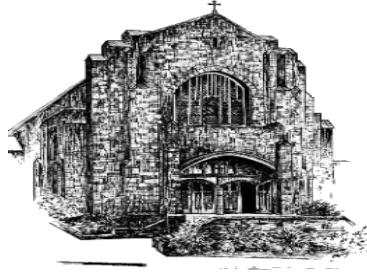


First Lutheran Church
92 W. Walnut Street
Washington, PA 15301



Ixoye
ICH-THUS
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives—July 2020

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

My brother called me the other night to tell me that the churches in Canada are still closed due to the pandemic. In the little local newspaper it was revealed that four churches in the community were closing their doors for good. These houses of God will close their doors forever due to various reasons, such as financial loss, lack of membership or clergy shortage to name just a few.

Meanwhile, many churches here are slowly opening up while others are remaining closed until July and possibly August. VBS everywhere is canceled for the summer including the NALC “in tents” camp for 2020. Our President and Vice President of First Lutheran Church have worked tirelessly with the pastor, our council, acolytes, seminarian and support staff and we have been able to worship throughout the entire pandemic. The state of PA exempted the operation of religious services from the stay at home order but encouraged churches to find alternatives to in person gatherings. Yes, there were times of worry and fear as to what might happen but it was agreed that we would, as Christians, put our faith in Christ and in Him alone!

Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid, I put my trust in You”

South Western PA thankfully was not hit with the Covid 19 virus to the same extent as other places such as New York: if that were the case then we too would have just gone to online services.

We continue to follow all the CDC guidelines and I believe that we are a model for how worship can take place in any stop-light coloured phase. We can safely offer the Lord’s Supper and safely baptize! There was a large amount of planning and preparation between the secretary, sexton, pastor and council to ensure that we are safe during the worship service. We continue to social distance when we worship and share the peace in new and various ways and if you are wearing a mask here that is welcome as well. From the very

beginning we wanted to make certain that all would feel welcome and feel safe here at FLC. We ask that if you do have an underlying condition or a compromised immune system then please remain safe at home and watch our services online until your doctor tells you it is safe to go out again. For the safety of the congregation I continue to daily monitor myself for symptoms of the Covid 19 virus and check my temperature each morning and night.

During the pandemic I still fulfilled my call as a ordained minister of the Lutheran Church by presiding safely at funeral services, prepared for weddings, visiting the sick and dying. I spoke to some of our shut-ins and have done what we are all called to do and that is to plan for the future of God's church.

I look forward to seeing you all back at some point this year, until then, God be with you till we meet again in Christ Jesus.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe



The Wizard of Oz?

It sure seems as though we have been living in Oz this year. The year started out pretty well. Then it started: COVID-19 started spreading here and since we did not know how bad it would be most stayed home. Then they said the murder hornets were coming. Lovely. Just what I need while I am outside in my garden!! Then the riots. Sigh. I think I saw a list that projected what is next: July is an alien invasion; August the Zombies are coming, and September is Godzilla. Or is Godzilla in July? It is so hard to keep track of these things this year!!

But do not fret, there is some good news!! Our Wizard of the Roof, George Salvucci, has said that the work on our roof should start right about July 4th!!! It will be wonderful to finally have them start. That being said, we will be paying our first installment to them in July, along with our monthly payment on our loan. We had a wonderful turnout the first two Sunday's in June, but our numbers have fallen again and so have our weekly offerings. Please remember to send in your offering so that we can keep up with our monthly bills and loan payment.

We had a wonderful coffee hour after our service in June with many faces I had not seen in several months. Please check the sign-up sheet if you do not remember when you signed up to host a coffee hour. If you are unable to host on the day you signed up for, please let Pastor Grewel and our office know so that an announcement can be made that there is a Sunday open. We would like to keep the coffee hour going again.

We met with a contractor about getting a new sound and video system installed. The bid has not yet been received. If it seems reasonable, I will submit it to council for discussion.

Again, please check the newsletter and bulletin for the fundraisers that we are having. Heather has many things planned for this year.

In the meantime, I will be putting on my red sparkly shoes as I continue down the yellow brick road and pray that when I reach the end all will be normal again.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, First Lutheran Church Council President



"As many of you know, the church had to take out a loan to pay for roof repairs. The payments have been about \$900 per month, but thanks to the many generous donations received, the church was able to make a \$10,000 payment recently. This will help with not only paying off the loan faster, but will also help with the amount of interest in said loan. We are grateful for the help everyone has been giving to the church. I encourage everyone to keep donating in order to help pay it off."

Thanks,
Erik Maust

WNALC

The Women's Circle will be held Thursday, July 30th at noon in the Library.

Please wear your masks and we will sit 6 feet apart if possible.

Leader will be Emogene Salvucci. Hostesses will be Michelle Williams and Sonie Rea.

Fundraising Update

Blessings to all of you and prayers you are all staying healthy and well.

June Popcorn Fundraiser: As I write this, we are in the middle of our June Popcorn fundraiser. We are selling popcorn made by the Pittsburgh Popcorn Company. We make 50% profit on every sale. Orders due July 5, and popcorn will be delivered July 19th before church. Our goal for this fundraiser is to sell 150+ bags of popcorn. Please consider buying some! It's very good and they have many varieties. For more information, or for an order form, please contact me at 724-263-3253.

Upcoming Yard Sale Tentatively Scheduled for August 8th: Our yard sale is tentatively planned for August 8th. If you have an item for the yard sale, you can drop it off at the church and place downstairs near the stage. If you need someone to pick up items for this sale, please contact me directly at 724-263-3253.

Used Book & DVD Drive: We are planning to sell in bulk any used books & DVDs we receive to a buyer. This will supplement our fundraising activities. Now's a great time to weed out your bookshelves and your DVDs! Bring your books/DVDs in when you bring in your yard sale items...

Upcoming Picnic on August 23rd: The church picnic is moved to Sunday August 23rd at Billy Bell. We would like to have a Chinese auction at the picnic but need help with donations. Please consider donating a basket for this fun event! More details forthcoming.

Art Raffle: We will raffle off a beautiful framed picture of the Washington Pavilion at the church picnic. This picture is displayed at the church right now and with instructions on how to enter to win it. Cost is \$1.00 per entry. You can enter as many times as you wish; it will just cost you a dollar each time.

Quilt Raffle: A HUGE thank you to Linnea who donated a beautiful homemade queen-sized quilt to raffle off as a fundraiser. We plan to sell tickets for this raffle. Tickets will go on sale this summer/early fall.

Fall Fundraisers & Events: We have more fundraisers and events planned in the fall/winter – including Restaurant Fundraiser Events (TBD), Mum Sale (Aug/Sept), Pierogie Sale (Sept), Painting Event (Oct), Holiday Wreaths (Nov), Craft and Vendor Sale (Dec), and our Chili Cook Off Event (January.)

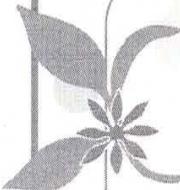
Thank you for continued support and interest in fundraising for the church. All fundraising dollars are going toward the Roof Fund. Help us raise money for this fund!

Sincerely,

Heather Quedenfeld

724-263-3253

Heather.quedenfeld@comcast.net



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]

July Lay Readers

- 5 Sonie Rea
- 12 Dennis Schmidt
- 19 Donna Bassi
- 26 Lisa Maust

July Altar Flowers

- 5 Maust
- 12 Klaus and Mel Behrens
- 19 Carol & Herb Snyder
- 26 Antila

July Acolytes

- 5 Nathaniel Black & Wesley Black
- 12 Maria Sobosinski & Caroline Quedenfeld
- 19 Brice Berry & Collin Berry
- 26 Lillah Clark & Elijah Clark

July Ushers

- 5 A.J. Chadwick, A. Serbak, J. Sarver, J. Chadwick
- 12 K. Behrens, D. Looman, E. Oliver, H. Snyder
- 19 J. Hoffer, C. Krcil, R. Williams, N. & L. Williams
- 26 J. Luketich, S. Ringer, D. Schmidt, Z. Mason, M. Verderber

July Counters

- 5 L. Coleman, S. Rea, J. Ulanich
- 12 D. Bassi, R. Williams
- 19 J. Black, V. Group, L. Sten
- 26 K. Luketich, H. Quedenfeld, D. Schmidt

July Altar Team

Kim Luketich and Joanne Marker

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Kenneth Schrader | 16 Matthew Serbak |
| 3 Trisha Thompson | 19 Isabella Mazzotti |
| 4 Kenneth Carl, Jr. | 20 Melinda West-Emerich |
| | Eric Schrader |
| 5 Jennifer Sabol | 22 R. Douglas West |
| 6 Laura Ringer | 23 Gerald Anderson |
| 13 Melvina Behrens | 26 Robert Phillips |
| | Chiquita Pearson |
| | D. Matthew Houston |
| 14 Douglas Scheffel | 27 Candice Caddies |
| 15 Harry Dobroski | 29 Joanne Reck |