

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



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

## **Pastoral Perspectives for October 2023**

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

Our church has returned to its regular schedule of classes: the Adult Sunday school classes are going strong at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings and is open to all no experience necessary, the returning confirmation class is on Monday nights from 6pm--8pm, and the Adult Catechism classes on Tuesdays at 11 am and 7 pm. The bell choir are dusting off their bells and practicing again on Monday nights at 6 pm and the adult choir will be returning to practice before the service Sunday mornings and will be doing an anthem once a month. Both the bell choir and adult choir are looking for new people to join them in making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Even our children are preparing to sing a Christmas hymn for the first Sunday in Advent when St. Nicholas will visit our church and, no doubt, bring sweet treats (as well as heaping bags of coal for some)

The life of the church goes on, season after season, and we will celebrate Reformation Sunday, which is the day Luther posted the 95 Theses for debate on the doors of the Castle church in Wittenberg, Germany back in 1517, on October 31<sup>st</sup>. As many see this day as Halloween or All Hollow's Eve we as Lutherans view this as the day as the start of the Reformation.

When I studied the Lutheran liturgy in Wittenberg with Lutheran clergy from all around the world, and worshipped at the two Lutheran churches in the old part of the city, I was envious seeing pastors who were able to bring their confirmation classes to the center of where the reformation began! The Castle Church is where Luther was buried at the front, so one can only imagine the pressure of preaching knowing where you are standing! While I also did a reformation tour of Germany, Switzerland and France while at seminary, I was also able to visit a now combined Lutheran/Roman Catholic Church in Augsburg, Germany. What was amazing there was the sacristy, where the clergy kept their robes in little lockers with their names on them, and everything needed for the sacraments and high feast days is also kept there.

In the corner of this room, behind locked iron gates, was an area where several former bishops were glass encased in their robes and their skeletal remains veiled; these former bishops are looking down upon those who are now called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ! Some found this gruesome while I found it to be a powerful reminder of the call to serve God. Imagine seeing the saints in charge of the church that have gone before looking down at you! No pressure there!

We look forward to seeing you and serving you as the church returns to running full steam ahead again.

God's blessings to you and yours in Christ Jesus

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Please remember that we will be celebrating our Oktober/ Applefest after service on October 15th! Brats and hotdogs and root beer will be supplied we ask that you please bring an inspired German dish or apple dish to make the event a gastronomic success!

**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

# October

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

October is here and we are getting busy here at First Lutheran Church with our classes and fundraisers. It's hard to believe the new year isn't that far away.

First, I would like to welcome our new organist, Matthew. We have had several interviews with applicants over these past 5 months and we are blessed to have found him. Please make sure you say hello and make him feel a part of our church family.

A big thank you to Rick and Linnea for taking the time this year to fill in so that we had music for our worship service. We are blessed to have them. They will continue to fill in for us as needed.

Council is working on getting some big projects done. The first one we must tackle is a new roof, which sounds simple, but we also need masonry work done on the roof as well so that we can get all the places that are leaking in the sanctuary. We have some very bad spots where the plaster has fallen. There is no point in spending the time and money in getting that fixed if we have a bad rain and water finds its way in again. Before the roof gets done, we must get all of the pointing done. The roof will not be a cheap project, but with your support, I'm sure that we can get it done so that we may move forward. We were able to get the roof in the Sunday School wing fixed in 2020 and I'm sure that we can also get the sanctuary roof fixed. Please remember to give your monthly offering and support the roof fund for this next project. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Scott Berry, or any council member.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



## **WNALC October Newsletter**

The WNALC Circle meeting will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Thursday, at noon. The ladies will provide lunch and a program. Please let Sonie Rea know if you are planning to attend.

Octoberfest will be held October 15 after church. Please bring an apple or German dish. Meat and tableware will be provided.

The November and December meetings will be changed and combined. More information in the November newsletter.

There are two adult small T-shirts and one 1X T-shirt available if anyone is interested. The cost is \$10.00.

God bless,

Sonie

## **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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### **Upcoming Fundraisers**

If you like sweets here is your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth and help the First Lutheran Church Roof and Window Repair and Maintenance Fund. We will be selling Toffee House and Sarris Candy. Order forms will be distributed soon—please watch for them!

To get ready for Christmas we will be selling beautiful decorations which will include: wreaths, table centerpieces, grave marker pillows and poinsettias. Also, please watch for order forms to be distributed soon.

As always, your support is GREATLY appreciated.

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and 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**

### October Lay Readers

- 1 Lisa Hager
- 8 Dennis Schmidt
- 15 Lisa Maust
- 22 Heather Quedenfeld
- 29

### October Altar Flowers

- 1 Heather Quedenfeld
- 8 Lacko
- 15 Kathleen Black
- 22 Kim Luketich
- 29 Linda Coleman

### October Acolytes

- 1 TBD
- 8 TBD
- 15 TBD
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

### October Ushers

- 1 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
- 8 K. Behrens; D. Looman; E. Oliver; H. Snyder
- 15 C. Krcil; R. Williams
- 22 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 29 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

### October Counters—Alternate: Rick Williams

- 1 Linda Coleman and Sonie Rea
- 8 Jennifer Black and Dennis Schmidt
- 15 Kimberly Luketich and Larry Sten
- 22 Caitlyn Group and Vickie Group
- 29 Heather Quedenfeld and Scott Berry

### October Altar Team

Sonie Rea and Joanne Marker



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Laurie Carl  
Tammy Streator
- 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