

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 May 2025

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

As I am recovering from my second knee replacement my thoughts and prayers are with you all at First Lutheran. Due to time constraints, I am writing this reflection early and we just had heavy storms roll through the night in Washington (causing intense pain in my bad knee).

The current book that the adult catechism class is working through has been hit-and-miss in its content. But, recently it has been a very good read and the Pastor has us, as Christians, called to serve our Lord Jesus in three different ways or acts that are actually twofold: and they are; **fasting/abstaining, then praying/reading the Bible and finally almsgiving/acts of mercy.**

The first is *fasting* in our lives with eating less and not abusing our bodies as the Bible verse in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6:19-20 reminds us to do but, the author also used fasting, as staying away from sin so *abstaining* from our sinful addictions which could range from food, gambling, drinking, drugs, pornography, sex, whatever sinful addiction pulls us away from the light of Christ and into the darkness of the evil one!

The second is *praying* to God which is our communication route to be in conversation with our Lord as we are reminded in Eph. 6:18-20. Praying as we awake, thankful prayers over our meals, prayers for others in need, for us in need, and prayers at the end of a long day. Prayer goes hand in hand with getting into the habit of *reading our Bible* daily in our lives and remaining in God's Word helps us to remain in relationship with the Triune God.

The third is *almsgiving* which means giving to those in need as in St. Matt 6:3-4 this act of charity is not to be praised nor are we to be patted on the back when we give to those in need. But do it without any credit from this world. Is money tight? No worries,

as *acts of mercy* can be done daily without it costing us anything from our from our wallets!

Calling someone up and seeing how they are doing, praying with someone you meet, opening up a door for them, a smile and saying “*God bless your day*” and “*thank you for your kindness*” all goes a long way!

Our readings throughout the season of Lent have reminded us all on Sundays and at the midweek Lenten services that we are called as Thomas a’ Kempis wrote in his book “***The Imitation of Christ***” to do just that! Imitate Jesus in our lives with love, compassion and kindness to those in need. Martin Luther called Christians “***to be little Christs in the world***” in all we do and in all we say from morning until night in love and mercy.

When we focus daily more on Jesus and His holy Word (Bible); we can then better answer the questions that Pastor Powell asked us at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Midweek Lenten service in his reflection of the Gospel of St. John 6:27-29. “***What are we working for?***” and “***What do you do for a living?***”

These questions need to be asked not in the secular context but in the sacred context of Christ and how are we bearing good fruit to the glory of God through these three acts we were offered by the author?

It’s something we should sit down and talk about, because we would then be able to share and understand that it’s not scary to pray for someone in need, or help someone in need, to trust in God to get us through a tough and lonely day. But we must make the effort as God gives us all the signs to do so all around us daily! We are reminded in hymn #513 “***Listen, God is Calling***” that beautiful Tanzanian traditional tune that invites us to follow our Lord Jesus and offer forgiveness, comfort and joy through His holy name, Jesus the Christ! Our Lord and Saviour.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Wow, how can it be May already? As you have noticed, we have completed the work on the roof above our sanctuary.

Now we have a dry sanctuary and a loan to pay. I know I say this every time, but your donations are so important to the Church. We have a big, beautiful building and a small, beautiful congregation which makes your monthly donations critical.

And now that spring has sprung (or rain has run, as it is doing as I write this), we will need help with keeping the outside of the church looking spectacular. Larry and Olivia, and Karl, Vicki and Caitlyn Group do a smashing job of keeping us looking good, but more hands make light work. Won't you consider lending a hand a couple of times this summer?

**We also have a new website address:** <https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>. We were not getting any support from our previous provider and have changed. The website looks very much like the old one so you should be able to navigate it with ease. We have a donations tab if you would like to donate through the website. There may be a few minor changes to our website as we finish it up. Please bear with us as we get used to getting donations online.



**A prayer for Pastor Grewe as he recovers from his knee surgery:**

**Dear God, we lift our pastor to you, asking for your healing touch and a swift recovery from surgery.**

**Grant him strength, comfort, and peace as he heals, and may he return to his ministry with renewed vigor. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

**Here are some of my favorite bible verses. What are yours?**

**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

**Romans 10:9-13** 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13** 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** 8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Revelations 21:4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am among them.

**Isaiah 65:17-18** 17 "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

**1 John 1:8-9** 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

# Become a Hospice Volunteer and Make a Meaningful Difference

If you have a passion for caring for others, consider becoming a Hospice Volunteer. Our volunteers are an important part of our hospice care team, helping improve the quality of life for patients, their families, and their caregivers. We have many volunteer opportunities, including:

- › Patient care and companionship
- › Bereavement support
- › Veteran programs
- › Student volunteering

To learn more and apply: [www.amedisys.com/volunteer-apply/](http://www.amedisys.com/volunteer-apply/)



*To speak with a Volunteer Coordinator, contact:*



**Heidi Kumar**  
412.467.6977  
[heidi.kumar@amedisys.com](mailto:heidi.kumar@amedisys.com)

## Hanging Basket Fundraiser

Thanks to all for your support with the Hanging Basket Fundraiser.

The baskets will be ready for pick up on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 - 11:00 am. Please pull up to the handicap entrance of the church and we will bring your flowers to you.

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

Your support is greatly appreciated,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

## Sarris Easter Candy Fundraiser

Thanks to all for the support of the Sarris Easter Candy Fundraiser. The profit from the sale was \$652.12. This profit will benefit the Church Restoration Fund.

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

## **WNALC May Newsletter**

The WELCA board meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6 at 10 AM in the lounge.

Monday, May 12 will be our annual Mother's Day dinner at 6:30 PM in the Delfini Room, Meadowlands, Pa. This is the same place we have used for the last several years. Danny will cater again.

The cost for adults had to be increased to \$25.00, children 6-12 \$10.00, 5 and under free. Tickets may be purchased from Linda Coleman, Joanne Marker, Ruby Rogers, Michelle Williams or Sonie Rea. Reservations must be made by May 6.

All women are welcome as we are all daughters, friends and relatives.

Thursday, May 29th at 10 AM will be Circle meeting in the lounge. Leader will be Sonie Rea and hostess Joanne Marker.

God bless,  
Sonie

## **First Lutheran Church Building's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**June 21, 2026**

The date is a year away, but we want the congregation updated on what has been definitely decided **and Save the date for next year.**

On Sunday June 21, 2026, our Bishop will be with us and conduct the service. After the service, there will be a catered dinner served downstairs in the social room of the church. Danny's Catering will be catering the meal.

Any photos and memorabilia that relate to our church activities would be greatly appreciated. There are plans to have these items displayed. We realize these are your family history and all items will be returned to you. Copies of said items would be great also.

As final plans are made in the next few months, we will keep you updated.

### **Committee:**

Linda Coleman

Judy Sarver

Heather Quedenfield

Sonie Rea

Michell Williams

Sally Lacko





## First Lutheran Church of Washington, PA

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe  
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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

## **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

### 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



**May Lay Readers**

4     Denny Lacko  
11    Kris Briggs  
18    Dennis Schmidt  
25    Heather Quedenfeld

**May Altar Flowers**

4     Sarah Caddies  
11    Olivia & Larry  
18    Bob & Anneliese Christian  
25    Joe & Judy Sarver

**May Acolytes**

4     Wesley Black, Heidi and Denico Walsh  
11  
18  
25

**May Ushers**

4     K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko  
11    J. Sarver; Tony Stefanik  
18    D. Looman; H. Snyder  
25    C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. Mcgoogan

**May Counters—Alternate: Rick Williams**

4     J. Black and D. Schmidt  
11    L. Sten and R. McGoogan  
18    L. Coleman and K. Luketich  
25    C. Group and V. Group

**May Altar Team**

Joanne Marker

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Jessica Muise
- 4 Leann Vitteck
- 10 Klaus Behrens
- 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
- 31 Marianne West