

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



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ICH-THUS  
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

### Pastoral Perspectives for August 2020

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

You may be wondering why we have an additional newsletter out during the dog days of summer but we have decided that because of the Covid 19 virus it is best to keep you informed as to what is happening in the life of the church each month. Our FLC President, Mrs. Jennifer Black, has also been submitting “*mini newsletters*” to keep everyone updated on the events of the church; they have been very informative, and most welcome, during these uncertain times and I am thankful for her vision.

To be honest with you all, I thought that by now we would be much closer to resuming some sort of normalcy in South Western PA since we did so well in flattening the curve and following the guidelines that were imposed. But as I look at the current cancelations of events extending into the end of 2020 it is clear that this will not be happening soon.

If you are into classical music you may know that this is the 250<sup>th</sup> year of Ludwig Van Beethoven. Sadly, all the live concerts have been canceled and I have resorted to listening to the complete collection of the music of Beethoven on CD at home, but it’s just not the same as attending the Pittsburgh symphony and the Mendelssohn Choir as they raise the roof with his 9<sup>th</sup> symphony!

The arts have greatly suffered as have the Mom and Pop shops, small businesses and the bars and restaurants. Watching the news this morning I noticed that the bridges and tunnels have very little traffic during rush hour. As I travel through Washington County and Pittsburgh I can see restaurants and businesses closing. Our school systems are trying their best to adjust to the CDC guidelines and it looks like amateur and professional sports will be greatly affected by the ongoing pandemic as we move closer to September.

The one and only constant that has remained through the uncertainties during this entire pandemic has been Jesus the Christ our Lord and Saviour! St. Paul’s letter to the Hebrews 13:8 assured the people that, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.”**

St. Paul wanted people to know that Jesus the Christ remains the same according to His eternal divinity and that He is unchangeable and that His covenant of grace does not ever change! St. Paul was addressing the situation of people looking to other leaders to follow and those who were returning to old worship practices and old ways that are contrary to God's Holy Word who is Christ Jesus!

I pray that one day soon that First Lutheran Church will be back to what was once "*normal.*" In the future when the choir can once again practice and make a joyful noise unto the Lord! When we can again celebrate the Lord's Supper without PPE on and when you the church, the very Body of Christ, will again feel safe to come and worship in God's Holy House. Until that time we will continue to social distance, wear PPE during Holy Communion and at our regular services and we offer two hand sanitizers in every pew!

I am thankful for all the continued planning by safety coordinator Mr. Mark Black to ensure that our services are available online; we are looking at ways to improve our sound and possibly live stream our services so that those who have to remain at home may watch the Sunday services.

We at FLC made a commitment to keep God's Holy House open just as churches have done historically during times of pandemics and plagues: to be places of refuge before the time of Martin Luther where we know and understand that everything in life can change in an instant.....except for Christ Jesus, our Lord, our Saviour and our Redeemer! Never forget that "***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever!***" Amen!

In Christ Jesus,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Readings for the Sundays in August 2020

First Lutheran Worship at 10 a.m. during the summer months

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Communion Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 136:1-9 (23-26)

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)

Gospel St. Matthew 14:13-21

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Job 38:4-18

Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16)

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 10:5-17

Gospel St. Matthew 14: 22-33

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Gospel of St. Matthew 15:21-28

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Romans 11:33-12:8

Gospel St. Matthew 16:13-20

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_

1st reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26

2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 12:9-21

Gospel St. Matthew 16:21-28

## Prayer of St. Corona

16 year old Christian Martyr 170 AD (Syria/ Cypress)

Look kindly on us now we pray,  
That we, and all those that serve You,  
And be kept safe from this epidemic

Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering,  
Bring back those that have gone astray,  
And above all increase our faith O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You,  
And like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for the love of You,  
To take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God have mercy on us and on the whole world.

St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

I am happy to say that we have had another successful fundraiser. We made \$727.25 profit from our popcorn sale!! In August we are having our Yard Sale. We have always made a nice profit on our Yard Sale. Please see Heather or Linda if you are able to help with the sale. Also, remember to tell everyone you know about our sale. All are welcome. We also have our Church picnic at the end of the month. Help is needed with coordinating everything. Please contact Heather if you are willing to help, and do not forget to sign up so we know how many will attend.



As of this writing, the peak roof has been finished and Nicolella's has begun work on the roof of our Sunday School Wing. Soon we will not have to worry about emptying out all the buckets of water and constantly checking for new leaks. More good news is that we were concerned about corrosion of the steel framing under the rubber roof. When checking the steel framing, from the upstairs classrooms, when there were leaks, it did not seem to be too bad from what you could see of the framing from above the drop ceiling. Nicolella has done an inspection on the roof and they see no damage!! We were concerned that our original loan may not be enough to cover additional damage. We have been blessed to find no damage to the steel framing. We are being blessed with church members sending in their support for the new roof, and our old and beautiful church building of First Lutheran is again being repaired and kept up to the glory of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus!

As of this writing, our loan status is:

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Original Loan:    | \$50,000         |
| Total Pymts       | <u>\$ 11,893</u> |
| Remaining Balance | \$ 38,107        |

The total amount we have received in donations for this roof project so far is: \$ 20,101. Please do not forget to send in your offering if you are unable to attend Sunday Services so that we may continue with our other building projects.

As fall approaches, we hope to begin more of our activities such as Youth Group, Sunday School, Choir and Bible study for those who wish to participate. Please let Pastor Grewe know if you are going to attend any of the regular fall activities so what we can plan accordingly.

We have had two separate sound system installers take a look at the church to update our equipment and help us find a better way to keep putting our Sunday Services online. We have not received any bids as of this writing. Council will be discussing this as soon as we receive the bids.

As Maria put it so well in *The Sound of Music*: "When the Lord closes a door, he opens a window." We must remember to find all of those windows, especially now.

Yours in Christ,

Jennifer Black, Council President

## WNALC

The circle meeting for August has been cancelled.

The Yard Sale is August 8.

Church Picnic is August 23.

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### **YARD SALE SATURDAY, August 8, 2020 9 AM—3 PM**

HELP is needed for this to be successful. Please donate items for the sale.  
(no clothes please)

**SET-UP SCHEDULE:** Many hands are needed!!!

**Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, after coffee hour—move chairs and arrange tables for the sale.

**Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 AM—display sale items on tables.

**Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 PM—Finalize setup

**Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**, 7 AM—Weather permitting, some items are going to be displayed outside on the church lawn. For this part we need people that can carry items up the stairs.

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### **YOUTH GROUP IS BACK**

Friday, August 28th from 7-9 PM  
Outdoors—rain or shine to follow CDC guidelines

**YARD SALE**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020**  
**9AM—3PM**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**92 WEST WALNUT ST**  
**WASHINGTON, PA 15301**

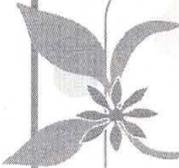
All proceeds will go for new roof on Education wing of the Church.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to the church and place them on or close to the stage.

Please no clothes!

If you need items picked up at your home, please contact Heather Quedenfeld 724-263-253.

Questions—contact Linda Coleman 724-225-8011



**FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
PICNIC**

August 23, AFTER CHURCH SERVICE  
BILLY BELL PARK | PANCAKE, SOUTH STRABANE

SORRY – BUT THIS IS ONCE AGAIN  
A NEW DATE AND LOCATION.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Sponsored by [Your Organization]

**Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.**

### **August Lay Readers**

2 Dennis Schmidt  
9 Vickie Group  
16 Lisa Maust  
23 Heather Quedenfeld  
30 Kimberly Grewe

### **August Altar Flowers**

2 Quedenfeld  
9  
16 Joyce Streater  
23 Cancelni/Shawin  
30

### **August Acolytes**

2 Nathaniel Black and Wesley Black  
9  
16 Collin Berry and Cole Johnson  
23 Caroline Quedenfeld and Maria Sobocinski  
30

### **August Ushers**

2 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich  
9 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler  
16 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko  
23 A. Serbak; J. Sarver  
30 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

### **August Counters**

2 Coleman; C. Group; Ulanich  
9 Bassi; Rea; Williams  
16 V. Group; Sten  
23 Black; Quedenfeld; Schmidt  
30 Coleman; C. Group; Luketich

### **August Altar Team**

L. Coleman; B.S. Serbak

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

6 Samantha Sakerka

Holly Rea

10 Ernest Oliver

11 Michelle Burbank

12 Lori Goga

Anne Belski

17 Kay Rush

Jason Webeck

19 Terence Serbak

Jill Sabol

21 Karen Stofan

Jared Battistone

23 Rick West

Amie Buel

24 Michelle Bartanus

28 Richard Johnson

29 Delores Stebella

30 Andrew Sabol

31 Linda Nickles

Myra Bernhart