

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



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ICH-THUS  
Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

## Pastoral Perspectives for March 2025

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

This year Ash Wednesday will be March 5<sup>th</sup> and many of you may be wondering what to give up for Lent. In the past I have given up things like coffee, snacks and chocolate. I remember one of our bacon-loving confirmation students even gave up his daily ration of bacon for Lent!

Here's what Martin Luther had to say about fasting in the church. ***“Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose in preparing ourselves to receive the Lord’s Supper but the best preparation he said is believing in Jesus’ words.”***

During my internship I served a lot of stoic Norwegians, and they always fasted before receiving the Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion). I too follow this preparation for the eucharist. The challenge for many in the congregations was that the pastor training me didn’t know this. After services he would go home, eat and then visit them in the afternoon leaving his shut-ins without eating two meals as they awaited the Holy Supper! After explaining the situation to him it was decided that we would visit the shut-ins and nursing homes immediately after the service. We would bring them the Lord’s Supper so they could have their lunch.

Fasting during Lent takes on another facet and that is found in our Gospel acclamation, ***“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.”***

What else can we give up? Time on our phone, time watching the television or time doing other things like hobbies or activities. The Gospel acclamation is a reminder to us during the season of Lent that we should put worldly things aside and focus more on God and His Holy Word! Read our Bible, spend more time in prayer, attend the Sunday services, the midweek services, the Holy Week services and drop in the Sunday school classes and see what they do or the Tuesday adult catechism classes.

Lent is about preparing ourselves in body, mind and spirit to let go of the “*things*” of this world and focus more on our relationship with Christ.

First Lutheran has much to offer during the time of Lent: to come and worship and hear the Gospel as well as to participate within the services in many and various ways to help build up our faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

I welcome you to come and join us and to be a part of the powerful season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday where we are reminded that we are all dust and to dust we shall return.

As I am writing this perspective the US army helicopter had collided with a passenger jet killing all onboard and my prayers are for all those that must deal with death and loss.

I pray for those service members and the civilians who were on that aircraft. Though, I am concerned about a question that was raised in the book and movie “***Heaven is for Real***” (*A little boys astounding story of his trip to heaven and back. Written by his dad by Pastor/ volunteer firefighter Todd Burpo.*) The question Colton (age 4) asked his dad before he left the house to do a funeral, “*did he know Jesus?*”

It's a matter of eternal life and death; if we know Jesus and follow Jesus in our lives! This is the same concern I have for all the people I encounter both inside and outside of the church. Do they know Jesus? Do they have a relationship with our Lord and Saviour?

You may have noticed that although I am very happy to now be an American citizen I have kept the “u” in the word Saviour and the reason I have done this is because I like to use the word with the u in it because Jesus died for you (u), Jesus forgives you (u), Jesus has redeemed you (u), Jesus saves you (u) and offers you (u) and I eternal life!

So let us all return to the Lord our God during this time of Lent and renew our relationship with the only One that can save us and offer us eternal life Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Your servant Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## Important Dates at First Lutheran

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Transfiguration Sunday** with Holy Communion and the burying of the Alleluia Banner.

**March 5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday** with the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper at 7 pm.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** Daylight Savings Time

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm and Council meeting to follow

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 pm

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service at 7pm

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm/Passion Sunday** with the Lord's Supper

**April 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday** service at 7 pm with the Lord's Supper

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday** service at 3 pm

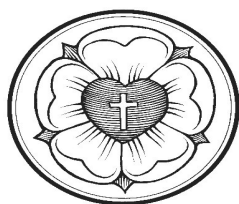
**April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday** service at 10 am

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

March is here and we have a lot going on. I am happy to say that the pointing repair on the roof has started. A big thank you to Chipper for getting this started during this cold weather. When weather and schedules permit, Nicolella will begin their part.

We also have our Lenten Services starting soon. Check the newsletter for dates and times.

Now that we have started our roof project, we need your support. Our Restoration Fund money goes to paying off this loan and to other larger projects that are needed. These projects are things like fixing our sidewalks and steps or fixing the plaster in the sanctuary where it has fallen or has cracked. Our Maintenance Fund generally goes to things like fixing leaky faucets, replacing broken or burned-out lights, or an outlet that isn't working. Your donations are very important at this time to keep our church running along with the additional expense of our loan. Please pray on this and consider making a commitment to support our Restoration Loan along with your regular offering this year. Your support was amazing when we replaced the Sunday School Wing roof and enabled us to pay off the loan in record time. If you have any questions about our finances, you are welcome to reach out to a council member who can show you our monthly treasurers' reports.



I know you are probably going 'here she goes again' because you are tired of me saying 'please remember your monthly donations', so I will put this in perspective for you. As of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in February our donations are \$10,791 in total for the month. I do not have the numbers split out as to how much is regular offering and how much goes to maintenance, restoration fund, Ethiopia, etc. This number is just the total deposit.

This Photo by Un-  
Payroll for the month totals \$8,921.62 and we still have one more Sunday this month. Each month our donations differ as do some of our expenses (electric, gas), and some months we have additional expenses. For example, our property insurance is due quarterly, a required fire extinguisher inspection, and a yearly required water pressure test. So yes, please remember to send in your monthly donations especially now that we also have the additional monthly expense of our roof loan. You will notice the Capital Campaign letter in the monthly news bulletin of FLC. A letter is also being sent to your residence to let everyone know the importance of the work and costs of protecting the house of God for the Lutherans here in Washington PA for future generations.

Our new fundraisers currently being planned this year is our 1k / 5k walk run in August that is headed by Caitlyn Group and Judy Sarver. Please see them if you wish to participate or help with this fundraiser. We also have the painting event of two wine glasses this month on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm for only \$25 and everything is included! We will also be drawing for the handmade



comforters in the Penguins theme by Sally Laco, and after seeing the former Penguin Jake Guentzel defeat Canada in the first USA vs Canada game, that should keep you warm!!

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

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Greetings to the Congregation,

I hope you all have been enjoying the music as much as I have! I feel so blessed to be a part of the church and to continuously work on bringing beautiful music to life.

The adult and bell choirs are hard at work for the upcoming Lenten season, but we're always in need of new musicians! It's a great learning experience and time for fellowship; all are welcome to join us. Adult choir rehearses Sundays at 10AM, and bell choir meets every Thursday at 6:30PM.

My big friendly reminder is to please keep hymn requests coming! We've recently incorporated some requests from the adult choir members, which have been very rewarding. I've received some hymnal requests but would love to get some more. You can always approach me, or if you would like to make one via email, the format is the same:

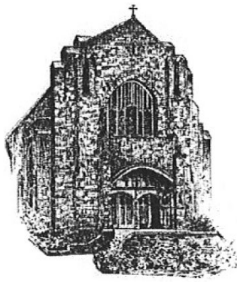
Send to me @ [matthewcim24@gmail.com](mailto:matthewcim24@gmail.com) in the following format:

**Email subject:** "Hymn Dedication"

**Body:** Please include **hymn #** and **hymn title**, and the **date** of when you would like it performed (if you have a specific one)

Best,

Matt



## First Lutheran Church of Washington, PA

92 W. Walnut Street  
Washington, PA 15301-4389  
724-225-4040

secretary@flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe  
(C) 724-705-4050  
revrob@flcwash.church

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

For over 226 years there have been Lutherans gathering for worship in Washington, PA. It began in October 1798 in the back of Jacob Weuler 's home to our current church at 92 West Walnut Street. (the site of the former German graveyard).

In 2026 we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our current house of worship: First Lutheran Church. Our beloved church is in need of repairs. We are launching a capital campaign to cover these much-needed repairs:

- \*pointing of shifted masonry
- \*replacing the 100-year-old roof
- \*plaster repair of leaks
- \*re-leading the stained-glass windows

It is important to **honor the past** and **prepare for the future**.

Maintaining First Lutheran Church allows future generations of the faithful to experience the joy of gathering to worship. Lutherans will be able to praise God in the city of Washington for another 200 years.

Your donation to First Lutheran **Capital Campaign** is more important than ever for the future of God's holy house for gathering and worshipping for years to come.

Yours in Christ,

First Lutheran Church Council

**Please fill out:**

I am prayerfully donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the **Capital Campaign** to help sustain the ministry of First Lutheran Church in Washington PA.

Please send my tax receipt to:

**My Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Donations can be mailed or brought to :First Lutheran Church , 92 W Walnut St , Washington PA 15301

## **EASTER SARRIS CANDY**

Here is your chance to have Easter candy and satisfy your sweet tooth while helping the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund. All Sarris Easter Candy orders are due Sunday, March 2nd. Candy will be delivered Sunday, April 6th.

If you have any questions, please contact Vickie at 724-344-0565.

Your support is greatly appreciated,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **YARD SALE: JULY 11TH SATURDAY**

Dates and times for items to be dropped off will be in a future newsletter. I know because of circumstances, some people need to drop off sooner. I will work with that. Just give me a call and I will meet and help you get the items into church. It could even be after church. (not when I am a scheduled counter)

### **CHURCH PICNIC: AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY**

Same place and time as previous years.

Thank you for your support . Kim Luketich HOME: 724-222-4610 CELL: 724-678-5766



2 hand painted wine glasses

Church fundraiser



*Come join us*

For an afternoon of fun  
and social gathering

When: Saturday March 15, 2 pm

Where: First Lutheran Church Social Room

92 West Walnut Street, Washington, Pa

What: Painting Event lead by Shelby Kubacki  
(no painting experience necessary)

Cost: \$25 will include the cost of supplies to  
paint 2 wine glasses and the remainder  
proceeds will go to the church

Please RSVP by March 9 to Judy Sarver, so that we can  
purchase the needed supplies 856-889-0776

Snacks and refreshments too!

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### 1st Annual Corny 5k & 1 mile Run/Walk

We are excited to announce a new fundraiser for our church restoration fund. We will be holding our 1st Annual Corny 5k & 1 mile Run/Walk on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at The Claysville National Pike Trail! We are calling it the Corny 5k & 1 mile Run/Walk because it will be during the corn harvest season and this event will be a family friendly activity for people of all ages and abilities!

How you can help....

1. Sign up to participate in the 5k or 1 mile run/walk (sign-up coming soon!)
2. Ask your family and friends to participate in the 5k or 1 mile run/walk (sign up flyer coming soon!)
3. Be a sponsor (form provided)
4. Ask businesses you frequent to be a sponsor (form provided)
5. Be a volunteer! If you can't or don't want to run or walk we will need volunteers on race day
6. Follow/Share/Like the posts about the race on social media

We hope you will join us in making this event a success and a great fundraiser for our church!

If you have any questions or suggestions please see a member of our committee.  
Members are: Caitlyn Group, Cara Group, Vickie Group, Judy Sarver, and Joe Sarver



**March Lay Readers**

2  
9 Kris Briggs  
16 Dennis Schmidt  
23 Ron McGoogan  
30 Heather Quedenfeld

**March Altar Flowers**

2  
9 Patty Platts  
16 Cindy Linville  
23 Kathleen Black  
30 Quedenfeld's

**March Acolytes**

2 TBA  
9 TBA  
16 TBA  
23 TBA  
30 TBA

**March Ushers**

2 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich  
9 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer  
16 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko  
23 J. Sarver ; T. Stefanik  
30 D. Looman; H. Snyder

**March Counters**

2 L. Sten and R. McGoogan  
9 C. Group and V. Group  
16 K. Luketich and R. Williams  
23 J. Black and D. Schmidt  
30 S. Rea and H. Quedenfeld

**March Altar Team**

Judy Sarver and Michelle Williams

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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