

First Hearts

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March 2018

A Second Set of Hands!

The members of First Lutheran recently voted to extend a call to Pastor Floyd Smithey to help out on a part-time basis here at our congregation. He will be serving us up to 20 hours per week, enabling us to move beyond the usual ministry items that have taken place in the past.

Having a second set of hands is really nothing new to First Lutheran. A few years ago Pastor Derek Roberts was called to help expand the ministry here and to help with the ministerial duties. Pastor Smithey's presence will help us do the same.

With the unique challenges of our congregation, it will be nice to have more Bible class opportunities being offered. Pastor Smithey is already planning on helping out here with the possibility of a study on the book of Revelation to start us out.

It will also be nice to have another pastor to help with our worship services. To do Wednesday services, for example, on a year-round basis is a challenge for a single pastor to do because they require, for example, a second sermon to be written and learned every week. Single pastor parishes with more than one service will often have a service on Saturday evening utilizing the same message as the one on Sunday morning, helping him conserve time and energy. Second services are usually intended, as well, to be for those who can't make it on Sunday. We envision a second set of hands to be helpful both for Wednesday services as well as some Sunday services.

With Pastor Smithey helping out we will be able to increase our visitations to members – something that has gotten more challenging in a day and age of increased activity and unavailability. This is something that will help increase contacts with members resulting, hopefully, in better church attendance as well as stewardship of our offerings. As time unfolds, there may be other items that Pastor Smithey will help us accomplish.

One might ask the question, "why a second set of hands?" Well, why not? If you have one pastor doing the same things the previous pastor always did, nothing will really change. First Lutheran needs some change. It needs to offer some different things, and perhaps some new things. A second set of hands will hopefully take us in that direction.

Having said that, we are happy to welcome Pastor Smithey aboard! He will be a good asset to have. We thank him, as well, for his servanthood and for offering his

talents again to the church. At present we are awaiting formal approval by the District President. As we receive that, we'll begin. Please keep Pastor Smithey in your prayers! We thank God for him!

In Christ, 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.

March 4 – 3rd Sunday in Lent: *Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 2:13-22.*

March 11 – 4th Sunday in Lent: *Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.*

March 18 – 5th Sunday in Lent: *Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.*

March 25 – Palm Sunday: *Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11; March 14:1-15:47.*

THE SEASON OF LENT 2018: "Our Savior's Wounded Body" – We welcome and encourage everyone to join us for our Lenten journey this year. Our Series will focus on the various wounds our Savior enduring during the course of His passion to save you and I. Services are held at 6:30 p.m. Also, Soup Suppers are going to be held this year! They will be served in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. We invite you to bring yourself and your family along to be fed both in body and soul! Please join us for our Lenten journey!

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)

Blaine Smith

Margot Bridges (homebound) Susan Spicer
 Gladys Frankenberg (homebound) Carl Testerman (cancer)
 Gene Franklin Judy Testerman (cancer)
 Pat Hinds the Varner family
 Karla Hood Don & Carolyn Weaver
 Mike & Mary Jones Kris Weaver
 Dan JordanHarold & 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

NON-MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

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 3rd 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 – "I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service.

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING is 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5.

EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, the only door to be open for entering the church and school on Wednesdays will be the main door on the Wells Street side. The ECE school door will be locked. So please use only the Wells Street parking lot and church door for entering the church for Lenten suppers and services. This is for everyone's safety.

55 ALIVE will have a special speaker, Dr. James "Doc" Sternberg, our very own member, on Thursday, March 8, at 12:00 noon with a luncheon at \$7.00/person. "Doc" graduated from Michigan State University, owned and practiced at Powell Animal Hospital for 37 years, but now is retired. He and his wife Kelly went to Alaska and saw the Iditarod and will show pictures from their trip. Also, he will talk about why he chose this profession and "a day in the life of a veterinarian."

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 17.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

MISSION SERVE is Saturday, March 31. Please let Karen Farris know if you can help.

PARISH EDUCATION Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CHAIR LIFT PROJECT – The Trustees have been

doing some preliminary work for our chair lift. This will help us get members in need up to the choir loft and upper areas to help with ministry to our services. As of late, it sounds like the project has been funded and things are ready to "take off." We thank everyone who helped out in this endeavor! Amazing what we can do when everyone helps out!

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY – Pastor Schmidt met with representatives of Lutheran Hour Ministries recently to hear of the ministry helps and projects that are available through them. One of the main items they asked for was help from our congregation to provide a congregational ambassador. The ambassador's job would simply be to keep the congregation informed regarding LHM news, projects, and Bible studies and helps. The position does not require lots of time and energy. If you would like to help Lutheran Hour Ministries in our congregation, please see Pastor Schmidt. He will get you started! Thank you!

SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE – The Safety Committee has been meeting to develop a safety plan for our church and school. Some actions have been implemented already, like only having two outside doors unlocked when entering the church and school on a Sunday, the church Wells Street and the ECE school entrance doors.

QUILTING is back in full force and could really use the congregation's help in gathering cotton fabric scraps. They need to measure at least 22 x 22 inches, or to use for backs 4 yards of fabric. If you have any old sheets at home you haven't used in a while, now is the time to put them to good use.

THE BIBLE COMES ALIVE once you have actually visited the places where Jesus walked! Rev. Michael Wolfram and Tim Wolfram will be hosting a pilgrimage to the land of Israel beginning February 4, 2019. If you would like information on this spiritual pilgrimage, contact Rev. Wolfram at mcwolfram@aol.com or call 515-988-4324, or you may contact Tim Wolfram at 865-522-0851 or e-mail timwolfram@bellsouth.net. Early bird registration discounts are available.

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

9 – End of 3rd Quarter grading period

9 – No UniDay – theme: Hat Day

12-16 – Spring Break – no school, ECE open 12-13,

closed 14-16

23 – No UniDay – theme: sports day

27 – Sporting portraits and Kindergarten cap and gown pictures

29-4/2 – Easter Holiday – no school or ECE, student services available

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

It's that time again. Lent. During Lent I always enjoy listening to the sound track of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*. This brings back memories of riding in the car with my parents and remembering when we first got a CD player and my dad bought the two disk set that led to my brother and I listening to it over and over again. It was the perfect blend of Bible and rock and roll for our house. The other day when I was listening to this old familiar record I noticed something I hadn't paid attention to before. Caiaphas was talking with his posse and was really unhappy with how Jesus was changing things, changing people, and challenging the status quo.

Fast forward a couple of thousand years and things haven't really changed all that much. People change, but human nature doesn't. We love being in our comfort zone. It feels safe and secure there. I sometimes wonder if I'm so comfortable I'm not allowing Christ to change me into the friend, servant, or church member he desires me to be. Are we inhibiting the Holy Spirit when we refuse to notice the work being done in unlikely places or in different ways? This is a struggle for me as I like things the way I like them, but I'm trying to learn and understand that my ways are not God's ways.

The month of March will hold our spring break, and the beginning of the final marking period. This time of year always seems to go by so quickly as you realize how little time we have left with our students. We will practice for our spring musical, and begin preparations for next school year. Most importantly we will enter Holy Week and Celebrate Easter in early April. Thank you for your prayers for FLS. It is a blessing to work in such a loving environment!

In Christ, Lindsey Hofman

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Kris Weaver
- 2 – Lily Varner
- 6 – Michelle Breeden
- 7 – John Hofman
- 10 – John Schulz Jr., David Varner
- 12 – Shelbie Bender, Carolyn Weaver
- 14 – Lin Holloway III, Zoe Price
- 18 – Kelsey Denton, Sharon Lee
- 19 – Beth Crockett
- 21 – Doug Rodenbeck
- 22 – AnnMarie Bissell, Bobbie Dunn
- 23 – Matt Kaiser
- 27 – Marion Samuel
- 28 – Jean Chambers
- 30 – John Milligan

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Rick & Michelle Breeden, Benny & Marion Samuel
- 25 – Rober & Melanie Bartholomay

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 23

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.

First Lutheran Church
1207 Broadway NE
Knoxville, TN 37918
(865) 524-0366
e-mail: office@firstknoxville.org

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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March 2018

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4 4th SUNDAY IN LENT 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 12:15 Confirmation Class	5 6:00 Day School Board 6:00 New Testament Books	6	7 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Luth. Ring. Rehearsal 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 12:00 SS Alive	9	10
11 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship: Service	12 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	13 7:00 Board of Elders	14 5:30 Luth. Ring. Rehearsal 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 9:00 Workday
	<----- NO SCHOOL	----- NO SCHOOL	----- SPRING BREAK ----- NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	----- NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	-----> NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	
18 HITEBOX SUNDAY 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 12:15 Confirmation Class	19 6:00 New Testament Books	20 7:00 Board of Stewardship	21 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Luth. Ring. Rehearsal 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	22	23 DEADLINE FOR APR. NEWSLETTER	24
25 PALM SUNDAY 8:45 FirstBells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	26 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	27	28 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Luth. Ring. Rehearsal 5:30 Soup Supper 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 Worship Service	30 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 Service of Darkness	31 9:00 Mission Serve 10:00-12:00 Easter Egg Hunt