

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 June 2025

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

I am working ahead as I am preparing for my upcoming knee replacement. The reading and reflection from April 16th, 2025, Unfolding Glory was very profound (NALC Lenten and Easter Devotional). These are the readings and reflections I use for the midweek Advent and Lenten services and are available to all. I encourage you to seek them out.

The text on April 16th was from the Gospel of St. John 12:27-36 (ESV) and it focuses on Jesus' reaction as He makes His final journey towards the cross. Jesus demonstrates how we are to deal with challenges we encounter.

My current challenge will be my knee operation and recovery. It is unknown what the outcome will be and to what degree it will be successful. I know this does not compare, on any scale, to what Jesus went through; the challenge I face are the unanswered questions before me such as:

How long will I be out of service to the church?

How much pain will I have this time?

How long will it take for rehab and recovery?

Will it be successful?

While a knee replacement isn't something I look forward to neither do I enjoy the constant pain and loss of mobility I suffer daily. I leave it in God's hands and the hands of the people God has put in my life for the operation and recovery and trust in God through the whole journey.

But how we follow the actions of Jesus in the text allows us to look differently on the challenges we experience in life. The text gives us the answer when we read it: **"Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save this hour? But for this purpose, I have come to this hour. Father glorify Your name."** Then a voice came from heaven: **"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."**

In Pastor Keener's reflection he addresses how often we go to God with the wrong request! I'm in pain, **Lord-fix it!** I am stressed, **Lord-fix it!** I am struggling, **Lord-fix it!** I am afraid, **Lord-fix it!**

But Jesus, in His prayer, didn't ask God the Father to **fix it** but, rather Jesus asked His heavenly Father to **use it**, and His Son, **for His glory!**

Through this wonderful reflection on God's Holy Word (Jesus) we see a new way to handle difficulties in life whether they be physical, emotional, spiritual, financial, or relational difficulties: the kind of challenges and problems that won't disappear with a few weeks of therapy, new meds, or a self-help book!

Our feelings can become overwhelming. The pressures of life weigh us down and we may even feel like God isn't listening to our prayers. But He is!

God the Father gave His Son the answer that, when the soul and the heart is troubled, rather than asking God to **fix it** we should be asking God how He can use **it** to His glory, so that we can help others in their trials through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

I pray that in some way my first knee replacement, which was filmed by WHS and included my interview as the first outpatient in Washington Hospital to have this procedure, may have helped others to make their decision about the trials of getting a knee replacement.

Peace in Christ

Your servant in Christ Rev. Robert Grewe

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

As a church family we are strong when we work together and can accomplish amazing things for the good of the church and for God. Over these few years that I have been on council, our congregation has moved forward through our efforts, and we are now moving towards something amazing...our 100th year. And to make our 100th year amazing, we need to work together. Linda Coleman and her committee are working to have a celebration. Will you work with Linda to make it amazing?



We had McKean check our air conditioners and boiler for the summer and we have one a/c unit that has broken. The one that cools the altar and choir area is old and last summer was its last year. Council is getting estimates on getting it replaced. Hopefully we will be able to get a new one installed quickly.

We will be starting payments for our loan for the pointing and new roof above the sanctuary. All of your donation to the restoration fund will be greatly appreciated during this time.

"Many Christians think of "stewardship" only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it's usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make this year your year for holistic stewardship - and abundant living – by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are tips.

Relationships: We not only share love and joy with family and friends but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get togethers' and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Faith: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit . For 2025, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10." Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC council president

WNALC June Newsletter

Sunday, June 22nd, our Strawberry Festival Will Be held in the social room after church.

Circle meeting will be held in the lounge Thursday, the 26th at 10:00 . Linda Coleman is leader and Sonie Rea hostess. Join us for Bible study and lunch.

Remember our yard sale July 12th. Items you no longer use or want may be just what someone else needs or wants.

We are collecting health items for our disaster warehouse all summer. You do not have to make a whole kit. Bring items needed and place in the box in the Narthex and in August the women will meet and put kits together. Gift cards to Lowe's, Home Depot or Walmart will also be accepted.

Thank you for all your help. We have a wonderful, giving congregation.

Enjoy a wonderful summer.

God bless,

Sonie

HANGING BASKET FUNDRAISER

A HUGE THANK YOU to all for your continued support of the fundraisers to support the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund. With your help we made a profit of \$506.00 from the sale of the hanging baskets.

Many thanks to all,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

NALC Disaster Response

The Women of NALC of First Lutheran Church are going to collect items for Health Care Kits for NALC Disaster relief in the months of June and July.

If you want to participate, there will be a basket in the narthex for items. The following items are needed.

Health Care Kits

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 Shampoo (two if travel size)
- 1 bar soap (two if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush (individually sealed)
- 1 pack of floss (optional)
- 1 toothpaste (two travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers (optional)

Pack in 2-gallon plastic storage bag or tote bag

If you want to complete a kit on your own, please place it in the basket provided in the narthex.

There is always a need for blankets, quilts, and Bibles. Gift cards from Home Depot, Lowes, or Walmart can be placed in the container provided.

Yard Sale Announcement

Mark Your Calendars!

Are you ready to find some hidden treasures and great bargains? Join us for our upcoming yard sale! Here's everything you need to know:

Event Details

Date: Saturday, July 12th, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Social room at First Lutheran Church

What to Expect

Home goods

Unique vintage and handmade items

Kid-friendly toys and games

Small furniture pieces

Yummy refreshments for sale

Why You Should Come

Support a sustainable lifestyle by giving items a second home

Meet your neighbors and enjoy a fun community event

All proceeds go toward supporting the 1st Lutheran Restoration Fund

How to Get Involved

Interested in donating items? Contact me @ kjluketich@gmail.com or 724-678-5766

Want to volunteer? I'd love your help! Email me @ kjluketich@gmail.com or 724-678-5766

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to shop, save, and support your church. I look forward to seeing you there!

Kim Luketich

Drop-off days and times for yard sale.

TUESDAY 7/8 10 AM – 2 PM

WEDNESDAY 7/9 2 PM – 5 PM

FRIDAY 7/11 4 PM – 6 PM

Tuesday is both drop-off and set-up, so volunteers are needed. Remember no electronics, bowling balls, chipped or broken items. If you are second guessing an item for the sale, then it's best you just leave it at home. I will take this opportunity to announce that this will be my last time running this event. For those interested in taking over, you are invited to observe on the day of the sale or to contribute your own ideas.

Items will still be on sale on Sunday, 7/13, after church service. Clean up will be on Tuesday, 7/15, starting at 10 AM. We will work until the task is complete.

This message acknowledges your contributions and assistance in this fundraiser. Not only this year but the past years as well.

Kim Luketich 724-678-5766 or kjluketich@gmail.com

First Lutheran Church Building's 100th 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

Michelle Williams

Sally Lacko



First Lutheran Church of Washington, PA

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe
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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

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



June Lay Readers

1 Ron McGoogan
8 Lisa Maust
15 Dennis Schmidt
22 TBD
29 TBD

June Altar Flowers

1 Linda Coleman
8 Olivia and Larry
15 Kathleen Black
22 Patty Platt
29 Cindy Linville

June Acolytes

1 TBD
8 TBD
15 TBD
22 TBD
29 TBD

June Ushers

1 S. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
8 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
15 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer
22 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
29 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik

June Counters—Alternate: Rick Williams

1 R. Williams and H. Quedenfeld
8 L. Sten and R. McGoogan
15 L. Coleman and S. Rea
22 C. Group and V. Group
29 J. Black and D. Schmidt

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
- 26 Linda Coleman
- 30 Diane Antila