

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives - March 2020

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

Our Lenten journey began on Feb. 26th , Ash Wednesday, with the Lord's Supper and the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants with the words **“remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”** (Genesis 3:19). The ashes for this solemn service were provided by the current confirmation class. Together we gathered and prayed over the palm leaves from Palm/Passion Sunday of last year and we watched as they turned to ash. Interestingly enough, speaking to one of the officers at the fire department who is a Presbyterian, he told that they too have will have an Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 26th but without the ashes. Without the ashes, yes, you heard me correctly!

Ashes are a sign of repentance and this ancient practice is often mentioned in the Holy Bible such as in Jonah 3:5-9, Job 42:6, St. Matthew 11:21 and in Jeremiah 6:26 (to name just a few). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from the Jewish practice; it as an external mark of penitence. Those of the Jewish faith would cover themselves in ash from head to toe to illustrate to the world each individual's repentance. The ashes remind us all of God's condemnation of sin and the need for a cleansing and renewal.

Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life since the pastor, when presiding at funerals, proclaims the words **“we commit this body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust”**.

Ashes are a concrete reminder of the need for us to repent, to confess our sins and to return to God. The symbol in the Old Testament of seeing someone covered completely from head to toe in ash in mournful repentance would be as powerful today as it would have been in Biblical times. The ashen cross that we wear covers the same spot upon our head that was anointed with olive oil from the Holy Land mixed with frankincense and myrrh; the very gifts given to the Christ child by the three wise men.

Therefore, the need to have the ashes put upon our foreheads is not only a symbolic outward act of showing our repentance act to God, it is also where we are invited by God and His holy church to a deeper faith in Him, to gather weekly on Wednesdays in prayerful contemplation on the readings and to build a stronger community in Christ. All of this allows us to be open to have a closer connection to God.

Please join us at First Lutheran Church as we gather as a community in Christ Jesus for our Lenten journey to 'return to the Lord our God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.' (*Joel 2:13*)

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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

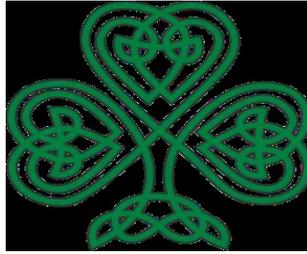
April 9th– Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM with foot washing and Holy Communion

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



First Lutheran Church Family,

Another month has passed, and I am very enthusiastic about the direction we are going. It is exciting to see how many of you joined in on our fundraising and how many wonderful ideas we have. Heather Quedenfeld has so much energy and excitement moving forward with this. I can't wait to see what she does next!

We are also in the process of getting our library/media room computers up and running with a printer and scanner so that this is available for church use for our Women's group, the bell choir, Sunday School, and anyone else who may need use of a computer for church activities.

February's Youth Group was again, a great success. Pastor Grewe always has a great lesson for our youth, and, well, the pizza and snacks are great, too! We had 19 who attended in February and 20 in January. It's wonderful to see our Youth Group growing. I am also excited to say that Kara Clark is our Youth Group coordinator. She will be working with Pastor Grewe making sure that the Youth Group will always be a success every month. If anyone wishes to help with snacks, decorations or activities, please let her know.

Yours in Christ,

Jennifer



We are looking for volunteers to help with many things all around the church.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

What activities are you interested in helping with? (Please circle)

Sunday School

Children's Sermon

Church Picnic (helping to set up)

Church Picnic (help to grill)

Fundraising

Youth Group

Sunday Greeters

Altar Stewards

Adult Choir

Bell Choir

Usher

Church Maintenance – to help our Property Committee with things like painting, minor repairs

Do you have any handyman skills? Please list:

Please list anything that you are willing to help with that is not listed above.

Please return this sheet to the church office as soon as possible. We have many things to do, and many hands make light work

EMBRACING HOPE ETHIOPIA

(Excerpts from 2019 Annual Report)

Thank you for supporting our organization. Your support is used for projects we are doing. We also want you to know that we see you as a partner in what we are doing—without you we couldn't continue. So we promise to try our best to stay in touch along the way through a bi-monthly newsletter as well as other notes along the way.

We strive to act in all of our financial matters governed by the principles of simplicity, transparency, stewardship and integrity. We know that every one of our supporters have entrusted us with an investment for The Kingdom of God, and therefore we want to operate in a way that we honor that intention.

In Ethiopia, we are registered by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Charities and Societies Agency and must report all physical and financial activities quarterly.

YOUR MONTHLY PARTNERSHIP HELPS TO PROVIDE

Education: In our caring Day Care or in our excellent Kindergarten

Nutrition: 4 nutritious meals per day

Health and Hygiene: Free Health Care for the family, monthly hygiene materials, Health Education

Basic Needs: Supplemental Foods supports, clothing and school uniforms

Special Needs: Special supports for families with HIV, TB, underweight children or Mental Health issues. Supports elderly family members, new Mothers and those with disabilities

Empowerment: Micro-savings, Micro-grants, business training, life-skills training

Social Work: Ongoing social work with the family

Spiritual Ministry: Spiritual counseling, outreach, Bible Study and Kids Programs

Dignity Restoration: The freedom for parents to work while their children receive high quality care and education, thereby Empowering parents to take ownership in the3 project and their families.

Fundraising Meeting

February 2, 2020 during Coffee Hour

Report of Discussions

Heather Quedenfeld

There were lots of ideas for fundraising, both in the meeting we had and after/ before the meeting. I have captured all of them at the bottom of this report. We have incorporated some of them into the fundraising plan for this CY. We appreciate everyone's ideas for fundraising. It's clear we have a congregation that cares about the church and keeping the church viable and successful.

Overall, our plan fundraising goal is \$10K. We recognize this is a stretch goal and can only be reached with a big "event" style fundraiser (see January 2021 event.) While we may not make this goal this year, we hope to be close or at least make significant strides toward that goal.

Fundraising plans for this CY.

Note that the Fundraising Goal numbers are my estimates and are just a representation of what we could possibly make.

Note that fundraising ideas/events, timing, and responsible parties are subject to change.

Timeframe	Fundraising Idea/Event	Fundraising Goal	Responsible Party
February – June 2020	Art Raffle Sten's have a beautiful Washington Pavilion picture they have offered to raffle off. 100% profit Will display the art at church and church members will pay for a chance to win the print.	\$250 - \$350	Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten

February – December 2020	Restaurant Fundraising Like the Bob Evans or Applebee's events we had in the past, research restaurants that will give us a percentage of sales. Identify a restaurant fundraising every other month this CY.	\$ 500 - \$700	Michelle & Rick Williams
February/ March 2020	Pierogi Sale with Pittsburgh Pierogi Truck Sell 10 pack of Pierogis for \$9, keep \$3 30% profit	\$225 - \$300	Heather Quedenfeld
May 2020	Hanging Basket Sale Identify a nursery that will sell us "coupons" for hanging baskets. Coupons sell for \$20 (for example) and keep \$5. 25% profit Need to ID nursery...	\$300 - \$400	Vicki & Caitlyn Group (lead) Heather Q can help too!
May 2020 – August 2020	Summer Readathon Have people sponsor you for how many books you can read over the summer. For kids young and old! 100% profit	\$225 - \$300	Kimberly Grewe
June 13, 2020	Yard Sale at church 100% profit Need to identify help for setting up, organizing, and tearing down	\$300 - \$500	Linda Coleman will co-chair with someone else... Need to identify

July 2020	<p>Win a Fishing Trip with Jeff Jeff has offered to raffle off a fishing trip with him. 100% profit Recommend tickets only sold to members to alleviate any potential liability issue.</p>	\$200 - \$350	Jeff Ulanich (lead) Heather Q will help make the tickets
August 2020	<p>Church Picnic We will have baskets and 50/50 at the picnic. 100% profit</p>	\$300 - \$500	TBD (need volunteers!)
September 2020	<p>Painting Will conduct a painting session like we had done in the past. Need to identify a vendor for this. Not sure on profit. Ideally, we will have this in time to create a fall/holiday painting.</p>	\$150 - \$300	Judy Sarver
November 2020	<p>Live Wreaths and Swags Need to identify a nursery that will sell us live wreaths and swags for the holidays. Take orders and have delivery around Thanksgiving. Not sure on profit.</p>	\$150 - \$300	Vicki & Caitlyn Group (lead)
December 2020	<p>Vendor Sale & Craft Sale Continue our vendor and craft sale tradition from prior years Likely first weekend in December Not sure on profit</p>	\$250 - \$300	Joanne Marker

January 2021	Chili Cook Off Community Event Host a chili cook off for the Washington church community Charge entry fees for chilis, and entrance fees for people sampling the chili Invite churches to participate both as chili entries and as samplers Invite community “celebrities” to event Give trophy (golden ladle) and small \$ to winner(s) Hold at fire hall (?)	\$5000+	Heather Quedenfeld + planning committee volunteers
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Other Fundraising ideas to consider for this year or next.

Continue with Holiday Happening

Sell Sarris candies for Easter and Christmas

Sell gift cards again, but make them targeted (like Target and Amazon at the holidays)

Another idea which isn't really a fundraising idea, but an idea to increase our visibility in the community and potentially attract new families. Recommend we explore this idea for some time in 2021.

Host a community day event. Can have bouncy houses, popcorn maker, face painting, etc.

WAITING

When the painted turtle senses winter coming, she dives to the bottom of her pond, burying herself in the muck and mud. She pulls into her shell and goes still: her heart rate slows, almost stopping. Her body temperature drops, staying just above freezing. She stops breathing, and she waits. For six months, she stays buried, and her body releases calcium from her bones into her bloodstream, so that she slowly begins even to lose her shape.

But when the pond thaws, she will float up and breathe again. Her bones will reform, and she will feel the warmth of the sun on her shell.

I think of the painted turtle when I read the psalmist's description of waiting for God. The psalmist is in a "slimy pit" of "mud and mire," but God hears him. (Psalm 40:2). God lifts him out, and gives him a firm place to stand. God is "my help and my deliverer," he sings (V. 17)

Perhaps it feels you've been waiting forever for something to change- for a new direction in your career, for a relationship to be restored, for the willpower to break a bad habit, or for deliverance from a difficult situation. The painted turtle and the psalmist are here to remind us to trust God: He hears, and He will deliver.

*God, sometimes it's hard to wait. But we trust in you and in
Your deliverance. Please give us patience, and allow
Your greatness and glory to be evident in our lives.*

By Amy Peterson

Do you or someone you know need extra prayer? If so, please contact Pastor Rob or the church office. The First Lutheran Church Prayer Chain will pray for your intention.

WNALC—March

The WNALC Board will meet Tuesday, March 3rd at noon in the lounge.

The water bottles will be collected in April. How are they filling up? A suggestion for March—Put a nickel in the bottle for each letter in your name, (first, middle, and last). You might be surprised at how much the amount will be.

Circle will meet Thursday, March 26th at noon in the lounge. Emogene Salvucci will be leader and Carolyn Wright and Linda Coleman hostesses.

We have cancelled Lenten lunches this year as attendance was poor last year.

All women of the church are invited to a delicious lunch, Bible Study and fun fellowship. We meet the last Thursday of the month at noon.

Remember, “No Act of Kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Aesop

God Bless,

Sonie

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 1 – January 31, 2020

Income \$11,430.07

Expense 11,856.40

Net **-\$426.33**

January average monthly attendance 90

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH YARD SALE

Put it on your calendar, Saturday, June 13, 2020, a yard sale will be held in the Church Social Room.

When you are Spring cleaning in the next few months, remember the sale. If you do not have room to store items until that date, place them on the stage in the Social Room.

We need your help to make this a success!

Committee:

Linda Coleman

Joyce Streator

Here are some of my favorite bible verses. What are yours?

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Romans 10:9-13 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Revelations 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am among them.

Isaiah 65:17-18 "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

March Lay Readers

- 1 Lisa Maust
- 8 Sonie Rea
- 15 Jill Sabol
- 22 Kris Briggs
- 29 Dennis Schmidt

March Altar Flowers

- 1 Matthew & Samantha Mayers
- 8 Allan Zimmerman
- 15 Sally Caddies
- 22 Holly Rea
- 29 Dennis Schmidt

March Acolytes

- 1 C. Quedenfeld, A. Serbak, L. Bittner
- 8 H. Walsh, M. Sobocinski
- 15 E. Clark, L. Clark
- 22 C. Berry, C. Johnson
- 29 L. Berry, B. Berry

March Counters

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

March Ushers

- 1 J. Luketich, S. Ringer, D. Schmidt, Z. Mason, M. Verderber
- 8 T. Bernhart, E. Goga, R. Johnson, J. Ulanich
- 15 N. Bassi, R. Phillips, J. Sakerka, D. Wheeler
- 22 K. Carl, C. Group, C.R. Group, G. Salvucci, D. Lacko
- 29 A.J. Chadwick, A. Serbak, J. Sarver, J. Chadwick

March Altar Team

Judy Sarver and Michelle Williams

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brett Hixson
- 2 Sophia Dragich
J. Robert Franz
- 3 Dustin Cochrane
- 14 Logan Williams
David Wheeler
- 15 Donna Bassi
Barbara Morton
- 22 Jade Rea
Sue Palfrey
- 24 Arthur Battistone
Theodore Dragich
- 25 Nancy Podboy
Jannette Walsh
- 26 Jacin Flowers
- 27 Timothy Fritz
- 28 Carl Group
- 29 Pam Fender
Hayden Gosnell
- 31 Rev. Robert Grewe
Sue Wetzel
Sheldon Hancher