

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



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

## **Pastoral Perspectives for April 2021**

Christ has risen, He has risen indeed, Alleluia!

Grace and peace to you from God the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, Amen. My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus we have weathered year long storm during the Covid 19 pandemic which has changed the world as we knew it and, through it all, we at First Lutheran remained faithful to God!

We journeyed through unfamiliar territories not knowing what each day would bring from multiple closures such as employment, dining, education, shopping, visitation, sports and recreation to worship in God's Holy House!

The concept of a two week lockdown to flatten the curve, which extended to a year, ended up dividing people on who was right and who was wrong in regards to the shut down, the wearing of masks, social distancing and washing of hands.

As I write this on March 16<sup>th</sup> the media has announced that there will be more openings and easing of restrictions as of April 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 by the PA government, on Easter Sunday (now that so many people are getting vaccinated). What a joyous day to see the world once again come back to life in Christ's Holy name where Jesus rose from dead and has changed everything since that day of defeating sin, death and the devil on the cross and in that empty tomb!

The challenge for the church this past year was how we could worship safely here at FLC. Having to reinvent how we conducted services in order to keep everyone safe while still being able to offer the Sacraments of God's holy Church has kept me up many nights! Our church was supported by a strong council and the leadership of the President, VP, secretary, sexton and music director which made the journey straight and clear so that life in God's holy house continued on as normal as it possibly could. Martin Luther's letter during a plague, in which he asked how we are to respond, was a plan was easy to follow for the church.

As many churches sat empty we continued to worship and gather, to improve the sound system of the church, to set up online services (thanks to Mark Black) for people to watch in the safety of their home and the vision of FLC is one of moving forward in glorifying God. Despite the challenges that we have faced this year we have done so as a community in Christ Jesus. Thank you to everyone for all your prayers and support over this past year and for keeping the faith in Christ Jesus!

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## **Bible readings for April 2021**

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

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

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

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

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## **Important dates for First Lutheran services**

- April 1<sup>st</sup>**            **Maundy Thursday service with the Lord's Supper, stripping of the altar,  
foot washing (modified due to covid 19) 7 pm**
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>**            Good Friday service at 1 pm (modified to one service due to covid 19)
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>**            Easter Vigil service canceled (due to length of the service during covid 19)
- April 4<sup>th</sup>**            **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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

It is hard to believe that it is already April and the weather has warmed up. I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. I know I am feeling better with the sun shining and the winter boots put away.

As you know, last year our major project was getting the roof in the Sunday School wing fixed. I thank George Salvucci for his efforts in coordinating the work to be done, and Lisa is most pleased that she has not had to dump out buckets of water from all of our leaks. As of this writing, we have paid Nicolella in full (\$ 61,890.00) for their work. We still have \$28, 863.00 left to pay back on our loan.

In February, our Income (offering) \$12,230.91

Expenses \$18,753.20  
-\$6,522.29

As you can see, our expenses were more than our income. Please note that February was our last payment to Nicolella for \$6,315.00. Even without having that payment, our expenses would still have been more than our income. Please remember to send in your offering.

Our new sound system is almost finished. There are a few things that they need to come back and install, but we can use the new sound system. It has made a big difference in hearing our service. Thank you to all who made donations so that we could do this to improve our service in person and online.

Unfortunately, we have another unexpected project that we must tackle. If you look at the balcony, you will see what a mess that wall is around our beautiful window. Water has been trickling in for years. After this last very cold spell, we suspect that the water that had leaked in, froze, and expanded, contributing to more damage. Council will be looking into how much it will cost to repair the masonry on that wall around the window before any more damage is done. It is unfortunate that there was no active up-keep and repairs made to the building for many years, and now we must do what we can to stop more damage. First Lutheran Church has held strong all these years, and now she needs our help. Our congregation is strong, and I know we can overcome all that is thrown at us. Please keep our Church Council in your prayer that we have the wisdom to take on these challenges.

Thank you to everyone who supported First Lutheran Church over this last year through your weekly donations and those who helped with projects from cleaning to fixing things around the church.

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Judd Lacko and Family invites everyone to join them downstairs following church service on Sunday, April 18th to celebrate Sally's birthday.

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## **YARD SALE**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021**

This year, our church yard sale will be in July. Donations are needed to make this a success. Donations can be placed in the church social room near the stage at any time. If storage is not a problem for you, bring your items the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>. **PLEASE NO CLOTHES**

Any questions, contact Linda Coleman or Heather Quedenfeld

A special thank you to the people that answered the call to clean the storage room in the church on March 5<sup>th</sup>. God's servants at work!

## **Treasurer's Report**

As many are aware, the church underwent some major roof repair in 2020. This meant that regular payments needed to be made to pay off either the Washington Financial loan obtained specifically for the roof project or to the roofer. Recently the church finished off all the payments owed to Nicoella Roofing, which means only one remaining bank loan is left to pay off. About \$28,000 is owed on this loan.

Also, recently the church council decided on installing a new sound system, along with finding the right pricing and company to provide the service. This new system, which includes new speakers and equipment to regulate sound quality, was fully installed last month. All payments for the sound system have been completed as of March 10th.

Erik Maust

## **WNALC Newsletter—March 2021**

The WNALC is planning a Circle meeting for April 29 at noon in the lounge. As more people are vaccinated, perhaps more women will feel comfortable coming to a meeting.

The Mother/Daughter Banquet, usually held in May, is cancelled for this spring due to the covid regulations.

As you are spring cleaning, remember to save items for our yard sale on July 10.

Have a blessed Spring.

Sonie

## **Hanging Basket Sale**

**Our church will hold a fundraiser to support our Roof Fund. We will offer a hanging basket sale. Please see the Hanging Basket Order Form to note all the lovely choices along with details including order and delivery times. If you have any questions, please call Vickie at 724-344-0565.**

**Your support is greatly appreciated,**

**Caitlyn and Vickie Group**

## Hanging Basket Sale

Get ready for Spring by purchasing beautiful hanging baskets for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful Mother's Day gift. This fundraiser is to support the First Lutheran Church Roof Fund. Orders must be placed no later than April 25, 2021 and flowers will be delivered on May 8, 2021.

Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.



Flower Options	# Ordered	\$ Amount
Dark Red Petunia		
Lemon Berry Petunia		
BlueBerry Scone Petunia		
Red Cartwheel Petunia		
Silver Blue Petunia		
Joy Yellow Begonia		
Non-Stop Fire Begonia		
Non-Stop Red Begonia		
Non- Stop Joy Mocha White Begonia		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Turn in flower 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.

## **A GOOD DOG**

By Nick Kenny, submitted by Joanne Marker

A faithful dog will play with you,  
and laugh with you, or cry.  
He'll gladly starve to stay with you,  
nor ever reason why.  
And when you're feeling out or sorts,  
somehow he'll understand.  
He'll watch you with his shining eyes,  
and try to lick your hand.  
His blind implicit faith in you  
is matched by his great love,  
The kind that all of us should have  
in the Master, up above.  
When everything is said and done  
I guess this isn't odd.  
For when you spell dog backwards,  
You will get the name of GOD.

### April Lay Readers

- 4 Cindy Linville
- 11 Dennis Schmidt
- 18 George Salvucci
- 25 Kris Briggs

### April Altar Flowers

- 4 Easter
- 11 Maust's
- 18 Kim Luketich
- 25 Linda Coleman

### April Acolytes

- 1 Lillah Clark and Lyndsay Berry
- 2 Confirmands
- 4 Nathaniel and Wesley Black
- 11 Bryce and Collin Berry
- 18 Elijah Clark and Cole Johnson
- 25 Heidi Walsh and Maria Sobocinski

### April Ushers

- 4 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 11 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J Ulanich
- 18 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 25 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko

### April Counters—Alternate, Larry Sten

- 4 R. Williams; L. Coleman
- 11 S. Berry; S. Rea
- 18 H. Quedenfeld; K. Luketich
- 25 J. Black; S. Rea

### April Altar Team

L. Hager and C. Serbak

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lindsay Mankey
- 4 Ryan Bassi
- 7 Sharon Battistone
- 8 Joyce Streator  
Tillie Shawin
- 9 Chester Krcil
- 10 Dorothy Dillemoth
- 13 Carol Snyder
- 15 Jonathan Luketich
- 17 Denny Lacko
- 18 Sally Lacko
- 19 Caroline Quedenfeld
- 21 Maria Sobocinski
- 23 Kameryn Johnson
- 24 Cara Group
- 25 Rollin Swank  
Douglas Mazzotti
- 28 Keith Briggs
- 29 Donald Hazlett  
Richard Sabol