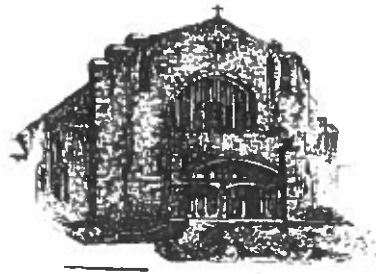


First Lutheran Church
92 W. Walnut Street
Washington, PA 15301



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ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for August 2025

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

As I write this reflection I am wondering where the time has gone this summer. Graduations, baptisms, weddings and funerals in addition to visitation and work at the church has kept me very busy. I am now in my 12th week after my surgery which is when most people return to work after a total knee replacement. I was back at work after four weeks due to the busy schedule of life in the church; I am fine with that for the work of the church is ongoing. If you tuned in or attended the July 20th service of the Word, then you will remember the importance of making time in our busy days to just sit at the feet of lord and listen to Him. We are often pulled in multiple directions and run a daily sprint to meet all the tasks and demands placed upon us.

In an ad, Viking River cruise line owner Torstein Hagen says, **“The one thing we don’t have enough of is time; it is a scarce commodity.”** He’s right but, as the July 20th message reminded us, it is how we are to use our time that is the key issue. It is to be used by putting Jesus ahead of everything else. As a reminder there are four times of daily prayer in the Lutheran church: Matins, Suffrages, Vespers and Compline. (This is much easier than the medieval monastic schedule of praying eight times a day from pre-dawn to compline 9 pm!) We are all so much like Martha in **St. Luke 10: 38-42**: getting caught up in our busy schedules and trying to accomplish so many things when we should be more like Mary and just sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to Him!

On Sunday after the service, I met with a family to prepare for the committal service of their parents. Her mother was the prayer warrior of the family, and this had a strong impact on all the children to grow up and attend church and worship God. Did she have a specific room like in the film “The War Room”? No, but

this woman always took the time out of each busy day to sit and pray to God and read the Holy Bible.

So, this summer as we move into the month of August let us look at the examples of the church which offers us a routine of times to daily pray from before sunrise through to the night. We should take the time to sit at the feet of Jesus in the morning as you begin your day or be thankful in prayer at noontime when you eat your lunch or be thanking God at the end of the day when you are ready to lay your head down to sleep. Doing this would be following our small catechism we took in our confirmation classes.

I recently took my vehicle in for inspection and was informed that they would also repair two recalls. This left me unexpectedly waiting for a pickup from Kimberly. As I waited, I spoke with a staff member and our conversation turned to the topic of prayer. This person is 66 years and still gets on his knees at the end of the day beside his bed and prays and gives God thanks and praise for another day!

This month of August will soon fly by as quickly as July. And quite frankly nothing is going to change in our spiritual lives if we don't make the change and become less like Martha who only welcomed Jesus into her home and more like Mary who welcomed Jesus into her heart! May we all hear God the Holy Spirit as He calls us and leads us to our Lord and Saviour Jesus and may we all take the time out of our busy day and just rest at the feet of Jesus. And as hymn # 536 reminds us "God be with you, till we meet again" in Christ's name.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Robert. B. Grewe

Dear First Lutheran Congregation,

It is hard to believe that Fall is already on its' way. That means that we will be returning to our Sunday Service beginning at 11 AM and our classes, etc. will be in

AUGUST

full swing. Full swing doesn't happen on its' own. Matt will be starting to gather music for our Adult Choir and Bell Choir for the Christmas season, and they will begin practicing as soon as possible. Will you be there? We cannot have our choirs without you. It may seem intimidating, but they are a lot of fun. The more members we have, the more amazing the choirs will sound. No, you do not have to know anything about music to attend a couple of practices to see what they are all about. Matt will help you along the way until you are comfortable. I look forward to seeing new faces.

Our grounds still need to be kept up as long as the weather is good, and we need your help for a fall clean up. Every one of you knows how to do yard work. Won't you lend a hand and volunteer to help one day? Thank you again to the Groups, and Larry and Olivia for all the hard work they do keeping the church grounds looking fantastic so that we don't have to pay an outside contractor for this. Helping First Lutheran Church is not just helping financially, but by volunteering to help keep her looking her best.



A thank you to Kim Luketich for all of her hard work with our yard sale, but this will be her last time organizing this event. This event brought in over \$1,000 for us in each of the past 2 years, and over \$3,000 the two previous years, to go toward repairs that are needed. That will be quite a hit to our finances if no one volunteers to organize this event in the future. Won't you please step up so that we can continue this fundraising event?

Next year we will be celebrating 100 years! Linda Coleman and our committee are working hard on our celebration need your help. See Linda and ask what you can do to help make our celebration amazing.

And as always, please remember your monthly donations to help with our monthly bills, any repairs needed, and to pay on our roof loan. First Lutheran Church used \$68,576.00 of our own money *and* borrowed \$101,801 from the bank so we could stop the leaks in our sanctuary by getting the pointing fixed and new roof. Our monthly payment for this loan is \$2,320. Please remember to send in your donations to keep our church running. Our website has a donations tab if you would like to donate that way.

August is our annual Church picnic. I hope to see you all there. It is always such a great time for fellowship - and amazing food! There is a sign-up sheet by the church office and please consider donating some time to help set up and clean up. Let the church office know if you will help.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



WNALC August Newsletter

There will be no Circle Meeting in August. The Church picnic will be at Floral Hill Park Sunday, August 10 after the Church Service.

We thank everyone who donated dessert for the yard sale. Thanks to Leann Vitteck for making the food we enjoyed.

Our health kits are coming along. We will collect kits or items thru August. Gift cards are gratefully accepted.

A grateful thank you to anyone who helped in any way.

God bless,

Sonie Rea

MUM FUNDRAISER

Once again we will sponsor the Mum Fundraiser to support the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund.

The mums can be ordered in a variety of beautiful colors: bronze, red, yellow and white. All orders are due on Wednesday, August 20th and pickup will be on Saturday, August 30th from 9:00—11 am. If you have any questions, please contact me at 724-344-0565. Attached is the order form. All the mums make lovely Fall decorations!

Your support is greatly appreciated,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

Mum Sale

Get ready for Fall by purchasing mums for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful gift. This fundraiser is to support the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund. Orders must be placed no later than Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Flower pickup will be Saturday, August 30, 2025 from 9:00-11:00 at FLC. Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Flower Options:



Bronze Mum - \$15.00 # _____



Red Mum - \$15.00 # _____



Yellow Mum - \$15.00 # _____



White Mum - \$15.00 # _____

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. Thank you for your support!

A Pilgrimage of the Parishes

Matthew Mazzotti

Ever since I came back into my faith I have been eager to learn as much as I can about scripture and theology. I have been reading different books, watching videos and having many, many discussions and debates with my Christian friends. In one of my discussions with my friend Connor he explained to me the concept of High, Medium and Low Churches, these refer not to how good the church is but to how traditional they are. After talking to a few friends I realized that First Lutheran is considered a High Church, Connor's Presbyterian Church would be a Medium Church and Emily's Non-Denominational Church would be a Low Church, so we decided to visit each other's Churches to try to understand what the difference between them really looks like.

We started with the Low church going to The Bible Chapel. I was immediately confused by what I saw, the building looked as if it were a college campus, there were no images of the cross but plenty of room for the gift shop, their sanctuary was a concert hall with a stage instead of an altar and bleachers instead of pews. Not only this but the service itself didn't seem to focus on teaching lessons or worshiping God as much as it focused on the lives of the people preaching and affirming how much God loves them and they could never do any wrong. I will say I disagree not with the message but with how it was taught, God does love us all very much, but he loves us in the same way that a father loves his children. This does not mean that we get a free license to sin or that we are not accountable for our actions, rather that he will forgive us while expecting us to do something about the problem as seen in **Romans 6:14-15** or **Hebrews 12:4-6**. Overall, I was not a fan of the experience but still respect the church as my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I believe their lack of structure often can lead to misleading lessons, but that same flaw is also the reason that the environment is so inviting to new Christians as it is more friendly to those who are just beginning their walk with the faith.

After finishing that experience the next week, we moved on to the Presbyterian church with my friend Connor at Beverly Heights church. When I walked in I was impressed with how they ran their church, their sanctuary was beautiful, and it seemed as if everyone in the congregation was genuinely enthusiastic about getting to know us. The service proceeded in the same way as ours, there were opening prayers, the same hymns we sing every week and a confession of sins that got us ready for the rest of the service. It was only till the point where we got communion that things became different, they started by

referring us to the order of service where it asked the people of the congregation not to approach the table if they recently fell into sin or were feeling sinful and when we were ready to receive the sacrament there was no blessing or prayers it was treated as purely ceremonial and more of a symbol than the true blessing it is. Once again, as a group we found ourselves in a disagreement about sin, scripture leads us to understand that we as people are all sinful all the time and the only man that ever existed without sin was killed for it for us and for our salvation. **1John 1:5-10** lets us understand that if we pretend that we don't sin we are only lying to ourselves, it is from Gods love and our acknowledgment of our mistakes that leads us to salvation. So in this context the concept that no sinners should accept the sacrament of communion, which is given for the specific purpose of forgiving our sins, not only completely defeats the purpose of doing it in the first place but also means that no one is worthy to come to the table by those standards. Apart from this disagreement I still have so much respect for how well they work on outreach programs and welcoming guests as they try to evangelize and expand the kingdom of God.

The last part of this journey will be our church, the group has not decided when they will be visiting, but it should be in the next week or two and I am excited to show them the things that make our church special. After this pilgrimage I have gained a greater love for how we do things, we often bring attention to the smaller details, everything in the service from the moment the candles are lit to the moment we leave can be explained using scripture, what we teach through our readings and the sermons are lessons that not only show us Gods love for us but they encourage us to grow in our faith and fight against the darkness in our world. We as Lutherans are very slow to change, it is a part of the reason that we struggle to adapt to the changes in our world, but it is also the thing that drives us to preserve our biblical values in a world that rejects them. I hope when my friends finally arrive, they can see what I see, a group of people driven by truth and love, a people whose faith will shine brightly until the end of the age when we are called back home to the God who loves us so. I hope that this article lets many of you see the church in a new light and appreciate the faith that defines us as it has with me. I will leave you with one of my favorite verses, **Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"** may we as a congregation never lose that light that makes us special.

Church Picnic: August 10th
COMMUNITY PARK, SOUTH STRABANE, FLORAL HILL DRIVE

The picnic is coming up soon. A sign-up sheet will be available on the bulletin board outside the church lounge. In my summary of last year's picnic, I proposed several suggestions and ideas for implementation this year. Anyone remember? Well, I said that I could use a couple extra tables for food items. It is hard for people to reach over the benches to reach the food. Larry has informed me that he will bring two, and I have two along with a card table. Therefore, we should be adequately prepared. Another suggestion was that the chicken proves to be a popular item. I thought maybe two people could share the cost of it. We seem to have many hamburgers left over, but hot dogs seem to go. Another item I have left over is water. Many individuals appear to prefer soda, lemonade, and iced tea. Perhaps an individual could provide a variety of beverages in a cooler as their contribution to the food items. For the past two years, I have provided iced tea and lemonade, and I will continue to do so this year. No worries, water will still be available. Please remember that the pavilion has a refrigerator, microwave and an oven. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact me. I would love to hear from you.

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

GIFT BASKETS/PICNIC

We will be doing a gift basket raffle again during the church picnic. Please provide a basket if possible. We have great ones every year, so let's keep it up! Remember all profits go towards our Restoration Fund. We have made significant progress in our enhancements to our esteemed church, yet it is imperative that we maintain this momentum as there remains substantial work to be undertaken. Let me know if you can provide.

Kim Luketich

724-678-5766

kjluketich@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF THE YARD SALE

The yard sale brought in \$2,407.75. This includes the profit of \$527.75 from the kitchen. Leann did a nice job with the kitchen and thanks to all who provided baked goods. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time and effort to assist with the yard sale. All remaining items were boxed up and delivered to the City Mission warehouse. They no longer accept books or Christmas trees. Olivia was in the process of checking into a location to collect the books, and the trees will later be placed at the curb for removal. The cleanup is always the toughest part of the sale. Since no one has stepped up to take over the yard sale, all items were donated. Please do not place any items in the storage room downstairs, nothing is being accepted. The average amount for the previous five sales is \$2,584.28. As the sale will not take place next year, the church will not receive this supplementary funding, which will affect the progress of our ongoing renovations. This is a matter for our collective consideration. A thought was noted. If each person contributed an additional dollar per week throughout the year, the total would offset the amount lost from the yard sale. It appears that requests for money are made frequently. Maybe you could collect the loose change from the week or maybe do without that fancy coffee for a day. Like I stated, it's a thought. Again, thanks to all who have supported this event and me. Now, let's all get ready for the picnic!

Kim Luketich 724-678-5766 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

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



CORNY 5K & 1 MILE RUN/WALK UPDATE

Our event date is fast approaching and the Corny Committee would like to thank everyone who has signed up to participate, volunteer or sponsor.

It is not too late to register to participate in the 5K or the 1 mile.

If you have any questions please contact a member of the Corny Committee:
Caitlyn Group, Cara Group, Vickie Group, Judy Sarver & Joe Sarver



The Corny 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk will be on August 16, 2025 on the Claysville National Pike Trail. All proceeds will go to First Lutheran Church to help restore our 99 year old building.

All participants who register by August 1st are guaranteed to receive a commemorative race T-Shirt and Swag bag! Participants who register after August 1st will receive a shirt if still available so be sure to register early.

Date: August 16, 2025

5K Race Time: 8:00am (\$30)

1 Mile Run/Walk Time: 8:10am (\$25)

Online Registration is also available at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Claysville/CornyK>

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Phone: _____

EVENT: ___ 5k ___ 1 mile T-Shirt Size: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number: _____

Send completed form to: First Lutheran Church, 92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA 15301.

ATE/TIME	TITLE	JOB DESCRIPTION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 5:00-7:00PM	PACKET PICKUP	@ FIRST LUTHERAN DISTRIBUTE RACE DAY PACKETS TO PARTICIPANTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 6:30-8:00 AM	RACE DAY SET UP	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP SET UP
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 6:45-11:45 AM	RACE DAY PARKING	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP CARL GROUP WITH PARKING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 7:30-10:30 AM	RACE DAY WATER STATIONS	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL PASS OUT WATER TO RACE PARTICIPANTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 6:45-9:45 AM	RACE DAY PACKET PICKUP	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL DISTRIBUTE RACE DAY PACKETS TO PARTICIPANTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 7:30-11:30 AM	RACE DAY ON COURSE PHOTOGRAPHER	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL TAKE PICTURES OF PARTICIPANTS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER RACE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 10:45 AM -12:45	RACE DAY TEAR DOWN	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP TEAR DOWN AND CLEAN TRAIL

August Lay Readers

- 3 Dennis Schmidt
- 10 Ron McGoogan
- 17 Sonie Rea
- 24 Lisa Maust
- 31

August Altar Flowers

- 3 Quedenfeld
- 10 Bob & Anneliese Christian
- 17
- 24
- 31 Joe & Judy Sarver

August Acolytes

- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24
- 31

August Ushers

- 3 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer
- 10 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
- 17 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
- 24 D. Looman; H. Snyder
- 31 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan

August Counters—Alternate: Heather Quedenfeld

- 3 C. Group and V. Group
- 10 J. Black and L. Coleman
- 17 D. Schmidt and K. Luketich
- 24 R. McGoogan and S. Rea
- 31 R. Williams and L. Sten

August Altar Team

Joanne Marker

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6 Samantha Sakerka

Holly Rea

11 Michelle Burbank

12 Lori Goga

Anne Belski

17 Jason Webeck

21 Karen Stofan

Jared Battistone

24 Michelle Bartanus

28 Richard Johnson

31 Linda Nickles

Myra Bernhart

August '2025

Worship Service will begin at 10 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office hours 9-12	2
3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion Coffee Hour after Worship	4 Office hours 9-12 NALC CONVOCAATION>	5 Office hours 9-12 BEGINS	6 Office hours 9-12 NALC CONVOCAATION PASTOR IN PGH. NALC	7 Office hours 9-12 Bell Choir 7 PM Chess Club 7:30 -9:30 PM PASTOR IN PGH. AT NALC	8 Office hours 9-12 Pastor out of town for wedding rehearsal	9 Pastor out of town for Wedding
10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING SERVICE	11 Office hours 9-12	12 Office hours 9-12	13 Office hours 9-12 Church Council Meeting 7PM	14 Office hours 9-12 Bell Choir 7 PM Chess Club 7:30 -9:30 PM	15 Office hours 9-12	16 Corny 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk Fundraiser
17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	18 Office hours 9-12 <u>Newsletter info due</u>	19 Office hours 9-12	20 Office hours 9-12	21 Office hours 9-12 Bell Choir 7 PM Chess Club 7:30 -9:30 PM	22 Office hours 9-12	23
24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	25 Office hours 9-12	26 Office hours 9-12	27 Office hours 9-12	28 Office hours 9-12 Bell Choir 7 PM Chess Club 7:30 -9:30 PM	29 Office hours 9-12	30
31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost						

