

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



**Ixoye**  
**ICH-THUS**  
**Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior**

## **Pastoral Perspectives for April 2026**

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

On March 29<sup>th</sup> we journeyed into Jerusalem on *Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion* a powerful service where no sermon is needed that could impact more the readings than God's Holy Word!

When April begins, we are immediately in Holy Week of the church worldwide! April 2<sup>nd</sup> we will gather in silence on Maundy Thursday. And we, like many churches around the globe, will see and participate in how the Master becomes the servant: your pastor will reenact the washing of the feet of the disciples as Jesus did in the reading. We will also partake of the Lord's Supper that Jesus instituted that very night! Then during reading of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm the church will be stripped bare including the pastor's vestments to symbolically show the humiliation of our Lord at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Again, we will leave in silence into the darkness of the night.

On Good Friday the church will be draped in black, Luther would have called the day "*Karfreitag*" which translates to *mourning* or *sorrowful Friday*. The time chosen at our church for this service is 3pm (9<sup>th</sup> hour) as it is the recorded time of the actual crucifixion of our Lord Jesus according to the Gospels of St. Mark, St. Matthew and St. Luke!

We will hear the Passion of the Christ reading from St. John's account that day. The powerful controversial painting by French painter Jean-Leon Gerome called *The Crucifixion* will be the focus of the sermon. The bidding prayers are prayed 9 times (the divine number in the Holy Bible) and these prayers cut to the heart of our sins. Something unique to First Lutheran is the adoration of the cross. This is where a large cross is carried in procession, halted three times and then finally laid on the steps so that you and I can nail our own sins to the cross! The pounding of the spikes into the cross pierces the silence in the church. The solemn reproaches are where we beg for God's mercy upon us as we are exposed in our confessions of what we have failed to do as followers of Jesus.

As we end the Good Friday service on April 3<sup>rd</sup> we sit in silence to hear the hymn “*Where You There?*” sung a capella from the balcony into the darkness of the church bringing the service to a completion. However, you are invited to stay as long as you feel called to in contemplation of what we have just seen and heard.

On the joyous Easter Sunday, the darkness of Good Friday is shattered by the victory of Jesus' Resurrection at the 10 am service! In the proclamation that Christ has Risen! The banner is unrolled that was put away on the night of Ash Wednesday, the cross looks as if it's budding with life and the high feast day colour of white absorbs the black and will adorn the church. We will sing hymn #367 “*Now All the Vault of Resounds*” words written by Rev. Paul Z. Strodach (1876-1947). Who was once a pastor here at FLC. We just recently found the Bible the congregation presented to Rev. Strodach. It will be on display for the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! How amazing is that! We will gather again and partake of the Lords Supper, and the bells will ring and the choir will sing!

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I invite you to seriously consider attending all our Holy Week services because I think you will have a better understanding of the Bible and the life of our Lord. The impact these services have on us as Christians here in Washington are just as powerful to those fellow Christians around the world.

I promise you that you won't be disappointed with your time spent in worship here at First Lutheran during these powerful three days. As David's 66<sup>th</sup> Psalm verse 5a says “**Come and see the works of God.**”

Sincerely your humble servant in Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

## **Important Dates at First Lutheran**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Maundy Thursday** service at 7 pm

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Good Friday** service at 3 pm

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday** service at 10 am



Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

He is risen, Hallelujah!

What Christ endured for our salvation on the cross goes beyond human imagination. He gave his life to save ours.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35). After his sacrifice, what can we possibly do to give? We live in a world in which receiving seems to matter most. Our motivation is based on wealth, achievement and power instead of generosity, and service towards others and our relationships. So how can we give to help others and First Lutheran Church? Everyone has a special talent that can be used to help others. Are you good at research? We know Lisa Maust is, because she found some incredible information about our church and stained-glass windows. Can you use a paintbrush? Then you have the talent to help paint some of the places in need in our church! Can you mow or shovel snow? Well there you go; your help would be greatly appreciated in keeping the outside of our church looking fabulous and safe. Are you too busy, or unable to help physically? Sending in your donations regularly helps the church pay monthly expenses and get outside help for things that we are unable to do ourselves. We have many things on our to do list.

We will be celebrating 100 years of our building this year and we are trying to make this celebration as spectacular as possible, and we need your help. Please see Church Council or Pastor Grewe to find out what you can do.

We have 3 signed up for our Corny 5k already and our church picnic will be here before we know it. We will also have our Spring fundraiser of the hanging baskets again this year.

Generous God, teach us to be joyful givers, recognizing that all we have comes from you in the first place. May we use the gifts you've graciously given us for the sake of the world you love, so that all would come to know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



**Blessings,**

**Jennifer Black, FLC Council President**

## TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 2026

Greetings to the Congregation,

I have decided to try a new font for this report. I guess I miss cursive writing. Let's get to the good news, we have paid down almost half of our loan we acquired for the new roof. Many thanks to go around for all who donated to the Capital Campaign, for all who continue to support the fund raisers and for all that have and continue to donate to the continuing efforts through the Renovation Fund..

We are currently looking into all that is needed to replace the front steps as well as fixing some much needed work on our doors. With that in mind I looked at our first quarter and we are a little behind last years pace of giving, I am fairly certain that is due to weather related issues, (not too often, thankfully, that we have to close ) but we did this winter. So please prayerfully continue your support in all the many ways that are available.

In closing, as we strive each and every day to be the light of Christ, maybe we can achieve all of our goals by simply remembering to invite friends, neighbors, strangers and relatives to First Lutheran Church which will be celebrating 100 years in June a pretty good ice breaker if needed.

May All Be Well,

Ron

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A special thank you to the Sunday School children ages 2 – 10 for their pictures of the church. They are on display right now in the narthex.

A painting of our church done by the late, Rich Celani, a local artist, has been donated to the church. We are selling chances on this beautiful picture for \$5 each. Chances will be available before church services and coffee hour.

Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 16, 2026, and **Sunday, May 17, 2026**, we are going to honor our veterans at First Lutheran with special recognition. If you are a veteran and have not completed the questionnaire found in the narthex, please do that and drop in the offering plate.

The committee is still finding historical “gems” about our church history, and hope to be able to share them with word and display. We will be working on a large display in the church’s social room.

A special day of celebration for our church will be **Sunday, June 21, 2026**. A copy of the original dedication June 20, 1926, was found. On that day they had three services, morning, afternoon and evening. (One of the historical gems the committee found). We are not going to have three services, but we are planning a special day. After the service, we will have a catered meal in the church social room.

More information on this in May newsletter.

Please mark your calendar with these dates.

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

## **HISTORICAL TOUR**

In celebration of our church building's 100 year anniversary, First Lutheran Church in partnership with the Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation, will be hosting a tour of our church on April 12 at 1:00 pm. The focus will be on the history of the stained glass windows. Please come if you are interested in learning more about your church!

Heather Quedenfeld

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## **WNALC**

Ladies please save Monday, May 11 for our Mother/Daughter Banquet at 6:30. We will meet again at the Delfine Room in Meadowlands. Tickets will be available soon. More information will be coming.

Circle meeting will be held April 30 in the lounge. Sarah Caddies will be leader and Joanne Marker will be hostess. All women are welcome.

Happy Easter,

Sonie

## **Sarris Candy Fundraiser Update**

Sarris Candy Fundraiser:

Thank you all for the support of our Easter Sarris Candy Fundraiser. We do not have profit totals yet.

The orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, March 29th.

Any questions, please contact Vickie Group at 724.344.0565

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

## Hanging Basket Sale

Get ready for Spring by purchasing beautiful hanging baskets for you to enjoy or to share as a wonderful Mother's Day gift. This fundraiser is to support the First Lutheran Church. Orders must be placed no later than April 26, 2025 and flowers will be delivered on Saturday, May 9, 2026. Checks made payable to First Lutheran Church.



Flower Options	# Ordered	\$ Amount
Red Petunia		
White Petunia		
Pink Petunia		
Mixed Petunia		
Yellow Begonia		
Orange Begonia		
White Begonia		
Red Begonia		
White Impatiens		
Pink Impatiens		
Red Impatiens		
Coral Impatiens		
Double White Impatiens		
Double Pink Impatiens		
Double Red Impatiens		
Double Coral Impatiens		
Total		

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

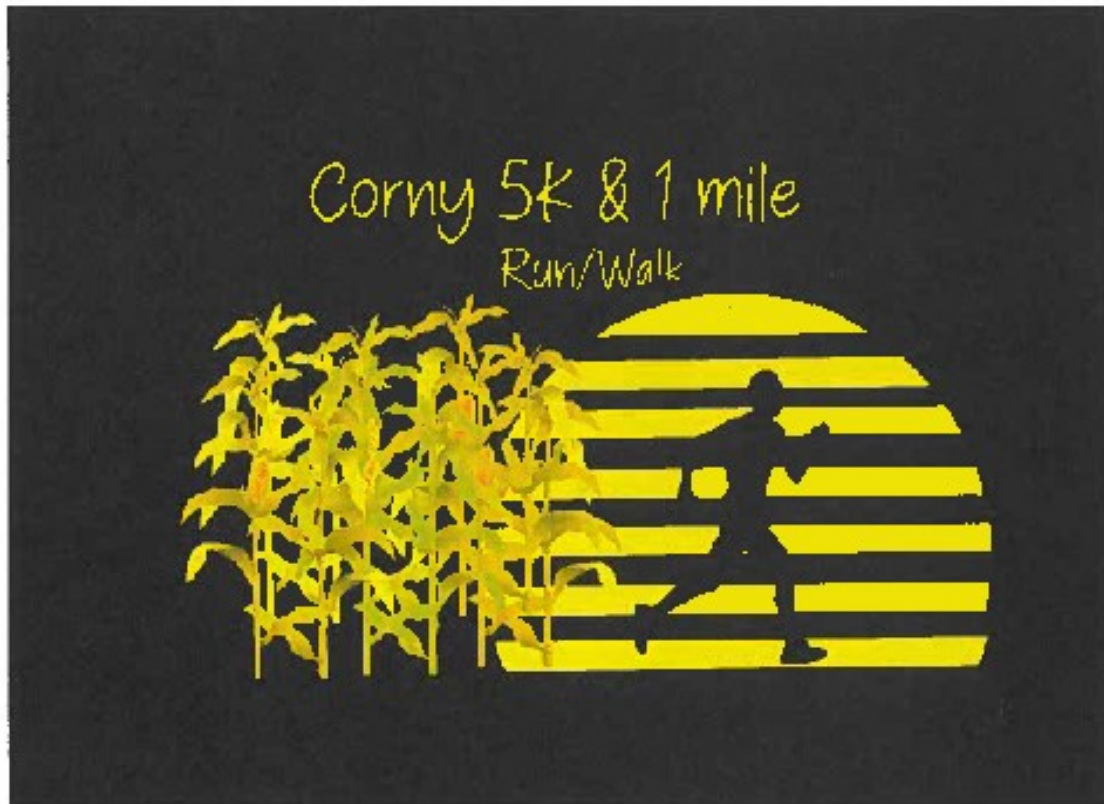
\*Turn in flower order ASAP to guarantee your color choice. Any questions contact Vickie Group at 724.344.0565. Turn in orders to Vickie Group or the church office.

SAVE THE DATE!

THE SECOND ANNUAL CORNY 5K & 1 MILE RUN/WALK

WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2026!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND JOIN US FOR A FUN  
DAY!





# Church fundraiser *Blue bird box event*



Join us for a fun day of building these beautiful and functional blue bird boxes. Activity will involve assembling the boxes that can be done by both adults and children. They can be hung once completed. Blue birds eat around 2000 insects a day so they are great for your home and can bring wildlife to your home and community.

You may also choose to paint them or can be hung as is.

When: Saturday April 25, 2026 1:00 pm

Where: First Lutheran Church Social Room

92 West Walnut Street Washington, Pa

Painting Event lead by Stacy Carroll

Cost: \$25: proceeds will go to the church

Please RSVP by April 20 to Judy Sarver, 856-889-0776, reply early as kits are limited to 25, some hammers and drills will be provided but additional ones would be helpful!

### **April Lay Readers**

- 5 Kris Briggs
- 12 Ron McGoogan
- 19 Dennis Schmidt
- 26 John George

### **April Altar Flowers**

- 5 EASTER
- 12 Kim Luketich
- 19
- 26

### **April Acolytes**

- 2 Adults
- 3 Heidi and Denico Walsh
- 5 Heidi and Denico Walsh
- 12 Jacin and Trevor Flowers
- 19 Julia Jeffcoat
- 26 Elijah Clark

### **April Ushers**

- 5 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer
- 12 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
- 19 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik
- 26 D. Looman; H. Snyder

### **April Counters—Alternate: H. Quedenfeld & L. Sten**

- 5 K. Luketich and D. Schmidt
- 12 J. Black and S. Rea
- 19 C. Group and V. Group
- 16 R. Williams and L. Coleman

### **April Altar Team**

Lisa Hager and Cristina Serbak

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Lindsay Mankey
- 4 Ryan Bassi
- 7 Sharon Battistone
- 10 Dorothy Dillemoth
- 13 Carol Snyder
- 15 Jonathan Luketich
- 17 Denny Lacko
- 18 Sally Lacko
- 23 Kameryn Johnson
- 24 Cara Group
- 25 Rollin Swank  
Douglas Mazzotti
- 28 Keith Briggs
- 29 Donald Hazlett  
Richard Sabol