

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



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

Pastoral Perspectives for January 2021

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

“Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say Rejoice.”

(St. Paul’s letter to the church in Philippi 4:4.)

How we look at the year 2020 will be affected by whether we have stood on the mountain tops in joy at welcoming new members into God the Father’s family in baptisms or uniting husbands and wives in holy matrimony at their weddings or presiding at funerals and offering counseling in the valley of the shadow of death; we chose to remain open the entire year during the pandemic to gather and to worship in God’s name.

He is with us in the joys and sorrows of this world. Those who have been made low and bid farewell to family and friends at funerals —we know that our loved ones are with God—can still feel emptiness as they are no longer here with us. The reality is that through all of these highs and lows of 2020 we can be rest assured in the comfort and joy of the Holy Spirit that Emmanuel, **“God is with us”**.

What that means, as we just celebrated the birth of our Lord and Saviour, of the entire world, is that we have been renewed in the spirit of the season and can find comfort in the fact that we are not alone in our homes, care homes, hospitals or wherever we are; God is with us! This is great news for the entire world to look to in this New Year. I doubt this pandemic is going to go away anytime soon so we can take heart in God’s Word in Deuteronomy 31:8, ***“It is the Lord, who goes before you, He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”***

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, let us remember the hymn #430 in the ELW *“Rejoice for Christ is King”* the beautiful words ***“Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice”***.

In Christ Jesus

Rev. Robert B. Grewe



HAPPY NEW YEAR to my First Lutheran Church Family!!!

It is hard to believe that another year has passed us by. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. Pastor Grewe blessed us with another wonderful Christmas Eve service. I remember when I was growing up and we always attended the Christmas Eve service. I thought it was so special to having congregation hold candles while we sang Silent Night. I am glad we are still able to have this most beautiful service.

With the new year, brings new hope that everyone will be able to attend our worship services and that we can begin all of our usual programs and classes. Until then, we will continue to move forward under Pastor Grewe's strong leadership.

In December we sponsored 15 children on our Angel Tree. A big thank you to Vickie and Caitlyn Group for doing this project for us. I am hoping that in 2021 we will be able to sponsor more children on our Angel Tree.

With a new year starting, how about a New Year's Resolution for a commitment to First Lutheran Church in a new way? How many of you can I count on to call and check in on our church members who are unable to attend church? They sure would appreciate a call or a visit to keep in touch!! Can I count on you for an extra \$5 for your offering? Who is with me to make the commitment to coming in and work on the church to help with odd jobs when it is quiet? How many can I count on to write cards of hope like St. Paul did? Who can I count on to pray daily for those on our prayer list? There are many things we can do to be better stewards in God's house. I hope I can count on you this year. Please let Pastor Grewe know how you wish to help First Lutheran Church and our congregation in this new year.

I am looking forward to having our Chili Cook Off, if we are able, in addition to all the other wonderful fundraisers and activities that I know Heather Quedenfeld has planned for us. I know with your support that we can do even better this year. It was amazing all of the support you gave to our fundraisers in 2020. Heather is always looking for new ideas, so please let her know of your ideas.

At our December council meeting, we approved a bid so that we may put in a new sound system. Because of putting our Sunday Service online and Live Streaming, we have discovered that a new sound system is needed. We have already received a generous donation from one of our congregation members for this. I know it seems like a lot to be doing right now, but the pandemic pushed us to doing this earlier than we had planned.

As we start this new year, please do not forget that we stood strong last year because of your support and Pastor Grewe's leadership. Remember to send in your weekly offering so that we may continue to stand strong. First Lutheran Church cannot go on without wonderful viewers like you!!

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

A program of *Adoption Connection, PA*

700 Turnpike Street
Beaver, PA 15009
724-371-0671
info@adoptionconnectionpa.org
www.adoptionconnectionpa.org

RECEIVED
DEC 02 2020

Greetings!

I am reaching out to you today on behalf of Family Connections, a program of Adoption Connection, PA, to discuss how your congregation may be willing to work in partnership with our agency to find homes for waiting children. We are a faith based, full service, nonprofit foster care and adoption agency that provides services to all counties in Western Pennsylvania. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are approximately 13,000 to 15,000 children in care on any given day.

Currently, we are shining a light on the desperate need for foster families in Washington County. As you can imagine, removing a child from their home is very traumatic. Providing children a foster home within their community diminishes their losses by keeping them within their school districts, maintaining friendships, and other natural supports. This is why I am reaching out to you, because you are already a strong presence within your community. Faith communities are one of the number one avenues to reach potential foster families. There are many ways to make a difference in the life of a child through fostering. Just like the children they take care of, foster parents are unique. Some choose to foster full time, some provide emergency shelter only, while some provide respite services or any combination thereof.

In closing, I have attached a flyer that will provide further information. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you ways that your church can join us in the fight to provide all children with a home and family. I look forward to hearing from you.

On Behalf of Children and Families,

Ginny

Ginny Householder

Family Connections

A program of Adoption Connection, PA

Family Recruiter

700 Turnpike St.

Beaver, PA 15009

Phone: 724-371-0671

Fax: 724-371-0674

TREASURER'S REPORT

There are two payments left for Nicollela and their roof repair work. Once that is finished we will only have the loan taken out months ago to pay off. We are reportedly ahead of schedule on this.

The Church Council also had a discussion earlier in the month over a new sound system. There are currently 3 quotes that the Council has to choose from. The Council will make the choice, which improves the sound quality without drastically overhauling the system.

Thank you,
Erik Maust

WREATH FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all for your ongoing support of our Roof Fund. Through your purchase of Christmas Wreaths, centerpieces and grave pillows, we raised \$556.00.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Our Church Family graciously again this year provided Angel Tree gifts to the Salvation Army. Thank you for the generosity shown to the Washington Community.

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

Message from Music Director

It is now January of 2021. I repeat - 2021. It is such a relief to be beyond 2020 with its Covid19, civil unrest, lockdowns and shutdowns! And yet, First Lutheran church continued from the beginning by staying its course. As Pastor Grewe stated, "Every Sunday you will see me standing here at this pulpit, prepared to serve. These church doors will stay open." And they did.

I followed two Sundays later with trepidation. With Afib and my age, I am considered high risk but I couldn't stay home when there was a service. Music is such a vital part of worship and I am called to provide it. I reasoned that the organ and piano are separate from the rest of the sanctuary. I can take my place and avoid close contact by staying where I make music. I prayed that the Lord would look after all of us. And he did. Praise God!

In this new year, we will have a new beginning. Covid19 won't go away but we can look forward to our immunizations to bring us back to some sense of normalcy. Each day, the daylight hours are lengthening and with it, our sense of normalcy will return. That is my hope and prayer. We all can have hope and with prayers and our own efforts to move on, we will see our world return. Like Dorothy when she entered the land of OZ? Well not quite that quickly. But God is walking with us down this yellow brick road. Not the tin man or the scarecrow. He is leading us through this difficult time and we must have faith that he knows the way. We must lean on Him. For only He is the way, the truth and the light.

Bobbi Heastings

Jan. Lay Readers

3 Kimberly Grewe
10
17 Dennis Schmidt
24
31 Kris Briggs

Jan. Altar Flowers

3 Don Hazlett
10 Mausts
17 Mark Verderber
24 Kathleen Black
31

Jan. Acolytes

3 Nathaniel Black and Wesley Black
10 Collin Berry and Cole Johnson
17 Maria Sobocinski and Heidi Walsh
24 Lillah Clark and Elijah Clark
31 Brice Berry and Lyndsay Berry

Jan. Ushers

3 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
10 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
17 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko
24 A. Serbak; J. Sarver
31 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

Jan. Counters—Alternate, H. Quedenfeld

3 J. Black, L. Coleman
10 C. Group, V. Group
17 K. Luketich, D. Schmidt
24 S. Rea, L. Sten
31 S. Berry, R. Williams

Jan. Altar Team

Lisa Hager and Joanne Marker

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Betty Mancinelli
- 4 Joshua Clark
- 5 Paul R. Morgan
- 6 Elaine Burda
- 7 Andrew Serbak
- 13 David Looman
- 18 Timothy R. Fritz
- 19 Amy Bassi
- 21 Betty Dee Shannon
- 23 Alesia Scheffel
- 25 Gregory Buel
 Lisa Maust
- 26 Joseph Sarver
- 30 Jack Buel