

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

## **Pastoral Perspectives—June 2024**

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

In the Pentecost Sunday sermon on May 19<sup>th</sup> I mentioned about how I had heard the Holy Spirit guide me in what to write for the June Newsletter (when I spoke to Kimberly earlier I had nothing to write about!) In the middle of the night I was finally free from the chaos of my mind and heard the Holy Spirit guide me as to what to say in this edition of the newsletter. Now, please don't think because I am a pastor that I have any kind of fast track with God or special privilege. Actually, I am held to a higher account for my actions James 3:1-12!

After speaking to our vice president about bringing back our sending song that we used to sing with Bobbi I thought now that we are settled in with Matt as our music director and everything is going so well that we could add it again the beautiful "*Be the Love of Christ*" by Thornhill & Showalter.

Looking at the world we live in it makes so much sense that as we leave God's Holy House we are reminded in body, mind and spirit that we are called as Luther called us "*to be little Christs*" in the world!

How can we do this? Well our sending song can guide us for where there is darkness in the world we are to illuminate the Love of Christ in every corner (St. John 8:12). Where there is conflict and war we are called to bring the peace of Christ into the world and show the world a better way (St. Matthew 5:9).

As Jeff and I were talking in my office recently every country has something good to

offer but instead we go to war with each other. We are called as ambassadors of Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:20) to show love where there is hatred (Romans 10:9-10). My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we can see that this little gem of a hymn in our sending song, which will return to our Sunday services, is grounded in the Word of God and will be a reminder of how we are called in this world to act and live out the Good News of Jesus. It's as it's as simple as having a song in your heart (Eph. 5:19).

In Christ Jesus, Amen. Rev. Robert B. Grewe

# June

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Summer is here! Yea for the sun, boo for the mowing.

Council is still working on getting estimates for our roof and pointing. It looks like it will be around \$150,000 to get this done. Now that we have had some nice warm weather, our monthly offering has started to decline. Please remember to send in your donations so we can take out a smaller loan amount for this project. I am hoping we can get this project done soon and check it off of our 'to do' list. Unfortunately, we still have other things on our list, but the roof and pointing are most important right now.

July we will again have our yard sale. Please bring in your items on the scheduled dates.

August will be our church picnic. I hope to see you all there for food and fellowship. No one ever goes away hungry.

In order to make our yard sale and picnic happen, we need your help. Please let council or Pastor know which one you would like to help with.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Greetings to the Congregation,

Exciting news regarding our soon to be 100 year old church,

First, we are changing the name of the Roof Fund to the Restoration Fund, which more accurately describes what is needed.

Restoration of the church includes the roof, masonry pointing of the outside walls, rebuilding the front steps, repairing the windows and fixing the masonry inside the church. We will kick off a campaign with more details coming soon, Please continue to contribute to the restoration fund as you feel guided to.

The Maintenance Fund and envelopes continue, no changes here. However you might ask what is the maintenance fund for? The MAINTENANCE Fund includes toilet fixes, cleaning and maintaining our A/C and heating units, electrical upgrades, new locks when they fail and all general maintenance to keep the church open and working efficiently on a week to week basis.

Please continue to make contributions as we are blessed to keep the lights working.

We continue to make progress internally on streamlining our assets, that we may proceed to begin the first phase of our Restoration, stay tuned for more details in the next report.

May all be well,

Ron McGoogan

## **FUNDRAISER REPORT**

A HUGE THANK YOU to all for your support for the Hanging Basket Fundraiser. The Congregation raised \$651.50 to benefit our maintenance for First Lutheran Church. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks,  
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

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## **WNALC**

**Thank you to everyone who attended our Mother/Daughter Banquet at the Delfini Room.**

**Congratulations to our committee, Linda Coleman, Joanne Marker, Debbie Hoffer, Ruby Rogers and Kris Briggs for the tickets, games, favors and prizes.**

**June 23, following church service, we will serve our Strawberry Festival downstairs in the social room. Come and enjoy fellowship and strawberries.**

**June Circle meeting will be Thursday the 27th in the lounge. Leader will be Michelle Williams and hostess will be Joanne Marker.**

**God bless,  
Sonie**

## SAVE THE DATE

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

June 20, 2026

Our church will be celebrating the anniversary of the dedication of our beautiful, historic, church building in June of 2026.

The committee is already busy planning for this event. We need your help.

Please begin to collect photos and memorabilia that relate to our church activities. Weddings, baptisms, Confirmation, Sunday School, Bible School, Picnic and any family event related to the church, are part of the history.

We realize these items are also your family history and all items will be returned to you.

As plans are finalized, the committee will keep the congregation informed. **We want everyone to be part of this Church Family Event.**

Any question, please contact a member of the committee:

Linda Coleman, Heather Quedenfeld, Kris Briggs, Judy Sarver, Sonie Rea, Sally Lacko and Michelle Williams

## **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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is free on Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 of 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 it the day of or give it to me beforehand. Tickets will be sold the 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.**

### June Lay Readers

- 2 Denny Lacko
- 9 Kimberly Grewe
- 16 Dennis Schmidt
- 23 Kimberly Grewe
- 30 Kimberly Grewe

### June Altar Flowers

- 2 Klaus & Mel Behrens
- 9 Mark Verderber
- 16 Kathleen Black
- 23 Patty Platts
- 30

### June Acolytes

- 2 Heidi and Denico Walsh
- 9 Lillah and Elijah Clark
- 16 TBD
- 23 TBD
- 30 Heidi and Denico Walsh

### June Ushers

- 2 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
- 9 D. Looman; H. Snyder
- 16 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan
- 23 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 30 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

### June Counters—Alternate: J. Black

- 2 S. Rea and L. Sten
- 9 D. Schmidt and K. Luketich
- 16 L. Coleman and S. Berry
- 23 C. Group and V. Group
- 30 R. Williams and R. McGoogan

### June Altar Team

Linda Coleman

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Michael Goga
- 3 Ashley Burbank
- 6 Janet Fischer
- 7 Esther Sten
- 9 Tim Belski
- 14 Kevin Serbak
- 15 Mark Verderber
- 16 Emily Flowers
- 18 John Rush
- 19 Larry Sten  
Penny Wetzel
- 20 Nathaniel Black
- 24 Ruby Rogers  
Sherman Marker  
Jackson Quedenfeld
- 26 Linda Coleman
- 30 Diane Antilla