

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



**Ixoye**  
**ICH-THUS**  
**Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior**

## **Pastoral Perspectives for November 2023**

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

In November the church office will be open on Thursdays again from 9am -12pm.

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 5th: please submit names to be read aloud for this service of remembrance. For many, October 31st is Halloween (or Reformation Day for Lutherans when Luther posted the 95 Theses for debate). However, for Christians it is All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day: a day when the church gathers to remember the saints that have returned to God the Father our Creator.

Have you ever wondered what is the difference between the two high and holy feast days of All Saints Day and All Souls Day?

Catholics have a sacrament called 'Last Rites'. It is like the Lutheran 'Commendation of the Dying', it consists of Holy Communion, anointing with holy oil and prayers to prepare a person for their death. In the Roman Catholic Church if a dying person does not receive the "Last Rites" by a priest then they are remembered on All Souls Day and are prayed for on that day instead of on All Saints Day.

At FLC we choose the first Sunday of the month in November as many Lutheran churches do to remember this very special day for all the saints that have gone before us, the clergy, our families, our friends and all the other people that made an impact on our faith and in our lives. It's a challenging day because we miss those that we love and although we shed tears and our hearts are heavy we can take comfort in the fact that our loved ones rest in the arms of our merciful, gracious and loving God. As we sing in hymn #536 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again".

In Jesus' name we trust in, we pray in and we take comfort in.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## Important Dates for December

**4 Volunteers needed to light the Advent wreath each Sunday  
(see pastor)**

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 6pm to decorate the church for Christmas all ages welcome**

**Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> First Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion with a visit from St. Nicholas and special coffee hour to follow the service. Bring your shoe to put in the basement for a treat or for a lump of coal from St. Nicholas!**

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #1**

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent with St. Lucia visits the church and children's Sunday School**

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #2 with council meeting to follow**

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Friday Christmas Acolyte party at 7 pm with food and fun!**

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent with 9:30 am Breakfast at the Manger before the service and the FLC *Christmas sleigh* gift card draw is held.**

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #3**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent with Sunday school for the children**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 11 am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent service**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve service with prelude at 8:30 pm with service starting at 9 pm with Holy Communion**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> Church closed and all classes canceled for the week**

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Movie and a meal to follow the service.**

**In 2026 First Lutheran Church building will be 100 years old!**

Our church is looking for volunteers to help plan the 100th anniversary of our current church at 92 West Walnut Street.

**We need YOU!**

Please let the council know if you would like to be on the planning committee

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**Christmas Tree Gift Card Raffle**

**Returns**

Draw will be during the Breakfast at the Manger on December 17th, 2023 and tickets will go on sale Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>!

See council members for more information and purchasing raffle tickets.

If you would like to sell raffle tickets please see Kimberly Grewe

# November

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

November is upon us again and we will be having our Congregations Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> for you to approve the new budget for 2024. As a reminder, although we ask for your help with things like donating for a new roof, boiler, etc. that the church needs fixed, we only have one (1) bank account that all of your donations are deposited into. We do not have a separate bank account for the roof, fundraisers, building maintenance, and so forth. The money we receive with your generous donations gets deposited into our one (1) checking account. Out of that one (1) account, we first pay our bills and salaries. After that, Church Council decides on what projects we need to get done first. It is a little confusing, and seems like we have many accounts, but we do not. First Lutheran Church is fortunate to have such a wonderful congregation which donates regularly to keep the church running and digs deep to support her when there is a major project that needs to be done. I hope this clears up how we have been doing our accounting.

With that being said, we need to get the pointing done and a new roof over the sanctuary to enable us to repair everything below the roof without worry. We are getting estimates so that council can make the decision as to how we want to move forward. Once council has made the decision, we will be holding another congregational meeting to get your approval for this project.

We have some fundraisers coming up . Please be sure to check the newsletter for the dates. The money we make on our fundraisers goes to help offset the costs of maintaining the church building.

We are currently getting bids for the work that needs done per the Insurance walk-through we had earlier this month. We are required to replace one of our breaker boxes because it is faulty. This will be the biggest expense as far as the insurance walk-through. There are a few other things that we need to complete as soon as possible, but they are not as urgent as the breaker box. Hopefully by the time this newsletter is sent, we will have scheduled someone to replace it.

Council would like to thank Rick and Linnea for volunteering to provide us with music for our Sunday Services until we were able to hire a full-time organist. During this time, First Lutheran Church has helped Linnea find her calling to make music unto the Lord, and she feels called to continue using her gift full-time at another church. We wish her all the best as we welcome Matt into our family as our organist.

We have once again started our Sunday School. We are holding it during our service on the second & fourth Sunday every month. The children leave for about 20 minutes and return after the sermon. All children are welcome!

Please read the newsletter for upcoming events in November and December. Once again have our Breakfast at the Manger, mid-week Advent services and a visit from St. Lucia and St. Nicholas.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



## **WNALC November Newsletter**

The Board meeting of WNALC will be held Wednesday, Nov. 1 in the lounge at 10:00 AM.

Thankoffering Sunday will be held Nov. 19. Our guest speaker will be a representative from Life Choices, an organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of men, women, and families by promoting a healthy community.

Please note the changes to the Nov. and Dec. Circle meetings. We will combine both meetings into one Thursday, Nov. 30 at 10:00 AM. This will be our Christmas covered dish luncheon. We will bring a \$5.00 grab bag gift, play some games, and eat at non. Everyone is welcome.

No December meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Sonie

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### **Message from our Music Director**

Hello! If you haven't met me, my name is Matthew Cimino, and I am the new music director for FLC! I have been a musician my entire life, performing both solo and with bands across a variety of styles. Although I work in database marketing by day, music has always been an integral part of my identity. I was born and raised here in Washington County and attended college at West Virginia University. I am a proud Mountaineer, but to all the Pitt and Penn State alums, we can still be friends! It truly fills my heart with joy that I get to provide worship music not only for the congregation, but most importantly God. I am honored to bring my musical experience and service to the church. Everyone has been so welcoming, and it makes me excited to see all that we can do to fill the church with beautiful music.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE GIFT CARD RAFFLE**

Once again we will be holding a ticket sale to purchase a chance to win gift cards. This event is sponsored by the council, but all who would like to donate a gift card for this event will be welcomed to do so. I will be accepting the cards and tickets will be for sale in the near future. Date for the drawing has not been set yet, but I will have more information in the next newsletter. This was just decided on during September's Council meeting and I had a deadline to get out what I did know. Our church is in need of some major repairs and this is just one way to raise money to help.

Thank you for your continuing support!

Kim Luketich

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### **Fundraiser Reminders**

#### **SARRIS CANDY**

Here is your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth and help with our Roof and Window Repair! Order forms are available for Sarris Candy. You can pick up an order form or you may place your order on-line using our Group ID # 10-3189. If you choose to place your order on-line, your order will be shipped directly to you. Orders are due by Sunday, November 19, 2023. If you turn in your order form, candy will be delivered on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and turn in all of your fundraiser money separately. If you have any questions, please call Vickie Group at 724-344-0565. All of your support is greatly appreciated.

#### **TOFFEE HOUSE**

This fundraiser is for all of the Toffee House Lovers and will support the Church Roof and Window Fund. Order forms are available and must be turned in by November 5, 2023. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and be sure to make fundraiser payments separate. The delivery for the Toffee House order will be on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. As always appreciate your support. Any questions, please call Vickie Group at 724-344-0565.

#### **WREATH SALE**

Order forms are available for beautiful wreaths, centerpieces, grave marker pillows and poinsettias. This sale will also support the Church Window and Roof Repair Fund. All orders are due on Sunday, November 5, 2023. If you have questions please call Vickie Group at 724-344-0565. All checks should be made out to First Lutheran Church. The pickup date for the Wreath Sale is Saturday, November 25, 2023. Thanks for your support, Vickie Group

## First Lutheran Church



### News!!

Hello our First Lutheran Church Family!!

**Bell Choir practice has begun!!** We are all excited to be together again ringing the bells. We have chosen some contemporary pieces for Reformation, All Saints Sunday, Thankoffering, and Christ the King.

If you are feeling a little tug, or a little whisper in your ear, maybe the good Lord is telling you to give the bells a try, there is never a wrong time to start!! We are always looking for more choir members, 12 years old and up. Whether you have some music experience or NONE, or just curious about the bells, please join us on a Monday evening or a Sunday after service to pick up the bells, ring them, and ask questions. **We would LOVE for YOU to join us!!**

Practices are Monday evenings at 7 pm and also on some Sundays, after the Worship Service. You do not have to attend both days, Monday is the music practice for Worship Services, and Sunday is more for beginners.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information you can speak with any choir member, or you can contact Kris at 724-747-0849 or [kkbrgs1@gmail.com](mailto:kkbrgs1@gmail.com).

Blessings to all!!  
See you on Sunday,

First Lutheran Church Bell Choir



*"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!"*

**Psalm 95:1-2**



### November Lay Readers

- 5 Kris Briggs
- 12 Ron McGoogan
- 19 Sonie Rea
- 26 Dennis Schmidt

### November Altar Flowers

- 5 Kathleen Black
- 12 Ron McGoogan
- 19 Rev. Grewe
- 26 Klaus Behrens

### November Acolytes

- 5 TBD
- 12 TBD
- 19 TBD
- 26 TBD

### November Ushers

- 5 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 12 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
- 19 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
- 26 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder

### November Counters—Alternate: J. Black

- 5 K. Luketich; L. Sten
- 12 H. Quedenfeld; R. Williams
- 19 S. Rea; S. Berry
- 26 L. Coleman; D. Schmidt

### November Altar Team

L. Hager; K. Black

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jennifer Cottrill
- 2 Carl Group, Jr.  
Joyce Schrader  
Gloria Morgan
- 3 Kimberly Grewe  
Matthew Walsh
- 5 Lucy G Sten  
Karen Adams
- 10 Lisa Hager
- 11 Lauren Sakerka
- 13 Collin Berry  
Lyndsay Berry
- 16 Bridget Ringer
- 17 Byron Schrader
- 19 Diana Berry  
Wayne Streator  
Nikolai Williams  
Bailey DeWalt
- 21 Erik Maust
- 23 Irene Franz
- 27 Kathleen Black
- 29 George Salvucci
- 30 Kyle Glozier