

First Hearts

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Dear Ones in Christ at First Lutheran in Knoxville:

The Triune God whom we worship is a giver of the best of gifts to His people. This past Sunday's Baptism of little Charlie Jane Wathen, daughter of Dean and Ashley Wathen, and great granddaughter of our Margaret Ortstadt shows us a prime example of how God gifts the best of gifts to his children.

For you see, little Charlie, did nothing to earn or deserve God's grace in Holy Baptism. God simply poured out His Grace on her while she basically slept. And I think that is a very good picture of how God has poured his grace on all of us – even as we go through life sleepy headed and oftentimes not very much aware of what is going on around us. Baptism is something that God does to us and for us through Word and Water and His Pastors. Baptism is not something that we do to or for ourselves.

From the Small Catechism: What does the word baptize mean? Baptize means to apply water by immersing, washing, pouring, and the like.

Mark 7:4 When they (the Pharisees) come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing (baptizing) of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches. Note: To baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11) means to "pour out" the Spirit. (Acts 1:5 and Acts 2:17-18.)

Again from the Small Catechism: What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

And again from the Small Catechism: What great and precious things are given in Baptism?

1. It works forgiveness of sins. Acts 2: 38 Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
2. It rescues from death and the devil. Col. 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness

of sins.

3. It gives eternal salvation. Mark 16:16. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.

1 Peter 3:21 Baptism, which corresponds to this (waters of Noah's flood) now saves you. . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Titus 3:5 He saved us. . . by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

We could say much more about Baptism. I like to always tell parents who have their little ones baptized that they have just given their child the greatest gift of all. For Baptism is truly a gift from God whereby the one being baptized has his sins washed away and is spiritually regenerated – born again- into the Kingdom of God. Where just a few moments before baptism lay one who was lost and a child of the devil – now stands one who is a Child of God. And this is all by the grace – the undeserved pardon - of God in Christ.

Recently after I had taught on Baptism, one of our members remarked to me: "You know Pastor, you almost sound like you are teaching "once saved, always saved." I have never taught such a thing, nor will I ever. One only needs to look at King Saul, King Solomon, Judas, even Peter who fell from grace after coming to faith and those we have known who fell from faith after being baptized. But the selection of the words "Pastor, you almost sound as if you are teaching 'once saved, always saved'" is a really good way to describe our teaching on Holy Baptism. For God's Promise of salvation is true and certain. However, there are those who come to reject or despise baptism, thus the "almost" fits. It goes along with the old Lutheran teaching that "we can't accept God on our own, but we can reject Him on our own(see the explanation to the 3rd Article of the Creed) " We should never reject or despise our Baptisms, for they are certain and are based on the Promise of God to salvation.

Our Triune God is a giver of good gifts. Holy Baptism is a good – no - it is the best of gifts. It gives

forgiveness of sins. And where there is forgiveness of sins there life and salvation.

Thanks be to God for our baptisms. May we always treasure our baptisms. *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.

September 2 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost:
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; Ephesians 6:10-20; Mark 7:14-23.

September 9 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost:
Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-29.

September 16 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost:
Isaiah 50:4-10; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-29.

September 23 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost:
Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37.

September 30 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost:
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-39; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES are discontinued. For those for whom Wednesday is their only opportunity to worship, there is Wednesday morning chapel at 8:30. Pastor Smithey will be available on most Wednesdays to give you absolution and Lord's Supper after chapel service has ended should you desire it.

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)
Gene Franklin Judy Testerman (cancer)
Gladys Frankenberg (homebound) The Varner family

Pat Hinds

Karla Hood

Mike & Mary Jones Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)

Dan Jordan (pulmonary embolisms) Mary Ann Wheat

Don & Sandy Linde Marilyn Wing (homebound)

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

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

Joanne Mattingly

Joan Mincey (Shirley Watson's friend) with stage 4 COPD and breast cancer

Karen Nall

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

Other News and Happenings

STEWARDSHIP – It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128-129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17-18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians

4:1-7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

MISSION SERVE is at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, September 1.

YOUTH SWIMMING PARTY at 12:30 at Rick Elmore's house Saturday, September 8..

VOTERS' MEETING will be after worship service on Sunday, September 9.

DAY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING is 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11.

55 ALIVE – On Thursday, September 13, we will have the privilege of hearing Dr. Gary Schneider present "the Sights and Sounds of Australia." He and his wife Joretta took a 27-day cruise on Holland America's Noordam this past January. Gary Schneider served as Chairman of UT's Dean of Forestry and Fisheries from 1977-1985. He retired in 1999 as Associate 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 @ \$7.00/person. Look forward to seeing you for this special presentation!

LEGS – The September LEGS meeting will be September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the church Meeting Room. We will be enjoying fellowship and packing school kits for Lutheran World Relief in addition to our usual discussion. Please join us!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES meeting and workday at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15.

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.

CHOIR – We are about to begin a new year of singing praise to our Lord, and enjoying the fellowship and camaraderie of fellow choir members. We would love to have you join us! You do not need to be able to read music. You will learn a lot about yourself and about the gifts God has given you. We've got a great year planned. It's just about an hour a week at 7:15 on Wednesday evenings in the Meeting Room, beginning on August 29. Hope we see you then!

THE HANDBELL CHOIR is looking for two new ringers this fall. Please see Wayne for details. This is a real opportunity to use your talent in service to God and his children. We will help you learn all the details so don't worry about your musical skills. Wednesday evening and Sunday morning rehearsal times available. *Wayne Poore*

YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS (Confirmation) has begun and will meet every week unless otherwise notified. Two Sundays when we will not meet will be on September 9 and September 30. The classes will begin at 12:45 pm and last until 2:00 pm. We will study Luther's Small Catechism. Our devotional materials will come from Higher Things Magazines. Parents please pick up your children at 2:00 pm at the front door which is on Wells Street (The newly graveled parking lot is on Wells Street.) That way I will know when all the youth have been picked up, so that I can leave too. Thanks *Pastor Smithey*

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

- 3 – Labor Day Holiday – No School/No ECE
- 4 – ECE closing at 5:30 p.m.
- 7 – No UniDay: Theme – Career Day
- 9 – Middle School sings at FLC
- 14 – ECE Trike-A-thon for St. Jude's

- 17-20 00 Penny Wars
- 21 – Grandparents/Special Persons Day – noon dismissal
- 28 – 2nd Grade Assembly

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

The first month of school has flown by, and Germanfest was a great marker of what we have accomplished. In the classroom, students learned all about German culture, including art, music, and language. Their excitement for learning about the larger world is contagious. We also saw parent involvement in the form of donations and volunteering, emphasizing their commitment to their students and the school.

With all the happenings at Germanfest, the thing that brought the biggest smile to my face was the number of alumni who came. They didn't just come because it was something to do on a Saturday; they came because it was *their* school and *their* family. They could not imagine missing out on the chance to sing along with their former classmates the German songs they once learned. They hugged former teachers who asked with real interest how their life and education was going. Some even volunteered their time to help make Germanfest a success. They didn't just drop by either; they stayed for hours visiting and reminiscing.

First Lutheran School truly is a family. Every student who walks through our doors is loved and that doesn't change after they graduate. The students and families sense that. This is why they come to Germanfest. This is why they stop in at open house. This is why they come to sporting events and even assist the teams at practices. Most impressive is the number who come back to work at First Lutheran. In addition to myself, there are eight other alumni working at First Lutheran.

It speaks to our school's values and mission that so many students and families return. All who enter can feel Christ's love at the center of all we do. The Holy Spirit is doing great things at First Lutheran, and all of us are blessed to be a part of this mission to help students grow in mind, body, and faith. *In His Service*

Jessie Irwin, Interim Principal

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Dennis Graves, Nathan Sanders
5 – Veronica Bartholomay, Kevin Broyles, Dolly Roth
6 – Carrington Tillman
7 – Delaney Smolter
8 – Alexis Gibson, Janie Lanham
10 – Ariane Blais
12 – Elizabeth Boyd
13 – Emma Brown
14 – David Bryant, Sophia Weideman, Mary Ann Wheat
15 – Melissa Hardin, Kirk Tower
16 – Tom Bushur, Melissa Lyke
17 – Shannon Schell
18 – Dylan Baum, Amanda Knopps
19 – Rebecca Nutter
20 – Taylor Smith
21 – Mary Bales
23 – Jadealynn Flanigan
24 – Kyizer Fielden
25 – Cindy Cox
26 – Alycia Hacker
27 – Hayden Reed, Robert Wolford
29 – Beth Buckner
30 – Cameron Mabe

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 – Howard & Monika Rash, Dave & Tammy Wheat
26 – Mark & Michelle Tillman

**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

Floyd P. Smithey, Associate Pastor; Ceci Steele,
Editor.

Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.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

