

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives—September 2025

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

I pray that you were able to take some vacation time and get some R&R time this summer. My summer has been busy with the blessed wedding of Jackson and Megan Quedenfeld which means that he is my first confirmation to get married since I have arrived 11 years ago. That same week was the NALC Convocation in Pittsburgh in August. If you heard my sermons in August; I am always glad to attend and catch up with people and do the work of church, but being isolated out here I am not used to seeing other clergy which has always been able to do in my past calls and internship. Our mission '*district*' is getting so large that it is changing to *region* and will be divided up into smaller groups that are closer together to work more efficiently and easier for the dean.

The NALC Convocation focused on what we are called to do and that is '**discipleship**'! We are called to bring people to God that is our call as Christians! If we read our Holy Bible St. Matthew's Gospel tells of Jesus giving the Great Commission to His disciples 28: 19-20 and that carries on for you and I as it has for all the saints who have gone before us.

One of the breakout sessions we were asked, "*what discipleship means to you?*" My answer was straight from Luther "**we are to be little Christs in the world**" or like Thomas A Kempis wrote in his book "**The Imitation of Christ**" that is we are follow what Jesus said and did in the world with our family, friends and the strangers we encounter.

Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book called "**The Cost of Discipleship**" where he addressed the problem all people have with following and that is "**when Christ calls a man, He bids him to come and die.**" And this is what stops many from following God because it means our old self must die and we must put on Christ and walk in His ways not just on Sundays but every hour of every day, week, month and year.

And that is a very hard choice to make for many. Jesus understood as He said Matthew 9:37 and Luke 10:2 ***“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.”***

Now you might be reading this and thinking the Pastor spelled laborer wrong but I am using it in the English/Canadian spelling I always use Saviour because our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ saves you and I! And in the call to be followers of Jesus, He is calling you and I to be the laborers, His disciples to bring people to God!

I have seen in the church that many a time people’s lives get busy with family and work and the first thing they drop to make more free time is the church! When it should be the opposite where we should increase our time with taking the time to rest at the feet of Jesus as hymn #536 reminds us *“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*.

As we move back into the programs and music choirs of bells and voice starting up again as well as classes and other opportunities to come and gather and worship in September, we look forward to seeing you and in the call from Jesus Himself and our church body of the NALC to go out and make disciples of all those we encounter.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

September

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

How is it already September? This year has had some big changes for me. Wesley graduated high school in June, and he will graduate from Basic Training in South Carolina this month. I look forward to seeing him at his Basic Training graduation and spending a couple of days with him as we take him to his Advanced Individual Training in Virginia. (Nate is missing his brother! He didn't realize how much he chatted with him until Wesley no longer had his phone.)

Speaking of changes, have you joined one of our choirs? How about volunteering for one of our church committees to help? We have the same few members who volunteer for all of the things that we do (yard sale, church picnic, other fundraisers, taking care of the church grounds, helping to fix things inside the church) and it makes getting all of these things done harder because it is the same few people. This is the last year we will have our Yard Sale. If you would like FLC to continue with this fundraiser, we need volunteers for the Yard Sale committee. Why not lend a helping hand and get involved in keeping our church looking nice and making other things easier for all?

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**



We still have a very long way to go in paying our loan for the roof. Donations were down quite a bit over the summer, and this made it very hard for us to pay our employee salaries, monthly expenses and loan payment. Please remember your monthly donations. You can donate every week or monthly. Do whatever works for you.

A member of the congregation, who wishes to remain anonymous, has proposed to augment the funds NOT provided by next year's Yard sale, by matching the amount raised for this specific purpose by the end of 2025 (up to \$2,000).



Do you have any suggestions for fundraisers or helping our church? If so, see one of our Church Council Members, Pastor Grewe or attend one of our council meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Please let Pastor know if you plan on attending in case we need to change our meeting room. We would love for you to attend and to listen to your ideas for our church.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, Church Council President

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Greetings to the congregation.

Although summer is quickly coming to an end, the seasonal change brings so many opportunities for us to expand our worship music and glorify God. Not only will we be preparing for Advent and Lent, but also the 100th anniversary of our beautiful church!

I am beyond excited for what this year can keep bringing us. It's already proven a great one with the success of events like the picnic and the Corny 5k, and all your contributions that make it possible.

With that being said, it's time for my pitch for Adult Choir! We will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 14 @10AM. I've gathered an eclectic list of music, some of which are requests from our own members.

The start date for Bell Choir rehearsal will be confirmed soon, so stay tuned for that! We'll be sure to include it in the bulletin and announcements.

As always, I'm open to hearing your suggestions, requests and more! There's never a bad time to talk to me about our music, especially if you're interested in participating. I know another special year is upon us.

Your music director,

Matt

WNALC

Welcome to Fall!

We are starting our fall activities in September.

September 2nd will be our Board meeting in the lounge at 10:00 am.

The Circle meeting will be held September 25th at 10am in the lounge. Ruby Rogers will be our leader and Linda Coleman, hostess. All women are welcome To join us for Bible Study and lunch.

Thank you to everyone who donated bingo prizes, blankets, and health items and kits.

Pastor delivered gift cards to Convention for "Fill the Truck." Our congregation is a wonderful, giving, group of folks.

God's blessings,

Sonie Rea

REQUEST FOR HISTORY

On June 21, 2026 we will have an anniversary church service and dinner to celebrate the church's 100th year anniversary of the church building.

I am putting together the history of the church for this event and would appreciate any information of happenings that took place at the church in the last 50 years.

Please feel free to email me if any information or knowledge of events that occurred over this time so that I can add it to the history.

Thank you!

Judy Sarver

Judyot94@yahoo.com.

First Lutheran Church
 Building's 100th year anniversary will be celebrated
 June 21, 2026

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of a church building is a momentous occasion that honors a century of community, faith, and history. To commemorate this milestone, the anniversary committee is offering custom-made keepsake towels and tumblers that represents the beautiful building. These items not only celebrate the church's past but also contribute to its future by supporting ongoing projects and helps with the anniversary celebration.

Psalm 23: "I will dwell in the house of the lord forever"

20 oz Tumbler
 view 1 view 2



Tumbler \$20.00 or 2/\$35

quantity	cost
_____	_____

Dish towel



Dish towel \$ 8 or 2/\$15

quantity	cost
_____	_____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Orders must be placed by October 20 and will be ready for pickup by November 15, 2025.

Please return orders ASAP as the items will be custom made once ordered. Return order forms to Judy Sarver, Linda Coleman or the church office. Checks can be made to First Lutheran Church. Any questions please email Judyat94@yahoo.com Thank you for your support!

First Lutheran Church

100th Anniversary Celebration

Summer is almost over and the Anniversary committee will be meeting in September to finalize our ideas and plans for the coming year.

Judy Sarver has an article in the newsletter showcasing the beautiful tumbler and towel she has designed for the event. Please check them out!

You will be hearing more about a beautiful ornament designed and made by Wendell August Forge. Hopefully, we will have them in a few months.

We plan to start displaying memorabilia in January 2026, hoping to add something new each month until June 20, 2026. Banquet is Sunday, June 21, 2026. This is where we need the church family to help. If you wish to make a family Tri-fold or display of events, that would be great. If you have pictures you wish to share, please make copies and give to the committee. If you give originals, please put your name on the back, and they will be returned to you.

We have a beautiful church and a wonderful congregation, LET US CELEBRATE.

Anniversary Committee



First Lutheran Congregation,

Thank you so much for all the support and hard work you all did to help make the inaugural Corny 5k & 1 mile run/ walk a huge success!

Whether you volunteered race day, participated in the 5k or 1 mile, got sponsors or gave us encouragement throughout the process you are the ones that made this fundraiser a huge success!

We raised over \$4000 that will go to help restore our beautiful 99 year old church!

Be on the lookout for information about next year's race!

Thanks again!

The Corny Committee:

Caitlyn Group

Cara Group

Vickie Group

Judy Sarver

Joe Sarver

MUM FUNDRAISER — REMINDER

Thank you to all that supported the Mum Fundraiser. Mums will be available for pickup on Saturday, August 30, 2025 from 9 am—11 am. Please pull up to the handicap entrance and we will bring your order to you. If you have any questions please call 724-344-0565. Once again your support of the Restoration Fund is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Caitlyn and Vickie Group

September Lay Readers

7
14 Heather Quedenfeld
21 Dennis Schmidt
28 John George

September Altar Flowers

7 Maust's
14
21 Joan & John Sakerka
28

September Acolytes

7 TBD
14 TBD
21 TBD
28 TBD

September Ushers

7 C. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
14 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich;
21 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer
28 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko

September Counters—Alternate:

7 S. Rea and K. Luketich
14 H. Quedenfeld and J. Black
21 R. McGoogan and R. Williams
28 D. Schmidt and L. Sten

September Altar Team

Janet Fisher and Sonie Rea

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Amy Pascuzzi

4 Judy Sarver

Brad Bernhart

5 Lillah Clark

6 Shane Ringer

Karen Krcil

Anne Johnston

8 C. Arne Sten

12 Joanne Marker

Tim Bernhart

14 Paul Sten

Roger Callison

17 Jeff Ulanich

22 Herb Snyder

26 Kurt Snyder

29 Andy Carl