

# First Hearts

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## Dear Members of First Lutheran:

After sixteen years in a strange place called Rifle, Colorado, my wife and I packed our bags and headed for the beautiful state of Tennessee! What an undertaking that was! The boxes were many as were the rolls of tape and packing paper and bubble wrap!

I couldn't help but think of the Israelites when Pharaoh finally gave the order for them to leave. Suddenly there was a mighty stirring in the land for God was doing a great thing! The end of slavery was at hand as they readied themselves for the journey! Imagine the boxes! The packing tape! The bubble wrap! They were headed for the Promised Land!

The Promised Land! It sounds so great! A land flowing with milk and honey! Is that Colorado? Is that Tennessee! Lovely places to be sure, but neither compare to the real Promised Land God has waiting! That's God's ultimate destination for us all! It reminds us that we are only sojourners through this world. Pilgrims, travelers following the leading of God, the calling of the Lord to a greater land!

And yes, we would love to put down permanent roots here on this earth. One person asked me how I could leave Colorado? Shouldn't that be a permanent place for you given its wonder? Well, behind the "purple mountains majesty" is a hedonistic culture drunk on pleasure, an eclectic culture looking for meaning, a culture enjoying "Rocky Mountain High" for many are now moving there for the weed alone! Legalization makes it alright!

Moving, though, was still not easy! Uprooting! Saying Goodbye! Not fun! Abraham too had to do these things. The text says nothing about his heartache, only that he should say goodbye and go! That is our legacy as Christians! It's one of non-permanence on this earth! And so, like the Israelites, and Abraham and St. Paul we packed up our belongings! The purpose? To preach the living Word. For only it has the power! Only it has the life-giving Spirit! Only it bespeaks us righteous and justifies the sinner!

The Word! Abraham took it to a foreign land. The Word! St. Paul took it to a foreign land! The Word! Jesus became the Word incarnate and left heaven to bring it here! Go preach the Word! And so we come... to do just

that... to share the Word... that sinners might become saints in a far away place! That the journey may end in the joy of heaven! The Word! It's even better than bubble wrap!

*In Jesus, Pastor Schmidt*

## Worship This Month

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

**December 3** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent: *Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 11:1-10.*

**December 10** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent: *Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.*

**December 17** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:5-8, 19-28.*

**December 24** – Christmas Day 10:30 service: *Isaiah 7:10-14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25.*

Christmas Eve 7:00 Candlelight Service: *Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 3:1-14.*

**December 25** – Christmas Day: *Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-14.*

**December 31** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas: *Isaiah 30:15-17; Romans 8:31b-39; Luke 12:35-40.*

## Prayer List

**OUR PRAYER LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:**

**Sick or Burdened Members:**

General: Jim Beck, Don Weaver

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

**Other Prayer Requests:**

**MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:**

Brion Bissell (needs kidney)

Susan Spicer

Margot Bridges (homebound)

Gene & Arlene Stern

Shirley Eimmerman (broken leg) Jerry Stewart (homebound)

Gladys Frankenberg (homebound) Carl Testerman (cancer)

Gene Franklin  
 Pat Hinds  
 Karla Hood  
 Mike & Mary Jones  
 Dan Jordan Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)  
 Donna Korte Mary Ann Wheat  
 Don Linde Marilyn Wing (homebound)  
 Ralph & Dottie Mertz (homebound). Jerry Wing (nursing home)  
 Sharon Mueller the Wolford family  
 Blaine Smith

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

Atarah and Anna Beth Baez (Bob & Jana Hotaling's grandchildren), born prematurely and in UT hospital  
 Dennis Lee Bagby (Donna Korte's friend Suzanne Chapman's son)  
 Charlotte Brothers (wife of Carla Poore's co-worker), doing well; doctors believe they got all the cancer and she did not require chemotherapy. Praise God!  
 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  
 Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend)  
 James Flanigan (Eric's brother)  
 Mary Ann Fowler (Mike Anderson's aunt) with cancer and prognosis not good  
 Andy Fultz (the Rodenbeck's relative) who is facing serious health issues  
 Ken Hamilton (father of Anna Marie Hamilton, UT student from Alabama)  
 Judy Hamrick (Shirley Watson's neighbor) with a tumor that is growing  
 JoAnn Harbaugh (Kathleen Holliday's mother)  
 Randy Hetzner (AnnMarie Bissell's father) with a broken foot and ankle  
 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 (Rick Elmore's friend)  
 Annette Lotivio (Marc Blais's friend) with pancreatic cancer  
 Joanne Mattingly  
 Joan Mincey (Shirley Watson's friend) with stage 4 COPD and breast cancer  
 Karen Nall  
 Mary Jane Nichols (Becky Marshall's sister) having open heart surgery  
 Tom O'Brien (Marissa Wilson's co-worker's husband) with prostate cancer

Travis Parrott (the Wolford's son-in-law) needing a kidney transplant  
 Kallee Pittenger (mother of one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students), having chemotherapy for breast cancer  
 Tom Roberts (Sara's grandfather) with Alzheimer's  
 Daniel Rule (the Slifkas' friend) suffering from RSD  
 Jason Rutledge  
 Kristy Shirk (Lynda Graves' friend) with cancer of the sinuses  
 Connie Warren (Slifka family friend), undergoing breast cancer treatment  
 Sam and Alex Weaver

## **Other News and Happenings**

**STEWARDSHIP** – We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger, but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it. The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas, but throughout all the year. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us.

Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

**THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!** My wife and I would like to thank everyone for the kind reception we

received in the past two weeks upon our arrival in Knoxville. Many helped with our move and our home items. Many have offered their love and support. For your kind and welcoming reception we give thanks to God! We pray for His blessings and strength as we begin a new ministry here! We ask for your prayers and patience as we familiarize ourselves with all that needs to be done here at church. Again, may we thank you and may God bless you! *Pastor and Mary Schmidt*

**ATTENTION CONFIRMATION PARENTS AND STUDENTS** – Confirmation Class is currently one of the items that is being reviewed by Pastor Schmidt. Because of my new start here at First Lutheran and also the holiday weekend next week, Confirmation Class will likely resume the following Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please stay tuned, though, for further information and updates! We will be working to inform our parents and students! Thank you.

**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT** will be on Sunday, December 3, at 6:30 in the Meeting Room. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10.

**LIVE NATIVITY** will be at 8:30 on Sunday, December 10, following the Sunday School Christmas Program.

**POINSETTIAS** – It is time to place your order for poinsettias for this Christmas season. The cost this year is \$11.00. Order forms can be found in your bulletin or on the table at the back of the church. Please complete and return to the church secretary by Monday, December 11. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.

**DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12.

**BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING** is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12.

**55 ALIVE** will meet Thursday, December 14, at 12:00 noon with a delectable luncheon at \$7.00/person. Our new pastor, Pastor Edward Schmidt, will share Advent-Christmas thoughts as well as highlights of his life. It has been a tradition to “gift” the kitchen with

paper products such as plates, napkins, paper towels, etc. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16.

**BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP** will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** will be on Sunday, December 17, following worship service.

**GREETERS ARE NEEDED** for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service. Please contact Barb Eisold at 925-0465. Thank you very much!

## School News and Happenings

### CALENDAR

- 1 – No UniDay – theme: red & green/Christmas
- 1 – ECE tree trimming party with parents at 6:30
- 8 – Christmas Program at 6:00 – ECE closing at 5:30
- 18 – Geography Bee for 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grades
- 19 – FREE dress day
- 12/20 - Jan. 2 – Christmas Break – No school – ECE closed 12/22, 25, 26, 29, and 1/1

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

Dear Friends,

Where has the time gone? It seems just yesterday we were preparing for new school year and now the year is nearly half over. As we enter the season of Advent it is time to look to what is ahead and put behind us the things that have passed. Advent is a time of preparation, anticipation, and excitement.

There are so many things to prepare for this time of year. Christmas concerts, putting up decorations, visiting family, and finding the perfect gift are a few of the ways we busy ourselves. It is clear that turkey and mashed potatoes aren't the only things on our plate this time of year. If you are anything like me the holidays are the perfect excuse to overeat, and over stress. Is it possible to be a glutton when it comes to stress? At times I fill my mental plate with so many things my mind becomes so overstuffed I have no room for what's really important. Am I busy just for the sake of being busy? At what point have I stopped doing things to glorify God and started to build up my own ego? I forget that sometimes the best thing I can do to glorify God is to give him my time and attention. In Psalms we are told, “Be still and know that I

am God.” Being still is not an easy task. We have news coming at us 24 hours a day, Facebook posts to write, jobs to do, meetings to attend, and then the social and extracurricular activities we want to be a part of. It seems there is never a good time to be still.

This Advent season we will be taking a chance each Wednesday morning as we worship together in Chapel. Please join us in taking time out to spend time to prepare for Christ. One great opportunity for us to witness is during our Christmas Concert on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Our concert this year will be one of the best we have ever had. Our students have been practicing and their praises are beautiful! We welcome you all to come enjoy watching our students use their gifts to glorify God. Thank you for your prayers and continued support of our ministry. Have a blessed Christmas!

*In Christ, Lindsey Hofman*

## **DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

Edward H. Schmidt, 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**

- 1 – Carla Poore
- 3 – Vicki Broyles
- 4 – Diane Baum, Mary Jones
- 6 – Cheryl Denton
- 8 – Zachary Blais
- 12 – Pastor Schulz, Madison Slomski, Justin Turner
- 17 – Robert Boatman
- 19 – Howard Rash, Nelson Tower
- 24 – Stephanie Johnson
- 25 – Rosina Krauss
- 26 – Janice Kaiser, Doc Sternberg, Marissa Wilson
- 29 – Gloria Schulz
- 30 – Rose Broyles, Margaret Ortstadt
- 31 – Carlyle Roth

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 – Chuck & Diane Baum
- 27 – Ed & JoAnn Niedens
- 28 – Brion & AnnMarie Bissell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 2017</b>						
<b>3 ADVENT</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 6:30 Advent by Candlelight	<b>4</b> 6:00 New Testament Books	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>8:30 School Chapel</i> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 12:00 55 Alive	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	<b>11</b> 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	<b>12</b> <i>6:00 Day School Board</i> 7:00 Board of Elders	<b>13</b> <i>8:30 School Chapel</i> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 Workday
<b>17 MITEBOX SUNDAY</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	<b>18</b> 6:00 New Testament Books	<b>19</b> 7:00 Board of Stewardship	<b>20</b> 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears.	<b>21</b>	<b>22 DEADLINE FOR JAN. NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 Mission Serve
<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 7:00 Candlelight Service	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:00 Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	<b>ECE CLOSED</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>ECE CLOSED</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>ECE OPEN</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>ECE OPEN</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>ECE CLOSED</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	