

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



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

Pastoral Perspectives for March 2021

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

As I write this, I have just returned from the Washington County Commissioners meeting, as they have opened up the meetings once more in person and I was asked to lead the meeting with a prayer.

Last night we had 49 members of the church attend our Ash Wednesday service with Holy Communion and with the imposition of ashes.

The Washington County Commissioners, as well as our church, is trying to keep life as normal as possible in these challenging times. The imposition of ashes upon the forehead was possible by the pastor being masked and wearing a face shield. At no time speaking for your safety, but having Kimberly speak the words, **“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”** from the choir loft, a safe distance away from everyone. While people received the ashes the pastor wore gloves and used a different finger for each church member to insure that the touch was always clean and sterilized with a constant change of gloves. Holy Communion, has continued at FLC with the high safety methods that we have also invented during this pandemic to try to keep worship as normal as possible; the sanctuary is also sprayed after services with the Husky 892 arena plus disinfectant.

Life inside and outside the church must continue on and, although I agree that we still need to social distance, wash and sanitize our hands and mask, we must not allow this pandemic to allow us to live in fear! Recently, on the news, I heard a story about a 90 year old woman who walked 6 miles in snow covered Seattle to get her covid 19 vaccine shot! I thought if she can walk 6 miles in the snow I doubt she needs a shot because she sounds as healthy as a horse, (as the old saying goes)! The reality is that fear has been drilled into us for a year now and, although we try our best to live “normal” lives, the reality is everything has changed around us from work, to education, to recreation, to travel and even shopping!

We are now in the season of Lent and that means that we are in a 40 day period of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. As our seminarian, Justin preached on Feb. 17th, “we are not there yet” but we are called to replicate our Lord and Saviour Jesus’ sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert those 40 days. People make promises of giving something up they enjoy, whether it be a beverage, food, leisure activity or hobby, but it’s not what about what we give up as much as what we replace that time with! Christ needs to be more at the center of our lives, and prayers need to be given up to God morning, noon and night! How about taking the people in our order of service and praying for them every-day for these next 40 days? Opening up the Bible and reading the Word of God daily?

The Gospel acclamation has changed since we have buried the “*Alleluia*” word on Transfiguration Sunday to, “***Return to the Lord Your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.***”

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, here is the call from God Himself during this pandemic in Lent, that we are return to Him for He is gracious and merciful and abounds in steadfast love and for those that clear the fear and the clutter of this world out of hearts and minds and replace these trappings with Christ once more at the center. This is the call we are called to follow on February 18th, the day Martin Luther left this earth and returned to the Lord our God. He was prepared in body, mind and spirit. May we also be prepared as well as Martin in Christ Jesus and not live in the fear that the secular world wants to bind us with.

In Christ Jesus

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

The few, the brave, the humble.

Pastor is looking to restart our FLC prayer warriors.

People who will be contacted by the Pastor and asked to pray for people daily.

Contact Pastor Rob.

Compline Service every Wednesday during Lent at 7 pm at First Lutheran Church, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

Bible readings for March 2021

March 7th Exodus 20:1-7, Psalm 19, 1st Corinthians 1:18-31, **St. John 2:13-25**

March 14th Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, **St. John 3:14-21**

March 21st Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:1-10, **St. Mark 10:32-45**

March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday **St. John 12:12-19**, Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 118: 19-29, Philippians 2:5-11 **St. Mark 14:1-15:47**

April 1st Maundy Thursday **St. John 13:1-35**, Exodus 24:3-11, Psalm 116:12-19, 1st Corinthians 10:16-17, **St. Mark 14:12-26**

April 2nd Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, **St. John 18:1-19:42**

April 4th Easter Sunday Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 16, 1st Corinthians 15:1-11, **St. Mark 16:1-8**

April 11th 2nd Sunday in Easter Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 148, 1st John 1:1-2:2, **St. John 20:19-31**

Important dates for First Lutheran services

- February 14th** **Transfiguration Sunday with the burying of the Alleluia banner and the Lord's Supper at 11 am service.**
- February 17th** **Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper at 7 pm.**
- February 24th Midweek Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 3rd Midweek Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 10th Midweek Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 17th Midweek Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 24th Midweek Lenten service at 7 pm
- March 28th** **Palm/Passion Sunday with the Lord's Supper and the graduation of the confirmation students 11 am**
- April 1st** **Maundy Thursday service with the Lord's Supper, stripping of the altar, foot washing (modified due to covid 19) 7 pm**
- April 2nd Good Friday service at 1 pm (modified to one service due to covid 19)
- April 3rd Easter Vigil service canceled (due to length of the service during covid 19)
- April 4th** **Easter Sunday service at 10 am with the Lord's Supper**

How to log on to watch the First Lutheran Church services online

It is best to use Google Chrome for watching the services online.

1) **Type in First Lutheran Church Washington PA**

This will bring you to the info on FLC where you have options of 1) call 2) Directions 3) Save 4) Website

2) **Click on to the WEBSITE image/word**

This will take to the First Lutheran Church website and you will see the sanctuary and the words COME WORSHIP

3) Above the image and the words you will see in white and in grey lettering on the left hand side FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH on the left hand side. On the Right hand side you will see three horizontal lines. **Click on the three lines**

4) This will bring to several options 1) Home, 2) Our Church, 3) Our Worship, 4) Newsletters, 5) Ministry, 6) Contact, **7) Church News**

5) **Click on the Church News**

6) This will take you to the **NEWS & EVENTS** page. There you will see the date and the year with information for example **January 24th, 2021** Third Sunday after Epiphany.....

7) **Click on the blue letters READ MORE**

Underneath you will the face book website <https://www.facebook.com/First-Lutheran-Church-Washington-PA-10011923642143>

8) **Click on the face book website** This will bring you to an image of the outside of the front of First Lutheran Church.

9) **Scroll down and underneath the picture you will see an image of the sanctuary with the symbol of a triangle (play button) in the middle of the picture.**

10) **Click on the play** button and the service will start to play.



CHURCH WEEK

SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING

Christian Leaders,

Thank you for registering to participate in Church Week!

Christian values are at the center of our communities, and something we hold close to our hearts at Rural King. By following the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, we know that Christian organizations truly make a difference in the lives they touch. Now more than ever, we feel it is crucial to help support essential organizations, such as yours, in the communities we share.

In that spirit, Rural King is honored to host Church Week March 14th, 2021 – March 27th, 2021. This program provides an opportunity for those who shop at Rural King to support participating Christian churches, schools, and radio stations.

Participant Information:

1. Your supporters can shop at their local Rural King store, or www.RuralKing.com, and upload their qualifying receipt to www.ruralking.com/churchweek. To be eligible, the receipts must be dated March 14th-27th, and be uploaded by April 1, 2021.
2. Once the promotion has ended, 10% of each valid and qualifying Rural King receipt's total (after sales tax) will be donated to the registered organization chosen by the customer.
3. Donations will be distributed to the organizations receiving them by the Rural King store you designated during the application process.
4. For questions, please e-mail churchweek@ruralking.com

We have also provided some resources for your use as you are discussing this event with your supporters. **You can find those resources here: https://advertising.ruralking.com/survey/offering_plate/resources.php**

Thank you for all you do to continually bless our local communities. It is our hope that Church Week can help our customers to provide blessings to you in return.

As Paul wrote in Corinthians:

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV)



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

It is hard to believe it is already March!! So far, we seem to have a good start to this new year. On January 29, 2021, Hearcorp completed the installation of our new sound system. And due to several generous donations, we were able to add some additional items. Hearcorp also assisted us in adding some improvements for a clearer and fuller sound experience in addition to microphones for the choir loft!! We also have a new speaker in the Church Nursery for anyone who needs to give the little ones a break. You will still be able to hear our service as the little ones get a chance to play. If you cannot hear the service, please let someone know. We may have to make an adjustment. Please be patient while we learn how to use the new system.

As I looked at our wonderful new speakers located in the balcony, I could not help but notice the additional damage we have around our beautiful window. Our work is not done on our lovely church building. Masonry work is needed on the outside of our sanctuary to prevent any more water damage that is coming in. With your continued generous support, council is hoping to increase our monthly loan payments for the work we needed on the Sunday School wing. Please remember that our employee paychecks and bills come first, and if we do not anticipate any possible unexpected expenses, we can increase our loan payment. The month of February has brought us cold temperatures and snow, which has brought us an additional expense we did not have last year – snow removal. Please remember to send in your weekly offering. Hopefully, we will get this loan paid before there is too much additional water damage in our Sanctuary.

I hope to see you at our Wednesday Lenten Services. All of the mid-week services begin at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and we will continue to have hand sanitizer in every pew. If you need to use our handicapped entrance, please let the church office know ahead of time so that we will make sure it is open and someone is there to help you if needed.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

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

Fundraiser Plans for 2021: I am making plans now for 2021 fundraisers. We are planning for repeat of our Pierogie sale fundraiser, the flower sale fundraisers in the spring and fall, and the yard sale in the summer. We might try some different fundraiser sales this year too. If you have any fundraiser ideas, or if you want to lead a fundraiser, please contact me!

Raffles: Last year we were quite successful raising funds through our Art Raffle and our Quilt Raffle. We hope to have raffles again this year. If you have something you want to raffle off, please contact me.

Raffle for Fishing with Jeff: One raffle we definitely want to try this year is to raffle off a fishing day with our very own expert fisherman, Jeff Ulanich. More to come on this fun event.

Thank you for continued support and interest in fundraising for the church. If you have any fundraiser ideas, please email me at heather.quedenfeld@comcast.net or call/text me at 724-263-3253.

Sincerely,

Heather Quedenfeld

WNALC Newsletter—March 2021

The WNALC board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 2nd at noon in the lounge.

We are hoping to hold our March 25 Circle meeting as scheduled. Please let board members know your feelings.

The board is closing our water bottle collection by April 1st. Due to the Corona virus, we extended our time of collection to April 1, 2021. Every donation large or small is greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donation in the church office.

Thank you for your support.

God bless,

Sonie

Upcoming Hanging Basket Sale

Plans are being made for our Annual Hanging Basket Fundraiser. This is a perfect time to prepare for Spring and Mother's Day while helping to support our church. Be on the look out for order forms in the upcoming weeks!

Thank you for the wonderful support shown for the First Lutheran Church Roof Fund.

Many blessings,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH YARD SALE

A yard sale is being planned for this summer. No date has been determined at this time.

If you have items to donate, please save them for the sale. If you do not have a place to store them, please place them on or near the stage in the church social room. NO CLOTHES PLEASE

Fundraising Committee

Work Day – Friday, March 5 at 9:30AM- Cleaning the room behind the stage in the social room. (Boy scout Room) The plan is to make a place to store yard sale items until the sale and at the same time take inventory of useful items stored in that room.

If you can help, a sign-up sheet is in church. If you do not sign up, but find out you have time on Friday, please stop and help. Many hands make light work.

Any Questions, contact Linda Coleman 724-225-8011 or ljcjmcc@comcast.net

March Lay Readers

- 7 Kimberly Grewe
- 14 George Salvucci
- 21 Heather Quedenfeld
- 28 Dennis Schmidt

March Altar Flowers

- 7 Allan Zimmerman
- 14
- 21 Kathleen Black
- 28 Palm Sunday

March Acolytes

- 7 Lillah Clark and Elijah Clark
- 14 Cole Johnson and Collin Berry
- 21 Maria Sobocinski and Heidi Walsh
- 28 Brice Berry and Lyndsay Berry

March Ushers

- 7 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko
- 14 A. Serbak; J. Sarver
- 21 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
- 28 J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams

March Counters—Alternate, Scott Berry

- 7 L. Sten and R. Williams
- 14 H. Quedenfeld and L. Coleman
- 21 C. Group and V. Group
- 28 J. Black and S. Rea

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 100 yrs. old
- 22 Sue Palfrey
Jade Rea
- 24 Arthur Battistone
Theodore Dragich
- 25 Nancy Podboy
Jeannette Walsh
- 26 Jacin Flowers
- 27 Timothy Fritz
- 28 Carl Group
- 29 Pam Fender
- 31 Rev. Robert Grewe
Sue Wetzel
Sheldon Hancher