

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



Ixoye

ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

## Pastoral Perspectives

December 2019-January 2020

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

You may or may not know this but I enjoy most genres of music with a few exceptions. The band I listen to most when not listening to sacred music, classical, baroque or medieval is a band called The Mavericks. We have had several opportunities to see them live in Pittsburgh over the last five years. During their set they always play the song, "How can you mend a broken heart?" by the Bee Gees, in the hopes of getting their audience to begin a dialogue on the horrific mass shootings that we experience here in the USA.

The song was actually written about the Bee Gees back in 1971 had broken up and the brothers were no longer talking to each other. So began the healing of writing a song to bring the Gibb brothers back together and the rest is history.

The question remains how does one truly mend a broken heart? The answer comes from the Holy Scriptures in David's Psalms 147:3 **"God heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds"**. This is the only place where anyone of us can truly go to have their heart healed. No one and nothing else can, in fact, heal a broken heart but God! Sadly, the world rejects God: instead of welcoming prayers have become hostile to prayers as they demand action. Prayer is action! Anyone who completely and utterly trusts in God knows the power of God!

We are called in the Great Commission in St. Matthew 28 to go out into the world and as Martin Luther proclaimed, **"to be little Christ's in the world"**. Baptized and confirmed in our Lord and Saviour we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world to tell people of the Good News of Jesus Christ Jesus who can mend a broken heart. What a wonderful opportunity now as we enter the season of Advent to spread the Good News and welcome people to God's Holy House.

In Christ Jesus, Rev. Robert B. Grewe

At our semi-annual congregational meeting I informed those in attendance that Kimberly is now working at a new position. This position comes with an affordable health plan which will cover us both. This impacts F.L.C. as our church will now be saving close to \$18,000 per year for a private health care plan! Kimberly loves her new job, and the people she works with, so it has been a blessing for her.

As you are aware, judging by the church calendar, we are entering one of the busiest seasons of the year with Advent and Christmas. Here are a some of our highlighted will be upon us sooner than later and we have a busy schedule for everyone to participate in at FLC.

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Nicholas (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>)** will visit us and the first Advent candle will be lit during service followed by a coffee hour offering many German Christmas treats.

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Lucia (Dec.13<sup>th</sup> martyr day)** the Swedish Saint will also be visiting us this day!

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Caroling-** we will visit shut-ins in the evening where all are welcome to make a joyful noise and we will have hot chocolate and cookies after at FLC.

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast at the Manger-** at 9:00 a.m. Our youth and children offer a traditional play with a great breakfast and hymns to sing!

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve service will begin at 9 pm this year so don't miss it!**

## Prayer chain at FLC

Recently, I was reminded that our prayer chain needs to be updated and I noticed that we have not been using our FLC prayer chain effectively.

If you are interested in being part of our FLC prayer chain, please sign up on the sheet by the church offices.

The prayer chain is to add someone to the prayers of the church and pray for them. The daily in the daily prayers have been requested by members or non-members. If you are on the current team of prayer warriors, please sign up again!

I would like to see a new prayer chain up and running for January 2020!

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”**

Psalms 145:18 **“The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.”**

## God Is Calling YOU!

First Lutheran Church is looking for a team of five people that would be willing to read, discuss and work with the book **“Joining Jesus on His Mission”, How to be an Everyday Missionary** by Greg Finke. This book is recommended by the NALC and I hope to start out with five people willing to work with this book in the great commission that Bishop Selbo has reminded is our calling! Please see Pastor if you are interested in January 2020 and the books will be provided.

## **God Sent Us a Saviour**

If our greatest need had been information,

God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,

God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,

So God sent us a Saviour.

Written by Roy Lessen

and submitted by Joanne Reck

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If you find this time of year to be too busy, too stressful and chaotic

Remember this about chaos.

**C= Christ**

**H= Has**

**A= All**

**O= Our**

**S= Solutions**

Submitted by George Salvucci

**First Lutheran Church opportunities to grow in your faith and church participation all are welcome**

**Mondays: Confirmation Classes from 6-8 pm**

**Tuesdays: Adult Catechism Classes from 11 -12 noon & 7-8 pm**

**Wednesdays: Monthly Council Meeting 7 pm (2nd Weds of the month)**

**Thursdays: Bell Choir 7-8 pm. Women's Circle check for dates and times once a month.**

**Fridays: (last of the month) Youth Group 7-9 pm**

**Sundays: Choir practice at 9:15 am**

**Adult Bible study at 9:45 am. Youth Bible study at 9:45 am.**

**Movie and a Meal last Sunday of the month after the service (Christian based films) 11 am**

**Children's Sunday school before the sermon during the service.**

**Special events will also take place on Sundays after the services so watch the FLC calendar.**

## November Notes

The report on the semiannual congregational meeting

The budget was presented and discussed with one change being made in the review. It was then approved by the congregation.

One new member was approved for church council. Welcome **Heather Quedenfeld**.

We are three people short for church council for next year. Pray on it and see if the Lord will help guide you to serve the church by serving on council. Just let any council member know if you are interested in serving.

Jennifer Black will be the new president of First Lutheran Church.

Dennis Schmidt's new role will be Vice President. I will be able to help support Jennifer Black in her new position as president.

We would like to thank those who have served on council: **Kris Briggs, Kim Chadwick, Bob Fritz, and Allan Zimmerman**.

Christmas Eve vote and time change

A vote was taken by the congregation for a 7:00 pm or 10:30 pm service. The vote was very close to a fifty-fifty split. Discussion was had and Pastor Grewe said he would do both services. A suggestion was then made to try a 9:00pm service. A motion was made for a 9:00pm Christmas Eve service and passed.

Breakfast in the Manger

This will take place Dec. 22nd at 9am and the children of the church will be in the play. After the play, there will be singing of Christmas carols. Breakfast will consist of eggs, sausage, and home fries. Make sure to bring your appetite and singing voices.

The fall picnic will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August.

Dennis Schmidt

## Children's Ministries

“But we must forever give thanks to God for you, our brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose from the very first to give you salvation, cleansing you by the work of the Holy Spirit and by your trusting in the Truth. Through us he told you the Good News. Through us he called you to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters stand firm and keep a strong grip on the truth that we taught you in our letters and during the time we were with you.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting comfort and hope, which we don't deserve, comfort your hearts with all comfort, and help you in every good thing you say and do. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 TLB)

Much of what was taught to us as a child came from our Sunday school and other Children's Ministries. God works through us, his people and we are to hold onto everything we have learned so that we can share the good news of salvation through Christ.

Our Children's Ministries needs your help. At the end of December, Jill Sabol will no longer be doing the Children's Sermons. She has graciously and gracefully taught the youth of our church for a number of years and we thank her for her exceptional service! All of us as a church have been blessed by her messages and they will be treasured in our hearts in the years to come.

STOP! Before you begin to think I could never step into that role, I implore you to spend a week in prayer, specifically asking the Holy Spirit to guide you in this decision. I'm ashamed to say I had to be asked 3 times over several years before I began to participate in this ministry. The first time I was asked I blurted out; “Are you Crazy?” My second response was just as quick, but a bit more polite when I declined. The third time, I said no just as firmly, but the Holy Spirit began to knock the door to my heart and would not stop until I capitulated.

Was I equipped to do this job? Absolutely not! But then I was reminded of two of the most beautiful words ever spoken – “But God”. While I continue to be inadequate for this task, God has provided the courage to stand up before the congregation, the messages, and has blessed me more than I could have ever imagined as I put my faith in him.

I invite you to step forward and give this ministry a try. No one has perished in this endeavor thus far, and I feel God will equip you, as he has equipped me. So get on your knees and let the Holy Spirit be your guide in your decision. I can tell you the living water in this River of Grace is refreshing! So grab your bible and jump in as you join me in this adventure.

Sincerely,

Donna Bassi

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

### TASTE & SEE

Food is a part of our daily life as you will eat a number of times day every day. It is amazing how often food is linked to our relationship to God. In fact, it is mentioned over 1,200 times in the bible. Food in so many ways is God's love made edible. That's why he gave us 10's of 1,000's of taste buds!

In Genesis - the very first book of the Bible, God creates the Garden of Eden and in the cool of the day he walks with Adam and Eve. What a way of seeing how God provides food for us! And he uses food to awaken our heart to him. Throughout the Old Testament we see important meals such as:

- The Passover
- Manna in the wilderness

When Jesus comes in the New Testament he reveals himself as:

- The Bread of Life
- The True Vine
- The Anointed One – literally the one dripping in oil

This continues to the very last book of the bible. In Revelation 3:20 Jesus tells us: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

Just imagine - He is coming to share a meal with us!

For us to have food, we are relying on a God who hung the stars, who brings the sun, who created the seasons, invented the seeds, and provides the rain.

So with every bite God is drawing us closer to Christ. If we learn to take it in with gratitude and move from seeing food as a commodity or fuel, we are free to see every bite as a gift, a taking in God's grace, love, and faithfulness. Perhaps in this we can be a people who taste and see God's goodness.

In the end, we are going to celebrate the biggest feast of all times in Heaven! How can we become more intentional about tasting part of that feast with one another now? As we gather around the table at church and in our homes, let's not forget to make a space and invite Jesus to pull up a chair and be with us. And by doing so, may Jesus reveal himself and nourish us in body, mind and spirit.

During the month of December there are several opportunities to “Taste and See the Goodness of God” such as:

- Communion at the December 1st
- Communion at the December 24th Christmas Service
- Breakfast in the Manger on December 22nd before the church service
- Movie and a Meal on December 29th following the church service

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how you can not only join your church family at the table, but also how you can be of help in being the hands and feet of Jesus. As a Lay Reader, helping to set up or break down the Social room, preparing food, helping with the Children’s sermons and or Sunday school, VBS, bringing family and/or friends to church, sharing your ideas, etc...

As the saying goes; “Many hands make light work.”

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

On September 8th the Children's Sunday school kicked off its new year at Rally Day with 9 of the 26 children invited to participate. The children (ages 3– 12 years old) go to class after the gospel reading and try to return to the church service in time for the Sign of Peace.

6 wonderful teachers currently rotate the teaching duties and our average attendance has been ~4 students a week. In keeping with our church mission, the goal of the Children's Sunday School is to share the profound spiritual truths from the bible told in a conversational tone and interesting activities. Each week the teachers draw insights from the readings to turn the children's eyes towards God who loves them with an always and forever love!

Feel free to attend class and observe us in our pursuit of achieving the mission of our church and the great commission from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We still need volunteers to teach and help in the classroom. We welcome the:

- Young & Not So Young
- Women & Men
- No prior experience is required!
- Fearful about trying something new? Go for it – God is the greatest when we are the weakest!

Please pray about volunteering and contact me if you feel the Holy Spirit is calling on you to help. As Luke, put it in chapter 6:38 of his gospel -

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.”

I'm certain this year will be a “work in progress” and I look forward to your thoughts and ideas on how we can improve as we strive to reach the children with the Good News of the Bible. Once again, thank you for supporting us on this adventure!

Sincerely,

Donna Bassi

WNALC—December 2019-January 2020

The WNALC Christmas meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 5 at noon in the lounge. Please bring a covered dish and a \$5.00 grab bag gift. There will be games, carol singing, fun and fellowship. All women are invited.

Cheer baskets will be packed and distributed on Monday, Dec. 9 at 10:00 AM.

Please choose an Angel Tree name to brighten someone's Christmas.

There will be no meetings in January or February.

Merry Christmas  
Sonie Rea

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MUSIC NOTES FROM BOBBI HEASTINGS

It's not too late to be a part of the Advent/Christmas choir. If you enjoy singing with a great group of people, there is no better time to join than during this special season. We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 to 10:30 to rehearse. Would love to have you with us.

### **Dec. Lay Readers**

- 1 Dennis Schmidt
- 8 Jill Sabol
- 15 Kyle Glozier
- 22 Heather Quedenfeld
- 29 Sonie Rea

### **Dec. Altar Flowers**

- 1 Kim Luketich
- 8 Jennifer Black
- 15 Jeff Ulanich
- 22 Don Hazlett
- 29 Sonie Rea

### **Dec. Acolytes**

- 1 N. Black, W. Black, L. Bittner
- 8 B. Berry, L. Berry
- 15 E. Clark, L. Clark
- 22 C. Berry, C. Johnson
- 24 N. Black, W. Black, Emily Buel
- 29 C. Quedenfeld, H. Walsh

### **Dec. Counters**

- 1 Black, Schmidt, Zimmerman
- 8 C. Group, V. Group, Luketich
- 15 Coleman, Rea, Williams
- 22 Bassi, Fritz, Sabol
- 29 Briggs, Sten, Ulanich

### **Dec. Ushers**

- 1 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
- 8 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 15 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko
- 22 A.J. Chadwick; A. Serbak; J. Sarver; J. Chadwick
- 29 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

### **Dec. Altar Team**

Mel Behrens and Kristine Briggs

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Rick Williams	16	Judson Lacko
	Chris Maust	17	
2	Matthew Mazzotti	18	
	Aiden DeWalt	19	
3	Sally Caddies	20	
	Deborah Sten	21	Jodi Berry
4	Allan Zimmerman	22	Jimmy Conkle
5			John Bartanus, Jr.
6	Wyatt Streator	23	
7	Jennifer Black	24	
8	Mark Black	25	
9		26	
10	Ed Goga	27	
11	Thomas DeWalt	28	Danielle Pinkerton
12		29	
13	Sally Hazlett	30	George L. Walz
	Loraine Kay Rush		Jim Scheffel
14		31	Karen Gavazzi
15			

### **Jan. Lay Readers**

5  
12  
19  
26 Dennis Schmidt

### **Jan. Altar Flowers**

5 Don Hazlett  
12 Mark Verderber

### **Jan. Acolytes**

5  
12  
19  
26

### **Jan. Counters**

5 Black, C. Group, Zimmerman  
12  
19  
26

### **Jan. Ushers**

5 J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams  
12 J. Luketich; S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason  
19 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich  
26 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler

### **Jan. Altar Team**

Lisa Hager and Joanne Marker

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Betty Mancinelli	16
2		17
3		18 Timothy R. Fritz
4	Joshua Clark	19 Amy Bassi
5	Paul R. Morgan	20
6	Elaine Burda	21 Betty Dee Shannon
7	Andrew Serbak	22
8		23 Alesia Scheffel
9		24
10		25 Gregory Buel
11		Lisa Maust
12		26 Joseph Sarver
13	David Looman	27 Phyllis Webeck
14		28
15		29
		30 Jack Buel
		31