

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for October 2021

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

The importance of a prayerful life has always been at the center of the Christian faith. In the book **What Luther Says**, by *Ewald Plass* we find that twenty eight pages of the book are dedicated Luther's writings on prayer alone! During my summer reading and viewing I noticed the recurring theme of this essential aspect of the daily Christian life.

On September 12th, the Gospel text for Sunday was St. Mark 9: 14-29 and the last two verses of the reading are critical to our understanding of the importance of prayer to all Christians: **“And when He entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”**

The summer read for our adult catechism class was an incredible book called **Equipped, The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles**, by *Christopher M Kennedy*. This truly amazing read talks about how we can defend ourselves in the daily battles we fight spiritually whether it be from anxiety, anger or a whole host of other issues. Similar to the Gospel text page 62 of this book states that, **“Prayer is the spiritual warfare we push back evil through prayer. We frustrate the devil through prayer as prayer is perseverance.”**

We are clearly reminded to wear the armour of God daily in our lives and to use prayer as our weapon to keep the devil at bay!

At the August 29th service of the Word I wore all my fire fighter bunker gear to make the point that, although this gear will protect me from fire and other dangers, it will NOT protect from me the devil! For protection from the devil I need the spiritual armour of God which is God's Holy Word, just like you do!

After all, prayer is how we talk to God! St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6:18 **“Be alert and keep praying for all the saints”** is a reminder that we are to be in prayer constantly in our lives whether we are at home, work or even going around town; prayer needs to be at the center of our lives. The Concordia Publishing House (CPH) have a great little book that Kimberly and I use daily called **Lutheran Book of Prayer**, which covers prayers for daily life, church festivals, church life as well as prayers for people and the world.

Recently, on the news we saw that Officer Michael Sulerud of the Butler PD was attacked and badly wounded in a knife attack. His father was a former member of FLC and when Michael was released from hospital the news interviewed the Butler PD Chief O Neill, who said, **“Prayer is the one of the only things that got everyone through this. Mike is a warrior. I’d like to thank St. Michael Patron Saint of warriors.”** St. Michael is an Archangel and is the patron saint of grocers, mariners, paratroopers, police officers and military personnel.

As Jesus said, in St. Matthew 21:22, **“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith”** one can easily find over 100 verses on prayer in the Holy Bible!

Backing up the importance of prayer was a great Christian modern film called **“War Room”**. Prayer and God’s Holy Word are powerful weapons. In this film a real estate agent goes to list a house and finds that the seller, who is a devout Christian, has a special room that is void of outside distractions like a telephone, computer or a television and it is set up to do battle against the devil with a Bible (aka The Word of God) and lists with Bible verses and people to pray for! It’s an incredible movie focusing on the transformative power of praying for ourselves, for our families and for friends needs. This uplifting film reinforces the need for prayer to be at the center of our lives!

Prayer is the way of all Christians to communicate with God but it is also our weapon against the evils of this world! It’s then shocking to hear the current president of the United States of America say, **“Enough prayers, it’s time for action.”** I believe that he misunderstands the power of prayer because prayer is not only an action but it also moves us to action as it does all Christians since we are called in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So, if you are interested in polishing up and donning your armour and becoming a prayer warrior I recommend daily readings from the scriptures, any of the above books or movies I have mentioned or you can even join us for Movie and a Meal.

Remember Pastor Bonhoeffer’s words from **Santum Communion:**

The devil fears a roof of thatch beneath which the church is at prayer more than he does a splendid church in which many masses are celebrated.

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.



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

It is officially pumpkin season, yum!!

Don't forget about all of our fall activities and classes. We look forward to seeing you!

George Salvucci is working with McKean about getting our furnace boiler repaired. This will not be an easy job. I do not look forward to finding out how much it will be to make proper repairs.

Don't forget about our fall fundraisers. We will again have our pierogi sale. Orders are due on October 3rd. We also have another quilt made by Linnea that we will be raffling. October 8 and 9 is Community Awareness Days at Washington Crown Center. We will have a booth set up and sell the raffle tickets for the quilt. We need volunteers to help with manning the table. Please let Heather know if you are able to help. We are hoping to have another painting fundraiser if there is enough interest. Again, please let Heather or Judy know if you are interested.



 Our Apple/ Oktoberfest is October 17th. It will be held after our Sunday Service. There will be great food and good fellowship. I hope you will attend.

Volunteers are still needed. There are many ways you can help. Please pray on this and let Pastor Grewe know if when you can help at church.

How wonderful it is to have Kristina Schuerle as our new organist. She is doing such a fantastic job! It is a blessing to have her with us. If you are interested in being in our church choir, please let her know. All are welcome.

These past 18 months have been challenging for us. We have made great progress in paying off the roof loan and First Lutheran Church has stood strong, but she needs our help. We now have to get our boiler fixed, and this is no small task. Please remember to give your weekly donations. George Salvucci also needs volunteers to help when we are able to have McKean start work fixing the boiler. Please let him know if you are able to help.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



Fundraising Update

I hope you all are enjoying the change in weather! Cooler days are ahead! Here's our fundraising update for this month.

- * **Mum Sale:** We made \$825 on the Mum Sale fundraiser. Thank you for your continued support. The mums are so beautiful and just huge! Thank you Vickie and Caitlyn Group for leading this fundraiser!
- * **Gosia's Pierogie Sale:** We are right in the middle of our fall pierogie sale. We decided to go with Gosia's again due to their willingness to work with us on a fundraiser and the fact that we get a good profit from each sale. We are selling many different varieties—including Potato & Cheese, Sweet Cabbage, Potato & Feta, Sweet Potato, Sauerkraut, Cottage Cheese, and Potato Cheese & Jalapeno (new). Cost is \$8 per dozen. All pierogie orders are due Oct. 3 with delivery on Oct. 17th. If you are interested in ordering some pierogies, please reach out to me at the number or email below.
- * **Washington Community Days and Quilt Raffle:** Linnea made another beautiful quilt and we are raffling it off. Raffle tickets will be available in early October, with winner to be announced in November. Linnea and I are kicking off this sale at the upcoming Washington Community Days at the Washington Crowne Center Mall on Oct. 8 (evening) and Oct 9 (all day). Come visit us if you are out and about. We'll have a display about First Lutheran, will be selling raffle tickets for the quilt, and will be selling cook books. If you are interested in raffle tickets for the quilt, please see me at church or give me a call.

We continue to make amazing progress on our fundraiser goal of \$10,000 for the roof fund in 2021. We are at ~\$8,000 which is about \$1,000 more than we were at this same time last year.

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

Heather Q



Dear First Lutheran Church family,

Blessings to all as the cooler weather is finally upon us. I don't know about you, but I am glad that the humidity and hot days are behind us for the remainder of the year. That means we will be looking forward to more brisk autumn days.

After my last newsletter report, I have had a few people reach out asking when choir practices will begin. Due to my full-time job that requires some evenings during the week, and a family that is a full-time commitment, I am available and willing to begin choir practices **Monday evenings in October at 5:30pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30am**. This will allow for a couple different options for the choir members in preparation for Reformation Sunday and the Advent season. The weekly bell choir schedule will be changing practices to **Monday evenings at 7pm**. Both choirs are always actively recruiting new members, so now is your time to join if you ever had an interest.

This past month, we joined in celebration of the life of Joyce Streater. She was a beloved member of the First Lutheran Church and a 45-year member of the bell choir. In her honor, the bell choir beautifully performed "Amazing Grace" and "You Raise me Up", as well as a duet performance with member Kris Briggs and myself during the funeral service. I am grateful to continue getting to know the many talented members of this congregation and wished I would have gotten the chance to work with and know Joyce as many people speak so highly of her love of church, family, and music.

We had a special guest Frank Furano from the Houston First United Methodist Church perform the musical offering piece "His Eyes" by Steven Curtis Chapman on September 19th.

Lots of exciting things are coming up in preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Blessings,

Kristina Schuerle

WNALC—October 2021

The September Board meeting will be held Wednesday, October 6th at 10 AM in the lounge.

WNALC will supply snacks for the AMI group for their Friday Meetings.

The Circle meeting will not be held October 28. We will be guests at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Thursday, October 14 at noon. We will meet in our parking lot at 11:15 and will carpool to the church.

Sunday, October 17 we will hold the Apple/Octoberfest after the church service in the social room. We ask you to find an apple recipe or a German recipe to bring for a covered dish dinner. Table service will be provided.

October looks to be a fun month. Come one and all.

God's blessings,
Sonie

Oct. Lay Readers

3 Kris Briggs
10 Heather Quedenfeld
17 Peter Kostanich
24 Dennis Schmidt
31 Kris Briggs

Oct. Altar Flowers

3 Lacko
10 Grewe
17 Kathleen Black
24 Quedenfeld
31 Donna Bassi

Oct. Acolytes

3 Maria Sobocinski and Heidi Walsh
10 TBD
17 TBD
24 Bryce Berry and Collin Berry
31 TBD

Oct. Ushers

3 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
10 J. Hoffer; C. Krcil; R. Williams
17 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M Verderber
24 T. Bernhart; E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
31 N Bassi; R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler

Oct. Counters (Alternate, Jennifer Black)

3 C. Group & V. Group
10 H. Quedenfeld & L. Coleman
17 K. Luketich & R. Williams
24 D. Schmidt & Scott Berry
31 L. Sten & Sonie Rae

Oct. Altar Team

Sonie Rea & Joanne Marker

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Laurie Carl
Tammy Streater
- 6 Eveline Reihner
- 9 Shelby Kubacki
- 13 Bonnie Johnson
Lauren Conkle
- 14 Scott Berry
- 15 Kristine Briggs
- 16 Kara Clark
Richard Hager
- 17 Wesley Black
- 18 Janine Dyson
- 19 Jim Conkle
- 21 Joan Sakerka
Kim Luketich
Janet Burke
- 23 Neil Bassi
- 24 George Walz
- 25 Caitlyn Group
- 28 Dennis Schmidt
Karen Coleman
- 29 Joshua Hoffer