

First Hearts

Published by First Lutheran Church

November 2017

Dear Christians at First Lutheran

Greetings to all in the Name of Jesus – the Christ – the Son of the Only True and Living God. When we talk about the only true and living God – that in itself – brings on more talk. The Hebrew name for this Triune God whom we worship in spirit and truth is Yahweh. Yahweh means “I AM THAT I AM.” Some of you are old enough to have seen and remember the old black and white rendition of “The Ten Commandments” where Charlton Heston as Moses stood on Mount Sinai in the presence of Yahweh in a burning bush that never burned up. There was one scene where Moses asked God whom he should tell the people had sent him to lead them out of slavery in Egypt. In a voice that was impressive in its strength and loudness, God answered Moses’ question by saying to him, “Tell them that “I AM THAT I AM sent you.” This is the God of all creation – Yahweh, I AM THAT I AM - the creator of the universe – the God who took a little pile of dirt and formed him into the shape of a man and breathed life into him – the God whose performative speaking created life and continues to grant life to the world – the God who takes care of each of us. This is the living God who numbers the hairs of our heads and the freckles on our arms. This is the God – Yahweh who sent Moses to bring the Israelite nation out of Egypt by a series of plagues and miracles.

In an amazing statement which is the closing of the Ten Commandments – this God - the only true God admits that He is Jealous. He loves his creation so much and He loves the gem of his creation (human beings) so much that he is jealous. What an incredible admission from God who is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (always present). Can you believe it? He loves us so much that He is jealous of us. He does not want us to look at another god, to think about another god, to even begin to love another god. As the Small Catechism says so well in the First Commandment and its explanation. What is the First Commandment? You should have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

How blessed can we be? How blessed can we be - to know the only true and living God! For we have not seen him – seen the Father that is – but we know His

Son. And when one knows the Son of the Only True and Living God, he knows the Father. He knows that God loved him enough to allow His Only Son to suffer and die so that He could pay for his sins. He knows that God justified him and proved his sins are paid for by raising His Son from the dead to give him hope that he, too, will be raised from the dead. And He knows the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son for this is the Spirit of Truth. How blessed we are to be to be in the royal family of Yahweh - I AM THAT I AM!

I could go on for a while writing and thinking about Yahweh, but in this writing – which is probably my last writing to you in “First Hearts” - I say thank you for the period of time I served as your vacancy pastor. What a great blessing the Lord has given to me in this service to our Lord Jesus and to you at First Lutheran. Again, I say Thank you. That really isn’t enough to say, but it is all that I have. THANK YOU!

So, I end this writing with a paragraph from a Sunday bulletin brought to me by Vicki Broyles and her family as they traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio to St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS). The following paragraph is excerpted from that bulletin as it was written by Pastor Tim Beck.

#4 – In the Divine Service, Christ is present in words of life. How does this shape music in the Church? Music assists the proclamation of the word. In contrast, our culture sells music to audiences according to a desire for amusement or excitement, escape or exploitation. The direction is self-centered. The direction of Evangelical Lutheran hymnody is Christ – centered. It aims to convey what can sustain a pilgrim Church on its journey through the world to the eternal. A corollary is that church music is not entertainment. While the hymnody and sacred song of the Church may be profoundly moving, it is a vehicle of Christ’s word for our eternal good.

And I do have one more thing to say to you:–
“The Lord bless you and keep you – all of you – you are the baptized children of God.”

*In Christ’s Service
Pastor Floyd Smithey, Vacancy Pastor*

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.

November 5 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost: *Micah 3:5-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; Matthew 23:1-12.*

November 12 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost: *Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.*

November 19 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost: *Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30.*

November 26 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost: *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46.*

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
Gladys Frankenberg (homebound)	Jerry Stewart (homebound)
Gene Franklin	Carl Testerman (cancer)
Paat Hinds	Judy Testerman (cancer)
Karla Hood	the Varner family
Mike & Mary Jones	Don & Carolyn Weaver
Dan Jordan	Kris Weaver
Donna Korte	Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)
Don Linde	Mary Ann Wheat
Ralph & Dottie Mertz (homebound).	Marilyn Wing (homebound)
Sharon Mueller	Jerry Wing (nursing home)
Blaine Smith	the Wolford family

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)
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
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 – Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace (1 Peter 4:10), we

manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family, neighbors, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. "For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance" (*Matthew 13:12*).

ATTENTION FIRST LUTHERAN MEMBERS!!!

We are raising money for bathrooms in the gym. We are planning to update them and make them handicapped accessible and need your prayers, help and support.

Functioning and handicapped accessible bathrooms will benefit:

- *Church members and guest during church potlucks and celebrations

- *Everyone who visits Germanfest

- *School children who use the bathrooms daily

- *Countless guests who come to the gym for sporting events and special school programs such as the Spring Musical

- *Children who attend the summer day camp program

Let's come together as a church family and give generously to support this needed project. Whether you can give \$5 or \$5,000, please consider helping our ministry. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with parts of the project.

Be watching for more information from the Stewardship Committee about how you can give, but if you are anxious to jump in and give now — simply designate your gift by writing "First Lutheran Church Bathroom Fund" on the memo line of a check. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Sprecher or

Annette Tower, Thanks!!!

55 ALIVE will meet at 12:00 noon Thursday, November 9, with a delicious turkey and dressing luncheon and the joy of hearing our speaker, Pastor Derek Roberts, formerly associate pastor at FLC. He will present the topic "Thankfully forgiven." Looking forward to seeing you there!

DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 21.

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

PASTOR EDWARD H. SCHMIDT has accepted our call to be Pastor at First Lutheran UAC. Pastor Schmidt is a December 31, 1989 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana with a Masters of Divinity Degree. He was a classmate of Pastor Paul Bushur who graduated on the same date. We anticipate Pastor Schmidt's arrival as pastor in Knoxville to be sometime in November. Please keep Pastor Schmidt and his family in your prayers. Also please keep Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rifle, Colorado in your prayers as they now begin their search for a new pastor. And of course, keep First Lutheran UAC in Knoxville, Tn. in your prayers as we prepare for the arrival of our new pastor.

The Lord be with you all in these challenging and exciting days. Our Lord blesses us all with full lives.

UPDATES — If you have a new or changed e-mail address or phone number, please let the church secretary know so it can be included in the forthcoming directory.

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

1-5 — Olsat (IQ) testing grades 3, 5, 7, and new students 4th - 8th

7 – Fall Picture retakes
 10 – NoUniday – Theme: red, white, and blue
 12 – ECE sings at FLC
 17 – ECE Thanksgiving Feast – Buddy Choir sings
 17 – K - 8th Thanksgiving Parties
 20-24 – Thanksgiving Holidays and Teacher
 Conferences – No School – ECE open 20-21 (SS
 available)

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

Bing Crosby sang, "I've got plenty to be thankful for" in the musical Holiday Inn. This time of year I have a habit of watching my favorite holiday movies so Holiday Inn is played a lot in the Hofman house this time of year. One scene that comes to mind is when Bing sits sullenly at his Thanksgiving table alone with a gigantic turkey that could feed a small village, and large bowls of green beans, mashed potatoes, and other holiday favorites. While the comically large turkey is being carved Crosby is having a conversation with a record he recorded. If you've seen the movie you know that in this particular scene our main character is feeling pretty sorry for himself. His lady has danced off to Hollywood with Fred Eustice so he's short a best friend and a fiancé. We can be a lot like Bing Crosby's character, we do have plenty to be thankful for, but sometimes the things that frustrate us are easier to remember and focus on than all of the wonderful things in our lives.

In the month of November we are going to spend a good deal of time being thankful and working to show our gratitude. Please join us on November 10th for our Veterans Day program at 1:15. Refreshments will be available after the program. Our E.C.E will hold their annual Thanksgiving Feast for parents and students while K-8 will have their Thanksgiving parties. We are all very thankful that our fall break is the week of Thanksgiving. During this time off the teachers will attend the Mid-South and Southern District Teachers' Conference. We have had many wonderful ministry opportunities this year as we have seen growth in both ECE and K-8. This is been a wonderful blessing and learning experience.

We have been so blessed in so many ways. Although there are many things we would love to change from facilities to job titles, our God is a good Father. He has given us what we need at exactly the right time. While his timing does not always match up with what we would like, it is perfect. So this month I'm going to work on focusing on all of the blessings we have been given. "I've got plenty to be thankful for." *In Christ, Lindsey Hofman*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

1 – Melanie Bartholomay
 2 – Michelle Tillman
 3 – Zoe McKenzie
 4 – David Cooper
 5 – Pat Hinds
 6 – Rosa Beck
 7 – Allie Bryant, Kelly Miller
 8 – Lynda Graves, Karen Varner
 9 – Rick Elmore, Dustin Samuel
 10 – Eric Flanigan
 14 – Fred Schell, Melissa Smith, Katherine

Whitaker

16 – Jake Varner
 17 – Pastor Smithey
 18 – Amanda Knopps
 19 – Nelson Tower
 20 – Melissa Norton
 24 – Joe & John Haynes
 27 – Kevin Booth
 29 – Bailey Hatmak4er, Steve Kaiser, Timmy

Wheat

30 – Gene Franklin

ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Ralph & Dottie Mertz
 7 – Mike & Mary Jones
 18 – Steve & Janice Kaiser
 19 – Pastor & Sherrill Smithey
 22 – Cameron & Jeannie Brown
 23 – John & Carolyn Milligan
 24 – Paul & Mary Ortstadt
 27 – Pastor & Gloria Schultz
 28 – John & Sharon Mueller, Randy & Joy Witt

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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 37918
 (865) 524-0366

e-mail: office@firstknoxville.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2017						
			1 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00 55 Alive	3	4 8:00 Mission Serve
5 DST ENDS 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	6 6:00 New Testament Books	7 12:30 II Kings Bible Class 6:00 Day School Board 7:00 Board of Elders	8 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 MITEBOX SUNDAY 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship: <i>K-I Choir</i> 12:00 Voters' Meeting	13 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	14	15 8:30 School Chapel 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	16	17 DEADLINE FOR DEC. NEWSLETTER	18 9:00 Workday
19 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	20 6:00 New Testament Books	21 12:30 II Kings Bible Class	22 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	23 THANKSGIVING	24	25
26 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	27 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	28	29 5:30 Lutheran Ring. Rehears. 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	30		
	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	