

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives - February 2020

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

Now that our Christmas is over at First Lutheran we are quickly moving into the season of Lent; Ash Wednesday is on the 26th of this month. After speaking to several parishioners, council and the FLC women's group it has been decided that due to the dwindling numbers for the *Lenten Lunches* and midday services they will be put on hold for this year. If there is more interest in the future then we can once again bring these services back at 12 noon. We will continue our mid week evening service of Compline which will be held on March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st (no joke). The Compline Service is a beautiful, reflective and prayerful service. If you have not been to one then you are truly missing out!

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and it is a time of reflection and preparations before the celebrations of Easter. It is the forty day journey where we, as Christians, are called to reflect on the Jesus' time in the desert where He was tempted by the devil. During this time Jesus fasted and avoided celebrations while in the desert. Many people offer **to give something up**: it is usually something that they enjoy such as desserts, coffee, television, or whatever else one may enjoy. This self denial is seen as a "sacrifice" and, to a much smaller degree, is considered similar to what Jesus did in the desert.

However, instead of just focusing on what we are giving up during Lent I believe it is also very important to take something more Christ-centered in its place. So, if one decided to give up 30 minutes of watching TV then how about opening up Holy Bible and reading it for 30 minutes or using that time to increase in prayer? How about attending the mid week Lenten Compline Service or arriving early to church to participate in the adult Bible study class on Sunday mornings? One could even drop in and check out our adult catechism class which is offered on Tuesdays at 11 am and 7 pm!

This Lenten season is really about emptying ourselves of the secular world and then refilling ourselves with the sacred world of God!

We understand this more fully in the Sunday order of service for the Gospel acclamation when we replace, *“alleluia Lord to whom shall we go You have the Word of eternal life”* with *“return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”*.

Here at First Lutheran Church we can offer many opportunities to delve deeper into our faith. There is even the movie and meal at the end of each month to watch and discuss Christian movies to help us better our faith. Some are historical, or documentaries and others are fiction but they are always based on our faith in Christ Jesus.

So, please come and join us in dropping the secular and taking up the sacred of God during this upcoming Lenten season.

In Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Important Dates at FLC!

Feb. 2nd Holy Communion with coffee hour to follow. Meeting of Fundraising Committee.

Feb. 12th FLC Council meeting at 7 pm (Standard Lutheran Time)

Feb. 18th 1546 death of Martin Luther

Feb. 21st Youth group moved up one week due to wedding rehearsal on the 28th.

Feb. 23rd Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday with Holy Communion followed by movie and meal after the service of the Word

Feb. 26th Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Confirmation classes on Monday from 6 pm-8 pm

Adult catechism classes Tuesdays 11 am and 7 pm

LENTEN SERVICES FOR 2020 AT FLC

February 26th– Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion at 7 PM

March 4th– evening service of Compline at 7 PM

March 11th– evening service of Compline at 7 PM

March 18th– evening service of Compline at 7 PM

March 25th– evening service of Compline at 7 PM

April 1st– evening service of Compline at 7 PM

April 5th– Palm Sunday Service with procession and Holy Communion

April 9th– Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM with foot washing and Holy Communion

April 10th– Good Friday Service at 1 PM and at 7 PM

April 11th– Easter Vigil at 7 PM

April 12th– Easter Sunday service at 11 AM with Holy Communion

President of Council

Happy New Year to my First Lutheran Church family. This year will be another busy year, and we welcome Heather Quedenfeld as our newest council member for this year. We are so glad to have her on council. She has already jumped in with both feet, and we are looking forward to all her new ideas and insights.

Discussed at our January council meeting was the state of our roof and leaky basement. A very big thank you goes to George Salvucci for all he is doing to work with Nicollela's to get our roof in the Sunday School wing fixed, and for all he does repairing, fixing and upkeep on our church. We have more things than one man can handle, and he is certainly doing his best, but he could use help. Anyone who can lend a hand occasionally would be greatly appreciated. Rick Williams and Caitlyn Group are our Council Members on the Property Committee, along with George Salvucci. Please talk to them about what you can do to help and when you are available. Many helping hands make light work.

Also, big thanks go to Jeff Ulanich, for all he does. There is a problem somewhere around the ladies room in the basement, and we get flooded every time it rains. Jeff checks on the church day and night as needed. Last October he was at the church at 2 a.m. using the shop vac to clean up the massive amount of water that had gotten in, and that was just the first time that day he came in to clean up during the rain showers we had over several days. Jeff goes above and beyond to keep the church cleaned up when this happens. George and Jeff do so much behind the scenes to make sure First Lutheran Church is ready for Sunday Services and any other activities that we have.

And on that note, we need to think about fundraising as a church. Our Fundraising Committee is Jill Sabol, Heather Quedenfeld and Linda Coleman, along with Pastor Grewe. Please let them know if you are willing to help and any ideas that you have.

Jennifer Black

CHURCH WEBSITE

Some of you might not be aware, but First Lutheran Church has a Website, **www.flcwash.church**. Every month the Newsletter and Calendar are posted along with other announcements and pictures. For those who were unable to attend the Christmas Eve Service, there are pictures posted of the service.

I would like to post all the activities we do at First Lutheran, But I need your help. Please submit pictures with a write up about the activity to the church office so that I can get it posted.

Jennifer Black

NURSERY

We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

SAFETY REMINDER

All keyholders — please double check any doors that get used during your activity. Our doors are very old and do not close on their own. They are frequently being found unlatched.

Mark Black

WNALC—FEBRUARY 2020

Our women will not be serving lunch during Lent this year as attendance was very low last year.

Circle Meetings will start in March on the last Thursday of each month.

You may turn water bottles into the Church office. We will be collecting thru April. Thank you for helping to bring clean water to others.

God Bless Everyone,
Sonie Rea

What is Your Talent?

Jill Sabol

We all have a talent. Good with numbers, like to do handy work, computer whiz, baking or cooking, singing, reading or some other hidden talent. The church can use many servants with many talents. Please pray that God will guide you to share your hidden talent with a council member. Let us know.

Do you know who your council members are? Well here is a list of us:

Jennifer Black, Pres.

Donna Bassi

Linda Coleman

Dennis Schmidt, V.P.

Jill Sabol

Jeff Ulanich

Pastor Grewe

Vickie Group

Rick Williams

Kim Luketich

Caitlyn Group

Sonie Rea

Larry Sten

Erik Maust

Heather Quedenfeld

February Lay Readers

2nd Kimberly Grewe
9th Dennis Schmidt
16th George Salvucci
23rd Heather Quedenfeld

February Altar Flowers

2nd Salvucci
9th
16th
23rd

February Acolytes

2nd C. Quendenfeld, L. Berry, L. Bittner
9th M. Sobocinski, H. Walsh
16th L. Clark, E. Clark
23rd B. Berry, C. Berry, C. Johnson
26th N. Black, A. Serbak, E. Buel

February Ushers

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

February Altar Team

Emogene Salvucci

February Counters

2nd J. Black, D. Schmidt, L. Sten
9th L. Coleman, V. Group, K. Luketich
16th D. Bassi, H. Quedenfeld, S. Rea
23rd C. Group, J. Sabol, R. Williams

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Robert Gosnell
- 4 Alissa Hixson
- 5 Patricia Platts
- 6 Dr. Angelica Houston
- 10 Brice Berry
- 15 Robert Fritz
- 17 Alan Sten
Debbie Hoffer
- 20 Billie Sue Serbak
Sharon Maust
- 21 Michelle Williams
- 24 Anneliese Christian
- 25 Sonie Rea
- 28 Donald McWreath IV