthew & Isabella Mazotti
10th Andrew Serbak & Ashley McCartney
17th A.J. Chadwick & Logan Williams
24th Rexanna & Caroline Quedenfeld

September Altar Team

Janet Fischer
Sonie Rea

September Ushers

3rd K. Behrens; T. Fritz; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
10th J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams
17th C. Gosnell; J. Luketich; S. Ringer; D. Schmidt
24th T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Amy Pascuzzi	9/12 Joanne Marker	9/24 Carolyn Dragich
9/4 Judy Sarver	Tim Bernhart	Emogene Salvucci
Brad Bernhart	Allison Burke	9/26 Kurt Snyder
9/5 Alexis Chadwick	9/13 Daniel Ketzell	9/29 Andy Carl
9/6 Shane Ringer	9/14 Paul Sten	
Karen Krcil	9/16 Carolyn Wright	
Anne Johnston	9/17 Jeff Ulanich	
9/7 Marie Alexy	9/19 Audrey Sulerud	
9/8 C. Arne Sten	9/22 Kandi DeWalt	
Dell Devita	Herb Snyder	
Melaina Pollo	James Warnick	
9/9 Miranda Rapport		

WNALC

Welcome back everyone to our busy fall schedule.

Tuesday, Sept. 5th the Board will meet at noon to firm up plans for September and October.

We are once again holding Holiday Happening on Saturday, Nov. 4th. We encourage everyone who makes craft items, or loves to bake, to donate items to make this year a bigger success. Watch the Sunday bulletin for days we will meet at church.

September 23rd, we will serve lunch for the Vendor sale.

We are holding a dinner for the men, young and old and friends who have helped keep our church moving forward. This dinner is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 25th at 6:30 pm in the social room. Sign-up sheets will be on several bulletin boards. All men and helpers are invited. We hope for a great turnout.

The circle meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 28th at noon in the social room. Leader will be Linda Coleman and hostesses are Emogene Salvucci and Karen Gavazzi. All women are invited for a lesson on Martin Luther and fellowship.

Thank you to Lisa and Chris Maust for the donation of tablecloths and chair covers to be used for our many functions. God bless you both.

Altar committee for September is Janet Fischer and Sonie Rea.

We are looking forward to a busy and fun fall.

God bless,
Sonie Rea

COME AND JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

As a wise woman once said to me, Sunday School is a very important part of your Christian education. This was my mother, of course, whom went to Sunday School every Sunday until she was in her 80's. And asked her married children with families if they attended Sunday School and Church every week. She rarely missed. But she also knew her Bible very well and she attributed that to her years of attending Sunday School. She also said you are never too old to learn something new.

Here at First Lutheran, we have Sunday School for all ages. Elementary class & Junior/Senior High School class and an Adult Class. This is a way to fellowship, learn God's word and also have a little fun.

This year the Adult class will start on September 10th and the Elementary & Jr/Sr High Class will start the next week on September 17th.

WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT SUNDAY SCHOOL. COME AND SEE WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT. YOU MAY BE IN FOR A SURPRISE.

Jill Sabol

Adult Catechism resumes Tuesday, September 5th at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM; you may choose which time is best for you.

Adult Choir resumes Wednesday, September 7:00 PM and Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join the choir!

Bell Choir meets Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Youth Group will meet on Friday, September 22nd at 7PM - 9PM.

Men & Son's dinner will be on Monday, September 25th at 6:30 PM.

Movie & Meal will be on Sunday, September 24th following the service.

Sign-Up Sheets are posted on the bulletin boards for the Men & Son's Dinner on Sept. 25th and also for the Youth Group on Sept. 22nd. Please sign up.

VBS 2017

A Mighty Fortress VBS was a truly wonderful week here at First Lutheran! Approximately 16 children participated, and had a great time hearing God's word as well as the teachings of Martin Luther.

Special thanks to all our volunteers! The decorating crew did a fantastic job transforming our social hall into a medieval castle. Kris Briggs, Pastor and Kimberly Grewe, Jack and Amie Buel, Linda Nichles, Donna Bassi and Rick Williams did an awesome job. Thanks to Eric Quedenfeld for his work on creating three chandeliers which, if you haven't seen, are still hanging downstairs.

Thank you, Ladies of the Church, who generously donated the food items needed for the daily snack/craft served to the children. Thank you Snack Crew; Stacy Carroll, Karen Gavazzi, and Donna Bassi, you were awesome!

Thank you, Games Crew; Nikolai Williams, Sara Bittner, Bailey and Aiden DeWalt! It was so hot outside, but the kids had so much fun!

Thank you, Craft Crew; Amie and Jack Buel, and Billie Sue Serbak! Glue and crayons and stickers! Oh my!

Thank you, Music/Dance Crew; Amie and Jack Buel had all the moves!

Thank you, Pastor Rob and Kyle Glozier for our daily Martin Luther Lesson, so much fun!

Thank you to Kris Briggs for technical support, and for being a "Helper at Large"!

Last but definitely not least, a huge "Thank You" to Linda Nickles for bringing to life our daily Bible Stories! Thank you also to her Story Time Crew; Andrew Serbak, Bailey DeWalt and Aiden DeWalt! Getting the kids involved with costumes and props was so much fun!

VBS 2017 is in the books! God Bless!

Michelle Williams

Update
Operation Christmas Child
2017

It has become a new tradition for First Lutheran Church to participate in Operation Christmas Child, a wonderful world-wide mission project. As you may know, we've been collecting "summer" items to include in our shoe boxes. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

Now that fall is settling in, there are new items in the stores that we can start donating. In the next week or so, I'll post a new donation "wish list". Please look out for it on the bulletin board outside the lounge.

The shoe boxes are usually collected in early November. Last year, we packed 30 boxes, and I'd like to at least meet that goal again this year. If we can do 35, that would be fantastic!

Again, thank you for your on-going love and generosity!

Blessings to you in Jesus Christ,
Michelle Williams



MUSIC HISTORY

Jean Sibelius

(1865-1957)

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) is arguably the greatest Finnish composer there has ever been, and perhaps one of the best examples of late Romanticism you can find.

He started picking out melodies on the family piano at age 5, but it wasn't until he took up the violin at age 15 that he began to be consumed by music.

Jean Sibelius ([/sɪˈbeɪliəs, -jəs/](#); [Swedish pronunciation](#) (help·info)), born **Johan Julius Christian Sibelius** (8 December 1865 – 20 September 1957), was a Finnish composer and violinist of the late [Romantic](#) and [early-modern](#) periods. He is widely recognized as his country's greatest composer and, through his music, is often credited with having helped Finland to develop a [national identity](#) during its struggle for independence from Russia.

The core of his works is his set of [seven symphonies](#) which, like his other major works, continue to be performed and recorded in his home country and internationally. His other best-known compositions are [Finlandia](#), the [Karelia Suite](#), [Valse triste](#), the [Violin Concerto](#), the choral symphony [Kullervo](#), and [The Swan of Tuonela](#) (from the [Lemminkäinen Suite](#)). Other works include pieces inspired by the Finnish [national epic](#), the [Kalevala](#), over a hundred songs for voice and piano, [incidental music](#) for numerous plays, the opera [Jungfrun i tornet](#) (*The Maiden in the Tower*), [chamber music](#), [piano music](#), [Masonic](#) ritual music and 21 publications of [choral music](#). Throughout his career, the composer found inspiration in nature and Nordic mythology, especially the heroic legends of the national epic, the *Kalevala*.

Sibelius composed prolifically until the mid-1920s, but after completing his [Seventh Symphony](#) (1924), the [incidental music for *The Tempest*](#) (1926) and the [tone poem *Tapiola*](#) (1926), he failed to produce any major works in his last thirty years, a stunning and perplexing decline commonly referred to as "The Silence of [Järvenpää](#)", the location of his home. Although he is reputed to have stopped composing, he attempted to continue writing, including abortive efforts on an [eighth symphony](#). In later life, he wrote [Masonic music](#) and re-edited some earlier works while retaining an active but not always favourable interest in new developments in music.

The Finnish 100 [mark](#) note featured his image until 2002, when the [euro](#) was adopted. Since 2011, Finland has celebrated a [Flag Day](#) on 8th of December, the composer's birthday, also known as the "Day of Finnish Music". In 2015, the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth, a number of special concerts and events were held, especially in the city of Helsinki.

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.
But—when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in,
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard,
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder—if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you keep right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace,
Or would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing and read the books you read
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go,
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?
Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on,
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.