

# First Hearts

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## A Writing

The Pastor is in a precarious position. He stands between God and His people. He is charged with speaking the Word that God speaks to His people. It is a dangerous place to stand – it is a heavy word that the Pastor is charged with speaking. He must first warn God's people about their sin and their sinful state as they stand before a Holy God. This is the hard part. No sinner likes to be told that he/she is a sinner. But the Pastor must convince God's people that they are sinners standing before a Holy God – a God who is repulsed by sin. He cannot soft coat this message – he cannot be touchy feely about this first task given to him by God – the salvation of those charged to Him by God is at stake – he must speak the truth of God's Word of Law, the Ten Commandments. After the Law has been spoken in its severity to bring sinners to repentance, then the Gospel – the forgiveness of sins won for the sinner on the Cross by the Son of God can be poured out freely and abundantly. That is the wonderful part for the pastor – to see repentant sinners come to God to receive his Gospel – in confession and absolution, at the Baptismal font, at the Communion rail where the Lord's Body and Blood are given for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith.

What follows is what another pastor wrote about this pastoral tasking of men by God. I consider it to be a well-done writing. May the Lord be with you all and pour out his blessings on you!

*Pastor Smithey*

### A WRITING

There is, in fact, a tension between him who spoke with authority and the speech of the scribes, a tension between the Word of the Bible itself and our word of preaching. One who no longer feels this tension is in bad shape. Or we might say, one who is not willing to bear this tension, as a minister of the Word would better give up being a minister of the

Word. This tension is bound up with the humanness of the preacher.

We are human beings after all . . . The preacher, too, has the right to be a human being. But the material with which we are dealing in our calling, the Word of God, is a fire. Christ came into the world to kindle a fire. The seeds He cast are fiery grains. But we men fear fire; and it is probably well that we do; better than to play with it. It is dangerous to take fire into one's hands, even in one's mouth. One actually has to be a real flame swallower to deal with God's Word, and this is just what we are not. And how easily it happens that we, who simply have to present this fire to the congregation, should be inclined, out of a mistaken consideration not only for our listeners but ultimately for our own flesh, to act like a mother who tempers the *gobbets* (a piece or small chunk of meat) when they are too hot and blows on the porridge when it is too fiery to make it lukewarm for the child to take. Our greatest, our real difficulty in preaching is that the fire of God is always too hot for us and we cool it and temper it. Thus we falsify God's Word, perhaps not with malice aforethought, perhaps purely out of our own tenderness and consideration for those committed to our care. This falsification can be concealed just as well under the heavy, correct, and stately vesture of orthodox preaching as under the light and airy *habiliment* (clothing' dress' attire; furnishings or equipment; trappings) of liberalism.

Thus God's Word is corrupted in the preaching mouth of man. Therefore our concern, not, it is true, our sole concern, but certainly our most urgent, must be that the seed shall remain fiery in our hands, that the Word of God may be so preached among us that it may burn and give "light to all in the house." - Walter Luthi

*Walter Luthi (1901 – 1982) was a Reformed pastor from Bern, Switzerland.*

## Worship This Month

*I pledge allegiance to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the faith for which it stands, one Savior with mercy and grace for all.*

**July 2** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: *Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 10:34-42.*

**June 9** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: *Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:13-25a; Matthew 11:25-30.*

**July 16** – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: *Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:1-7, 12-23.*

**July 23** – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: *Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.*

**July 30** – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:  
*Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 8:28-39; Matthew 13:44-52.*

## Prayer List

### OUR PRAYER LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:

Sick or Burdened Members:

General: Jim Beck, Don Weaver

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

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

### Other Prayer Requests:

### MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

Inez Anderson (heart & lungs)	Blaine Smith
Brion Bissell (needs kidney)	Jim Scarlett
Margot Bridges (homebound)	Susan Spicer
Gladys Frankenberg (homebound)	Jerry Stewart (nursing home)
Gene Franklin	Carl Testerman (cancer)
Pat Hinds	Judy Testerman (cancer)
Mary Jones (kidney disease)	the Varner family
Dan Jordan (heart)	Don & Carolyn Weaver
Donna Korte	Kris Weaver
Ralph & Dottie Mertz (homebound)	Mary Ann Wheat
Sharon Mueller	Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)
Kim Robinson (liver disease) . . .	Jerry Wing (nursing home)
Pastor Shultz (knee surgery)	

### NON-MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

David Bissell (Brion's father) who broke his hip and is having to have hip replacement  
Charlotte Brothers (wife of Carla Poore's co-worker), recently diagnosed with breast cancer  
Julie Brummitt (Jim & Rosa Beck's daughter)  
Jonathan Campbell (Diane Baum's co-worker's brother) fighting infection after an appendectomy to remove his ruptured appendix  
Lee Collins (Margaret Ortstadt's grandson) with a serious bacterial infection  
Carroll DeArmond (Karen's husband) with dementia  
Joy DeSensi (Carla Poore's former co-worker), going through a difficult treatment regimen for bone cancer  
Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend)  
Susan Elseroad (Pastor Elseroad's wife) with lung cancer  
James Flanigan (Eric's brother)  
Andy Fultz (the Rodenbeck's relative) who is facing serious health issues  
Brian Hinkel (Art Poisal's friend) with complications after back surgery  
Cheryl Hooks (Diane Baum's friend) undergoing months of chemotherapy after removal of part of her colon and intestines due to cancer  
Helen Linderfelt (Lynda Graves' friend)  
Joyce Lipscomb (the Elmore's friend)  
Annette Lotivio (Marc Blais's friend) with pancreatic cancer  
Beryl Lusbay  
Joanne Mattingly  
Darlene O'Brien (Art Poisal's co-worker) with lymphoma  
Tom O'Brien (Marissa Wilson's co-worker's husband) with prostate cancer  
Kim Renfro (Pat Wrinkle's friend) with cancer  
Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather) with Alzheimer's  
Daniel Rule (the Slifkas' friend) suffering from RSD  
Jason Rutledge  
Connie Warren (Slifka family friend), undergoing breast cancer treatment

Sam and Alex Weaver  
Jackson (Art Poisal's friend) with leukemia

## Other News and Happenings

**STEWARDSHIP** – “I will bless you . . . , so that you will be a blessing” (Gen. 12:2). The Lord blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing. How did He bless Abraham? He promised that from His seed would come the savior of the nations. And Abraham believed that promise, trusted that the Lord would provide it just as He had promised. Thus, everything Abraham did was colored by that promise. He willingly gave of himself and his household in service to the Lord in view of that promise.

Our Father in heaven has richly blessed us. Not only has He given us everything that we need to support this body and life, but He has also provided, that promised seed in His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the savior of the nations. He is the redeemer of the world. He is the one who has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Just as we are richly blessed, we are also thereby freed to be a blessing. Since God has endowed us with His gifts, we are set to endow others. Thus, we give of the blessings we have received so that others may be blessed. We do this in our homes, our communities, and our churches. We press the blessings God has lavished upon us in service to those around us. We use our time, our talents, and our treasures to be a blessing even as they have been a blessing to us.

The Lord blesses us. And He enlists us to be a blessing to others. So, whenever you put that envelope in the collection plate, when you set out to serve at the local food pantry, when you sit down to help your kids with homework, think of this: The Lord has blessed you, so that you will be a blessing.

**DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11.\

**BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING** is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15.

**BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18.

**MISSION SERVE** is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 29.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES**  
Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

**WELCOME TO** our new members:  
Pam Veenstra, who joined by transfer of her membership to us  
Kimberly Massey, joined by profession of her faith. and  
Alex Downey who has joined by baptism  
and will be taking confirmation classes  
Joe and Aja LaDue and their two children  
George Steensma  
Steven Keyes

**YOUTH OF ALL AGES!!**  
July 21st and 22nd  
Camping trip at Rick Elmore's house  
Lots of Fun will be going on:  
Swimming in the Pool, cooking out, camping out in tents, games and lots of Fellowship!  
More detail will come!!!  
Mark the date and Come join us!!!

## School News and Happenings

**NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
Dear Friends,

Now that summer is in full swing, FLS is preparing for our upcoming school year. We have a lot to look forward to this next year, but we also have some challenges to face.

As we have completed the accreditation process, we begin making the changes suggested by the accreditation team. The team found many strengths at First Lutheran School including our relationship with the community by opening up our facilities to German Saturday School, soccer teams, and Broadway Karate. Additionally, our involvement in

the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association and the strong relationship we have built with the surrounding businesses such as K-Brew and WATE6 were also positive attributes the visiting team identified. While each of the aforementioned attributes requires time, it is satisfying to learn what an impact these small acts can have on our neighbors and the ministry opportunity it provides.

I cannot say enough good things about the faculty and staff of First Lutheran School. The visiting team had the same feeling. We also received high marks in the Professional Personnel and Teaching and Learning sections. Some of the positive attributes mentioned for these sections were the play-based learning that takes place in the ECE, ongoing professional development opportunities, and, my favorite, teachers who love what they do and are eager to work together for the betterment of the school. God has richly blessed us with teachers who love to teach children, and especially love to teach them about God's love.

Finally, the team was very impressed with our hot lunch program, the extracurricular activities offered to students, and the dedication to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of students were noted as a strength.

One of the greatest benefits of going through the accreditation process is the recommendations given by the professionals serving on the visiting team. Now that we have completed and passed accreditation, our work is just beginning as we start to implement the recommended changes. It seems that in a time when there are many things uncertain that change is inevitable. Although change can be scary, it is also necessary for growth and improvement. I look forward to the coming changes and seeing how God will use them to bless this ministry to HIS glory.

*In Christ,  
Lindsey Hofman*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

1 – Jacob Cloninger, Holly Flanigan, Nick Weideman

2 – Trevor Anderson, Joy Witt  
 3 – Steve Wheat  
 4 – Brett Anthonijs  
 8 – Abby Bushur, bobby Eisold, Tabitha Lukens, Monika Rash, Tatum Smolter  
 9 – Cameron Brown, Angela Lukens  
 12 – Zachary Mueller, Brian Poore, Melissa Sanders  
 13 – Michleen Jones  
 14 – Lin Holloway Jr.  
 16 – Avery Anderson, Amy Keller  
 19 – Karen DeArmond, Sheila Wolford  
 20 – Martin Slomski, Nathan Wade  
 22 – Melissa Schell, Marilyn Wing  
 23 – Theo Anthonijs, Kim Smith  
 25 – Gianna Haun-Harshaw  
 26 – Jonathan Boatman  
 27 – Liz Etzel  
 29 – Elizabeth Smith, Jayda Turner, Lisa Wade  
 30 – Ron Mahs, Wendy Slifka, Drew Slomski

### ANNIVERSARIES

2 – Lawrence & Ingrid Capparelli  
 12 – Scott & Karen Spaid  
 17 – Seth & Rebecca Nutter  
 21 – Fred & Melissa Schell  
 24 – Greg & Beth Buckner, John & Lindsay Hofman  
 31 – Mark & Debbie Fettig

### **DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, JULY 21**

Floyd P. Smithey, Vacancy 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.

First Lutheran Church  
 1207 Broadway NE  
 Knoxville, TN 37917  
 (865) 524-0366

e-mail: [office@firstknoxville.org](mailto:office@firstknoxville.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>July 2017</h1>						1
2 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:30 Confirmation class	3 6:00 Book of Isaiah	4	5 6:30 Worship Service	7	7	8
9 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:30 Confirmation Class	10 9:30 Quilting	11 <b>6:00 Day School Board</b> 7:00 Board of Elders	12 6:30 Worship Service	13	14	15 9:00 Workday
16 <b>MITE BOX SUNDAY</b> 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:30 Confirmation Class	17 6:00 Book of Isaiah	18 7:00 Board of Stewardship	19 6:30 Worship Service	20	21 <b>DEADLINE FOR AUG. NEWSLETTER</b>  <-----Youth Camping Trip	22  at Rick Elmore's----->
23 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:30 Confirmation Class	24 9:30 Quilting	25	26 6:30 Worship Service	27	28	29 9:00 Mission Serve
30 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:30 Confirmation Class	31					