

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



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ICH-THUS
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives—September 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 pray that we will be returning, more and more, to our regular church services, activities and classes that we offer at First Lutheran Church. However, at this time, Washington County is in the red zone for transmission of the Covid-19 Delta variant. God willing, I pray that we can continue to gather for worship and return to our classes this month.

Recently, while meeting with a family to prepare for a funeral service, I was introduced to two new books. I wanted to let you all know about them as I found these to be wonderful resources and wonderful gifts to pass down from generations in your church families.

The books are beautifully illustrated by Thomas Kinkade and are called:

Grandmother's Memories to Her Grandchild/A Journal of Faith and Love
and
Grandfather's Memories to His Grandchild: A Journal of Faith and Love.

In these books there are questions about faith and love; what I found so wonderful is that these books were both filled in by the grandparents themselves in their own handwriting! We were able to discover more about their faith and love journey, in their own words, as written to their children and grandchildren!

I think one could also have a family member record their thoughts and fill it in if your grandparents are unable to do so but no doubt about it the impact of these faith stories for families is very powerful!

Having these personal words of faith from our loved ones is a brilliant legacy to leave your family for generations. The cost of these books ranged from \$6.00 - \$25.00 depending on where you purchase them.

Another book I highly recommend is titled: *Equipped. The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles*, by Christopher Kennedy from Concordia Publishing House for \$10.99. It was the summer reading for our Adult Catechism class.

If you had attended/watched online the August 29th the Sunday Service of the Word you would have heard mention of this book in my sermon. The author enlightens the reader on using the armour of God and explaining how we are to prepare each day for battle against the devil and “the hordes of devils that fill the land all threatening to devour us”-as Luther wrote in his hymn: “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”. This book even discusses the origins of the devil and how manipulative he can be in our lives without us even knowing it!

At the end of each chapter the author lists several questions that one can ask themselves or which can be discussed in groups like our adult catechism classes at 11 am and 7 pm on Tuesdays. The conclusion is so well written and I agree with our FLC VP Dennis Schmidt when he said, “Every Christian needs to read the first three pages of the conclusion of the book for a better understanding of their faith and the battle we are in.”

I look forward to seeing you in September as the church returns to its regular service time of 11 am and our classes and events will be starting back up.

Until then, I pray you had a joyful summer and some time for some rest and relaxation to recharge and prepare your hearts and minds for worship at First Lutheran.

In Christ's name

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Important Dates to Remember at First Lutheran Church

September 5th

Sunday services return to the 11 am service time

Adult Sunday school returns at 9:45 am

September 7th Tuesdays

Adult Catechism classes return 11 am 7 pm

FLC Council meeting at 7 pm

2nd Wednesday of the month

September 17th Friday (NEW)

Young adults group 7pm-9 pm (14 yrs +) Planning session for the year (Pizza provided)

September 24th Friday

Youth Group 7-9 pm Planning session for the year (Pizza Provided)

September 26th Sunday

(last Sunday of each month)

Movie and a meal after the service in the library

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,

Welcome Back! Fall is here!! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to jump in and volunteer to help with our fall activities. Please pray on this. God will help you in your decision if you listen with your heart. We cannot do this without you. Pastor Grewe can't wait to work with all of you!! Please contact the church office or Pastor Grewe to let him know how you would like to help out this fall. Don't be shy. There are many things to help with.

In July, our Regular Offering Income was \$10,653.00 which was \$432.00 more than our June Regular Offering Income. Please remember we still have repairs on our balcony window which will be an out-of-pocket expense. Our Yard Sale fundraiser made us \$3,483.45. This will help us with our expenses. Our roof loan has \$20,863.00 left for us to pay. At the end of each month, we decide how much over the minimum payment we can make based on how much is left after all of our expenses for the month have been paid, and if there are any upcoming expenses that we don't normally have (payroll taxes, insurance, other maintenance) that will be due. I am always happy when we can make a larger payment on our loan. I do not have the information for August because the newsletter is due before the last Sunday of the month.

George Salvucci is still talking to our insurance company to find out if some of the repairs needed for our balcony can be covered. He is also talking with Nicolella, and they are going to give us a bid on the repair. At this time, we are still waiting to find out if there is anything else that needs repaired on our steam boiler and how much this will cost.

Please remember to send in your weekly offering so that we can pay our monthly expenses. Heather Quedenfeld is still working hard on fundraisers. She has done an amazing job for us. If you have an idea for fundraising, please let Heather know. Vicki and Caitlyn Group do a wonderful job with coordinating our flower fundraisers. The flowers are beautiful and the money we make is a big help First Lutheran Church. A big thank you goes to Scott Berry for creating our Gift Card Tree. Please let Heather, Vicki, Caitlyn, or Scott know if you are interested in helping with any of our fundraisers, or if you have any ideas. We welcome all ideas.

Please remember that we return to our fall schedule with Sunday Services beginning at 11:00 AM beginning September 5th. I hope to see you in church!!

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC President



Fundraising Update

Blessings to all of you and I hope you are all having a super summer!

We all had a great time at the church picnic in August. Thank you all for joining us. What a beautiful day!

Gift Card Tree Raffle: The Gift Card Tree Raffle was a huge success! We raised \$1320 in ticket sales. WOW! I can't believe it. Dennis Schmidt was our lucky winner. Thanks to the council for your generous donations of gift cards. Thanks to Scott Berry (and family) for their leadership on this fundraiser and on making the tree itself. Thanks to Kimberly Grewe for her creativity and ownership of the raffle tickets, as she made the tickets and helped sell them.

Church Picnic Chinese Auction: Our Chinese auction was also a huge success at the picnic. We had many beautiful baskets to bid on. Thanks to everyone for their donation of baskets! It was a lot of fun looking at, and "bidding" on, the baskets. In total we made \$374 on the Chinese basket auction. Thank you all.

Mum Sale: We are right in the middle of our fall mum sale. When we did this fundraiser last year, the mums were beautiful. They are \$12 a piece and orders are due Aug 29, with delivery on Sept 11. Vickie Group and Caitlyn Group are leading this fundraiser. If you need to order some flowers, please contact me directly at the number and email below.

Pierogie Sale: The fall pierogie sale fundraiser will start end of September with delivery in early October. We are getting our pierogies from the same place, Gosia's Pierogies in Pittsburgh. Stay tuned for an email about this sale.

We have made amazing progress on our fundraiser goal of \$10,000 for the roof fund in 2021. So far this year we have raised over \$7000 for the roof fund! This is wonderful! Thanks for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please email me at heather.quedenfeld@comcast.net or call/text me at 724-263-3253.

Heather Q ☐

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to first thank everyone in the congregation for their warmest welcome wishes this past month as I was blessed with the opportunity to become your new Music Director. Change is one of those things that can be difficult to handle but can be a beautiful thing if accepted with open arms.

A little bit about myself that I would like to share with you. I am originally from a small town called Shadyside, OH which is about 45 minutes away west from Washington. My musical background starts back when I grew up listening to my three older sisters practice the piano. I began taking classical piano lessons when I was eight years old, earning numerous awards and certificates over the years through high school with National Guild Music Auditions and Thursday Music Club at West Liberty (State College). I took over as the church organist at my home parish of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in 2005 after my older sister moved away to Kentucky, and organist for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Neffs, OH. During those years, I provided music for 50+ weddings and funerals as well as weekly (3x per weekend) Masses. I am a graduate of St. John's Central High School, Ohio University (Bachelors' Degree in Social Work) and Marshall University (Masters' Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Certificate in Trauma & Loss). When I married my husband Bob in 2017, I then moved to Washington and was fortunate to expand my experience landing the pianist/accompanist position at First United Methodist Church in Houston, PA. It was here where I played for their 18-member choir for weekly services, special events and Christmas Cantatas under the direction of Choir Director Dana Falosk. While that experience pushed me out of my comfort zone playing for a non-traditional church service, I can reflect on my experiences and feel blessed with having met some amazing and talented individuals that I will forever call part of my small church family. I plan on having a few special guest musicians in the future that are current choir members from FUMC in Houston, so be on the lookout for those appearances in the upcoming months.

As I go through life, I have realized that God puts people along my path for a reason. Pastor Robert Grewe "Rev" and my husband Bob are both volunteer firefighters with South Strabane VFD. When I first met Rev and "Mrs. Rev" (Kimberly), I instantly felt a sense of family and comfort in these two individuals. They were both at the hospital upon the birth of our son Owen last year, and they attended his Baptism this past April. When this opportunity to becoming Music Director at your First Lutheran Church, I instantly knew in my heart that this was the next chapter in my spiritual journey.

As I take over as Music Director, I am continuing to learn about your church and traditions. I feel one of my strengths is my ability to be flexible and my "go with the flow" attitude. This past year with COVID-19 Pandemic has been quite a difficult one for everyone and has challenged us to be flexible & resilient during struggles. I am sure many will continue taking advantage of the online church services that is streamed each week with this new Delta Variant virus that is our new dilemma. With Advent and Christmas right around the corner, I would like to get a feel for how many individuals plan on returning to or joining the choir so we can plan accordingly for upcoming practices. Over the years I have heard numerous people say, "I can't read music", "I sound like a dying cat", or "I would scare everyone away with my singing". I would like to challenge you to take a risk and try something new! If you are interested in being part of the choir, please let me know. You can contact me by phone/text 304-650-1831 or email address kvelkovich90@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much and I look forward to continuing getting to know each one of you!

Blessings, Kristina Schuerle

"Music is the prayer the heart sings"

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT AT WILD THINGS

On September 10th, First Lutheran Church will celebrate Faith and Family Night at the Wild Things baseball game. Michelle Williams has reserved 30 tickets for the church.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please sign your name and how many will be attending with you.

WNALC

Welcome back to our fall activities.

Our first activity is the Board meeting Wednesday, Sept 1 at 10:00 AM in the lounge. We are planning things to do between September and December.

Circle meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 30 at noon in the lounge. Leader will be Sonie Rea and hostesses Joanne Marker and Sonie Rea. All women are welcome.

God's blessings,
Sonie

Mum Sale Pick-Up Reminder

Thank you to all that ordered mums to help raise money for our Roof Fund! Mums are to be picked up on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 9:00- 11:00am. Please pull up to the handicap entrance and we will bring your order to your car. Thanks again for everyone's support in helping to better our church!



Sept. Lay Readers

- 5 Donna Bassi
- 12 Kimberly Grewe
- 19 Dennis Schmidt
- 26 Kimberly Grewe

Sept. Altar Flowers

- 5 Allan Zimmerman
- 12 George Salvucci
- 19 Klaus & Mel Behrens
- 26 Sally Caddies

Sept. Acolytes

- 5 Cole Johnson, Collin Berry, and Maria Sobocinski
- 12 Lyndsay and Bryce Berry
- 19 Heidi Walsh
- 26 Elijah and Lillah Clark

Sept. Ushers

- 5 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
- 12 N. Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 19 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; G. Salvucci; D. Lacko
- 26 A. Serbak; J. Sarver

Sept. Counters (Alternate, Linda Coleman)

- 5 J. Black and S. Berry
- 12 K. Luketich and D. Schmidt
- 19 C. Group and V. Group
- 26 H. Quedenfeld and R. Williams

Sept. Altar Team

J. Fischer, D. Bassi, and Sonie Rea

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amy Pascuzzi
- 4 Judy Sarver
Brad Bernhart
- 5 Lillah Clark
- 6 Shane Ringer
Karen Krcil
Anne Johnston
- 8 C. Arne Sten
- 12 Joanne Marker
Tim Bernhart
- 14 Paul Sten
- 16 Carolyn Wright
- 17 Jeff Ulanich
Larry Zimmerman
- 22 Kandi DeWalt
Herb Snyder
- 24 Carolyn Dragich
- 26 Kurt Snyder
- 29 Andy Carl