

# First Hearts

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February 2016

## “Shut Out” and “Shut In”

Mr. Brown had just stepped from a crowded drugstore into a telephone booth. He had been told that an urgent message awaited him at home.

But try as hard as he would, he could not distinguish the voice at the other end of the line – and the message was lost in the clatter and the clamor of the crowded store.

Finally, he managed to catch one sentence. “John, dear,” said the voice in the telephone, “please close the door behind you.” He had forgotten to close the door to the booth, and the noises of the drugstore had drowned out the distant voice from home.

As we prepare to step from the busy, noise world into the hush and quiet of our Lenten season, we have every reason to make sure that we have closed the doors behind us. We dare not run the risk of missing the “still, small voice” which speaks to the Christian heart through the contemplation of the suffering Savior.

There are some things which we shall have to shut *out*, and there are some things which we shall have to shut *in*, if we wish to make the coming season a period of spiritual refreshment.

Ours is a busy, noisy world. And we are not referring now primarily to the throbbing world of manufacture, trade, and commerce. We are referring to the busy world which has broken into the midst of the average family circle.

Twelve-year-old Johnnie with his after-school basketball practice and after-supper homework, 18-year-old Margie with her high school functions and social obligations, dad with his evening meetings, and the television set with its daily fare of entertainment and excitement – all combine to give us a picture which very much resembles the noisy drugstore, against which Mr. Brown had forgotten to shut the door.

We shall have to face the facts honestly: if we are to hear the “still, small voice” of the Lenten season within our family circle, we shall have to shut some things *out* that have assumed places of importance in our daily family living.

And we shall have to shut some things *in*. Have we grown remiss in our daily prayer life – our personal, private prayers? Then let us find time during the coming weeks to shut ourselves in with God for daily spiritual communion.

Have we permitted family worship to be crowded out of our regular daily routine?

There is a message in the Lenten season, a message from the Father’s heart to ours; a message of peace and pardon, of courage and strength, of life and hope, through the wounds and death of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

As another Ash Wednesday approaches, let us ask ourselves: have we closed the door – against the intrusions of a busy world that would rob us of that message?

## Worship This Month

**WORSHIP THIS MONTH** – This month we conclude the Epiphany Season with the Transfiguration of Our Lord and begin the blessed season of Lent. Join us in worship this holy time of the year.

**February 7** – The Transfiguration of Our Lord: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36.*

**February 14** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13.*

**February 21** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent: *Jeremiah*

26:8-15; *Philippians 3:17-4:1*; *Luke 13:31-35*.

**February 28** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent: *Ezekiel 33:7-20*; *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*; *Luke 13:1-9*

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is February 10 as Lent begins. We have worship each Wednesday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. We will read about the final hours of our Lord's life and His death on the cross. Our services will follow the theme "It is finished!" Join us each Wednesday!

## Prayer List

### **OUR PRAYER LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:**

#### **Sick or Burdened Members:**

General: Jim Beck, Don Weaver

**Homebound (\* = Nursing Home):** Margot Bridges, Gladys Frankenberg, Maryjane Handzus, Evelyn Haynes, Ralph & Dottie Mertz, Blaine Smith, Jerry Stewart, Harold & Katherine Whitaker; \*Jerry Wing

**Serving Our Country:** Brett Anthonijs, Robert Boatman, Isaac Davis, Chad Kaiser, Matt Kaiser, Adam Smith, Jeff Stone

#### **Other Prayer Requests:**

#### **MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:**

Inez Anderson (cancer) Kim Robinson (liver disease)  
Brion Bissell (blood disorder) Carl Testerman (cancer)  
Connie Bowling (cancer) Judy Testerman (cancer)  
Gene Franklin (having tests) Bob VanDervort (cancer)  
Arnold & Donna Korte the Varner family  
Sharon Mueller Don & Carolyn Weaver

#### **NON-MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:**

Gabe Blake (Kara Sircy's friend) with breast and lymph node cancer  
Vicki Basler Booth (Shirley Watson's niece) with cancer of the ear  
Diane Baum's mother, who is ill  
Julie Brummitt (Jim & Rosa Beck's daughter)  
B. Cox (Mary Acuff Croes' friend) experiencing health diagnostic procedures  
Carroll DeArmond (Karen's husband) with

dementia

Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend)

Susan Elseroad (Pastor Elseroad's wife) with lung cancer

James Flanigan (Eric's brother)

Jenny Frazier (Carla Poore's boss's niece) who starts a clinical trial that was developed to target her specific cancer type; please pray specifically that she will not experience bad side effects

Wei Huang (Adam Breeden's friend) who is recovering from a bad accident

Madison Haynes (Joy Witt's relative)

Brian Hinkel (Art Poisal's friend) with complications after back surgery

Helen Linderfelt (Lynda Graves' friend)

Joyce Lipscomb (the Elmores' friend)

Ammette Lotivio (Marc Blais's friend) with pancreatic cancer

Beryl Lusbay

Joanne Mattingly

Barbara Mills (the Rodenbeck family's friend), having emergency surgery in Nashville

Phil Moore (Mary Acuff Croes' friend)

Darlene O'Brien (Art Poisal's co-worker) with lymphoma

Tom O'Brien (Marissa Wilson's co-worker's husband) with prostate cancer

Evie Ortmeier (Mary Acuff Croes' relative)

Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather) with Alzheimer's

Daniel Rule (the Slifkas' friend) suffering from RSD

Toni Rule & Connie Warren (Slifka family friends), mother and daughter both undergoing surgery and chemo for breast cancer

Jason Rutledge

Charlotte Walker (Sheila Wolford's mother) with cancer

Jennifer Wells (Bob Hotaling's co-worker)

having 2-3 hour surgery for brain & spine injuries with 6-8 weeks recovery time

Lorrie (Tiffany Smolter's mother)

The family and co-workers of Rich Poff (Marissa

Wilson's co-worker) who committed suicide Jackson (Art Poisal's friend) with leukemia Joel (newborn son of Jennifer Elmore's customer) struggling with health problems

## Other News and Happenings

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3.

**LENTEN TEA** for all ladies at 10:30 a.m. on February 6. We will have fellowship and a devotion as we prepare our hearts and minds for this penitential season. Questions? Contact Melanie Bartholomay at 865-607-1629 or mlbartholomay@gmail.com.

**DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9

**BOARD OF ELDERS** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9.

**55 ALIVE** – On Thursday, February 11, Sammy "Barney Fife" Sawyer, Education Officer with the Knox County Sheriff's Office, will give a presentation of "Crime prevention Tips for Seniors" at 12:00 noon with a luncheon served at \$7.00/person. Barney Fife, impersonator, regularly appears at the Tennessee Theater and has performed from coast to coast on many radio and television appearances. You don't want to miss seeing this one!

**TIME AND TALENT SURVEY** -- Please complete the Time and Talent Survey and place it in the box in the back of church. We all can serve our church in some way. Thank you!

**LUTHERAN WITNESS** – A member has generously provided 25 copies of The Lutheran Witness for use by the congregation. If you would like to have a copy, please see an usher.

## School News and Happenings

### CALENDAR

3 – Early Dismissal for In-Service – No ECE or Student Services

5 – Progress Reports for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

11 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly at 2:30

12 – NoUniday – theme: Valentine's Day

2/12-3/8 – Butter Braids sale

15 – President's Day – No School or ECE

16-26 – Penny Wars

23 – Class Portraits and Sports Portraits

24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade presents Chapel

26 – NoUniday – theme: school spirit – wear green and white

14-18 – Spring Break – No School – ECE and Student Services open 14-17, closed March 18

25-28 – Easter Holiday – No school or ECE

29 – Spring Portraits and Kindergarten Cap & Gown Portraits

### **NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

Dear Friends in Christ,

"The weather outside is frightful, but our school is so delightful!" You can find this phrase on one of the many adorable bulletin boards in our E.C.E. I couldn't agree with this statement any more after our recent bout with snow. Despite the unfavorable weather, January was a delightful month at FLS holding National Lutheran Schools Week, Open House, and many other fun activities.

Though there are no guarantees when it comes to East Tennessee weather, the guarantee of Christ's love and grace is sufficient to keep our spirits soaring into February. After such a busy month in January, we will have a more relaxed schedule full of fun learning activities mixed in with a dash of competition.

Classrooms will celebrate Valentines Day with class parties as students share kind words and thoughts with one another and focusing on the greatest love we will ever encounter, that of our heavenly Father.

Butter Braid sales will begin in February and run through March 2nd. This is a great way for FLS to get some dough (pardon the obvious pun). In all seriousness, Butter Braids are our second largest fundraiser. These delicious pastries are one of my favorite foods to have on hand for guests. They are easy to prepare, look very impressive, and best of all they taste wonderful. We will hold a tasting after church during the course of the sale so be sure to stop by and sample some Butter Braids.

Athletes from Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee will gather together for a tournament February 19th-21st. Fortunately, Kari was able to schedule the tournament in such a way that our regularly scheduled activities should not be affected by tournament play. All are welcome to join us for some fellowship and friendly competition at the tournament. We are pleased to be able to host this tournament in order to keep this wonderful tradition going. *In HIS Service*

*Lindsey Hofman, Interim Principal*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

16 – Larry & Kim Mabe

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

Paul J. Bushur, Pastor; Ceci Steele, Editor. Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Children’s Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes are held on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

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**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 – Luke Buckner, Jason Gibson
- 3 – Audrey Miller, Mike Sanders, Denver Slifka, Brittany Tipton
- 4 – Emily Norton
- 5 – Dave Wheat
- 7 – Dawn Johnson
- 9 – Kari Williamson
- 10 – Judy Kelley
- 13 – Morgan Lyke
- 14 – Elizabeth Davis, Nathan Parker, Katie Wells
- 15 – Isaac Parker
- 20 – Jim Beck
- 21 – Steve Hardin
- 22 – Amanda Parker, Easton Payne
- 23 – Julie Cloninger
- 25 – Nicaea Lukens
- 27 – Lindsey Blair
- 28 – Emily Blomenberg, Erin Rodgers

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2016</h1>						
	1 6:00 Book of Isaiah 6:00 Soccer	2 12:30 I Kings Bible Class	3 8:30 <i>School Chapel</i> 3:45 <b>Word &amp; Song</b> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Board of Trustees	4	5 6:00 Soccer	9:00 Mission Serve 3:00 Soccer
7 <b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Merchant Baby Shower 12:30 Confirmation Class 6:00 Open Gym	8 9:30 Quilting 6:00 Book of Isaiah 6:00 Soccer	9 6:00 <b>Day School Board</b> 7:00 Board of Elders	10 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 8:30 <i>School Chapel</i> 3:45 <b>Word &amp; Song</b> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 12:00 55 Alive	12 6:00 Soccer	13 8:30-3:00 Karate Graduation 9:00 Workday 3:00 Soccer
14 <b>MITEBOX SUNDAY</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	15 <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> 6:00 Book of Isaiah 6:00 Soccer  <b>NO SCHOOL / NO ECE</b>	16 12:30 I Kings Bible Class	17 8:30 <i>School Chapel</i> 3:45 <b>Word &amp; Song</b> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	18	19 <b>DEADLINE FOR MAR. NEWSLETTER</b> 6:00 Soccer	20 -3:00 Soccer
21 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	22 9:30 Quilting 6:00 Book of Isaiah 6:00 Soccer	23	24 8:30 <i>School Chapel</i> 3:45 <b>Word &amp; Song</b> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	25	26 6:00 Soccer	27 3:00 Soccer
28 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 6:00 Open Gym	29 6:00 Book of Isaiah 6:00 Soccer					