

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



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

Pastoral Perspectives for April 2024

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

As I am writing this perspective for April Holy Week has not yet begun but big changes have happened within the church already. Our confirmation students have completed their two years of study as we came out of the pandemic.

What it means is that they will not be gathering any longer on Monday nights for two hours of study, movies and tests. The tradition that I grew up in the Lutheran Church was that the pastor gave each student a Bible verse that he believed best suited them, their studies and their future. Mine was St. Luke 9:60 and trust me, coming from an immigrant family of five children, the idea of two degrees wasn't on the agenda. You see Lutheran clergy require a first degree like a BA and then one must go on to seminary for four more years, pass their year of internship at a church, complete their final exam (30 pages), and their colloquy and then be accepted for a call by a church without knowing where they will be called.

This is so different then a recent conversation I had with two families that have sons in engineering and how both of their sons already had employment confirmed before they graduated and know where they are going to live and work.

These three young men, as confirmation graduates, will now partake of the Lord's Supper and be able to serve during services as well. Many see the trials of suffering under the pastor in confirmation class for two years as their freedom from the church but the reality is that it is their full membership into the Body of Christ at First Lutheran.

What was unique about the class of 2022-2024 is that they are all related: two of them are brothers and the other one is their cousin! Pastor was very blessed to have Heidi, the sister of the cousin, to assist these two years of study so it has been a real family affair!

These three young men all could have had each one of their individual verses given to them interchanged with each other as they all are so similar but still unique enough for the Holy Spirit to call their own verse for them as how Pastor saw them throughout these past two years.

While the Holy Spirit guided me in choosing a verse that uniquely describes each student's journey, all the verses chosen could also easily describe the others.

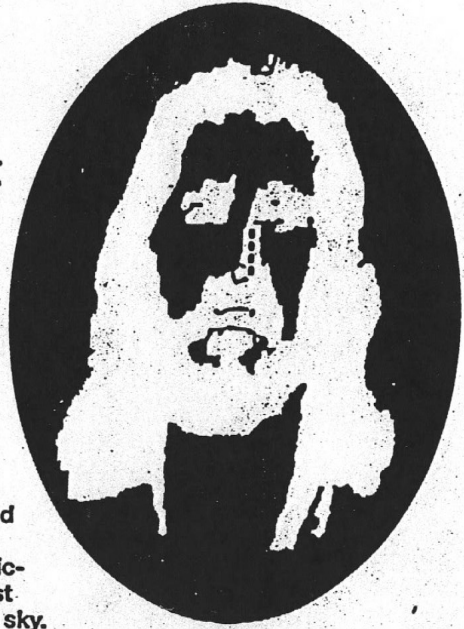
Join me in congratulating these new graduates and welcome them into full membership at First Lutheran Church!

Yours In Christ Jesus

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Reverse Face of Christ

Look steadily and concentrate on the four dots on the nose for about thirty seconds. Then look at one fixed spot on a wall for about ten seconds and the picture will appear (a white or smooth wall will work best). Follow the directions above and look into the sky, away from the sun, and the picture will appear. For best results look into a night sky.



Seeing Jesus in our lives may not always be easy as the word Jesus in the page above the painting or seeing the reverse image above. One of our church members shared these three images with us when she was ill, very ill and after healing she told her family of how she felt and Christ being close to her. Isaiah 49:16a "Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands."

God is always near and ready to help us and we can see God when our vision is tuned as our hearts and minds must be in God's Holy Word!

ΠΑΤΗΡ





April showers bring May flowers, or so they say. I've had my flowers start coming up in February this year!! Of course, this also means the grass will be growing sooner than we want it. That being said, we will soon need to start spring cleaning outside the church. I encourage you to sign up to help the Groups, Larry, and Olivia with this task. They do a fantastic job of keeping the church looking nice all year and would greatly appreciate the help this spring for clean-up.

If you didn't attend our Wednesday Lenten Services, you missed a beautiful service. I hope to see you there next year.

I would like to welcome our newest member on council, Ron McGoogan. We look forward to working with him.

We have our Spring Hanging Basket fundraiser starting, and if you haven't ordered any flowers for our fundraisers, you don't know what you are missing. The greenhouse that Vicki and Caitlyn Group work with for this fundraiser always provides amazing flowers.

Please remember to send in your monthly donations and to watch our service on-line if you are unable to attend church.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, Council President

Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser Update

A HUGE thank you for the orders and donations to the Sarris Candy Easter Fundraiser. With your support we raised \$626.67 to benefit maintenance for the church. As of this newsletter we have not received information concerning any online orders—will keep you posted.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

Hanging Basket Sale

Again, we will have our annual hanging basket sale. What a nice way to welcome the warm months or give as a lovely Mother's Day gift. The sale will include the following hanging basket choices:

Red, White, Pink and Mixed Petunias

Red, Yellow Orange and White Begonias

New Item this year—White, Pink, Red and Coral Impatiens

The orders must be placed by Sunday, April 21st and pick up will be Saturday, May 11th.

Please watch for the order forms.

As always your support is definitely appreciated and will benefit the maintenance of the Church. Any questions, please contact Vickie at 724-344-0565.

Much appreciated,
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 April Circle meeting will be held Thursday, the 25th at 10 AM
In the lounge. Sonie Rea will be leader and Michelle Williams will be
hostess.

Come join us,

God bless,

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

First Lutheran Church



News!

Hello our First Lutheran Church Family!

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to our Music/Bell Choir director, Matt and all the Bell Choir members for ringing beautiful music for our services! We are truly Blessed by your dedication and hard work!

The Bell Choir is still hard at work preparing music for upcoming services, and as always, we are looking for more choir members, there is never a wrong time to start, and no music experience is necessary! ***We would LOVE for YOU to join us!!***

Practices are Monday evenings at 6:30 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.

Blessings to all!!
See you on Sunday,
Kristine Briggs

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

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 the bulletin board in the front and rear of the church.

Thank you for all your support,

Olivia & Larry

April Lay Readers

7 Lisa Hager
14 Dennis Schmidt
21 Denny Lacko
28 Dennis Schmidt
31 Lisa Maust

April Altar Flowers

7 Nancy Larson
14 Kim Luketich
21
28

April Acolytes

7 TBD
14 TBD
21 TBD
28 TBD

April Ushers

7 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
14 J. Sarver; Tony Stefanik
21 D. Looman; H. Snyder
28 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan

April Counters—Alternate: Heather Quedenfeld

7 R. Williams; L. Coleman
14 C. Group; V. Group
21 J. Black; K. Luketich
28 H. Quedenfeld; S. Berry

April Altar Team

Lisa Hager and Cristina Serbak

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ryan Bassi
- 7 Sharon Battistone
- 9 Chester Krcil
- 10 Dorothy Dillemoth
- 13 Carol Snyder
- 15 Jonathan Luketich
- 17 Denny Lacko
- 18 Sally Lacko
- 19 Caroline Quedenfeld
- 23 Kameryn Johnson
- 24 Cara Group
- 25 Rollin Swank
Douglas Mazzotti
- 28 Keith Briggs
- 29 Donald Hazlett
Richard Sabol