

First Hearts

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Jun

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at First Lutheran:

As many of you already know, our Pastor Edward Schmidt, has begun a period of medical leave. This leave follows a period of intense distress. Though we all have our ideas about what Pastor has been enduring, the truth is that none of us know what he is suffering. He has never gone through anything like this in his thirty some years of ministry or in his life. He has never before missed a worship service because of illness. All of his advisers, both medical and ministerial have advised him to take this medical leave. They have counseled him to "get off the battlefield" - a description of the ministry I have heard lately which is well thought out and experience-backed in its expression.

The first question which many ask when learning of this is: How long will this last? The only answer I can give is: We don't know.

We must take each day that the Lord gives us and use it wisely. We should all pray for our Pastor and for his wife, Mary, and for their family. We should empathize with their situation as much as we can - while realizing that we can not fully empathize. As one said recently, "We have got to pray our pastor through this!" And we can do that! That is what we are good at! We are people of prayer because we know that when we pray in the Name of the Son of God, Christ Jesus, God hears us and will answer our prayers. So, members of First Lutheran, offer prayers to God for our Pastor and for First Lutheran like never before. Pray ceaselessly - pray during the day and pray during the night. God hears the prayers of a righteous man. And we are "righteous" because we have faith in the "righteousness" of our Lord Jesus. Pray. Pray. Pray. Even ask the Lord God to help you pray!

So, during these days when our Pastor is out on medical leave, I will fill in as best I can. One situation you should know about is this: After I served as your Vacancy Pastor and before I accepted your call as Associate Pastor, I accepted four dates to do pulpit supply in other congregations. These dates are May 20, June 3, July 8, and July 15. I will not accept any other pulpit supply dates until after Pastor Schmidt returns from medical leave.

A pulpit supply pastor for First Lutheran for this coming Sunday, May 20 has been found. He is Pastor Phil Bohiken. The elders will address the other dates for pulpit supply as time passes. We will continue to have Wednesday night services for the foreseeable future though the elders and Pastor continue to review having these services. We will continue to study the Psalms on Wednesday night, sing hymns, pray, and have communion with our Lord Jesus.

As an Associate Pastor at First Lutheran, I will surely not fill the shoes of our Pastor. But, I am available. If you need me, please feel free to call me, email me, text me or yell at me in the hallways to communicate with me. I am not a perfect servant of our Lord. You will, no doubt, need to have much patience to deal with me as I am an old man - probably on the edge of senility. I pray that the Lord will give you patience during this time when our Pastor is ill.

In Jesus Name, Pastor Floyd Smitley

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.

June 3 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost:
Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-28.

June 10 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost: *Genesis 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35.*

June 17 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost: *Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Mark 4:26-34.*

June 24 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost: *Isaiah 40:1-5; Acts 13:13-26; Luke 1:57-80.*

WEDNESDAY CHURCH SERVICES – The Elders discussed the status of the Wednesday evening services at their recent meeting. It was decided that Pastor Smithey will continue to do them as he is able while Pastor Schmidt is on medical leave. After that time the status of these services will again be considered and evaluated with a possibility of a change depending on pastoral circumstances. We ask the congregation's patience and understanding. Thank you.

WORSHIP SERVICE ETIQUETTE – Our worship service is a beautiful setting in which we come into the presence of God. We fully understand that God's people enjoy visiting with each other and that is a good thing. We would, however, like to request that the visiting and noise be subdued prior to the church service out of respect for God's presence and for those trying to prepare their hearts and minds to receive the Word. We ask that once the organ begins to play the congregation quiets and begins to focus on God's Divine Service. This will help us remain reverent and focused. Thank you!

HELP US WITH PRAYER REQUESTS!

It's good that we submit prayer requests to the Church for Sunday mornings. As you submit a request, please help us out by keeping the following items in mind:

1. When submitting someone's name for public prayers on Sunday, please make sure you have the permission of that person to do so! Once in a while someone wants their situation to remain private. Please make sure it's okay to pray for them publically.

2. When submitting prayer requests, it's always helpful to call them or e-mail them in to the church office before Sunday if possible. this

helps us to place them into the bulletin and also enables the pastor to have them before service. Parishioners can also give them to the pastor before service. He will do his best to include it, but last minute requests can sometimes be forgotten.

3. ALSO! This is very important! Once in a while prayer request is turned in and for some reason it was missed in the Sunday morning prayers. If this happens, please don't panic. It was a simple oversight. A gentle reminder would be helpful since we deal with a great deal of information during the course of the week. We never intend to miss a prayer request but once in a while it can happen.

4. When submitting a prayer request, please also let us know if someone has gotten better and the prayer request can be removed. Generally, we will pray for someone on Sunday morning for about three to four weeks unless the circumstances they are in continue. Let us know if the request can be removed or if it needs to be continued.

Thank you for your help with these prayer "protocols!" Keep praying!

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)	Carl Testerman (cancer)
Gladys Frankenberg (homebound)	Judy Testerman (cancer)
Gene Franklin	The Varner family
Pat Hinds	Don & Carolyn Weaver
Karla Hood	Kris Weaver
Mike & Mary Jordan	Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)
Dan Jordan	Mary Ann Wheat
Don & Sandy Linde	Marilyn Wing (homebound)
Dottie Mertz (homebound)	Jerry Wing (nursing home)
Sharon Mueller	the Wolford family
Pastor & Mary Schmidt	

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)

Bill Flynn (Sharon Mueller's brother), whose cancer has returned

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

Clara Janes (Kirk Tower's mother)

Helen Linderfelt (Lynda Graves' friend)

Joyce Lipscomb (Rick Elmore's friend)

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

Landon Lutterman Wendy Slifka's friend) who has been hospitalized after medical tests

Vicgtor Marquette's family (John Mueller's former brother-in-law who passed away)

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

Nikki Wiest (Phyllis Nall's granddaughter), who is very ill

Other News and Happenings

STEWARDSHIP – "There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34).

But which conversion comes first? We submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24). "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance—a conversion of the heart—and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are, actually, to live — think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) — a new life in Him.

DONATIONS NEEDED! The LWML will be collecting items for Chattanooga's "Room in the Inn," a Christian non-profit shelter for women and children. They are in need of regular (not travel size) laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, dish detergent, flip flops, and feminine pads (all sizes). If you would like to contribute, please give your items to Angela Lukens by Sunday, June 3 for transport to the LWML convention. Thanks so much!

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

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

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

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is June 11-14. Join us from 9:00-12:00 in Splash Canyon to learn about God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride!

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our graduates! We are very proud of them. Those who have graduated from high school are William Bales, Luke Buckner, Harrison Killian, Morgan Slomski, Lily Varner, Christopher Weaver, and Christopher Yeatts. We also have those who graduated from college: Abby Bushur, Stephanie McKenzie, Brandon Poore, and Drew Slomski. Also congratulations to Emily Grove who received her Master of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner. God's blessings to them as they begin this next chapter in their life. If we have

missed anyone, please contact our church office so we can include them.

DO YOU ENJOY cooking, meeting newborn babies, or helping those in need? Then LEGS would love your help! We routinely provide meals for families who could use some short-term help, and are looking for others who share our excitement for service so we can provide for more families. Please contact Angela at angela.m.lukens@gmail.com to be added to our meal train's email list and receive details about meal schedules as they come up. Thank you!

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

May 23-July 27 – Summer Day Camp

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

Summer is here. It seems so far away in February, but always arrives more quickly than I expect. The end of the school year is always bittersweet. Everyone is thrilled about summer vacation, but there is also a sadness that sets in when we say a fond farewell to our graduates. This year was like any other in many ways, although this year to me seemed more of an opportunity to give light and love to those who haven't heard the gospel or experienced grace often enough. It is very easy to forget how little it takes to love someone, even those who aren't always "easy" to love. Sometimes it's listening, sometimes, it's a smile, sometimes it's a pat on the back, or saying I'm sorry. In our culture of extremes there is very little middle ground. This can even happen in our churches. At times we are so busy being right, we don't take the time to show love. Let us take time to show love, be compassionate, and put witnessing ahead of agenda.

Today, I received an e-mail and in the subject line it said, "PRAYERS URGENTLY REQUESTED". Naturally, I opened the e-mail immediately and was greeted with the sad news that a historic church, Trinity Lutheran, in

Milwaukee had suffered a devastating fire. I took some time to read about the church that has stood in downtown Milwaukee since 1878. I watched video of this grand church, much like First Lutheran, as it was consumed by smoke and overtaken by flames. All I could think was, "I can't imagine what the members of this church must be feeling". Then I read this church has vacancy pastors filling the pulpit until they call a pastor. My first thought after all reading all of this information and watching some videos of the fire and interviews, was Satan is at work. I don't mean to say that Satan is the reason the church had a fire or a vacancy, but times of trial are often a great time for Satan to distract us and take our focus off of what really matters. Then, I saw something during one of the interviews. The reporter was standing in front of the church as the flames had begun to fade and the fire department was mercilessly attacking the flames with water from their ladder trucks. That is when it happened. Amidst the chaos, destruction, heart break, and ashes a rainbow appeared. Multiple times in the shot there was a beautiful radiant rainbow. To me it felt like a love note. Never again will I flood the earth. Never will I leave you, nor forsake you. I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future. Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. The list of promises goes on and on.

Whether it is a fire, hurt, heart break, health, or any other struggle, God will see us through any storm. Just like Noah. When you really think about it, God doesn't ask us for much... love and trust in HIM can get us through the fiercest of trials. Please add Trinity in Milwaukee to your prayer list as they weather this storm. I know God will be there to guard and guide them, just as he continues to do for First Lutheran.

In His Service, Lindsey Hofman

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Levi Sprecher
- 2 – Paul Ortstadt

- 3 – Kristy Byrd, Susan Rodenbeck, Christine Sprecher
- 4 – Cayden Bland, Ken Christensen
- 5 – Karen Farris, Karla Hood
- 10 – William Smolter
- 11 – Jen Meier, Sheldon Yeatts
- 12 – Brandon Poore
- 13 – Miranda Yeatts
- 16 – Elisabeth Krueger, Elsie Nutter
- 17 – Rachel Buckner
- 18 – Bob Hotaling, Carroll Ward
- 19 – Jennifer Sandie, Ezra Sprecher
- 21 – Sandy Anthonijs, Michael Blomenberg, Sally Collver
- 23 – Don Weaver
- 25 – Emily Dalton, Matt Keller
- 26 – John Crockett, Dan Jordan, Maria Weideman
- 27 – Sherry Ward
- 28 – Al Collver, Gordon McSween, Mark Parker
- 29 – Olivia Cooper
- 30 – Anni Lasley, Avram Sprecher

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Jim & Dawn Roberts
- 10 – John & Shannon Milbourn
- 14 – Keith & Becky Hodson, Gene & Arlene Stern
- 17 – Bob & Barb eisold
- 22 – Steve & Julie Killian
- 25 – Chris & Cindy Cox
- 27 – Al & Sally Collver, Keith & Cheryl Denton
- 30 – Joe & Angela Lukens

DEADLINE FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, JUNE 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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e-mail: office@firstknoxville.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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June 2018

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3 DAY OF PENTECOST 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:00 Voters' Meeting	4 6:00 New Testament Books	5	6 6:30 Worship Service	7	8	9
10 HOLY TRINITY 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion	11 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	12 <i>6:00 Day School Board</i> 7:00 Board of Elders	13 6:30 Worship Service	14	15 VBS Party	16 9:00 Workday
	←-----VACATION	-----BIBLE----- Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	SCHOOL-----	----->		
17 FATHER'S DAY HITEROX SUNDAY 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion	18 6:00 New Testament Books	19 7:00 Board of Stewardship	20 6:30 Worship Service	21	22 DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER	23
24 9:15 Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion	25 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	26	27 6:30 Worship Service	28	29	30