

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for May 2024

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

The church calendar wraps up the important feast days of the church in the merry month of May. Starting with the Ascension of our Lord: where our Lord Jesus returns to His heavenly throne and sits at the right hand of the Father, then Pentecost Sunday: where the Holy Spirit is given to the first disciples and has been handed down throughout time to all church members and, the month ends with Holy Trinity Sunday: where we learn of the Triune God of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We will confess our faith in the third creed of the church with *The Athanasian Creed* (which is only used on Holy Trinity Sunday) in remembrance of Athanasius (A.D. 293-373) who was the champion of orthodoxy against the heresy that Arius touted against the Holy Trinity.

In our Lutheran Confessions we confess all three creeds: The Apostles Creed for individual confession, The Nicene Creed for a community confession and finally the Athanasian Creed. Only one hymnal, the LBW (green hymnal), contains all three creeds! Someone has literally dropped the Lutheran Confessional ball when it comes to our hymnals over time. These are the kinds of issues we discuss in our catechism classes on Tuesdays mornings and evenings if this interests you!

The church will then move to lesser feast days in the coming months of Spring time and Summer as the world will keep us busy with graduations, vacations, yard work and whatever else is on our calendars.

If life gets a little stressful or too busy remember the church is always open and if you need a top up on your faith in God's Word, the message and amazing hymns that will keep you humming throughout your week please come and worship, in Christ Jesus.

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Bible verses for tough times

Worried? Psalms 23; 46, Matthew 6
Discouraged? Psalms 37; James 5:7-11
Frustrated? Psalms 90; Hebrews 12
Tired? Isaiah 40; Matthew 11:28-30
Bereaved? John 16:11-33
Too busy? Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Lonely or fearful? Psalms 91
Feel rejected? Colossians 1; 1 Peter 1
Sick or in pain? Psalms 6; Isaiah 26
Depressed? Psalms 34; 71, Isaiah 40
Jealous? Psalms 49; James 3
Sleepless nights? Psalms 4; 56; 130
Family problems? Ephesians 6:1-10
Done something wrong? Psalm 51
Need courage and strength? Joshua
1:5-9; Psalm 27:46
Facing a crisis? Job 28:12-28
Planning the future? James 4:13-17
Does God seem far away? Psalms 46
In doubt? Jeremiah 29:11-13
Building a new home? Psalms 127
Money problems? Psalm 37
Bitter and critical? 1 Corinthians 13
Need peace? Matthew 11:25-30
Need assurance? Romans 8:1-30
Leaving home? Psalm 121
Discouraged? Psalm 126
Don't understand what God is
doing? Isaiah 55:8-9
Faith needs encouraging? Hebrews 11
Hated because of your faith? John 15
Losing hope? 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
Alone and scared? Psalm 23
Hard times? Psalm 9:9

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Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

We are past the April Showers and into the May flowers! Did you notice all the flowers outside around the church for Easter? Olivia is doing a wonderful job keeping the church flowers looking so nice. I think we need more!!!

It was so wonderful to see everyone in church on Easter Sunday to celebrate. I hope to see all of you more often. A big thank you to Matt for putting together our music for Easter Sunday. I look forward to bigger and better things next year. And we CAN have bigger and better next year with your help. I have no doubt that Matt can do this, BUT for bigger and better, he needs YOUR help. Have you ever wondered about maybe being in the bell choir? How about the Adult Choir? Give it a try! Let Matt know if you are interested or have questions and he will be more than happy to answer them and show you what the choir is all about. (A secret: It's pretty much all about fun and fellowship and raising a joyful noise to the Lord. Don't worry, I was in the Adult Choir for a bit, and I am far from a good singer so I know you can do it. I've heard some of your voices and I can't believe you aren't in the choir!)

Council is pressing on with trying to get the roof and pointing done, so please remember to send in your monthly offering so that when we are able, we can keep our loan amount as small as possible.

Our Yard Sale and Church Picnic will be upon us sooner than we think. Please consider volunteering to help with one or both of these activities and let Pastor, Kim Luketich or someone on council know you are interest. Many hands make light work.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, I, Ron McGoogan have happily volunteered to be the new treasurer for First Lutheran Church. With the Holy Spirits guidance, I hope to maintain, streamline and help our church move toward some much needed refreshing, as we approach our 100th birthday.

A little bit about your new treasurer, I graduated from Robert Morris University with a BSBA in Marketing and a minor in Economics. I spent over 25 years in sales for various companies. I also started two successful businesses, one in retail and one in structural engineering. I am divorced and have three daughters and a new grandson.

I enjoy many hobbies and activities. I have enjoyed my time at First Lutheran, in adult catechism, as an usher and lector and getting to know as many of you as I have so far. I am available and open to discuss ideas and suggestions on how to grow our congregation for the next 100 years. Many may see us a mustard seed (little old church), but as I was taught recently, we have the ability to become a big beautiful thriving congregation through faith.

Greetings to the Congregation,

I am very excited as we enter the spring season and (hopefully) have some nice weather! But I am happy to announce a new part of our music that is even more exciting.

We will be introducing the opportunity to dedicate hymns during service. If you have a favorite hymn or one you know is meaningful to friends and family, I encourage you to reach out to me and we will incorporate it into our services. They will in most cases be performed in the order they are received unless otherwise specified. You are welcome to list who the hymn is dedicated to as well if you would like it included in the order of service.

When choosing a hymn to dedicate, please send to me @ matthewcim24@gmail.com in the following format:

Email subject: "Hymn Dedication"

Body: Please include **hymn #** and **hymn title**, the **date** of when you would like it performed (if you have specific one), and the **name** of who it is dedicated to (if you would like it displayed in the order of service).

Best,

Matt

MOTHER'S DAY BANQUET

It is time for the women, daughters and friends of First Lutheran Church to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and fun to honor Mother's Day.

We will meet on May 13 at 6:30 PM in the Delfini Room, formally Danny's restaurant, in Meadowlands, Pa. There are no steps!

Danny will cater and as always serve a delicious meal.

Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 6-12 and 5 and under free.

Reservations are due by May 5th.

Please see these ladies at church or call them at home:

Linda Coleman - 724-225-8011

Joanne Marker - 724-228-4716

Ruby Rogers - 724-663-5134

Sonie Rea - 724-222-3037

We hope to see everyone at dinner.

Sonie

Update on Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser

Thanks for the WONDERFUL support for the Easter Candy Fundraiser. We have received the information concerning the final profit. With your generous donations, we raised \$713.65 to benefit maintenance to the Church.

Hanging Basket Fundraiser

With Spring here our annual Hanging Basket Fundraiser has been well supported. Pick up for the orders will be Saturday, May 11th from 9:00-11:00 AM at the Church Handicap Entrance. As of this newsletter we do not have the final profit total—will deep you posted. If you have any questions, please contact Vickie at 724-344-0565 .

As always, your support is deeply appreciated and will benefit the maintenance of the Church.

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

YARD SALE **UPDATED**

Time of Yard Sale: 8 AM - 3 PM KITCHEN WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR LUNCH

Other than what I have listed above, the article is the same that has appeared in the last two newsletters. If anyone wants to run the kitchen this year that is fine. It could be just hot dogs, chips and a drink. Just let me know.

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

CHURCH PICNIC

DATE: SUNDAY AUGUST 11TH

TIME: RIGHT AFTER CHURCH SERVICE

PLACE: COMMUNITY PARK MAIN PAVILION (same place as the last 3 years)

LOCATION: 750 FLORAL HILL DRIVE IN SOUTH STRABANE, WASHINGTON

FUN * FELLOWSHIP *** GAMES *** PRIZES*****

For those who have been watching the church services on-line and would want to attend, please call the church office. Kathleen will mark you down and the side dish you would like to bring. We would love to see you.

SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE PLACED ON BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE OF CHURCH LOUNGE

We need a couple good workers for set up and clean up. Please sign up on the attendance sheet or see me. If you can provide a basket for the Chinese Auction let me know. You can bring the day of or give to me beforehand. Tickets will be sold day of picnic. If you can provide a bingo prize let Sonie know. If you want to volunteer to call bingo let her know.

Our attendance the last three years has been very good. Hopefully attendance and good weather will bless us a fourth time!

I want to thank all those that have donated baskets for the auction. These baskets have been awesome! Last year the church made \$615 and the year before was \$524! How great is that?? All profits go back to the church for much needed repairs to keep our church in pristine condition.

Any questions feel free to call me. Kim Luketich 724-222-4610(home) 724-678-5766(cell) Or see me before/after church service.

WNALC

The WNALC Board will meet Tuesday, May 7, at 12:00 in the lounge.

Monday, May 13, at 6:30 PM the Mother /Daughter Banquet will be held at the Delfini Room, 570 Pike Street, Meadowlands, PA. This was formally Danny's Restaurant. Danny has served our banquets for many years.

Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children 6 to 12 years old and age 5 and under free. Tickets may be purchased from Linda Coleman, Joanne Marker, Ruby Rogers or Sonie Rea. Make checks payable to WNALC. We hope to see you there.

Circle meeting will be held Thursday, May 30 at 10:00 in the lounge. Linda Coleman will be leader and Joanne Marker will be hostess. Everyone is welcome to enjoy Bible Study and lunch.

God bless,

Sonie Rea

May Lay Readers

- 5 Dennis Schmidt
- 12 Lisa Maust
- 19 Kimberly Grewe
- 26 Heather Quedenfeld

May Altar Flowers

- 5 Cindy Linville
- 12 Olivia Lyons & Larry Sten
- 19
- 26 Joe & Judy Sarver

May Acolytes

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

May Ushers

- 5 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 12 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
- 19 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler
- 26 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko

May Counters—Alternate:

- 5 J. Black; D. Schmidt
- 12 L. Sten; K. Luketich
- 19 C. Group; V. Group
- 26 S. Rea; S. Berry

May Altar Team

Joanne Marker

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jessica Muise
- 4 Leann Vitteck
- 10 Klaus Behrens
Rexanna Quedenfeld
- 13 Cristina Serbak
Derek Ford
- 15 Jennifer McWreath
- 18 Robert Christian
- 20 Melissa Carpenter
- 23 Keith Bassi
- 24 Teresa Maust
- 27 Vickie Group
John Sakerka
- 30 Brian Gavazzi
Justin Gavazzi