

First Hearts

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August 2018

Greetings to all in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the only true and living God

Each month that I serve as the pastor here at First Lutheran I wonder what I will write in this letter. Then I sit down at the computer and talk to you about what is on my heart. And this month there are several things on my heart.

Firstly, I am still grieving the loss of Pastor Schmidt. I grieve over his suffering and pain. I grieve over his wife, Mary's suffering and pain and hurt. I grieve over our pain and suffering and confusion. And I don't know how to fix the situation except to pray. What is done, is done. But, I know that God is at work even in these things. He will provide for the Schmidts. He will heal us and provide for us as only He can heal and provide. And I know that I must turn it loose because . . .

Secondly, I know that there are Bible Classes and Adult Instruction Classes and Youth Catechism Classes to teach – Worship services to celebrate where we receive the gifts of God on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings - There are sermons to write for adults and children. There are the Lord's sheep to feed at the Lord's Supper. There are Wednesday morning chapel services to celebrate when school is in session. And there are board meetings to attend. There are sick folks to visit at home, in nursing homes, in hospitals. There will be babies and adults to baptize. There will be new members to teach and welcome. There will be saints to bury. There will be weddings to perform. And who knows what else will come our way. And it is not just the "doing" of these things that requires time and effort, but each of these things demands time and effort in preparation. This coming year is a 150 year anniversary for our congregation. The Lord Jesus' ministry at First Lutheran will go on. As the man in the called pastoral office here at the present time, I am too concerned about First Lutheran to continue mourning. It is time to "get up and go to work." The Lord will provide for the Schmidts.

Thirdly, I am confirmed by Compass/Carr results in my concern about upcoming challenges to our ministry at First Lutheran. Our building faces some issues. Our Constitution needs a major reworking so that we can govern ourselves effectively. Our Early Childhood unit is full with a waiting list – how will we handle this? Our school has some challenges. And we as God's people who are still sinners, face some challenges within our congregation. Even within our own beloved "Lutheran Church Missouri Synod" we experience challenges such as the practice of "open communion" in other congregations and other teachings and practices that are problematic for us as "Confessional Scriptural orthodox Lutherans." There is a certain "cleaning- up" and "making-of-plans" that is needed before we begin again the process to call a new "Senior" Pastor – lest we obtain the same results. How long will this take? I suppose you – the congregation – will determine that.

Lastly, my main concern as Pastor here at First Lutheran in Knoxville is that – while we confront our challenges – we remain true to the teachings of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Book of Concord as "the" -(not "a") - correct exposition of Holy Scriptures. As I heard it put so well recently by Al Collver III, "without the Lutheran Confessions we will lose the Scriptures." And that is most certainly true. I know that all of the above concerns will be handled – one way or another. But we must hold fast to the Book of Concord, the Lutheran Confessions, as the correct exposition of the Holy Scriptures, which are the inerrant and infallible Word of God. Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word. That is what matters.

And following in this line of thought, I urge all of you to attend Bible Class and make sure your children are in Sunday School. **A congregation that is not actively involved in the study of God's Word is headed in the wrong direction.** We are called by God to teach our children God's love for us through His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. And we need to constantly be taught God's Word so that when we come into challenging times – such as we now experience at First Lutheran – we have the

background, based in God's teachings – by which we can make solid, Godly decisions. So many times, decisions in the church are made according to the ways of the world. Dear ones, as God's children we are to be in the world, but not of the world.

I pray as Christ's undershepherd at First Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN. at the present time (Isn't that all we have?) - that the Lord will continue to bless you and keep you. You are God's children. He loves you and gave his only begotten Son unto suffering and death for you – so that your sins are forgiven and that you may have LIFE ETERNAL. May the Eternal Triune God bless First Lutheran Church and School. The Lord be with you all.
In Christ's Service, Pastor Floyd Smithey

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.

August 5 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost: *Exodus 16:2-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:22-35.*

August 12 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost: *1 Kings 19:1-8; Ephesians 6:1*

July 15 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost: *Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.*

July 22 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost: *Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-44.*

July 29 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost: *Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 6:45-56.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES will continue at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer List

OUR PRAYER LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:

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) Pastor & Mary Schmidt
Margot Bridges (homebound) Carl Testerman (cancer)

Aven Flanigan

Gene Franklin

Gladys Frankenberg (homebound) Don & Carolyn Weaver

Pat Hinds

Kris Weaver

Karla Hood Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound

Mike & Mary Jones

Mary Ann Wheat

Dan Jordan (knee surgery) Jerry Wing (nursing home)

Don & Sandy Linde

Sharon Mueller

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!

Jonathan Campbell (Diane Baum's co-worker's brother) fighting infection after an appendectomy to remove his ruptured appendix

Chloe Cross (a 12-year-old with cancer)

Steven Dew (Carolyn Weaver's friend)

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)

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

Victor 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

Kristy Shirk (Lynda Graves' friend) with cancer of
the sinuses

Barbara Thornton (Janice Kaiser's relative)

Sam and Alex Weaver

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

Other News and Happenings

STEWARDSHIP – When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3).

And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the Gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide. We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the

rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 18.

MISSION SERVE is at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, August 25.

COUNCIL MEETING will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 30.

EAST TENNESSEE ZONE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE RETREAT – All ladies are invited to attend the LWML retreat to be held September 21-23 at beautiful Eagle Rock Camp in Tallassee, TN. All ladies are welcome – membership in the LWML is not required. The retreat begins at 3:00 p.m. Friday afternoon and will end at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Two nights lodging and 5 meals (2 dinners, 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts) are included in the registration fee. The theme is "The Armor of God" and will include Bible study, free time, crafts, fun, and fellowship. If you are interested, please contact your local society LWML president Angela Lukens at angela.m.lukens@gmail.com or feel free to contact Candy Habich at crhabich@charter.net. Registration deadline is September 7.

ADULT CATECHISM CLASS – An adult instruction class using the Small Catechism began on Saturday, July 21, 2018, at 1pm. All are welcome. The class is aimed at those who are interested in the Lutheran faith and who might become members of First Lutheran should they agree with our confession of faith. However, the class is also a great means of review of the faith we profess, so all are welcome. The class will last for about six weeks, probably. We may entertain some other documents such as the Augsburg Confession or the Formula of Concord.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS – On Sunday, July 22,

2018, the Adult Bible Class began a study on the book of Revelation. The Lutheran Study Bible will be our primary resource. However, Pastor Smithey will use some extra handouts as we progress through the book. There is no timeline as to when we will finish. If you have always wanted to join a bible study on Revelation, this is your chance. Revelation is a book of great comfort for the Christian who is assured that our Lord Christ is in control. All are welcome. We can always bring in some more chairs if needed. Be assured, your Lord Jesus is in control and is coming again in power and glory.

YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS (Confirmation) – will begin on Sunday, August 12, 2018 in the Meeting Room at 12:45 pm. We will meet every week unless otherwise notified. The classes will last until 2pm. We will study Luther's Small Catechism. Parents will be expected to attend the first class and stay for the duration as it may not last until 2pm.

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

- 1-3 – Teacher In-Service
- 6 – Opening Service/Open House 6:30 p.m.
- 8 – First day of school (full day)
- 24 – No UniDay: Theme - German colors (red, yellow, black)
- 24 – 1:00 Dismissal - EC\$E and Student Services open
- 25 – GermanFest

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

Think about the kindest person you know. I bet you have a smile on your face just thinking about them. You may even have a specific memory in mind. What makes these people so kind is the fact that they always put others first. They are the people who would "give you their last dime" and do so without expecting anything in return. Such kindness and generosity is one of greatest witnesses of the Gospel.

This year at First Lutheran School our theme is "Called to be Kind" based on Ephesians 4:32 which states, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." We are excited about the opportunities students and teachers will have to reflect Christ in their kind words and actions.

I am continually blessed to witness the innate kindness of First Lutheran students. While our teachers make the Gospel an integral part of everyday, it is often the students who make the message clear and remind us what it means to be a Child of God. They lend a helping hand when needed. They offer up heartfelt prayers. Overall, even when mistakes are made, they follow Christ's model of kindness.

School starts August 8th, and if you ever need to burst of kindness, we welcome you into our halls and classrooms. Join us every Wednesday at 8:30 for our chapel services where kindness comes in the form of sweet voices lifted in song or the generous gift of a student's allowance being placed in the offering plate. Spend some time on the playground and see the sportsmanship of the students on the basketball court and the tenderhearted concern as a student helps up a classmate who has fallen. Maybe you want to spend some time in the classroom reading with students, allowing them to show you firsthand kindness in the form of respect and love.

In the excitement of going back to school, let's all go back to being kind as well. Share a smile, give of your time, and show Christ's love in all you do because after all we "Called to be kind."

In His Service

Jessie Irwin, Interim Principal

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Holly Keiser, Mindy Lovelace
- 2 – John Mueller
- 3 – Gary Boatman, Noah Broyles
- 4 – Sharon Mueller
- 6 – Jim Perrine
- 7 – Jerry St4ewart
- 9 – Christina Boatman
- 10 – Kim Robinson
- 12 – Tyler Ward
- 13 – Doug Bales, Shellia Byrd, Zach McSween
- 16 – Rex Bartholomay
- 17 – Roger Bartholomay, Stephanie Daniels, Steve Killian, JoAnn Niedens
- 18 – Sherril Hunze, Terrie Yeatts
- 19 – Chris Cox, Ruth Franklin
- 20 – Bethany Capehart
- 21 – Phyllis Nall, Dawn Roberyts
- 22 – Nathan Baum, Robbie Miller
- 23 – Emily Keyes

- 24 – Wayne Poore
- 26 – Chris Broyles
- 28 – Keith Hodson, Carl Testerman
- 29 – Annie Miller, Larry Miller, Sherrill Smithey
- 30 – Jackie Wheat
- 31 – Olivia Wolford

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 – Chris & Rose Broyles, Mark & Stephanie Daniels, Carroll 7 Sherry Ward
- 12 – Gary & Kim Smith
- 19 – Gene & Ruth Franklin
- 20 – Erik & Emily Blomenberg
- 24 – Doug & Martha Rodenbeck
- 28 – Steve & Rebecca Keyes
- 30 – Marc & Lois Blais

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST
NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 24**

Floyd P. Smithey, Associate 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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August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Worship Service ←	2 TEACHER IN-SERVICE	3 →	4 1:00 Catechism Class
5 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion:	6 6:00 New Testament Books 6:30 Opening Orientation / Open House	7 6:00 Day School Board 7:00 Board of Elders	8 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service 1 st Day of School	9	10	11 10:00-12:00 Karate Graduation 1:00 Catechism Class
12 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship: Staff Rededication 12:45 Confirmation Class	13 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	14	15 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service	16	17	18 9:00 Workday 1:00 Catechism Class
19 MITEBOX SUNDAY 8:15 Worship w/communion 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:45 Confirmation Class	20 6:00 New Testament Books	21	22 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service	23	24 DEADLINE FOR SEPT. NEWSLETTER	25 9:00 Mission Serve 11:00-8:00 GermanFest
26 8:15 Worship w/communion 9:15 SS & Bible Class 10:30 Worship w/communion 12:45 Confirmation Class	27 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	28	29 8:30 School Chapel 6:30 Worship Service	30 7:00 Council Meeting	31	