

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



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ICH-THUS
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for June 2021

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

A recent article from Idaho on the clergy in America detailed the pressures that the clergy have suffered over the past year during the pandemic. Alarm bells should be sounding as 29% of those in ministry have either walked away from the pulpit or are considering to do so as stress, exhaustion, politics, isolation, technological adaptations and the pandemic have taken their toll on those called to lead worship in the churches of America.

Thankfully we, in Pennsylvania, have had the freedom to be able to worship and gather without threats to the state; this is due to William Penn's forethought on the separation of church and state. This was of course very different from state to state and from country to country; Canada remains in a current lockdown to try and stop a fourth wave of the pandemic. That means that the churches in Canada have been closed by the state/province for the last two Easters! Massive financial fines and arrests have been imposed upon those clergy who opened and tried to do services in Canada, England and the USA as battles took place between churches and state. That being said, there are churches here in Washington PA who had also chosen to shutter their doors the entire time as well.

Clergy who were able to remain open have had to adapt services. The two sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion of the Lutheran Church were adapted to be able to keep those partaking to remain safe with the CDC guidelines. Funeral attendance was either limited or not allowed and all hospital and care home visits were closed to the clergy. This led to isolation of shut-ins and the clergy unable to fulfill their calls as pastors. Having to worship from in-person to online was a challenge for many churches and we here at FLC struggled to get better sound and live recordings of the services to you throughout the pandemic as best we could choosing faith over fear. I am thankful for those who stepped up and helped us with getting our services out there.

I am so thankful that here at FLC we trusted in the Holy Spirit and were able to have a strong faithful church council that assisted your pastor in making decisions on what to do and how to work with the challenges that the pandemic brought to us since all this was new to all of us! Many a night I was up late trying to figure out how to adapt services to fit the daily challenges that arose.

God journeyed with us as the council and pastor were also supported by you the People of God; those that faithfully attended worship throughout the pandemic, those who watched us online and supported the church with prayer and finances throughout this year. For all of you I thank God for your faith!

Upon looking back at this past year I feel some errors have been made: to begin with I know that I should have made extra time in my day to reach out and contact more of you by phone or texts. At no time did I ever put myself at risk here at FLC or at the fire dept. by not following the guidelines and recklessly exposing myself to Covid 19. While I offered, many chose not to have me visit homes even though my communion kit was sanitized after each visit; I was masked and gloved the entire time as well. Still, in the daily work of the church I failed to reach out to you and for my errors I ask for your forgiveness as I too struggled with daily challenges this past year. It has been exhausting mentally, physically and spiritually.

I looked to our NALC leadership, far and near, and to my colleagues and learned the only place where any answers could be found in dealing with this deadly virus was in an article written by Martin Luther in 1527, *"Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague"*. It's truly miraculous how Luther was so ahead of his time in his understanding of how the church and state should respond to a deadly plague (which few churches and governments did in 2020-21)! No Bishop, no deans, no professors, no clergy peers or anyone could address the dilemma as Luther did and again I am thankful to God the Holy Spirit for guiding me to the writings of his faithful follower Martin.

We are moving towards summertime and it looks like the government is beginning to lift more and more restrictions and we will return to a somewhat more "normal" world (can we remember before the year 2020?). I want to again thank you all for keeping your faith in God, in His holy church, and in our church council and in your pastor at FLC throughout this year of challenges.

Philippians 1:3

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Important Dates to Remember at First Lutheran Church

June 6th

Services change to 10 am summer service time

July 10th

Yard Sale at the church from 9 am – 3 pm

(donations still being accepted)

August 15th

**FLC annual picnic (after service of the Word) at the new
South Strabane Community Park at 750 Floral Hill Drive,
Washington PA 15301**

September 5th

Services return to the 11 am service time

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.

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

We at First Lutheran Church have been blessed as a church family; to have the blessings of our Lord and Savior to guide us, keep us, love us, and direct us through the guidance and care of our Shepherd, Pastor Rob Grewe. Last year turned into a difficult year for us because of Covid and our Sunday School wing was in desperate need of repair. With the help of Pastor Grewe, we made it. We stayed strong. We stayed open, and we were able to get the Sunday School roof repaired and also pay about half of our loan! Without the love and support of you, we would not have been able to do this.



This year we have already been able to install a new sound system, minus a few things they need to still work on. How wonderful it is to have such gracious members who, when asked for help have always come through with giving and support.

Our Brother in Christ, George Salvucci, has once again proven how faithful, dedicated, and valuable he is to First Lutheran Church. He met with all of the contractors and our insurance company and we received the bid on getting the balcony wall water damage fixed. Council has approved moving forward with getting the insurance work done. The contract has been received and our deductible submitted. The work on the balcony is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, so by the time you receive this newsletter the work should be done. (Yea!!)

Dennis has contacted the masonry contractor to take a look at the roof in front of the church and give us a bid on repairing the stone and masonry so the water will not come in on the balcony wall again. This will not be covered by our insurance, but it needs done otherwise we will have the same problem with the balcony wall. Our insurance will not cover the damage a second time so we must get this fixed.

George is also working on getting bids for repairing the water damage to the arches on both sides of our sanctuary. The work on the arches, however, will not be covered by our insurance, but it does need to be done, along with some masonry work around the sanctuary. As usual, everything seems to happen all at once. We will take it one step at a time, and we WILL get it all done. All donations made to our Roof Fund will go to these repairs.



Keep watching the announcements in Sunday's Order of Service for another painting and popcorn fundraiser. Mark your calendar for our Yard Sale on July 10th. Donations for the yard sale are already coming in. All money made from these fundraisers goes to our roof fund.

Thank you in advance for your love and support. All the praise and glory go to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in the repair of our church and to you for your love and support.



Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

Music Director

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As many of you know, I have decided it was time to retire from my position at First Lutheran Church. I have mixed feelings as I have loved making music in your beautiful sanctuary and have met terrific people along the way. I thank the dedicated people in the choir who are now my friends. My hat is off to Kris Briggs and all in the bell choir for their fine work.

I do want to thank the congregation for their silence during the Prelude music. I've been in churches where this didn't happen. Music is a prayer without words. Thanks for listening to my prayers.

My last Sunday will be July 25. I will leave with fond memories and continued prayers for the well being of the church and all those who enter.

God's abundant blessings to you all.

Bobbi Heastings

Fund Raiser

MANY THANKS!!

Many thanks to all who purchased hanging baskets or made a donation to the Roof Fund. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. As a result of your support, 156 baskets were sold. As a congregation we raised \$929.00 to put to the Roof Fund!!

Special thanks to Pastor Grewe, Kathleen Black, George Salvucci, Jeff Ulanich and Parker for their help with unloading the baskets!

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

June Fundraising Update

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

Hanging Basket Fundraiser: This fundraiser was a huge success! We made over \$900 for the roof fund. Thanks to all of you who participated in this fundraiser and special thanks to Caitlyn and Vickie Group who helped to plan and coordinate.

Fundraiser events in June: We will start our Pittsburgh Popcorn fundraiser in June. Sale will start end of May/early June with popcorn delivered just in time for the July 4th holiday parties. Be on the look out for a popcorn sales flyer in the church bulletin, church narthex, and/or email from the church Secretary. If you need any help with this fundraiser, please call me directly (number and email below.)

Church Yard Sale in July: Our church yard sale is right around the corner... The 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.

Painting Event Moved to July: At this point, the date of our painting fundraiser is in flux. We are thinking we may be able to have a painting event in July. Stay tuned and as soon as details are firmed up, we will communicate them. The painting events are always a lot of fun and you end up with a beautiful painting when you are done!

Gift Card Tree Raffle: We will have a Gift Card Tree that we will raffle off at the Church Picnic in August. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get your hands on some raffle tickets!!! We will start selling raffle tickets in July.

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!

CHURCH PICNIC

DATE: AUGUST 15 2021

TIME: RIGHT AFTER CHURCH SERVICE

PLACE: COMMUNITY PARK MAIN PAVILION

LOCATION: 750 FLORAL HILL DRIVE IN SOUTH STRABANE, WASHINGTON

FUN *** FELLOWSHIP *** GAMES *** PRIZES***

For those who have been watching the church services on-line and would want to attend, please call the church office. Kathleen will mark you down and the side dish you would like to bring. We would love to see you.

SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE PLACED ON BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF CHURCH LOUNGE

This is a brand new pavilion with restrooms and a fully equipped kitchen.

Any questions on location, feel free to call me. Kim Luketich 724-222-4610

WNALC —June 2021

George Salvucci took a truck full of items to Ohio to the Disaster Warehouse on Wednesday. There is still a need for healthcare kits and gift cards for Home Depot, Lowe's, Target and Walmart.

Healthcare kits contain:

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 2 bars of soap in original wrapper
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 pack dental floss
- 1 toothpaste
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant

Items may be dropped off in the office or adult Sunday School classroom.

WNALC donated \$100 to the Meals on Wheels program in Emogene Salvucci's memory.

The Circle meeting for June is June 30th at noon in the library. Michelle Williams will be the leader and Linda Nickles & Sonie Rea hostesses.

Sunday, June 27th we will hold our Strawberry Festival after church in the social room.

Remember to bring items for the yard sale scheduled for July 10th.

Have a blessed month,

Sonie

June Lay Readers

- 6 Kris Briggs
- 13 Donna Bassi
- 20
- 27 Dennis Schmidt

June Altar Flowers

- 6 Cindy Linville
- 13 Cristina Serbak
- 20 Kathleen Black
- 27 Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten

June Acolytes

- 6 Elijah Clark and Lillah Clark
- 13 Maria Sobocinski and Heidi Walsh
- 20 Lucas, Lauren and Heidi Bittner
- 27 Lucas, Lauren and Heidi Bittner

June Ushers

- 6 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 13 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko
- 20 A. Serbak; J. Sarver
- 27 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

June Counters—Alternate, Sonie Rea

- 6 H. Quedenfeld & D. Schmidt
- 13 K. Luketich & J. Black
- 20 C. Group & V. Group
- 27 R. Williams & S. Berry

June Altar Team

Linda Coleman

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Goga
- 3 Ashley Burbank
- 6 Janet Fischer
- 7 Esther Sten
- 9 Tim Belski
- 14 Kevin Serbak
- 15 Mark Verderber
- 16 Emily Flowers
- 18 John Rush
- 19 Larry Sten
Penny Wetzel
- 20 Nathaniel Black
- 22 Betty DeGiovanni
- 24 Sherman Marker
Jackson Quedenfeld
- 25 Bette L. Johnson
- 26 Linda Coleman
- 28 Mary Kay McDonald
- 30 Diane Antila