

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 March 2026

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

Recently I saw that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh is going to close seven churches! Last year five churches closed in Washington County for the same reasons: a lack of parishioners and a lack of funds. As we gather this year to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our current house of worship we remember that we are part of a Lutheran presence in this area for 228 years! This great nation will celebrate it's 250th Anniversary! All these dates are truly astounding and only by the grace of God are any of them permissible.

For the future of First Lutheran, I have been hard at work to ensure the church remains in the Word of God and not in politics nor any other agendas but the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the context of our Lutheran theology. I have also been looking at ensuring that I have a successor that is known to the congregation and its history will continue for many years to come.

What is your role as we look to celebrating 100 years at our current house of worship? That's easy to answer as our Bishop Dan Selbo calls us to go out and be and make disciples of Christ in the world. We can do this with the people we encounter daily at work, at our hobbies, outdoors, or even indoors as we shop.

In early February I was shopping at Hobby Lobby to buy supplies for church services during Lent and for the children's Sunday school class. I ended up in a conversation with a couple and as we parted, I put my hand in my pocket and put a "*Little Jesus*" in her hand. She thanked me and walked away. As I was next in line to be served; I noticed the woman returned to speak to me with tears in her eyes. She said, "*This means a lot to me as my best friend is going to be taken off life support today.*" I asked her friend's name and there in the store we held hands and prayed. Her husband made the sign of the cross after we prayed. It was a powerful moment of prayer in a store.

Later I went to buy medication and flowers at Sam's Club. As I was checking out one of the staff asked how I was doing and if I needed any assistance. I said I was fine and thanked them for caring. She paused and asked if I could add her son to my prayers. She shared his health situation and right there, we stopped everything, held hands and bowed our heads and prayed for her son's healing.

While paying for my items another couple said, "Hi." The wife began to tell me her story of faith in God and her survival of several cancers throughout her life and how God allowed her to beat the odds! She had watched me as I prayed with the staff member. We talked more and she told me where she worshipped. I apologized to her because I had just given out my last "*Little Jesus*" to the staff member and her reply was "*mine are in my purse!*"

How can you and I show God's love for everyone we encounter wherever we go out or attend an event or shop? Should we have FLC pins made in the shape of a cross we can wear daily? Or t-shirts with FLC on it to show we are followers of Christ? Or should we have hymns like #720 ringing in our hearts! ("*We Are Called*" in the ELW book). Here are some of the words to the hymn "*Come live in the light! Shine with the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom.*" This was the message in February for our children's Sunday School class. But the hymn goes on with these words "*We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*"

However it looks in our lives we are to follow our Lord daily! It is our call to make disciples. It would be amazing that there would a place for the generations that come after us to be able and come and freely worship here at First Lutheran. We come from the humble beginnings of Lutherans gathering in the back of a bakery to the mighty fortress of Ohio brownstone that we worship in today.

During this time of Lent let us look into our hearts and clear the clutter of the secular world. Allow the sacredness of our Lord Jesus to enter in to be guided by the Holy Spirit and become, as Martin Luther called us to be, "***Little Christs***" in the world.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Important Dates at First Lutheran

March 4 th at 7 pm	Midweek Lenten service #2
March 11 th at 7 pm	Midweek Lenten service #3 with Council Meeting to follow.
March 18 th at 7 pm	Midweek Lenten service #4
March 25 th at 7 pm	Midweek Lenten service #5
March 29th at 11 am	Palm/Passion Sunday service
April 2nd at 7 pm	Maundy Thursday service
April 3rd at 3pm	Good Friday service
April 5th at <u>10 am</u>	Easter Sunday service



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

Spring is on its way which means it will soon be time to start with spring cleaning. This year we will be celebrating 100 years of our building. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we had miles and miles of flowers around the church? We need your help to make the outside of our church worthy of our celebration. Let council know you are willing to help and any ideas you have.

And with March, we have our mid-week Lenten services. I hope that you will attend these beautiful evening services.

Please remember to send or bring in your monthly donations. With the church being closed one Sunday due to bad weather, and low attendance other Sundays because of the cold, our donations have been low. We still have to pay our employees and monthly expenses, which includes the extra expense of snow removal we needed this year. We will no longer be having our Yard Sale to help with our expenses. Your regular monthly donations are much needed.

Once again we are having our Corny 5K in August. We already have 1 signed up! Please spread the word and ask Caitlyn how you can help make this year's 5K even better!

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



100th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church Building

We wish to thank the congregation for their response to the sale of the tumblers, towels, and ornaments.

Our hope for April is to have the memorabilia that we have received and have found in the church, on display in the church social room.

We encourage families to add their own memorabilia to what we have collected. There will be extra tables available. Tri-folds etc.

Veterans, please respond to the request for information about your service record. We cannot honor your service to our country if we do not have the information. Please have that information to us by March 15. (Date different than on form) Give to anyone on committee or the church office.

If you have a family member that served and has passed, please provide the name and branch of service and years of service if possible. They would be part of our 100 year's celebration.

Make sure June 21, 2026 is marked on your calendar. Church service followed by catered lunch.

Committee: Linda Coleman, Heather Quedenfeld, Judy Sarver ,Michelle Williams, Sonie Rea, Sally Lacko

WNALC Newsletter March 2026

The WNALC Borad meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3 at noon in the lounge.

Circle meeting will be held Thursday, March 26 at 10 AM in the lounge. Sonie Rea will be leader and hostess will be Michelle Williams.

All women are welcome,

Sonie

Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have supported the Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser. All orders are due on Sunday, February 22nd. The Sarris Candy orders will be eady for pick up on Sunday, March 29th. If you have any questions, please call me at 742-344-0565.

Many thanks for your support,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

March Lay Readers

- 1 Heather Quedenfeld
- 8 Kimberly Grewe
- 15 Lisa Maust
- 22 John George
- 29 Dennis Schmidt

March Altar Flowers

- 1 Quedenfeld
- 8 Patty Platts
- 15 C. Linville
- 22 Kathleen Black
- 29 PALM SUNDAY

March Acolytes

- 1 TBD
- 8 TBD
- 15 TBD
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

March Ushers

- 1 J. Sarver; Tony Stefanik
- 8 D. Looman; H. Snyder
- 15 C. Krcil; R. Williams; Ron McGoogan
- 22 C. Ringer; D. Schmidt; Z. Mason; M. Verderber
- 29 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich

March Counters —Alternate: No One

- 1 R. Williams and L. Sten
- 8 K. Luketich and S. Rea
- 15 J. Black and H. Quedenfeld
- 22 R. McGoogan and D. Schmidt
- 29 C. Group and V. Group

March Altar Team

Judy Sarver and Michelle Williams

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Sophia Dragich
J. Robert Franz
- 3 Dustin Cochrane
- 14 Logan Williams
David Wheeler
- 15 Donna Bassi
- 21 Zachary Mason
- 22 Jade Rea
Sue Palfrey
- 24 Arthur Battistone
Theodore Dragich
- 25 Jeannette Walsh
- 26 Jacin Flowers
- 27 Timothy Fritz
- 28 Carl Group
- 29 Hayden Gosnell
- 31 **Rev. Robert Grewe**