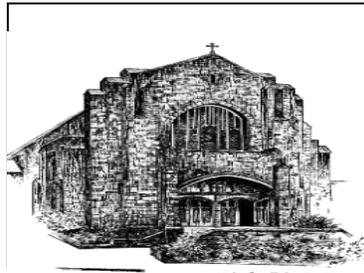


**First Lutheran Church**  
**92 W. Walnut Street**  
**Washington, PA 15301**



Ixoye

ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

## **Pastoral Perspectives for June/July, 2019**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. As the church begins to move into “*summer mode*” with graduations taking place and vacations happening and the services moving up an hour earlier to 10 am; you will notice that the paraments of the church will be changing. After the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter the white paraments will change to the red of Pentecost, followed by white for Holy Trinity Sunday and then into the green paraments from June 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 20<sup>th</sup>.

During this time of the year life tends to slow down for many of us; both of the weekly catechism classes and both choirs are taking a break for the summer. The church season of green is a time when there are no high feast days of the church season; this period of green can be described as representing a time of growth such as the flowers and gardens grow during this pleasant time of the year. This is a good time when we can enjoy the amazing world that God created all around us, the birds, the flowers, and yes even the rain. This is also a good time for us to grow in our reading.

The book I selected as summer reading for our adult catechism class is The Continuing Reformation, by the North American Lutheran expert Rev. Dr. Eric W. Gritsch. What will you choose to pick up and take time to learn and grow in? Maybe the book, Day by Day We Magnify You: Daily Readings for the Entire Year by Martin Luther, The Seize the Day, with Dietrich Bonhoeffer or Holy Bible. There are countless amazing books out there on our Christian faith so remember to acknowledge God in His amazing creation as you garden, swim, walk or just catch some rays.

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This August the NALC will hold our national convention in Indianapolis where we will be voting in a new bishop as Bishop John will be stepping down. I believe this is vitally important because the next Bishop of the NALC will move our church body either into a new direction or follow the same path that has been put forward by Bishop John; these are exciting days. This will be my first convention to attend in the NALC because we now are more stable in our finances as a church after the crisis we experienced and we have the funds to attend such events now.

If you are travelling away on weekends and attend another church, please let me know how you enjoyed the experience and bring me an order of service as I always enjoy seeing what other churches are doing.

Summer blessings to you in Christ Jesus.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## **FLC VBS works together with local churches for the Summer of 2019**

Recently, I have been speaking to members of other churches in our community and all find the high cost of purchasing yearly VBS kits, with all the extras, to be a challenge for the number of children we all get at our VBS programmes. I recently found out that two other churches are now working together; Laboratory Presbyterian, in Pancake and First Presbyterian, in Washington. Knowing members of these congregations from the South Strabane V.F.D. I approached our church president and our VBS director and suggested that we could also benefit by being part of a larger VBS community. We also had to consider that our VBS director was injured in a car accident and needs to heal fully. So after discussing this venture with our church president and with our VBS director they both agreed this is a good opportunity for us!

What are the benefits to all involved at combining a VBS program?

- Our children will encounter other Christians and see how churches can work in harmony bring the Good News
- All three churches are able to save money by dividing the costs of the programs, supplies and food
- Our children can reconnect with school chums or even make new friends.

This will be our first year at combining with other churches in the community and the program is looking for help in the kitchen and shepherds (helpers to get the children from event to event). There are two meetings coming up in May and June that I will attend.

**VBS Will take place**

**Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> – Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 pm -8:30 pm**

**Laboratory Presbyterian Church at 23 Manse St., Washington Pa**

This is only 2.3 miles from our church. If anyone needs transportation we will be able to accommodate them. I am hopeful this will work out for us for years to come but it is all dependent upon how our families feel that will participate

Hopefully this will be a new vision for Christians working together to glorify God in our community!

First Lutheran Church  
Annual Picnic

When: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: following the Holy Communion Service

Where: South Strabane Volunteer Fire Department Station  
1 at 550 Washington Road at the pavilion across from  
Laboratory Presbyterian Church

The Church will supply hotdogs and hamburgers as well as corn on the cob and bottled water.

Please bring something to drink, a covered dish and your favourite games and we will have our fun filled bingo as well with prizes! Indoor washrooms are available.

In the case of rain we will move the event indoors to the South Strabane VFD-2 at 172 Oak Spring Road.

## **SECURITY INFORMATION**

In the next few weeks we will be rehearsing a fire drill at the conclusion of the worship service.

This will simply consist of everyone leaving by the exit nearest to where they sit. We want to get people out of their routine of always leaving by the Narthex doors. The people in the back seats will have to use the Narthex but, should use the side doors instead of the center aisle. In case of a fire, in our old wooden church, we want to get people out as fast as possible.

We also have opened-up the exit door through Dr. Dozier's office for the people sitting in the front, on the pulpit side. If you have never been in there, I would encourage you to explore that route. Please do not use any exit that is not compatible with your level of mobility.

Please also note the locations of the fire extinguishers at that time.

I delivered a summary of the security seminar that I attended at California U. of PA, to the church council. We will be starting a volunteer list for Greeters. Greeters serve multiple functions. In addition to getting to know our fellow congregants, they will help welcome any visitors that could become future members! They also provide an extra set of eyes assisting the ushers in their duties, from assisting people with mobility issues to identifying individuals that are not sincere in their visit to our house of worship. We have had a couple issues in the recent past. If we are more outward looking, we can keep our church a safer place. Ill doers do not like to be seen. They like to walk in the corners and be as anonymous as possible. They expect us to sit with our backs to the door, like our purse snatcher. Greeters can more easily get a feel for someone who just doesn't belong. If you get the feeling that something isn't right, it probably isn't.

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I have recommended that the doors on Franklin Street be locked before the service starts. As people move into the sanctuary, there is no one to see anyone entering through those doors. This is how the “gentleman” gained entry in December of 2012. If you will be late and need access through those doors, please call the church and we will have someone to assist you.

In addition, we had a parking issue in the handicapped spaces. The police were not kind. If you need assistance and the spaces are full, please call and we can get you assistance. Our competition with Immaculate Conception for the street spaces is not likely to end any time soon. People have been ticketed for parking outside the marked spaces on both ends of the street.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything about church/individual safety, feel free to email me and I will gladly arrange to discuss your concerns.

Your's in Christ,

Mark Black ([infsig@comcast.net](mailto:infsig@comcast.net))

## Thoughts and Tidbits June & July 2019

### **Matthew 8 ----New Opportunities**

*Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him? – Matthew 8:27.*

Matthew 8 describes a day in the life of the Savior. Having preached His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 – 7, Jesus came down the hill to find a leper needing healing (Matthew 8:1 – 4). He entered Capernaum where a centurion approached Him about a paralyzed servant (verses 5 – 13). He ducked into a house to find Peter’s mother-in-law suffering a fever, which He healed (verses 14 – 15).

The whole town turned out with their sick and possessed (verses 16 – 17), and Jesus used the occasion to talk about the cost of discipleship (verses 18 – 22). He got into a boat so tired He fell asleep. When a storm arose, the disciples awoke Him and He stilled the winds and sea (verses 23 – 27). Arriving on the other side, He cast demons from two men in the Gergesenes (verses 28 – 34), and the whole city came out to meet Him.

And you think you’ve had a busy day!

Every day brings new opportunities to serve Jesus. It’s possible to be too busy, but better busy than bored. There’s nothing more exhilarating than giving each day to the Lord and waiting to see what He will do with it.

#### **Turning Point**

*Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. ----- Frances Havergal*

### **Genesis 8 -----New Beginnings**

*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease. ---- Genesis 8:22.*

It’s fun to explore the Bible. Have you ever inspected all the 3:16s in Scripture? Have you noticed the sevens in the book of Revelation? Well, for our weekend devotions this month, let’s focus on some great chapter eights of Scripture, starting with Genesis 8, a story of new beginnings. Here the waters of the great Flood receded, and Noah let his family and animals onto dry land. He worshiped God, and the Lord gave him a promise: The natural order of creation, the cycles of day and night, winter and summer, seedtime and harvest, would remain stable as long as the earth endures. Scientists marvel at the fine-tuning that allows life to function on earth. Everything about the laws of science on our planet----the atmospheric conditions and terrestrial nature----is designed to bless us. The sun rises every morning, making every day a fresh start. Look up into the sky and praise Him for His faithfulness.

#### **Turning Point**

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

God bless.

Thomas Chisholm , “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

## God Bless You

With the onset of seasonal allergies and all the misery they bring, I began to wonder --- Why do we say “God Bless You” when someone sneezes? The practice of “Blessing” a person after a sneeze is probably as old as time. It most likely began because of superstitions such as; the belief that the sneeze is the body trying to rid itself of evil spirits, the fear that a sneeze somehow opens the body to evil spirits, or the thought that the heart stops beating when a person sneezes. So we say “God Bless You” to help them stay alive.

In these cases, saying “God Bless You” is a kind of a “good luck charm” that protected the sneezer. Other countries have a similar response to sneezes, believing the sneeze could signal sickness. They might say the Spanish word “Salud” or the German word “Gesundheit” which mean health. Or the African word “Jeebo” which means stay alive!

This got me thinking; “Bless” has turned into a very common word. But in the Bible it’s much stronger --and it has nothing to do with sneezing! When God promises to “Bless You”, he is saying, “I’m going to make you into everything I ever meant for you to be!” It means God is taking every day and every single thing that happens in it –good or bad—to make you stronger, to mend whatever is broken inside, to change you into the person you were always meant to be

Just as a caterpillar is totally changed or transformed into a butterfly, being blessed means being totally changed or transformed. God is transforming everything –his broken world and everyone who will let him! So – if you feel like you’re going to sneeze I want you to think about how God is transforming you. It’s also a good idea to sneeze into your elbow so you don’t spread germs. :0)

Let’s pray;

Thank you God, for making us into everything you ever meant for us to be. Help us get to out of your way and allow the transformation to begin. We ask this in Jesus name.

Amen

Donna Bassie

## **WNALC—June/July 2019**

The Mother-Daughter Banquet this year was the best attended for several years. Our waiters did an excellent job as usual. Pastor Grewe was missed and we wish him well.

Cindy Speck did a great program as usual. The decorations were beautiful and made by Joanne Marker, her daughter Debbie and Billie Sue Serbak. Thank you to everyone who made this a great evening.

June 23rd we will have our Strawberry Festival in the Social Room following the church service.

Circle meeting will be held on June 27th.

This year we will have a Circle meeting on July 25th. Please note this is a change for July.

Have a blessed summer.

Sonie Rea

## **THANK YOU**

To: Rev. Grewe and all the members of First Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for all of the prayers by everyone over the last months for my girlfriend Cindy Trocana.

God has always been there! and she can be with Him. Amen

Thank you All!!

Richard Johnson

P.S. And May God Bless All of Us!!

### **June Lay Readers**

2nd Heather Quedenfeld  
9th Kimberly Grewe  
16th Lisa Hager  
23rd Dennis Schmidt  
30th

### **June Altar Flowers**

2nd Joyce Streater  
9th Cindy Linville  
16th Larry Sten  
23rd Kathy Black  
30th

### **June Acolytes**

2nd Alexander Chadwick, Andrew Serbak and Emily Buel  
9th Caroline Quedenfeld and TBD  
16th Nathaniel Black, Wesley Black, and Lyndsay Berry  
23rd Brice Berry and Collin Berry  
30th Maria Sobocinski and Lillah Clark

### **June Ushers**

2nd K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci  
9th A.J. Chadwick; A. Serbak; J. Sarver  
16th K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder  
23rd J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams  
30th J. Chadwick; J. Luketich; S. Ringer; D. Schmidt

### **June Counters**

2nd	Briggs, Luketich, Rea	23rd	Coleman, Fritz, Schmidt
9th	Black, Group, Sabol	30th	Bassi, Zimmerman
16th	Chadwick, Sabol, Ulanich		

### **June Altar Team**

Carolyn Wright and Joanne Marker

### **July Lay Readers**

7th

14th

21st

28th

### **July Altar Flowers**

7th Klaus & Mel Behrens

14th

21st Rick & Michelle Williams

28th Joanne Reck

### **July Acolytes**

7th Lyndsay Berry, Collin Berry and Emily Buel

14th Maria Sobocinski and Caroline Quedenfeld

21st Brice Berry and Lillah Clark

28th Nathaniel Black and Wesley Black

### **July Ushers**

7th T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

14th N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler

21st K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci

28th A.J. Chadwick; A. Serbak; J. Sarver

### **July Counters**

7th Briggs, Luketich, Williams

14th Black, Group, Rea

21st Chadwick, Sabol, Sten

28th Coleman, Fritz, Ulanich

### **July Altar Team**

Karen Gavazzi and Kimberly Luketich

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1		16 Emily Flowers
2	Michael Goga	17
3	Ashley Burbank	18 John Rush
4		19 Larry Sten Penny Wetzel
5		20 Nathaniel Black
6	Janet Fischer	21
7	Esther Sten	22 Betty DeGiovanni
8		23
9	Tim Belski	24 Sherman Marker
10		Jackson Quedenfeld
11		25 Bette L. Johnson
12		26 Linda Coleman
13		27
14	Kevin Serbak	28 Mary Kay McDonald
15	Mark Verderber	29
		30 Diane Antila

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1		16	Matthew Serbak
2	Kenneth Schrader	17	
3	Trisha Thompson	18	
4	Kenneth Carl, Jr.	19	Isabella Mazzotti
5	Jennifer Sabol	20	Melinda West-Emerich
6	Laura Ringer		Eric Schrader
7		21	
8		22	R. Douglas West
9		23	Gerald Anderson
10		24	
11		25	
12		26	Robert Phillips
13	Melvina Behrens		Chiquita Pearson
14	Douglas Scheffel		Dr. Matthew Houston
15	Harry Dobroski	27	Candice Caddies
		28	
		29	Joanne Reck
		30	
		31	