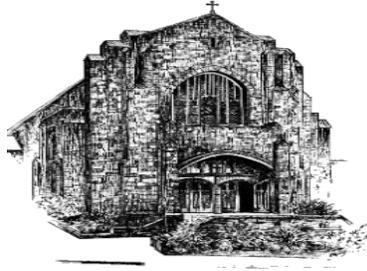


First Lutheran Church
92 W. Walnut Street
Washington, PA 15301



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

Pastoral Perspectives for May 2021

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

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus what a year it has been! Easter 2020 we gathered as a small group of 30 church members to proclaim Jesus' triumphal victory over sin, death and the devil! Easter Sunday in 2021 we had 119 church members gather as we journeyed through a year of living in a pandemic and I am thankful to God for each and every one of you who attended, either in person or online. (St. Matt. 28: 5-6).

Martin Luther lived through what I would consider much worse plagues because the people didn't know what to do or how to stop and prevent the plagues from spreading! This left millions dead in their path, entire villages and towns completely wiped out of every living being. Sadly, we too have had high numbers of deaths accredited to this pandemic globally.

Through this pandemic, and whatever else may come, we must take heart and put our faith and trust in the only one who can save us and that is Jesus the Christ: just as the saints who have gone before us trusted in Him (Prov. 3:5-6)!

In the midst of death there is always life, in times of peace, war and pestilence life goes on. If we were to open our Bibles we would see that what we have journeyed through is nothing new to God's people or to our ancestors whether they landed on the Mayflower or just arrived 6 and ½ years ago to this land of freedom.

We at First Lutheran have been able to continue classes, worship, offer the sacraments, visitation, funerals and we moved forward with complete and utter trust in God to guide us; when others hunkered down in bunkers in fear. We ensured that the church was properly cleaned and sanitized for your safety with the extra provision of masks, hand sanitizer and new ways to be able to continue worshipping God throughout this pandemic. We will continue to do so!

As for looking back at this year I am thankful to you all, the body of Christ, the members of First Lutheran for keeping the faith in our God and I am also thankful for the hard working council that rose to every challenge that came their way (Phil 1:3-5). I am so thankful to our sexton (Lisa) and her husband (Richard) who did all the work behind the scenes that no one saw to clean and keep us Covid free the entire year! I am thankful for our secretary (Kathleen) who worked not only diligently in the office in the day but worked at home as well so that everything ran smoothly at the church. From bells, guest artists and vocal choirs to Bobbi providing music in a time when many churches silenced singing out of fear, we continued to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, (well, I made a lot of noise.....everyone else was making sweet joyful music)!

There are so many people behind the services that made everything happen from decorating for services, to maintenance of our building, lawn and yard work, technical work to get the services online, parents bringing their sons and daughters to confirmation classes and acolytes (the list is long). You, the people of God, have shown in the midst of darkness of this pandemic that the light of Christ shines brighter more than ever (St. John 1:5)!

Easter has changed the world forever! The fact that Jesus arose from the tomb is evidence of this and we will continue to move forward under the banner of the risen Christ and continue to have faith over fear! As the snow begins to melt today on this day of April 21st, 2021 and we are back in our winter jackets let us give thanks to God for all He has done (1st Chron. 16:34)!

In Christ Jesus,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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.



First Lutheran Church Family,

Welcome Spring! At least I THINK the snow is over. It was wonderful to see so many of you in church for our Easter Sunday Service. What a beautiful service.

As you know, due to masonry work that needs fixing, we had a lot of water get in around the window in the balcony and freeze when winter came back. This caused the plaster to get even more damaged. George Salvucci has been on top of this project. Our insurance company has been notified and looked over the damage. He has already met with the painters, plasterers, restoration people and scaffolding people about getting the wall fixed, as well as roofers to fix the flashing and areas where the water is getting in. We will also be getting masonry workers to fix the coping stones and mortar. This will be a big project once started. I thank George Salvucci once again for all of his hard work in keeping First Lutheran Church fixed.

Heather Quedenfeld has some wonderful fundraisers for us again. In June we are hoping to have another painting fundraiser coordinated by Judy Sarver. In August we will have another quilt raffle during our Church Picnic on August 15, 2021 and also another Mum fundraiser coordinated by Vickie and Caitlyn Group. Please let Heather, or someone on council know if you have an idea for a fundraiser. We are open to suggestions and it's always fun to do something new.

With our attendance still lower than it has been in past years, First Lutheran Church is counting on you. We stood strong last year and were able to pay our monthly bills, but First Lutheran Church is also another year older and needs our care. Please remember to send in your weekly offering so that we may continue to pay the monthly expenses and also be able to make repairs as 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: We have a tentative plan for fundraising in 2021. Please contact me if you have a fundraiser idea or if you want to run a fundraiser for the church. All ideas and volunteers are welcome!

Easter Sarris Candy: We had a successful fundraiser with our Easter Sarris candy sales. We sold a lot of candy and made 27% of sales –making a profit of \$557 from Sarris and an extra \$100 from a church donor who wanted to support the fundraiser (without buying the candy.) Overall, this was a successful fundraiser and we will likely repeat this fundraiser again next Lenten season.

Hanging Basket Fundraiser: As I write this update, we are in the middle of our hanging basket fundraiser. Thanks to all of you who ordered flowers. We had so much success with the florist who is partnering with us and the flowers are so beautiful. Thank you for your continued support and special thanks to Vickie and Caitlyn Group who organized this fundraiser.

Fundraiser events in June: We have two fundraisers coming up in June – Pittsburgh Popcorn sale and Painting event in downtown Washington, PA. Specific dates and details are pending at this point. Stay tuned...

Church Yard Sale in July: Our church yard sale is on July 10th this year. As you are doing your spring cleaning, please set aside your donations for the yard sale. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for the church and I hope we have as big of a sale as we did last year! Please contact me if you have questions or need help picking up items.

Thank you for continued support. If you have any questions, please email me at heather.quedenfeld@comcast.net or call/text me at 724-263-3253. Sincerely, Heather Quedenfeld

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 5th. **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 5th. God's servants at work!

Hanging Basket Pick-Up

Thank you to all for supporting the Hanging Basket Fundraiser to benefit the Roof Fund. The hanging baskets will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 8th from 9-11 A.M. Please pull along the Handicap Entrance to the church and we will bring your order to you. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Group at 724-344-0565.

Many Thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

WNALC Newsletter—May 2021

The WNALC will hold the May board meeting on Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00 in the lounge.

There will not be a Mother/Daughter Banquet this year due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

We will have a Circle meeting on Thursday, May 27 at noon in the lounge. We will serve lunch and have our Bible study after lunch. We are starting a new series “Come, Holy Spirit”, a Bible study on the Third Person of the Trinity. Leader will be Sonie Rea and hostess, Billie Sue Serbak.

All women of the church are invited to come socialize and learn about the Holy Spirit.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

God bless,

Sonie

Treasurer's Report

The new sound system that's been installed in the church is already a vast improvement. However, we are not fully done with this as originally thought. We will be installing some new equipment including a computer and microphone.

In addition to the sound system, you may know about the roof repair payments that the church has been making. The only loan payments left to complete are with Washington Financial, which we have currently finished halfway with about \$28,000 left to pay off. While it is supposed to take years to finish we expect to finish them ahead of schedule.

Thanks,

Erik Maust

EMBRACING HOPE ETHIOPIA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US – 10 YEARS!!

Ten years ago, on April 6, 2011 we opened Embracing Hope to the first 20 families. It was such a humble beginning with a couple of staff and our family members caring for children in the Living Room of our home. It was all hands on deck with 4 of our kids pitching in their everything in order to provide a safe haven for children so that their Moms could leave begging behind and get a new start at life. We stepped out with a little bit of resource and a huge amount of need, but with faith that God would make His transformation known one life at a time among the poor whom He deeply cared for. What incredible stories of change have come out of these 10 years.

Thank you for your faithfulness during this past year. A recent spike in COVID -19 numbers in Ethiopia as well as rampant inflation and ethnic conflict is leading to grave concerns about the future of Ethiopia. COVID numbers have led to a shortage of oxygen and no open beds in the hospitals.

We are actively helping EHE families as well as others in the community through basic need provision and spiritual ministry. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

Jerry Shannon

May Lay Readers

- 2 Kimberly Grewe
- 9 Kris Briggs
- 16 Dennis Schmidt
- 23 Sonie Rea
- 31 Heather Quedenfeld

May Altar Flowers

- 2 Kathleen Black
- 9 Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten
- 16 Anneliese & Bob Christian
- 23 Cindy Linville
- 31 Joe & Judy Sarver

May Acolytes

- 2 Maria Sobocinski and Heidi Walsh
- 9 Lyndsay Berry and Bryce Berry
- 16 Elijah Clark and Lillah Clark
- 23 Nathaniel Black and Wesley Black
- 31 Cole Johnson and Collin Berry

May Ushers

- 2 A. Serbak; J. Sarver
- 9 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
- 16 J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams
- 23 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 30 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

May Counters—Alternate, Dennis Schmidt

- 2 L. Sten and L. Coleman
- 9 R. Williams and S. Berry
- 16 C. Group and V. Group
- 23 H. Quedenfeld and S. Rea

May Altar Team

Joanne Marker

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jessica Muise
- 10 Klaus Behrens
Rexanna Quedenfeld
- 13 Beverly King
Cristina Serbak
Derek Ford
- 14 Maxwell Dragich
- 15 Jennifer McWreath
Helen Swank
- 18 Robert Christian
- 20 Melissa Carpenter
- 21 Sarah Bittner
- 23 Keith Bassi
- 24 Teresa Maust
- 27 Vickie Group
John Sakerka
Kelly Gosnell
- 30 Brian Gavazzi
Justin Gavazzi
- 31 Marianne West