

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



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ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives—November 2020

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

As the month of November approaches we can see the tension rise to a crescendo leading up to the elections. As important as this is to the nation, and to the world, more importantly on November 1st (All Saints Day) we will gather at the church on that Sunday to remember all the saints who have gone before us. Hymn 422, *“For All the Saints”*, reminds us of the lives and loves that have returned to God the Father who is the Creator of heaven and earth. We will light a candle in their memory, speak their names and the bell will toll in memory of those that faithfully served our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our annual memorial service reminds me of the solemn service for the first responders and all the civilians who were murdered on September 11th, 2001 in New York City, near Shanksville, PA and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. We see how similar the service is where candles are lit, their names are read and the toll of the bell rings on in the silence and the sacredness of the day.

When saying goodbye to someone we love, we know that the pain never completely ends, we never truly stop missing them in our daily lives, and they fill our prayers as we go to bed at the end of another day. However, we remain thankful to God for having even given us these people in our lives in the first place! As Christians, we know that we will see them again as the promise that God’s One and Only Son made, that those who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life, which are the comforting words of St. John 3:16. But until then, we can all take comfort in God’s Holy Word and in the lyrics of a hymn like #536, *“God be With You Till We Meet Again”*, and may we always look to God in the joys and in the sorrows of this life, in Christ Jesus’ name in whom we trust and pray.

Amen.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Apple/Oktoberfest

On Sunday, October 18th, we celebrated our annual Apple/Oktoberfest at First Lutheran church. There were plenty of grilled bratwursts, kielbasa & cabbage, cabbage rolls, potato salad, potatoes, vegetables, soup, salads, dips and, of course lots of home-made apple pie!

While the food, décor and activities were the same as most years this year looked a little different: all attendees wore face masks, rubber gloves were worn at the buffet table and we had a maximum of 4 per table for social distancing. This festive gathering was still filled with the good heartwarming fellowship that we are accustomed to.

The raffle was a huge success and we thank Caroline for selling the tickets and our assistant Parker for drawing the prizes and handing them out. We had the draw for the painting, which was won by Heather Quedenfeld. We also launched the Quilt Raffle: tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 with all proceeds to The Roof Fund. If you are interested in either purchasing or selling tickets then please see Kimberly.

As we know, many hands make for light work and we extend a heartfelt thank you to all who pitched in to set up, cook and clean for the event. You know who you are and we really couldn't do it without you. You are all a blessing to us.

Thank you to all who came out for this fun annual event.

Kimberly Grewe

Thanksgiving and giving thanks!

I am so thankful for all that our little congregation does inside and outside God's Holy House! As I dropped off the buns for the Apple/Oktoberfest on Saturday, our sexton Lisa opened the door and the first thing I could smell in the church was the fresh smell of bleach! I just want to acknowledge the hard work that Lisa and Richard do behind the scenes to keep our church clean and sanitized! Lisa was a professional cleaner for years so the Covid-19 routine is nothing new to her! Our Secretary Kathleen, when not working in the office, is at home putting the order of service together and she is willing to come in on any day or at any time to ensure our church is running at its best! I am so thankful to these people along with the Groups and Larry and Olivia who keep our church looking good and running smoothly. Mark, Jeff and George are always assisting weekly as well! Don continues to keep our ushers ready to greet one and all and Cristina ensures that our acolytes are ready to go for each service. During these past 8 difficult months, our Council has been a rock. So thankful for all that you do to glorify God!

Pr. Rob

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,



East bound and down, loaded up and truckin'
Oh, we gonna do what they say can't be done
We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there
I'm east bound, just watch ol' *First Lutheran* run

The lyrics of the above Jerry Reed Song got me thinkin'. I think this sums up how we, First Lutheran Church, have done this year. We kept the pedal to the metal and moved forward and did what a lot of churches said we couldn't do: stay open all year, get enough of our regular offering to pay expenses AND get our Sunday School wing roof fixed. We are truly blessed with a fantastic congregation.

In order to keep our congregation as safe as possible, church council approved the purchase of a sanitizing machine. It uses a chlorinated tablet to spray a mist over hard and soft surfaces. This even kills MRSA. The entire church can be done in a short amount of time. This is used by local fire departments as well as many fire responders across the USA. We will be using this weekly.

We have begun some of our fall activities (adult bible study and our youth catechism classes). I look forward to getting more of activities started again.

We have finished our second pierogi fundraiser for this year, and we made even more this time. I contributed to this by ordering, well, even more pierogis than I did last time! And it looks like I was not the only one who ordered too many!

We have been getting many who view our Sunday Service on our Facebook page. I am glad that we were able to do this for those who cannot make it to Sunday Services. Pastor Grewe has been working hard on our services, and we are blessed to have him with us at First Lutheran. It is hard to believe he has been here 6 years already.

We will be having our concert fundraiser on November 6th. First Lutheran has been busy getting ready. I hope that many of you will be able to enjoy the concert.

You will find our proposed budget for 2021 in this newsletter. Council has approved this to submit to the congregation for approval during our Congregational Meeting on November 15, 2020.

As positive as I may sound, I still worry every month about our monthly donations and donations to our roof fund for paying back our loan. We have done pretty well so far during these trying times. As of October 15, 2020, we still owe \$36,107.11 on our roof loan to Washington Financial. I know it seems like with our fundraising we should be paying more every month and have it paid by now. In addition to paying \$1,000 per month to Washington Financial, we also pay Nicolella Roofing \$6,315 per month. We have 4 more payments in this amount to them. That is an additional \$7,315 per month on top of payroll and other expenses. Also, in November we pay for our insurance, which will be \$9,000. For November, in addition to our usual expenses we will pay out \$16,315.11 for insurance, Washington Financial Loan and Nicolella.



Please do not forget our First Lutheran Church as the holidays approach. We are thankful for our family, and our First Lutheran Family, but do not forget about our church. She has been there for us for many years, and we need to make sure she will still be here for many, many years to come.

Yours in Christ,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

First Lutheran Church Proposed 2021 Budget

	10/1/19 to 9/30/20 Actual Amounts	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed Budget
INCOME			
Regular offering	133,499.65	150,000.00	150,000.00
Loose offering	4,033.25	3,000.00	4,500.00
Maintenance Income	13,775.50	15,000.00	15,000.00
Embracing Hope Ethiopia	1,754.00	4,560.00	3,500.00
Memorial Income	4,019.00	5,100.00	3,000.00
Roof Income	27,643.00	5,496.00	20,000.00
Sunday School Donations	205.10	240.00	200.00
<i>Christmas Cards</i>	350.00		350.00
Interest Income	1,185.64	1,050.00	1,050.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,008.00	1,200.00	1,100.00
Easter/Lenten Offerings	1,424.00	1,600.00	2,000.00
Total Regular Income	188,897.14	187,246.00	200,700.00
Fundraisers			
Vendor Event/ Chinese Auction	-	240.00	300.00
Yard sale	3,313.25	1,000.00	1,500.00
Painting Event	-	480.00	200.00
Pierogi Sale	639.50		1,250.00
Restaurants	20.00		250.00
Popcorn	787.75	120.00	500.00
Hanging basket/ flower Sale	1,727.50		1,250.00
Used Book Sale	250.00		
Miscellaneous Fundraisers		960.00	250.00
Total Fundraisers	6,738.00	1,840.00	5,500.00
Total Income	\$ 195,635.14	\$ 189,086.00	\$ 206,200.00

EXPENSES**Payroll (Net After Taxes)**

Pastor	26,530.71	26,530.00	27,523.00
Housing/Auto Allowance	20,900.00	20,900.00	20,900.00
SS/Medicare Offset	5,047.00	5,047.00	5,194.00
Pastor Retirement Fund	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00
Organist	10,206.79	9,585.00	10,570.00
Secretary	7,279.00	7,279.00	7,519.00
Janitors	11,465.00	11,465.00	11,465.00
Accounting Fees	4,600.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
Visiting Pastor/Organist	1,150.00	500.00	500.00
Payroll taxes (church portion)	2,482.76	2,496.00	2,709.00
Total Payroll	91,611.26	90,552.00	93,130.00

Benevolence

NALC Benevolence	4,243.36	4,800.00	4,500.00
Mission Benevolence	520.00	500.00	500.00
NALC Annual Seminary Fund	-	2,000.00	1,500.00
<i>Contributions</i>	825		500
Total Benevolence	5,588.36	7,300.00	7,000.00

Utilities

Electric	2,785.90	3,504.00	3,000.00
Water	500.08	420.00	420.00
Gas	9,676.00	12,480.00	10,000.00
Telephone/Internet	2,911.68	3,000.00	3,000.00
Trash Collection	420.00	420.00	420.00
Total Utilities	16,293.66	19,824.00	16,840.00

Insurance

Insurance (Liability)	9,179.00	9,179.00	9,179.00
Workers Comp Insurance	1,283.00	962.00	1,283.00
Total Insurance	10,462.00	10,141.00	10,462.00

Facility & Equipment

Computer & Website	690.38	1,440.00	800.00
Maintenance & Repairs	2,638.45	11,004.00	10,000.00
Real Estate Taxes	937.91	938.00	938.00
Snow Removal/Salt	510.00	2,400.00	1,000.00
<i>Roof Repair</i>	<i>30,315.00</i>	32,000.00	
Janitorial Supplies	163.13	408.00	400.00
Xerox Rental & Copies	3,740.65	5,400.00	4,500.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance	540.00	450.00	550.00
Total Facilities & Equipment	39,535.52	22,040.00	50,188.00

Operations

Worship Supplies/Music were \$3391	5,280.93	1,500.00	2,000.00	robes
Postage/Shipping	241.00	300.00	200.00	
Printing & Copying	22.89	348.00	50.00	
Office Supplies	1,933.52	2,100.00	1,800.00	
Socials/Picnic/Dartball	130.00	300.00	300.00	
Travel & Meetings	25.00	-	100.00	
Vacation Bible School	-	500.00	500.00	
Total Operations	7,633.34	5,048.00	4,950.00	

Total Expenses 171,124.14 154,905.00 182,570.00

Net Income \$ 24,511.00 \$ 34,181.00 \$ 23,630.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

"Work on the budget began as soon as October started and an initial draft was drawn up in time for the council meeting. Figures from the report were brought into questioning, which included fundraising and payroll. This included both reported totals for the past year and predicted totals for the upcoming year. The problem was they were seen as inaccurate and/or impractical. The council in turn requested changes to the numbers on the budget so that a more accurate prediction of future income and expenses can be made.

A second council meeting is planned for October 28th, in order to approve the budget. Doing this will give the congregation enough time to look at the report before it gets approved. A congregational meeting is set for Sunday, Nov. 15th so that the congregation can approve of the church budget for 2021."

Thanks,

Erik Maust

WNALC

The Women's Circle has been cancelled for the remainder of the year due to the Covid virus.

We will still honor Thank Offering Sunday on November 22nd. Please bring food donations as usual. Our speaker will be Joanna Dragan, the STTARS Program Supervisor from South Western PA Human Services Inc. of Washington, PA. More information will follow at a later date.

God Bless,
Sonie Rea

ETHIOPIA REPORT

Taken from September Newsletter

Graduation Day – Even COVID couldn't prevent a socially-distanced Kindergarten graduation several months ago! This is an Ethiopian cultural milestone. We celebrate especially with our EHE families. This accomplishment provides hope for the future. Education! Dignity! Breaking the cycle of poverty! (A picture of a graduate is posted on bulletin board of church)

Learning Continues – EHE Nursery/Preschool and Kindergarten teachers are helping the children to continue their education. The teachers write assignments in the students' exercise books and parents or social workers deliver them to their homes. The children complete their assignments and send their books back to the teachers to be checked. On-site distanced tutoring takes place in small groups one day every other week. EHE social workers stay in contact with all of the families.

Food Distributions - The COVID state of emergency recently passed the six month mark. EHE is still hard at work, providing much-needed supplies and services. Each family receives teff, oil, macaroni, soap, hand sanitizer, and facemasks on a regular basis.

EHE families are increasingly feeling the economic pinch-caused by limited work opportunities and lack of childcare. EHE helps with rent payments and medical expenses.

MESSAGE FROM JERRY SHANNON

Please Pray for EHE, the needs in Kore and among the families that we serve are great. Please join us in praying for wisdom, provision, and also that families world come to know Jesus in the midst of this crisis. Also pray for us as we envision what programs will look like moving forward in our new Government proposal.

Together may we continue to follow Jesus in seeing his light break into the dark corners of our world.

Linda Coleman

Wreath and Swag Sale

As we prepare for the Christmas season, orders will be taken for the Wreath & Swag Sale. Order forms are available now and options include: a 20" wreath, table centerpiece and grave marker pillow. All decorations come with a pine cone, flower and choice of red or gold ribbon.

All orders must be turned in by November 12, 2020 and will be available for pick up on December 5, 2020.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Vickie Group-724-344-0565.

Thank you for your continued support for our Roof Fund.

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

(order form on next page)

Wreath Sale

Get ready for Christmas by purchasing beautiful decorations for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful gift. By purchasing you are helping to support our Roof Fund.

Orders must be placed no later than November 12, 2020 and decorations will be available for pickup on December 5, 2020.

Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Options: All decorations come with a pine cone and flower plus your choice of ribbon color (red or gold).

1. 20" Wreath - \$20.00 # _____ Ribbon Color _____

2. Table Centerpiece- \$20.00 # _____ Ribbon Color _____

3. Grave Marker Pillow - \$25.00 # _____ Ribbon Color _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

*Turn in wreath order ASAP to guarantee your color choice. Any questions contact Vickie Group at 724.344.0565.

Turn in orders to Vickie Group or the church office. Thank you for your support!

Fundraising Update

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

Christmas Wreaths, Centerpieces, and Grave Marker Pillow Sale: As I write this, we are in the middle of a Christmas Wreath, Centerpiece, and Grave Marker Pillow Sale. Orders November 12th and will be available for pick up on Saturday December 5th. Special thanks for Vickie and Caitlyn Group for arranging this fundraiser!

Quilt Raffle: A HUGE thank you to Linnea who donated a beautiful homemade queen-sized quilt to raffle off as a fundraiser. Kimberly Grewe is now selling tickets for this raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10.

Art Raffle: We raffled off a beautiful framed picture of the Washington Pavilion at the Oktoberfest and raised \$400. Thank you, Olivia and Larry, for donating the art and running this fundraiser!

Book Sale: We sold some of our books and raised over \$300. Thank you, Mark Black, for arranging this sale!

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser: We raised about \$50 at our Texas Roadhouse fundraiser in October. We plan to do another restaurant fundraiser soon with Dickies BBQ. More details to come. Thank you, Michelle Williams, for organizing the restaurant fundraisers!

Painting Event: About 10 of us participated in a painting event in October. We painted a picture of flowers in a Ball jar, next to a cross, and sitting against a wood wall backdrop. Even the novices did a good job at painting. It was a lot of fun and we raised \$130 for the church. We all want to do this again, so keep your eyes out for news on another painting event. Thank you, Judy Sarver, for planning this event!

Thank you for continued support and interest in fundraising for the church. In total we raised over \$8,000 this year and all of those funds are going toward the Roof Fund. If you have any questions about any of these sales or events, please contact me at 724-263-3253.

Sincerely,

Heather Quedenfeld

Heather.quedenfeld@comcast.net

CRAFTERS WANTED, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

First Lutheran Church will be holding a craft show on Saturday, 12/05/2020 from 9 am-3 pm in the downstairs social room. If you know of any crafters with hand made items that would be interested in participating (following covid protocols), please have them contact Joanne Marker at 724-228-4716 or Debbie Hoffer at 724-470-7465. There is a limited space so it will be on a first come basis. The cost is \$15 for an 8 ft. table. Covering will be on the table.

There will be a Chinese auction that the proceeds will go to the church. If you can't participate but would like to make a donation for the Chinese auction, it would be appreciated. We hope to have a variety of items in the Chinese auction, so any donation would gladly be accepted.

We plan to have a few items in the kitchen, but they will have to be pre-packaged. Drinks, chips and snacks will definitely be available. Coffee and breakfast items will be available for the crafters in the morning.

With all the covid restrictions in place, we will be following the state mandate at that time. If anything should change we will let everyone know.

Flyers will be available to hand out to family and friends. We plan to advertise in the newspaper, facebook and radio. Please pray that we are able to have this event as we all know the future is very unpredictable. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne at 724-228-4716 or Debbie at 724-470-7465.

Nov. Lay Readers

- 1 Kimberly Grewe
- 8 Lisa Maust
- 15 Dennis Schmidt
- 22
- 29 Kris Briggs

Nov. Altar Flowers

- 1 The Christian's
- 8 Lisa Hager
- 15
- 22 Neil & Donna Bassi
- 29 Joe & Judy Sarver

Nov. Acolytes

- 1 Caroline Quedenfeld and Maria Sobocinski
- 8 Lillah Clark and Elijah Clark
- 15 Bryce Berry and Lyndsay Berry
- 22 Heidi Bittner and Lillah Clark
- 29 Collin Berry and Cole Johnson

Nov. Ushers

- 1 J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams; N. & L. Williams
- 8 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 15 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
- 22 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 29 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko

Nov. Counters

- 1 C. Group; K. Luketich; R. Williams
- 8 D. Bassi; L. Sten; J. Ulanich
- 15 H. Quedenfeld; S. Rea
- 22 J. Black; V. Group; D. Schmidt
- 29 L. Coleman; K. Luketich; R. Williams

Nov. Altar Team

Lisa Hager and Kathy Black

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Jennifer Cottrill | 16 Bridget Ringer |
| 2 Carl Group, Jr.
Joyce Schrader
Gloria Morgan | 17 Byron Schrader |
| 3 Matthew Walsh
Kimberly Grewe | 19 Diana Berry
Wayne Streator
Nikolai Williams
Bailey DeWalt |
| 5 Lucy G. Sten
Karen Adams | 21 Erik Maust |
| 8 Ryan Bittner | 23 Irene Franz |
| 10 Lisa Hager | 27 Kathleen Black |
| 11 Lauren Sakerka | 29 George Salvucci |
| 13 Collin Berry
Lyndsay Berry | 30 Kyle Glozier |