

First Hearts

Published by First Lutheran Church

May 2018

Dear Members of First Lutheran:

It was at the beginning of Holy Week that I suddenly became very ill. I was experiencing numerous physical symptoms. My eyes were suddenly having "ocular migraines" that caused my vision to be greatly disrupted. I also had tremendous dizziness and was very faint to the extent that getting through church services was difficult. Coupled with this my strength had left me. I was extremely weak.

The culprit, my doctors tell me, is stress. It can destroy the body if left unchecked. And yes, as I looked back, it had been building for some time. The last few months with all the changes in our lives took their toll. The move was very stressful. The grief over leaving our previous life was very difficult, and the new environment with its many challenges was very difficult. There's a million details here that go unmentioned. All of these things piled up until my body had enough.

To help the situation, I took some medical leave. I took five days off, then pushed myself back into the office. This helped, but it was not nearly enough. Work always needs to be done. In consulting with our District President, he also recommended that I take medical leave and that Mary and I head for "Shepherd's Canyon" in Arizona. It is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod designed to help professional church workers and their families heal. Mary and I will attend from May 7th to May 15th.

We also were blessed to spend some time with our family. They too have been very concerned about our move, our health, and our new environment. We had time to talk about the issues, which was very important. Our family is very close, and to spend some time with them was very helpful. They gave us input and insights.

As I reflect on all this, I was somewhat frightened at what happened, especially since I have never missed a single church service due to illness in almost 30 years! Numerous people, though, graciously reminded me that I was human and they allowed me to be weak! It's a strange way to say it but in the ministry you're never allowed to be weak. You must always be strong. I thought of Elijah having been destroyed by the ministry and in a state of burn-out sitting under the broom tree wishing he could die. It happened even to one of God's great prophets. It was a

moment of consolation for me.

As for now, my wife and I are preparing for Shepherd's Canyon where we will evaluate many things. I am thankful for all your care, prayers and cards! I am thankful for Pastor Smithey who valiantly stepped in! He is a true and noble servant of the Lord! As we look forward, please look to the Lord. He is the One whose will is done, who opens eyes, and who directs the Church. He will keep us in His care. We will keep you informed. God bless you all!

In Christ, Pastor and Mary 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.

May 6 – 6th Sunday of Easter: *Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17.*

May 13 – 7th Sunday of Easter: *Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15; John 17:11b-19.*

May 20 – The Day of Pentecost: *Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.*

May 27 – The Holy Trinity: *Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17.*

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!

Prayer List

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 a 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)

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 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

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)

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

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

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 – St. Paul teaches, “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Galatians 6:6).

And again, he says, “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:13–14).

In other words, ministers of the gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them. And this is how the Church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not *just* that we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices.

We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites? The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested. Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?”

Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations (Matt. 28). And there are churches and ministries all around the world. How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do.

For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism.

He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of his Son, our Lord, Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way, and in response to his fatherly divine goodness and mercy, we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.”

For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

HANDBELLS – Lutheran Ringers will not rehearse in May and will resume in the fall.

First Bells will rehearse on Sunday mornings May 6 and May 13 and will then discontinue until fall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Friday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m. Our Mid-South District President, Pastor Roger Paavola, will be here at First Lutheran to share with the Long Range Planning Committee, the Church Planning Council, and members of our congregation on how the District can support our efforts to identify opportunities in our community and developing strategic planning for our church and school. Please make plans to come and support our ministry.

LEGS – After church on Sunday, May 6, we’ll gather for lunch at SoKno Taco Cantina (3701 Sevierville Pike). Weather permitting, we’ll head from there to Ijams Nature Center (2915 Island Home Avenue). Please let Angela Lukens know if you plan to attend, so we can reserve seating at SoKno Taco. Hope to see you there!

DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8.

55 ALIVE – On Thursday, May 10, we will have the privilege of having Dr. Gary Schneider present the Sights and Sounds of New Zealand and Australia. He and his wife Jonetta took a 27-day cruise on Holland America’s Noordam this past January. Gary Schneider served as Chairman of UT’s Department of Forestry and Fisheries from 1977-1985. He retired in 1999 as Assistant Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and is now Professor Emeritus. He has a Ph.D. in forest ecology and soils. Enjoy the delicious luncheon at \$7.00/person, and we look forward to seeing you for this special presentation!

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15.

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE will be on Friday and Saturday, May 18-19. Details will be forthcoming.

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

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

- 4 – No UniDay – theme: school spirit
- 9-11 – Middle School Class Trips
- 14-17 – Free Dress days
- 15 – Kindergarten and 8th Grade Graduation at 7:00
- 16 – ECE Graduation
- 17 – Last day of school – half-day – K-8 dismiss at 12:00 p.m., ECE and Student Services close at 1:00 p.m.
- 23 – Summer Day Camp begins

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

Another year is nearly complete. Each year has its ups and downs. It still amazes me in our small community at FLS how many people are hurting or searching for a place where they feel like they belong. If you look online you can find a myriad of articles, blogs, and studies about today's students. You will hear phrases like instant gratification, over-stimulated, and apathetic. I read articles like this all the time to help me better understand our students and their needs.

While there is a lot of great advice and information about the challenges schools and students face, there is one component that is rarely mentioned: sin. True, sin has existed since that fateful day in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree. Since that time we humans have been experts in sin. With social media, instant messaging, and multiplayer video games we become under-socialized, and over-informed. We have

learned all new ways to carry out the same old sins. It is hard for me to imagine what it is like to be a teenager today. Being validated by likes on Facebook or followers on Snap Chat are how many students feel valued. Some days all I want to do is wrap up all of our students in bubble wrap and protect them from the world. We remind students how special they are not because of what they do, but because of what Christ has done for them. When you are hurting and confused it's hard to understand that you are loved and cared for. Our world is so full of hurt, hate, and arguing about who is the best we are forgetting to show grace, love, and humility.

Society isn't the problem; sin is. If there is one thing I want our students to know upon leaving FLS it's that they have been loved and will always be loved. So few things are certain in this life. Fortunately, God's love is certain, tried and true, unfailing, unending, unconditional. Let us love like our Father, let us forgive, and let us show grace.

This month our Middle School students will travel to River Ridge and Nashville for their class trips. We will hold Kindergarten, 8th grade, and ECE graduations. We covet your prayers as we end another year. Pray for our students and staff that they may find peace and comfort in Christ crucified. Pray that these children of God will remain in the faith and have the hope of heaven for the rest of their lives. Thank you for your support and kindness.

In Christ, Lindsey Hofman

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Barb Eisold
- 3 – Alice Munsey
- 4 – Clara Cox
- 5 – Morgan Slomski
- 6 – Jim Roberts, Arlene Stern
- 7 – Karen Fortune, Nicholas Mueller
- 9 – Jim Scarlett
- 10 – Chuck Baum, Carmine Capparelli, Harrison Killian
- 11 – Jerry Wing
- 13 – Greg Buckner
- 14 – Miranda Witt
- 15 – Margot Bridges
- 16 – Mike Jones, Ki m Mabe, Annette Tower
- 18 – Heidi Bartholomay
- 19 – Dylan Keiser, Aaron Wade
- 21 – Taylor Day, Angel Mueller, Cutter Tillman
- 22 – Michael Warwick, Penny Wright
- 25 – Chelcie Holloway
- 26 – Jeff Wheat

17 – Olivia Killian, David Norton

28 – Liam Milbourn, Benny Samuel

ANNIVERSARIES

19 – David & Karen Varner

26 – Mike & Melissa Sanders

27 – Kevin & Vicki Broyles

28 – Brad & Bethany Capehart, Don & Terrie Yeatts

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE
NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, MAY 18**

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2018						
		1	2 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5
6 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 12:30 Confirmation Class	7 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	8 6:00 Day School Board 7:00 Board of Elders	9 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service 7:30 Choir Rehearsal ← 7 th & 8 th Grade ← 5 th & 6 th Grade	10 12:00 55 Alive -----trip to----- -----trip to-----	11 Nashville-----> River Ridge----->	12
13 MOTHER'S DAY 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	14 6:00 New Testament Books	15 7:00 Board of Stewardship 5:00 Banquet 7:00 Graduation	16 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service	17 Last Day of School Dismiss at Noon ECE closed at 1:00	18 DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER ←-----Rummage----->	19 9:00 Workday 9:00 Mission Serve Sale----->
20 MITEBOX SUNDAY 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 12:30 Voters' Meeting 12:30 confirmation Class	21 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	22	23 6:30 Worship Service	24	25	26
27 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	28 MEMORIAL DAY	29	30 6:30 Worship Service	31		