

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 November 2025

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

As I began my morning devotions in *Lutheran Book of Prayer* (pg. 34) the prayer began with these words, **“Lord God, You have given me another day, a day to live in Your service....”** In our adult catechism classes, our night class prayer always ends with us finding rest in our Lord and to wake in the morning to glorify God in all we say we do.

The 2025 MNEMD Disaster Relief Report at our October Convocation in Export, Pa began with these words from Roberto Clemente: “Anytime you have the opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don’t, then you are wasting your time on this earth.”

Our time upon this earth is limited. We were just reminded of this when we observed All-Saints Sunday service on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. At this service we remember and pray for those who died this past year and are now with our Lord. The evidence of this is found in St. Luke 23:43. All Saints Day Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> is the traditional high feast day of the churches that celebrate this holy day.

If you are reading this message, then you too have been given another day by God. How we live out each day reflects whether we are followers of Jesus or not. Are we praying each day? Are we attending worship? Are we partaking of the Sacrament of the Altar? Are we taking to the time to read God’s Holy Word? Are we part of the community of Christ at First Lutheran? And are we being *“little Christs in the world”* as Luther called us to do?

I remember a seminarian a year ahead of me, Jim Appleby. In the middle of one of Jim’s essays for class with my favourite Professor he wrote, *“if you are still reading this, I will buy you a beer”*. Rev. Dr. Jensen highlighted those words! So, my question is are you reading our newsletter? Are you getting anything out of it? So much time and effort goes into the planning for each month and trying to make it accessible and interesting as to what is going on at First Lutheran. If you are still reading this let me know and I will buy you a cup of coffee or a cup of tea!

But more importantly don't waste this day that that the Lord our God has given you; because only God knows when we will be called home. So don't delay, read your Bible, worship in community, imitate our Lord and pray today in Christ Jesus!

Your servant in Christ our Lord

Rev. Robert Grewe

## Important Dates for December

**4 Volunteers needed to light the Advent wreath each Sunday  
(see pastor)**

**Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>—Congregational Meeting after the service**

**Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Friday at 6pm to decorate the church for Christmas all ages welcome**

**Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> First Sunday in Advent with Holy Communion.**

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #1**

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday. St. Nicholas will visit the church a day late due to travel times this year. Children bring a shoe. Special coffee hour to follow the service.**

**Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #2 with church council meeting to follow.**

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 3rd Sunday in Advent with St. Lucia visiting a day late and Children's Sunday School**

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm: Midweek Advent service #3**

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent with Sunday school for the children**

**Draw for the Christmas Sleigh gift cards and Breakfast at the manger at 9:30 AM with carols and readings.**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>—29<sup>th</sup> No classes until Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> again.**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve service with prelude at 8:30 pm with service starting at 9 pm with Holy Communion**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> Church closed and all classes canceled for the week**

**Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas—Children's Sermon and Sunday School.**

**Movie and a meal to follow the service.**

# November



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

It's hard to believe that November is here. This past year has not been the easiest for us with our roof loan payments and our dwindling monthly donations. And with everything that is happening in the world today, how will 2025 end?

"This is a good reason to embrace Advent this year. Lost amid the nonstop commercialism of Christmas, Advent is the church's traditional season of careful preparation and waiting – two things our instant, "have-it-now" culture abhors.

If we don't prepare our hearts and minds for the miracle of Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us – how will Christmas be anything more than just another secular shopping season? How can we expect the arrival of Christ to give us strength, courage, insight and wisdom to deal with these troubled times?

Embracing Advent helps us to be good stewards of the Christmas season by reminding us that it's not about Santa Clause or shopping or parties, but by the miracle of God arriving in human form to save us from ourselves.

Here are some ways to embrace Advent:

Find – and follow – an Advent devotional.

Increase your disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, and worship.

As much as possible, hold off celebrating Christmas until December 25.

Remember we need Christ to live fully as God intended.

Advent prepares us to receive Jesus with a full and joyful heart, to live in the abundance Jesus promises." *Copyright © 2023, 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.*

Our mid-week Advent services will be starting soon. Please look in the newsletter for the dates and times.



A change this year is we will no longer have the Angel Tree, but a Giving Tree. We would like to find one family in need to help as a congregation. The gifts for the Angel Tree went to the Salvation Army to distribute and our church was not recognized as donating any of the gifts. Please look for more information on this in the newsletter.

Blessings,  
Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



## WNALC NOVEMBER 2025

There are many date changes in November.

The Board meeting will be held **Wednesday, Nov 5th** at 10:00 AM as Tuesday is Election Day.

Thank offering Sunday will be **Nov. 16** due to Christ the King Sunday.

Circle meeting will be **Thursday, Nov. 20**, at 10:00 AM in the lounge.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,

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### **WHAT IS LIFE**

Life is a challenge....meet it.  
Life is a gift....accept it,  
Life is an adventure....dare it.  
Life is a sorrow....overcome it.  
Life is a tragedy....face it.  
Life is a duty....perform it.  
Life is a game....play it.  
Life is a mystery....unfold it.  
Life is a song....sing it.  
Life is an opportunity....take it,  
Life is a journey....complete it.  
Life is a promise....fulfill it.  
Life is a beauty....praise it.  
Life is a struggle....fight it.  
Life is a goal....achieve it.  
Life is a puzzle....solve it.

Dear Pastor, Kimberly and our First Lutheran Church Family,

We thank you for making our 55th wedding anniversary so special with such a warm and touching gesture! Your thoughts and prayers mean much to us and are so appreciated.

When we count our blessings, we remember you all.

Heartfelt thanks and hugs,

Klaus and Mel

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### Anniversary Celebration

The children of the church are doing an art project in Sunday School in November. They are composing a picture of the church on 8" x10" card stock paper to be displayed in the church.

The committee is hoping any Adult Artist who would be interested in composing a picture at home, will join the children in this project. If you want card stock, please see Michelle Williams. You can also use your own materials to complete the picture.

If possible, we are asking completed projects by January 1, 2026.

Linda Coleman

Update  
Date Changed



Church fundraiser

## Holiday Paint Event

Join us for a fun afternoon  
painting this rustic 40"  
decorative plaque



When: Saturday November 22, 2025  
2 pm

Where: First Lutheran Church  
Social Room

92 West Walnut Street, Washington, Pa

Painting Event lead by Shelby Kubacki  
(no painting experience necessary)

Cost: \$25 will include the cost of supplies and the  
remainder proceeds will go to the church

Please RSVP by November 17 to Judy Sarver, so that we  
can purchase the needed supplies 856-889-0776

Snacks and refreshments too!

## Wreath Sale

Get ready for Christmas by purchasing beautiful decorations for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful gift. This sale benefits the First Lutheran Church Restoration Fund. Orders must be placed no later than November 14,2025 and decorations will be available for pickup on Saturday,

November 29,2025. Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.

Options: All decorations come with a pine cone and flower plus your choice of ribbon color (red or gold).

1. 20'' Wreath - \$30.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbon Color \_\_\_\_\_
2. Table Centerpiece- \$22.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbon Color \_\_\_\_\_
3. Grave Marker Pillow - \$33.00 # \_\_\_\_\_ Ribbon Color \_\_\_\_\_
4. 6'' Poinsettia- \$12.00 Color Options:  
Red # \_\_\_\_\_  
Pink # \_\_\_\_\_  
Yellow # \_\_\_\_\_  
Jingle Bells # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Turn in wreath 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!



## **Fundraiser Reminders!**

### **Sarris Candy Sale**

- order forms are due by Sunday, Nov 2, 2025
- Candy will be delivered Sunday, Nov 23, 2025

### **Wreath Sale**

- Order forms are due by Nov 14, 2025
- Orders pickup on Saturday, Nov 29, 2025

Any questions contact Vickie Group (724)344-0565

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

The Church Council has decided to try something new this Christmas season. In lieu of doing the Angel Tree we will be collecting money to help a local family in need. The money will go to help the family purchase food, pay bills, and purchase Christmas presents.

This new initiative is called "The Giving Tree." If you are able, please place monetary donations in the box labeled "The Giving Tree" by the Christmas tree in the narthex.

If donating by check, please make it payable to First Lutheran Church and marked Giving Tree.

Any questions, ask a council member!



### **November Lay Readers**

2 John George  
9 Lisa Maust  
16 Dennis Schmidt  
23 Kris Briggs  
30 Kimberly Grewe

### **November Altar Flowers**

2 Kathleen Black  
9 Quedenfeld's  
16  
23  
30 Cindy Linville

### **November Acolytes**

2 Heidi & Denico Walsh  
9 Jason & Trevor Flowers  
16 TBD  
23 TBD  
30 TBD

### **November Ushers**

2 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich  
9 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer  
16 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko  
23 J. Sarver; Tony Stefanik  
30 D. Looman; H. Snyder

### **November Counters—Alternate: D. Schmidt and H. Quedenfeld**

2 R. McGoogan and S. Rea  
9 C. Group and V. Group  
16 J. Black and D. Schmidt  
23 L. Coleman and R. Williams  
30 K. Luketich and L. Sten

### **November Altar Team**

K. Black and L. Hager

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Jennifer Cottrill
- 2 Carl Group, Jr.  
Joyce Schrader  
Gloria Morgan
- 3 Matthew Walsh  
Kimberly Grewe
- 5 Lucy G. Sten  
Karen Adams
- 10 Lisa Hager
- 11 Lauren Sakerka
- 13 Collin Berry  
Lyndsay Berry
- 16 Bridget Ringer
- 17 Byron Schrader
- 19 Diana Berry  
Wayne Streator  
Nikolai Williams  
Bailey DeWalt
- 21 Erik Maust
- 23 Irene Franz
- 27 Kathleen Black
- 29 George Salvucci
- 30 Kyle Glozier