

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



Icøye

ICH-THUS

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives—October 2025

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

At the end of summer there was a horrific mass shooting at a Catholic Church and school in Minnesota. This school has the following words above their doors, ***“This is the House of God and is the Gateway to Heaven”***.

This has been on my mind and heart since the day of the event. When it first happened many mocked God and prayer in the parts of the media including the shooter.

One of the students who knew the shooter said, ***“it’s a spiritual battle, I don’t think it’s this world, it demonic. I’m sorry but it is. I think we need Jesus, _____ needed Him.”*** (name of shooter omitted deliberately) and she is absolutely right!

The last Sunday of October (Oct. 26th) we celebrate Reformation Sunday. On October 31, 1517, Augustinian Monk/Priest, Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Theses to the Castle Church doors in Wittenberg for debate and started a firestorm that resulted in a split from the Catholic church forever. On this day we will sing Luther’s famous hymn, ***“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”***.

When we talk about satan (*deliberately not capitalized*) and his minions (demons/ devils) many people believe they are fictional and that the devil isn’t real. This is exactly what the ‘evil one’ wants you to believe. But Luther’s hymn continues to be as relevant as when he first penned the words, ***“Though hordes of devils fill the land, all threatening to devour us.”*** Why? Because this is what happened to this Church and school and continues to happen around the world for Christians.

We, as followers of Jesus, are the most targeted group. As of last year 4,476, Christians were murdered for their faith which is much higher than any other religion in the world even the attacks in Israel didn’t cause such high casualty rates!

Those who follow Christ are always under attack, but no one will report that: certainly not most of the media unless it is to mock our God and prayer.

Charlie Kirk (*last name Scottish for Church*) was recently murdered at a campus event. Charlie was asked what do you want to be remembered for? He responded, **“my courage and my faith.”** His faith in God was far more dangerous to this world than his politics ever could be.

Only those with evil within them would commit such murders. Murders like the shooter in Minnesota who dressed as a policeman and targeted two Democratic politicians and their spouses in their homes in June; or the multiple school shootings that murder the innocent; or the arson attack on our governor and his family; or the cowardly murder of a United Healthcare CEO in New York last year. It is incomprehensible that people are celebrating any of this.

Yet, these horrific acts have exposed the **“hordes of devils”** who **“fill the land all threatening to devour us”**. They have come out into the light and are exposed through their own social media accounts and posts. Many have been suspended or fired from their jobs ranging from the military to education: demons are being exposed everywhere!

If you doubt that demons are among us then I ask you to contact Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, the CDN force commander of the UN assistance mission to Rwanda in 1993-94, and question him on his book titled, **“Shake Hands with the Devil, The failure of humanity in Rwanda”**.

God gave us the 5th Commandment, and through the centuries it had been mistranslated as, **“Thou Shall Not Kill”**. The proper translation of the Hebrew word **“Ratsach”** is **“Thou Shall Not Murder.”** It was corrected in the 20th century as the Hebrew word has been refined to its closer and proper translation. My Luther translation of the Bible, in English and German, is correct but a modern copy of the **KJV** still translates it incorrectly. Satan is mentioned 53 times in the testaments and demons are mentioned 80 times!

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ there is a war that has been waged since the Book of Genesis and it's between good and evil, light verses darkness, God verses the devil!

As Luther wrote, ***“Were they to take our house, goods, honour, child or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's our forever!”***

Our Lord Jesus has already defeated sin, death and the devil in His crucifixion and resurrection and will always be victorious! Thanks be to God!

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Lutheran Airlines!

(Here is some old time Lutheran humor from a member of our church that should bring some laughter to you. Enjoy!)

We are pleased to announce Lutheran Airlines is now operating in Minnysota! Also serving Wisconsin, Norden Michigan, Nort and Sout Dakota!

If yoo are travelin soon, consider Lutran Air, the no-frills airline. You're all in da same boat on Lutran Air, here flyin is a upliftin experience.

Dair is no first class on any Lutran Air flight

Meals are potluck. Rows 1 tru 6 bring rolls and butter, 7 tru 15, bring salad and jello salads; 16 tru 21, a hot dish like lutefisk, and 22-30, a dessert, jello pie or cake.

Basses and tenors please sit in da rear of da aircraft.

Everyone is responsible for his or her own baggage.

All fares are by free vill offering, and da plane will not land til da budget is met!

Pay attention to yur flight attendant, who vill acquaint yoo wit da safety aboard dis Lutran Aircraft. Okay den, listen up; I'm only gonna say dis vonce.

In da event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, I am frankly gonna be reel surprised and so vill captain Olson, because vee fly right around two tousand feet, so loss of cabin pressure vood probably mean da second coming or something of dat nature, and I voodent bodder wit doze liddle masks on da rubber tubes---yur gonna have bigger tings to vurry about den dat. Yist stuff doze back up in dair liddle holes.

Probably da masks fell oot because of turbulence vitch, to be honest vit you, veer gonna have quite a bit at two tousand feet----sorta like drivin across a plowed feeld, but after a while ya get used to it.

In da event of a water landing, I'd say forget it. Start saying da Lord's Prayer and just hope ya get to da part about "*forgive us our sins as we forgive dose who sin against us*", but vat can you do?

Da use of cell fones on da plane is strictly forbidden, not because day may confuse da plane's navigation system, vitch is by da seet of our pants all day vay. No, it's because cell phones are a pain in da Rumpelstilkson, and if God had meant you ti use a cell fone, He wudda put yur mout on da side of yur head.

We vill start lunch right about noon and its smorgasbord style wit da coffeepot up front.

Den, vee vill have da hymn sing; hymnals are in da seet pockets in front of you. Don't take yours wit you when you go or I am gonna be real upset and I am not kiddin!

Rite now I'll say grace:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest

And let deze gifts to us be blessed.

Fader, Son, and Holy Ghost,

May vee land in Dulut or at least preedy close.

Amen

Remember this!

**Don't tell God the size of your problem, tell your problem the size of Your
GOD!**



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

October is here and our fall schedule is in full swing. Were you still busy in September and didn't have a chance to attend any classes or join one of the choirs? Have no fear, new members are welcome at any time.

What do we really own?

'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' --**Job:1:21**

There's the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman's funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, "How much money did she leave?" The friend smiled and replied, "All of it, of course!"

As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife.

The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship: We don't really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more – as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures – loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That's why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the people God created us to be.

Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing – giving away 10 percent of our income – is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions).

Giving 10 percent, or any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial, is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all. --Rob Blezard Copyright © 2016, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Rob Blezard is web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

The above puts things in perspective. Money isn't everything. First Lutheran Church still needs your donations to operate so that we may continue to stay open, but the church also

needs your help in other ways. Wouldn't you love to have a larger choir? That can't happen without your participation. How about a coffee hour more than once a month? Again, this cannot happen without your participation. And our yard sale cannot happen without someone who is willing to coordinate this event and other members willing to help. These are just a few things that you can do that also help our church. Please consider other ways to help in our church.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

Greetings to the Congregation,

We continue to move efficiently and effectively with our monthly expenses, thanks to all of you for your continued weekly attendance and financial support.

We continue to make progress on many updates to the church some large like the roof projet and some small like the updated headsets and a few upgrades to the sound system which should be in place in the next few weeks. Our next large project is to entirely replace the front steps to the church. We prayerfully hope that with your continued support of the renovation fund that we can begin that project spring of 2026.

Hope for Ethiopia is a part of our international outreach, please continue to designate a small amount each week for this blessed ministry, it all adds up.

Anyone who has a connection to local government, please contact them to inquire of any help that might be available for our 100th year celebration. We are a part of a larger community and we all benefit when we work together.

Lastly, we have had a few bumps with the website donations process, it is currently being reviewed and updated. Once we are confident after testing, we will inform everyone about this valuable tool.

May All Be Well,

Ron

WNALC

We have collected health kits and blankets for our Disaster Warehouse. Pastor Grewe will deliver them in October.

The Apple/Octoberfest will be held after service on Sunday the 12th. Find your favorite apple or German recipe to bring to the covered dish dinner. Meat and drinks will be provided. Come and enjoy fellowship in the Social Room.

Circle meeting will be held Thursday, October 30 at 10:00 o'clock in the lounge. Please bring a covered dish as we will be hosting the ladies from Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Linda Nickles will lead Bible Study.

Have a blessed October,

Sonie Rea

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all who supported the Mum Fundraiser. With your orders and donations \$674.50 was raised for the Church Restoration Fund.

Please watch for the upcoming order forms for Sarris Christmas candy and the Wreath and Poinsettia Fundraiser.

The support from all of you is GREATLY appreciated!!

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

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 Anniversary Ornament

\$20

The Anniversary Ornament from Wendell August Forge will be available for sale at the coffee Hour on, Sunday, October 5, 2025, and the Octoberfest, October 12, 2025 and after church service October 19 and 26, 2025.

November – Coffee Hour, November 2, 2025. In the November newsletter the schedule will be updated.

For those who attend church on-line and wish to purchase an ornament, please contact

Heather Quedenfeld 724-263-3253 Heather.Quedenfeld@comcast.net or

Linda Coleman 724-225-8011 ljcjmc@comcast.net

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!

Church Picnic Summary

The church picnic was a joyful event that brought together members of the congregation for a day of fellowship, food, and fun. We had approx. 58 in attendance.

Attendees enjoyed a potluck-style meal with homemade dishes, desserts, and refreshments provided by volunteers. The picnic offered opportunities for conversation, laughter, and the strengthening of relationships within the church community.

Overall, the church picnic was a successful event, leaving participants with cherished memories and a renewed sense of community.

Our basket raffle made a profit of \$955, all of which will be put to good use in our renovation fund. Thank you to all who provided such wonderful baskets and thanks to Linda who handled the sale of tickets.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up and stayed to clean up. Many hands make light work. Thanks to our grill master, Carl. He comes through every year! Rick and Michelle once again did a very nice job with bingo.

Looking forward to another great picnic in 2026. Kim Luketich

Looking ahead towards December

Council will once again put together a Gift Card Tree. Tickets should go on sale sometime in December. Drawing will be held during Breakfast at the Manger, which will be on December 21st. Although December is some time away, if you are interested in contributing food/beverage, please let me know.

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

October Lay Readers

5 John George
12 Kimberly Grewe
19 Heather Quedenfeld
26 Dennis Schmidt

October Altar Flowers

5 Denny Lacko
12 Kathleen Black
19
26 Kim Luketich

October Acolytes

5 TBD
12 TBD
19 TBD
26 TBD

October Ushers

5 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
12 D. Looman; H. Snyder
19 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan
26 C. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber

October Counters—Alternate:

5 D. Schmidt and R. Williams
12 R. McGoogan and K., Luketich
19 C. Group and V. Group
26 L. Coleman and L. Sten

October Altar Team

Sonie Rea and Joanne Marker

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Laurie Carl
Tammy Streater
- 6 Eveline Reihner
- 9 Shelby Kubacki
- 13 Bonnie Johnson
Lauren Conkle
- 14 Scott Berry
- 15 Kristine Briggs
- 16 Kara Clark
Richard Hager
- 17 Wesley Black
- 18 Janine Dyson
- 19 Jim Conkle
- 21 John Sakerka
Kim Luketich
- 23 Neil Bassi
- 25 Caitlyn Group
- 28 Dennis Schmidt
Karen Coleman