

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 April 2025

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

We are still in the midst of our Lenten journey which began on March 5<sup>th</sup> (*Ash Wednesday*), and we still have a long way to go. When we read the text, we see that Jesus fasted for 40 days and during time he was tempted by the devil. Yes, I confess that the devil is real, and I do so because the Holy Bible tells me so! Now, does the devil look like a horned pitchfork carrying tailed red character? I think not, he's much more cunning and able to camouflage himself. After all, he is the prince of lies.

Recently I have been researching the topic of grief. Grief is a normal reaction to pain and loss. But it sometimes can take over our whole lives leaving us so stricken by sorrow that we cannot even move. Martin Luther suffered greatly from periods of depression during his life. With the reformation in its infancy, religious wars being fought the devil delighted in all the division and chaos, he too had days where he just didn't want to get out of bed. Luther suggested that in our depression that ***“we take comfort in the Bible, socialize with others, avoid solitude, laugh and jest to mock the devil.”***

PhD Stephen Saunders' book ***Martin Luther on Mental Health Practical Advice for Christians Today*** illustrates just how advanced the reformer was on the topic! (ISBN: 9780758672049)

Many clergy agree that there is a four-step method that will help people that suffer from depression and these are the four steps take two hours a day to complete in today's world which echo Luther's ways.

**1) Work out for 30 minutes.** Go for a walk, bicycle, do arm curls with a can of soup! Whatever gets your heart pumping and your body moving is good for you all round after all the body in the temple.

**2) Fix or clean something for 30 minutes.** Simply grab something that needs repairs, or clean something, a room, the fridge, your vehicle. As I am writing this, I just cleaned up my desk in the office and I feel better now that it is decluttered.

**3) Pray for 30 minutes.** Prayer is our way we converse with God. You can do it anywhere and everywhere as long as you don't live in Scotland (mentioned in sermon on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

Prayer is critical to our relationship with God. If you wonder how to pray for 30 minutes pray for your family, pray for the church, pray for your pastor and Kimberly, pray for your friends, pray for yourself and speak to God daily for those in need both far and near. As our church vice president said to his coffee group ***“pray a little receive a little, pray a lot receive much from God!”***

**4) Do something for others for 30 minutes.** In this way we can reach out to our family, our church, or our community and see how we can be of service to others in need. It could be cooking, baking or caring for someone. It could also be visiting shut ins at home, in the hospital, sending a card, writing a little note or even just a phone call makes a world of difference to someone because it shows that you are thinking of them!

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, I pray these ideas might help us in our grief during the season of Lent and throughout our lives. We can always take comfort in Jesus Who is the healer of our every ill. Any type of loss is never easy, but I thank God for the time we are given with family, friends and our pets.

As we continue our Lent journey and reflect upon our lives and our relationship with God in prayer, fasting and honest reflection, it is good to remember what the first followers didn't see coming and that is the crucifixion, death and the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ Who on the cross and in Holy Week defeated sin, death and the devil to give us everlasting life!

Your servant

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## **Important Dates at First Lutheran**

**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

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## **Pittsburgh Penguins Raffle**

**You can win two handmade comforters by Sally Lacko as well as a Penguins Christmas ornament, a Penguins pink t-shirt (XXL) and an ear band in the classic vintage blue look!**

**Tickets are on sale at the coffee hour on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, see Kimberly G. for tickets at \$1.00 each.**

**Draw will be Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Good Luck**



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

April is already here, and Easter is right around the corner.

As you have noticed, Franco has been working for several weeks fixing the pointing around the church roof. Nicolella will be setting up the scaffolding soon and hoping to begin work on the roof in the first week of April. We have already paid the down payments for Franco and Nicolella totaling \$85,000. Out of that amount \$68,000 is our own money and the remainder is what we have used from the loan thus far. We will be making the final payments soon. And to put the cost of the roof/roof loan vs our weekly donations in perspective here are our March weekly deposits:

|      |                |
|------|----------------|
| 3-3  | 4091.00        |
| 3-10 | 5622.60        |
| 3-10 | 2141.90        |
| 3-17 | <u>1968.00</u> |

Total \$13,823.50

As you can see, your monthly donations are critical in order for us to pay our normal monthly expenses (utilities, supplies and salaries) and we will have the additional expense of the monthly loan payment on top of this. Please remember your donations so that we can pay our expenses for our beautiful church. If you wish to see one of our Treasurer's reports, let council know and we will provide one to you.

Blessings,  
Jennifer Black, FLC council president

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**April, 2025**

Greetings to the Congregation,

All who regularly attend Sunday Services have noticed the beginning of our construction taking shape. Currently we are in the pointing phase, which should be winding down about mid April. Then, weather permitting, the new roof will be applied, these projects will help us seal out the water that has seeped in over time causing issues on the inside of the building. Once we have concluded with the roof, we will move onto phase 2.

We have also been busy with a redesign of our website. The redesign will allow us to accept online donations and will allow a smoother flow of information. The completed site should be up and running for us by April 1st.

Our loan process is moving forward. We are anticipating it working for us by April 1st. What we currently have is labeled a draw down loan. When work is being done, we ask for what we need, provide documentation to support the request and the money is then transferred to the company providing the work.

There are several irons in the fire relating to future projects. We hope to be able to share some exciting news on those fronts in our May update. With all the exciting things happening, it's a wonderful time to share this news with our friends and neighbors, perhaps they may want to stop by and give us a try.

May all be well,

Ron

## **Sarris Candy Fundraiser Update**

A HUGE thank you for all of the support for the Sarris Candy Easter Fundraiser. We do not have the profit totals at this time, but will pass that information along once we receive it.

The candy orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 6th.

Once again, your support is greatly appreciated and will benefit the Restoration Fund.

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

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## **HANGING BASKET SALE**

With Spring around the corner, you can purchase beautiful hanging baskets to enjoy or share as a wonderful Mother's Day gift. You may choose from petunias, begonias and impatiens in a variety of colors. This fundraiser will support the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund.

Orders are due April 20th and pick up will be Saturday, May 10th. The order form will be included in the Church Newsletter or can be picked up at church. If you have any questions please contact me at 724-344-0565.

Your support is greatly appreciated,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

## Hanging Basket Sale

Get ready for Spring by purchasing beautiful hanging baskets for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful Mother's Day gift. This fundraiser is to support the First Lutheran Church. Orders must be placed no later than April 20, 2025 and flowers will be delivered on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.



**\$18**

| Flower Options  | # Ordered | \$ Amount |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Red Petunia     |           |           |
| White Petunia   |           |           |
| Pink Petunia    |           |           |
| Mixed Petunia   |           |           |
| Yellow Begonia  |           |           |
| Orange Begonia  |           |           |
| White Begonia   |           |           |
| Red Begonia     |           |           |
| White Impatiens |           |           |
| Pink Impatiens  |           |           |
| Red Impatiens   |           |           |
| Coral Impatiens |           |           |
| <b>Total</b>    |           |           |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Turn in flower order ASAP to guarantee your color choice. Any questions contact Vickie Group at 724.344.0565. Turn in orders to Vickie Group or the church office.



## 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 worshiping 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



## **WNALC**

The April Circle will be held Thursday, April 24 at 10 AM in the lounge.  
Leader will be Sonie Rea and hostess will be Michelle Williams.  
Our lesson will discuss the Wise and the Foolish followed by a light lunch.  
We welcome all women and you are welcome to bring a guest.

God Bless  
Sonie

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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

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### **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.

### 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



#### April Lay Readers

6 Kimberly Grewe  
13 Dennis Schmidt  
20 Kris Briggs  
27 Lisa Maust

#### April Altar Flowers

6 K. Luketich  
13 Palm Sunday  
20 Easter  
27 N. Larson

#### April Acolytes

6 TBD  
13 TBD  
20 TBD  
27 TBD

#### April Ushers

6 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan  
13 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber  
20 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich  
27 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer

#### April Counters—Alternate: Kimberly Luketich

6 R. Williams and J. Black  
13 R. McGoogan and L. Sten  
20 C. Group and V. Group  
27 S. Rea and L. Coleman

#### April Altar Team

Lisa Hager and Cristina Serbak

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Lindsay Mankey
- 4 Ryan Bassi
- 7 Sharon Battistone
- 9 Chester Krcil
- 10 Dorothy Dilleuth
- 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