

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for March 2024

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

As we continue our Lenten journey through March we will come to Holy Week which includes for us at First Lutheran Church the joyous celebration of the Palm/Passion Sunday service where our confirmation class will graduate after two years of study and take their first communion. There will be a celebration put on after the service in the basement so please join us in celebration of our graduates! The tradition that the Lutheran Church has followed is that the students must be educated in understanding the faith before becoming members of the Christian community and partake of the Lord's Supper. Historically, the study could last two to three years in secret because of the Roman authorities' persecution of the Christian faith.

Our midweek Lenten services continue at 7pm and we are using the Holden Evening Prayer and the reflections from the NALC Lenten and Easter Devotions for 2024 that are free on their website. On Tuesday the Rev. Dr. White wrote on St. Mark 1:14-28 and broke it down into four parts:

"The time is fulfilled." *The time, determined by God and according to His plan, has arrived for the Christ to come and live among us in the person of Jesus.*

"The kingdom of God is at hand." *The reign of God on earth has begun with the appearing of Jesus on the scene of human history. Jesus ushers in this kingdom, revealing He is the Christ by the authority of His Word, performing miracles, and proclaiming the saving work He will accomplish at the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter.*

"Repent" *Repentance is a daily process by which we are convicted by the Word of God. The knowledge of our sinfulness opens up our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit's power to work faith in us. This faith produces an outward change in how we live our lives. Hence, the Holy Spirit helps change our thoughts, words and deeds. We change from being followers of the world, the flesh, and the devil to daily striving to be believers of Jesus.*

***“Believe in the Gospel.”** So today and every day, do what you are doing right now. Nurture your belief in Christ by reading God’s Word, reflect on that Word, and pray asking the Holy Spirit to work true repentance and faith in your life. Then go out and enjoy the blessing of living a faithful life of daily repentance!*

I pray such powerful writings will have you go the NALC website and download these amazing reflections during this time at <https://thenalc.org>

Our services will continue in the evening then at **7 pm service on Maundy Thursday March 28th** which includes the Lord’s Supper and the stripping of the altar as we will then move silently into **Good Friday at 3 pm on March 29th**. The time of 3 pm is the actual historical time that Jesus died on the cross at Golgotha (place of the skull because of the shape of this ancient hill in Jerusalem). This is found in all four of the Gospel texts Matthew 27:33, Mark 15:22, Luke 23:33 and finally in John 19:17.

We will then gather on **Sunday, March 31st at 10 am for Easter** as the people have spoken to choose this time rather than at 11 am. We will keep the 10 am Service time for every Easter at First Lutheran.

Please join us on this journey during these powerful days of the traditional Christian church around the world and you will have a better understanding of our faith and the Word of God found in the Bible during this season of Lent and Holy Week.

Yours In Christ Jesus

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Important Dates at First Lutheran

March 6th Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm

March 13th Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm

FLC monthly council meeting to follow.

March 20th Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7pm

March 24th Palm/Passion Sunday: graduation of the Confirmation Class at 11 am
with the Lord's Supper with a tea party for grads after the Service.

March 28th Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm with the Lord's Supper

March 29th Good Friday service at 3 pm

March 31st Easter Sunday service at 10 am



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

I hope everyone enjoyed our snow and winter weather! I know, I'm a bit crazy but I like the snow in the winter. I'd prefer it in December to show off all of the pretty Christmas lights.

It's hard to believe that Easter is almost here. Check the schedule in the newsletter for the times of all of our Lenten Services. It was nice to see all of you at our Ash Wednesday Service. If you didn't attend, you missed a wonderful service which included the Adult Choir and Bell Choir. A big thank you goes to our Music Director, Matt, for putting together wonderful music for the choirs. If you are interested in joining, or have questions, please see Matt.

Council is still working on getting estimates so that we can move forward getting the pointing and roof done. Please remember your monthly donations. Every penny counts with paying our monthly bills and getting repairs done.

As a reminder, if you are unable to attend Sunday Service due to bad weather, illness, or if you are out of town, you can watch the service on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070682163941> and the Order of Service is posted on our website (www.flcwash.church) if you would like to follow along. Facebook does not make it easy to post our services live. Facebook has changed and we are not permitted to live stream in landscape mode now. This is unfortunate. Hopefully they will change that back soon.

We will be having a Spring Yard Cleanup to get ready for summer. The date is not scheduled as we need to make sure the weather is cooperative. We need your help. Please let Council or Pastor Grewe know if you are willing to help.

With Spring on the way, regular lawn maintenance will be starting. If you are able to help with keeping our property looking nice, please see Larry or Olivia, or the Groups. All help is welcome.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser

Thank you to all for the continued support of the Church fundraisers. The Sarris Easter Candy will be available for pick on Sunday, March 17th. At this time, we have not heard from Sarris concerning our final profit—will keep you posted.

All of the orders and donations are greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

YARD SALE

First Lutheran Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th. We are hoping for another profitable fundraiser. Again the entire sale will be held downstairs in the social room. Items will only be accepted on designated days which will be the week of the sale. When dropping off your items, please stay if you are able to unpack your donations. Tables will be up and ready for display. We are not accepting furniture, clothes, bowling balls, electronics and any items that are broken, chipped or missing parts.

SCHEDULED DROP OFF DATES:

MONDAY JULY 8TH 9 AM - NOON

WEDNESDAY JULY 10TH 4 PM - 6 PM

FRIDAY JULY 12TH 4 PM - 7 PM

These dates are subject to change depending on any other church activities. I will also accept items after church services on July 7th. If anyone is free on Monday July 8th, I would appreciate your help. This is the day that the tables will be set up for the sale along with accepting items. Any questions please call me 724-222-4610(home) 724-678-5766(cell) or stop to talk after church service. Thank you for your support.

Kim Luketich kjluketich@gmail.com

WNALC

The WNALC Board meeting will be held March 5, at noon in the lounge.

Our Circle meeting will be held Thursday, March 28 at 10 AM in the lounge. Leader will be Sonie Rea and hostess will be Michelle Williams.

Come join us,
Sonie Rea

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

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

We delivered the Baby Bottles to Life Choice in Kittanning in January. They had moved from a strip mall to a building all their own across from a beautiful park on the Allegheny River.

We were given a tour of the building. It was beautiful. It had a large room with all new clothes for foster children, who are sometimes removed from their homes in the middle of the night, with only the clothes on their back.

They have a Day Care, Teaching Room, created an app for school kids and go into schools and talk to all ages of kids.

They were so "thankful" and expressed it many times for our church support.

This organization is really making a gigantic difference in their communities.

Pictures of the staff are on bulletin board in the front and rear of the church.

Thank you for all your support,

Olivia & Larry

March Lay Readers

3 Kimberly Grewe
10
17 Heather Quedenfeld
24 Dennis Schmidt
31 Kris Briggs

March Altar Flowers

3
10
17 Kathleen Black
24 PALM SUNDAY
31 EASTER SUNDAY

March Acolytes

3 TBD
10 TBD
17 TBD
24 TBD
31 TBD

March Ushers

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

March Counters—Alternate: Heather Quedenfeld

3 K. Luketich and D. Schmidt
10 C. Group and V. Group
17 L. Sten and S. Berry
24 S. Rea and L. Coleman
31 J. Black and R. Williams

March Altar Team

Judy Sarver and Michelle Williams

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bret Hixson
- 2 Sophia Dragich
J. Robert Franz
- 3 Dustin Cochrane
- 14 Logan Williams
David Wheeler
- 15 Donna Bassi
- 22 Jade Rea
Sue Palfrey
- 24 Arthur Battistone
Theodore Dragich
- 25 Nancy Podboy
Jeannette Walsh
- 26 Jacin Flowers
- 27 Timothy Fritz
- 28 Carl Group
- 29 Hayden Gosnell
- 31 **Rev. Robert Grewe**
Sue Wetzel
Sheldon Hancher