

First Hearts

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February 2019

Towards the end of February, the church celebrates the Feast of St. Matthias. In Matthew chapter 11, Jesus invites us to take up His yoke, which is easy, and His burden, which is light. Christ fulfilled the heavy load of the Law perfectly and lifts the weight of sin off our shoulders. In exchange, He gives us the light burden of the Gospel, namely, forgiveness and new life.

Who are the weary and burdened?

None other than those who sense and perceive their sins, are afraid of God's wrath, death, and hell, and for this reason have a troubled conscience, and find in themselves no work or merit that can help them, but are eager for help. It is to these that Christ calls, saying, as it were, "I do not call to heinous, intentional sinners who heed neither God nor man, nor to vain imaginers, the worldly wise, hypocrites, and works-righteous, who know other ways up to heaven (they are not of My fold, nor may they be). I seek only the weary, the burdened, the poor, the lowly, the heavy in heart, and the broken in conscience, who are in over their ears with sin, weighed down by God's wrath, and terrified of death and hell, and yet long with all their heart to be comforted. It is these that I seek, it is to these that I call. These are My dear children."

What news does Christ give the weary?

He says, "Take up My yoke and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." In other words, He says, "I see that you are broken and tormented by the teaching of Pharisees, the commandments of men, and the works of the Law, that you are eager to be rid of the unbearable burden and the weight of sin (with which your conscience is burdened). And indeed, you will accomplish nothing, your situation will only grow worse, and you will be like the woman who suffered at the hand of many physicians, and wasted all her possessions in doing so, and yet it did not help (Mark 5 [:26]). So come to Me. I will take away from you the heavy burden and weight of the Law, of sin, and of an evil conscience, and will lay on you the light burden of the Gospel that abounds in grace; I will share with you the forgiveness of sins, and give you, as My dear children, eternal life. Learn from Me, for I am

meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your soul. Do not be troubled at Me. I will not lay many laws on you like Moses, nor condemn you to hell like the Pharisees. Indeed, why would you be troubled? I am meek and humble of heart. I am not frightening like Moses. I do not stone anyone or put anyone to death, nor do I teach heavy commandments, but rather pure grace. I offer all men forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Furthermore, I am humble of heart. I am not eager to let any poor sinner depart from Me un comforted. And although as Lord of lords I would be right to deal strictly with them, I do not do so. I receive sinners graciously, and even become their servant, and serve them with all that I have. I redeem them from eternal death with My precious blood, and give them heaven so that they can bear My yoke."

This reading is from *The Christian Year of Grace*, pages 399-400 © 2014 Concordia Publishing House.

An appropriate prayer is stanza 1 from Hymn 754, *Entrust Your Days and Burdens*:

Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.

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.

February 3 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10(17-19), 1st Corinthians 12:31b-13:13, Luke 4:31-44

February 10 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13) 1st Corinthians 14: 12b-20, Luke 5:1-11

February 17 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

*Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1st Corinthians 15:12-20 (1-11),
Luke 6:17-26*

February 24 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany

*Genesis 45:3-15, 1st Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42,
Luke 6:27-38*

Prayer List

OUR PRAYER LIST SHOULD INCLUDE:

Serving Our Country: Brett Anthonijs, Robert Boatman, Isaac Davis, Chad Kaiser, Adam Smith, Jeff Stone, Neil Whitehead, William Smolter

Other Prayer Requests:

MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

Brion Bissell (needs kidney)	Eric Lintz
Margot Bridges (homebound)	Carl Testerman (stroke)
Gene Franklin	the Varner family
Gladys Frankenberg family	Don & Carolyn Weaver
Karla Hood	Kris Weaver
Mike & Mary Jones	Harold & Katherine Whitaker (homebound)
Don & Sandy Linde	Mary Ann Wheat
Sharon Mueller	Marilyn Wing (homebound)
Douglas Rodenbeck (transition to being homebound)	
Jim and Rosa Beck	

NON-MEMBERS WITH SICKNESS OR BURDENS:

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

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

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

Katherine Sween (a friend of Susan Spicer) with severe back pain.

Other News and Happenings

STEWARDSHIP –

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17-18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

"Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

"And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools."

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

VOTERS' MEETING *There will be a special voters meeting on February 10th after Divine Service for the purposing of issuing a Divine Call. The Call committee has distributed the list of candidates including its recommendation. Please check your mailbox for this list. Continue to pray for our church and these pastors during this process.*

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

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

55 ALIVE *—We have the privilege of having the Rev. Larry Rockemann with Lutheran Heritage who has traveled the world to be our speaker on Valentine's Day - Feb. 14th - 12:00 noon with a delectable luncheon - \$7.00/person. Lutheran Heritage has been in more than 80 countries with 90 languages, so thousands of people of all ages have come to faith in Christ because they've been able to read books like The Good News About Jesus or Luther's Small Catechism in their own language!*

What an opportunity we have to share Christ with others!!! See you on the 14th!

LEGS *— will meet Monday, February 11th at 6:30 in the cafeteria. We will be electing officers and enjoying some yummy treats, so make plans to join us. Hope to see you there!*

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

School News and Happenings

CALENDAR

- 1-15 – Lymphoma/Leukemia Service Project
- 5 – ECE closing at 5:30 p.m.
- 8 – No UniDay: Theme – Valentine's Day
- 8 – 6th Grade Assembly
- 12 – Class and Sports Pictures
- 13-17 – Regional Lutheran Basketball Tournament in New Orleans, LA
- 14 – Valentine's Day Class Parties
- 18 – No School or ECE for President's Day
- 22 – No UniDay; Theme Western Day
- 24 – Middle School Sing at FLC

NEWS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

We just had our 100th day of school. How amazing is that! The time has flown by, but when you look back, one day at a time, you see the growth. You see the learning, and you see just how much can happen in 100 days. One day at a time; a lot can happen in a day. God created the universe and everything in it in six days, so maybe in one day, with some Divine intervention of course, we can do something great as well. Great things are happening at First Lutheran as well. Every teacher is working hard to make the most of each day.

Head to the second floor and you will see a great deal of love, learning and faith. The enthusiasm is contagious. Miss Rodgers's Third and Fourth grade classroom is filled with life. They are math masters who have also traveled the world and through time. The Middle Ages has been conquered by the lords and ladies of in Third and Fourth grade. Their passion for history even trickles into their free time: building manors on the playground and reading beyond the assigned topic. Now they are

stepping into their time machine and blasting to the American Revolution. In science they are better understanding God's wonderful creation by learning about the states of matter. What is great to see in all this is the way the students support each other: the older students guiding their younger classmates. The younger students challenge themselves to greater heights. While they all work to do their best, they cheer on each other's success.

When she is not busy rocking the classroom. Miss Rodgers oversees our yearbook. Taking many of the amazing photos that grace its pages, at the end of the year we open that book and see just how much has happened. She also coaches our amazing volleyball team, giving her time and talents.

Mrs. Irwin's Fifth grade class is just as happening. The whole class leapt into their studies of World War II. They even spent time over break watching movies that document the war. Their history studies weren't confined to textbooks. They completed a novel study of "Number the Stars," which is about a Jewish family's escape from Denmark. They made planes and models. They learned a great deal about animals in the war and the use of dogs and horses to help service members.

It is little surprise that they should be interested in the animals because a love of animals is a common theme in Mrs. Irwin's classroom. Rather than the usual hamster or fish, Mrs. Irwin's room has a classroom dog. It may seem odd, but with the dogs in the classrooms, students learn responsibility and empathy. The dogs also have that special ability to know which students might be worried or stressed and will sit calmly by those who might need the support. Mrs. Irwin's room is living proof that dogs make everything better.

In just one day, in just one hallway, our upper elementary students are living, learning, and using the gifts with which God has blessed them. These students and their teachers make the most of every day, and in 100 days, they have learned and accomplished so much. Perhaps we could all learn something from the joy and enthusiasm these students have for life.

Jessie Irwin, Principal

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Luke Buckner, Jason Gibson
- 3 – Audrey Miiler, Mike Sanders, Denver Slifka, Brittany Tipton
- 5 – Dave Wheat
- 7 – Dawn Johnson
- 9 – Kari Williamson
- 10 – Kara Eimmerman, Judy Kelly
- 13 – Morgan Lyke
- 14 – Elizabeth Davis, Nathan Parker, Katie Wells, Emily Norton
- 15 – Isaac Parker
- 15 – Melissa Hardin, Kirk Tower
- 18 – Seth Nutter
- 20 – Jim Beck
- 21 – Steve Hardin, Joshua Keyes
- 22 – Amanda Parker, Easton Sternberg
- 23 – Julie Cloninger, Sara Keyes
- 25 – Nicaea Lukens
- 23 – Jadealynn Flanigan
- 27 – Lindsey Blair
- 28 – Emily Blomenberg, Erin Rodgers

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 – Larry & Kim Mabe

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

*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
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February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 →	2
3 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	4 6:00 New Testament Books	5 7:00 Board of Stewardship	6 8:30 School Chapel 5:45 Luth. Ring. Rehears. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00 55 Alive	8	9
10 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 12:00 Voters Meeting	11 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	12 6:00 Day School Board 7:00 Board of Elders	13 8:30 School Chapel 5:45 Luth. Ring. Rehears. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14	15 DEADLINE FOR MAR. NEWSLETTER	16 9:00 Workday
17 MITEBOX SUNDAY 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY 6:00 New Testament Books NO SCHOOL / NO ECE	19 6:30 Planning Council	20 8:30 School Chapel 5:45 Luth. Ring. Rehears. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 8:45 First Bells Rehearsal 9:00 Fellowship 9:15 SS & Bible Classes 10:30 Worship Service 10:30 Middle School Choir Sings	25 9:30 Quilting 6:00 New Testament Books	26	27 8:30 School Chapel. 5:45 Luth. Ring. Rehears. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28		