

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



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Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Pastoral Perspectives for July 2026

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

Happy 100th birthday to our house of worship on June 21st and happy birthday to America in her 250th year! What's truly amazing is that Lutherans have gathered to worship in Washington since 1798 which means our Lutheran heritage has been here for 228 years!

Recently, a member of our congregation submitted their personal perspective for the newsletter in a work titled, ***"Are You Willing?"*** It's fascinating to me because it marries into our future seminarian Matthew's sermon on June the 28th, where he spoke of the worldwide persecution of Christians. More disturbing is the fact that he is often targeted as a Christian because, like you and I, he wears a cross upon his neck and on his vehicle where people at times will curse him out for it. As a pastor who wears a clergy collar, I have had more positive interactions with people in America than in Canada. Canada, like England, and almost all western Europe, is now lost because the majority have abandoned faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and become godless. Remember, Bishop Dan Selbo told us that 50 million Americans do not know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour!

"Are You Willing" reflects on what Bonhoeffer wrote in his book ***"The Cost of Discipleship"***. Matthew recently read this and reflects in his June 28th sermon on how Pastor Bonhoeffer declares that ***"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."*** Make no doubt about it, Jesus has called us to follow Him. ***Folge Mir***" (translation: *Follow Me*) This reminder is carved into the altar at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (NALC) in Winnipeg, MB, Canada: where I was confirmed and married to Kimberly by the greatest pastor I have ever known, the Rev. Erich Griebeling. The reality of ***"Are You Willing"*** and the words of Jesus ***"Follow Me"*** are terrifying because we must let go of everything and let God lead us!

We must die to this world and all its comforts according to Jesus in Matthew 9:37 ***“He said to His disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.”*** Recently, our Bishop has asked the NALC clergy to stay until we are at least 70 before retiring due to a shortage of Lutherans answering the call to serve God as called and ordained ministers. Interestingly, this past week I had two members of the church say to me *“Pastor, I wouldn’t want your job.”*

At my ordination I was honoured to have the Canadian expert on Martin Luther, the Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen from my seminary, preach. He was inspired by a military commercial in Canada because of my time in the navy ***“There’s No Life Like It”. The song for the commercial went ‘There’s no life like it and I don’t regret the day when I decided to live the forces way....’***

How right he was! There is no life like and I don’t regret the day that I answered the call to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ but, I will confess to you, not every day is full of blessings. I pray Matthew will weather the storms of life in his walk. As Jesus warned us all in St. Matthew 5:11, ***“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account.”***

The installation gift I received from my parents at my first call in Hanna, Alberta, Canada was a picture frame with the words from 1st Corinthians chapter 15 verse 58. ***“STAND FIRM. Let nothing move you. Always GIVE yourselves FULLY to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is NOT IN VAIN.”***

In our celebrations of this house of God, of this great nation and of our faith in our Lord continue on in Jesus’ name.

Amen!

Your servant in Jesus Christ,

Rev. Robert. B. Grewe

Are You Willing?

To Suffer

To sacrifice

To be uncomfortable

To Give

To be free of the chains of discourse

To Love those that don't return love

To enjoy the gifts that surround you

To surrender control

To embrace Jesus

To encourage your neighbors

To smile in the face of adversity

To awaken to another chance

To boldly explore Opportunity

To comfort those in need

To communicate in a foreign tongue

To Live free of Satan's desire

To Protect your soul

To calmly reflect on the blessings bestowed unto you

Bible Based Summer Questions

Now that many are on vacation or may have some more time on their hands, I came upon these questions from a recent book our adult catechism class is finishing before their summer break.

- 1) Is my belief on this subject based upon the Word of God, my opinion, or some other cultural viewpoint?
- 2) Is what I'm watching, what I'm listening to, and how I'm spending my time contributing to establishing my heart deeper in Christ, or is it a distraction?
- 3) Is there anything I'm believing right now that is contrary to God's Holy Word?
- 4) Am I a spectator in the faith, or am I on the field?

These are some great questions we all need to ask ourselves not just over the summer but everyday of our lives!

July

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

It's hard to believe that July is almost here. Where did the time go? This past month we celebrated our 100th year anniversary of our building. How amazing is that? Chris Maust and crew did an amazing job working on

painting our church. There is still a lot more that needs to be done, but what they were able to do looks amazing. Our luncheon and the displays of some of our history done by Linda Coleman and committee was fantastic! It has been a long time since First Lutheran Church had a luncheon like that with so many of us. A big Thank You goes to all who helped make this happen and helped make our church look nice inside and out. A lot of people did a lot of work, and I am grateful for all that they did.

We will continue to work on painting, plastering and fixing up as much as we are able. Did you notice all that was done? It took a lot of hard work. Are you willing to lend a hand to continue getting this done? We only need 2 hours of your time. GOOD! Please let Pastor or Chris Maust know what days you are available so it can be coordinated. The more help there is, the more we can get done. I would love to have it all completed by Advent. Wouldn't that be a nice to have it done by then?

Now that summer activities have started and everyone gets busy, please do not forget to send in your monthly donations. We still have our roof loan payment which makes a big dent in our monthly offering on top of our normal operating expenses. Our weekly donations drop during the summer months which makes it hard to cover our expenses.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President



100th Anniversary

The display for the Church Anniversary celebration will remain in the Church social room until the end of July.

There have been so many people that have participated in the last two years of planning for this celebration it is impossible to list names. Please accept our thanks and appreciation for everything you did to make this a memorable occasion.

The beautiful rededication church service on June 21st, honored the members who put so much thought in the building of our Church in 1926. The luncheon followed with a time of fellowship with current members, former members, and friends.

A truly blessed day.

Committee:

Linda Coleman

Heather Quedenfeld

Judy Sarver

Sonie Rea

Michele Williams

Sally Lacko

WNALC July Newsletter

Congratulations to the 100th Anniversary Committee for their hard work for 2 years and the fantastic dinner on Sunday. It was very meaningful to use the service from the first Sunday 100 years ago.

July Circle meeting will be held Thursday, July 30 at 10:00 am in the lounge. Linda Coleman will be leader and Linda Nickles will be hostess.

God bless,

Sonie Rea

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER — MUM SALE

We are coming close to the time of year to purchase the beautiful Fall mums. Please watch for the order forms to place your order. Order forms will be available soon in the church bulletin or can be sent to you if needed.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated and benefits the Church Restoration Fund.

Many thanks,

Caitlyn and Vickie Group

Nursery Makeover and Toy Drive

Starting in June, the nursery will be getting a makeover! We will be cleaning out the old broken toys, cleaning and painting the walls!

If you have any slightly used toys (with all working parts!) you would like to donate please bring them to the church.

If you would like to purchase a new toy to donate that would be great too!

Any questions please see Caitlyn Group or Vickie Group



The Corny 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk will be on August 16, 2025 on the Claysville National Pike Trail. All proceeds will go to First Lutheran Church to help restore our 99 year old building.

All participants who register by August 1st are guaranteed to receive a commemorative race T-Shirt and Swag bag! Participants who register after August 1st will receive a shirt if still available so be sure to register early.

Date: August 16, 2025

5K Race Time: 8:00am (\$30)

1 Mile Run/Walk Time: 8:10am (\$25)

Online Registration is also available at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Claysville/CornyK>

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Phone: _____

EVENT: ___ 5k ___ 1 mile T-Shirt Size: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number: _____

Send completed form to: First Lutheran Church, 92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA 15301.



CORNY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
IF YOU AREN'T A RUNNER/ WALKER, YOU CAN STILL HELP!
THE CORNY 5K & 1 MILE RUN/WALK COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR THE
FOLLOWING:

DATE/TIME	TITLE	JOB DESCRIPTION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 6:30-8:30 AM	RACE DAY SET UP	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP SET UP
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 6:45-11:45 AM	RACE DAY PARKING	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP CARL GROUP WITH PARKING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 7:30-11:00 AM	RACE DAY WATER STATIONS	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL PASS OUT WATER TO RACE PARTICIPANTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 6:45-9:45 AM	RACE DAY PACKET PICKUP	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL DISTRIBUTE RACE DAY PACKETS TO PARTICIPANTS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 7:30-11:30 AM	RACE DAY ON COURSE PHOTOGRAPHER	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL TAKE PICTURES OF PARTICIPANTS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER RACE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 10:45 AM -12:45	RACE DAY TEAR DOWN	@ CLAYSVILLE NATIONAL PIKE TRAIL HELP TEAR DOWN AND CLEAN TRAIL

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP IN ANY OF THESE AREAS PLEASE COMPLETE THE BOTTOM PORTION AND RETURN TO CAITLYN GROUP. ANY QUESTION CONTACT CAITLYN @ 724.986.5994

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Shirt Size _____ Area Wanting to Volunteer _____



Dear Potential Sponsor,

First Lutheran Church is excited to host our second annual 5K race and 1-mile walk, "The Corny 5K," on Saturday, August 15, 2026, along the Claysville National Pike Trail. This family-friendly event celebrates the corn harvest season with a fun, welcoming atmosphere featuring corny jokes, themed activities, and corn-inspired treats for participants of all ages.

We are reaching out to invite you to partner with us as a sponsor for this special community event. Your support will help us build on last year's success, where we welcomed over 100 participants and exceeded our goals thanks to the generosity of local sponsors and supporters. This year, we hope to grow even more and create an even more memorable experience.

Sponsorship opportunities include financial contributions as well as donations of promotional items ("swag") for race packets. In return, we are happy to recognize your business through event promotions, signage, and community visibility on race day.

First Lutheran Church has proudly served the Washington community for nearly 100 years. As we approach our centennial celebration, we are working to restore and preserve our church building so it can continue to serve future generations. Your support will directly contribute to these efforts.

We would be grateful for your consideration and support. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like more information, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for helping us make this event—and our mission—a success.

Level Selecting	Level	What you get
<input type="checkbox"/>	Platinum level: Above \$300.00	Gold level AND customized package!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold level: \$300.00	Silver level AND -Yard sign with name on race course -Another free race entries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver level: \$150.00	Bronze level AND -Name on back of shirt -1 free race entry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bronze level: \$50.00	Name on banner posted at the start/finish line Logo listed on race registration site

Name of Business/Company _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____ Email _____

Please indicate which level of sponsorship by checking the corresponding box above.

Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.

Send completed form to: First Lutheran Church, 92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA 15301

Information and money must be turned in by July 15, 2026 to be on shirts & signs.

Any questions, contact Caitlyn Group @ 724.986.5994 or corny5kpa@gmail.com

Church Picnic – Save the Date!

*****CORRECTION*** PLEASE NOTE THE DAY IS SUNDAY – NOT SATURDAY AS STATED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER** I apologize for any confusion this might have caused.

Our annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, August 9.**

It's never too early to start thinking about what food item you may want to bring, so keep that in mind as you plan ahead.

The picnic will be held at the **Community Park in South Strabane**, the **same place as previous years.**

More details will be shared as the date gets closer. We look forward to a fun day of fellowship, food, and time together!

Any questions, please see Kim Luketich.

July Lay Readers

- 5
- 12
- 19 Dennis Schmidt
- 26 Kimberly Grewe

July Altar Flowers

- 5 Cindy Linville
- 12 Joan & John Sakerka
- 19
- 26

July Acolytes

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26

July Ushers

- 5 E. Goga; R. Johnson; J. Ulanich
- 12 R. Phillips; J. Sakerka; D. Wheeler; J. Stolfer
- 19 K. Carl; C. Group; C.R. Group; D. Lacko
- 26 J. Sarver; T. Stefanik

July Counters—Alternate: Jennifer Black

- 5 C. Group and V. Group
- 12 R. McGoogan & L. Sten
- 19 D. Schmidt & L. Coleman
- 26 S. Rea & K. Luketich

July Altar Team

Kimberly Luketich

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Kenneth Schrader

3 Trisha Thompson

4 Kenneth Carl, Jr.

6 Laura Ringer

13 Melvina Behrens

14 Douglas Scheffel

16 Matthew Serbak

19 Isabella Mazzotti

20 Melinda West-Emerich

Eric Schrader

22 R. Douglas West

26 Robert Phillips

Dr. Matthew Houston

27 Candice Raab