

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 January 2026

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

I pray that your celebrations during these holy days included worship at First Lutheran either in person or online. While it is January, you will notice that we are still in the 12 days of Christmas which starts Dec 25th and Ends on January 5th. January 4th is the second Sunday after Christmas and on the 11th of January we have the baptism of our Lord!

I'm sure you have seen and heard this wonderful phrase, "***Jesus is the reason for the season***" and it's true! Because of the unbiblical trappings of Christmas people get caught up in the gifts, decorations, parties, baking and cooking only to forget Jesus! So, this reminder centers people on the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ the Messiah!

But Jesus shouldn't be shelved after December 26th and put away like our trees or decorations which are stored. Jesus is the reason for the season **all year long!** God has kept His covenants with us even though humanity have broken our part of the covenants with Him time and time again. God's grace, love and mercy for us just doesn't happen on Dec. 24th but He is here for us year-round!

Please, prayerfully consider coming to worship with your family and friends at First Lutheran in 2026 as we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the current church building that we are worshipping in.

Looking forward to seeing in Christ Jesus, the reason for all the seasons.

Your servant,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

News for January 2026!

This is the year our church building of worship will turn 100 years old! There is much to be done to get the church ready for the celebration. Our volunteers in the Group family and Olivia and Larry (**please thank them for all they do!**) keep our outside property looking amazing. We now need this to happen inside the church so please consider bringing your skills to God's house of worship before the June celebration. See any council members on offering your time and talents.

There has been some interest in starting a men's group at First Lutheran Church. This could range from gathering for coffee, breakfast, doing small jobs around the church to attending presentations inside and outside the church or going out and doing activities. The possibilities are endless! Please let Pr. Rob know if you would be interested in 2026.

Pastor would like to bring back the **PRAYER TEAM** of FLC where you would be on a list of names for calls or texts to pray for those in need in emergency situations that the pastor or the church is notified about. This is in addition to those we pray for weekly in the Sunday service list. Please submit your name and number to Pr. Rob or Kathleen in the office as a form will be provided to help bring this much needed prayer work back to First Lutheran.

As many make New Years resolutions please consider committing your great gifts and talents to God's church as she nears her 100th anniversary in June and your assistance will be greatly appreciated!



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

“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 2026 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.

Health: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

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 together and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

Time: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

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 2026, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotion, service and other faith practices.

Money: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

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. Rob Blezard is web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.*

This year also starts our 100-year celebration!! Won’t you consider helping on one of our committees to make this year spectacular? Ask any Council Member what you can do to help this year. We look forward to working with you.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

THE GIVING TREE

First Lutheran Church Congregation,

A **HUGE THANK YOU** for your generous donations to The Giving Tree! We were able to help a family in need. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Caitlyn Group

WNALC

The Women's Circle will not meet in January and February due to uncertain weather.

The Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 6 at noon in the lounge to set Our calendar for 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sonnie

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall,
Count your days by golden hours,
Don't remember clouds at all,
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your years with smiles, not tears,
Count your blessings, not your troubles,
Count your age by friends not years.

100th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church Building

A few items of interest are going to be in the narthex on the first Sunday of January 2026. Each month, from January to June, there will be a different display.

Eventually the complete display will be in the downstairs social room.

A few of the items for January: A folder with numerous invoices of the building supplies used to build the church.

A copy of the last will and testament of Charles R. Rasel dated March 22, 1915. He left \$300 for a memorial window with any excess amount to go to the purchase of an organ, and an additional amount of \$500 for the building fund, plus \$1000 in bonds. Charles Rasel was the Great, Great Uncle of Edna Barnhart. Edna is a neighbor of Linda Coleman. This summer Edna discovered the connection to First Lutheran when she was looking through her father's documents.

There will be other items yet to be decided.

The church ornament is still available. Cost \$20.

Contact Linda Coleman 724-225-8011 or

Heather Quedenfeld 724-263-3253

January Lay Readers

4 Kimberly Grewe
11
18 Dennis Schmidt
25 Lisa Maust

January Altar Flowers

4
11
18
25 Gosnell

RELATED

January Acolytes

4
11
18
25

January Ushers

4 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
11 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
18 D. Looman; H. Snyder
25 C. Krcil; R. Williams; R. McGoogan

January Counters—Alternate: Heather Quedenfeld

4 L. Sten and R. Williams
11 R. McGoogan and L. Coleman
18 C. Group and V. Group
25 J. Black and K. Luketich

January Altar Team

Joanne Marker and Lisa Hager

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Betty Mancinelli
- 4 Joshua Clark
- 6 Elaine Burda
- 7 Andrew Serbak
- 13 David Looman
- 19 Amy Bassi
- 23 Alesia Scheffel
- 25 Lisa Maust
- 26 Joseph Sarver