



First Hearts July 2020

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From the Pastor

2 Timothy 3:12-15

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Dear Saints of First Lutheran,

The last few months have served as a reminder of just how little we are actually in control. Try as we may to be in control and act like we have some, we don't. We struggle with this. We struggle to see this lack of control play out in our lives and in the lives of those whom we love.

We need to remember that loss of control and that struggling in this life are not signs of God's absence though. Rather, we find that the confession of St. John the Baptist becomes our confession of faith in Christ as well: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

That is what life is. It's not about improvement. It's not about becoming a better person. Rather, the more Jesus we receive, the most wretched we know that we are. We get more and more dependent upon Him who was crucified for us. He rose for us. He gives us eternal life and resurrection to our bodies. And He rules even now in a hidden way as He fills all things and rules at the right hand of God.

So what can we do? Cling to the Word of God. Cling to His promises and mercies to us which are new every morning. Know the truth. He is gracious and merciful. He cleanses us from all the sins we commit: revenge, slander, hate, even our desire to be in control. He makes us merciful to each other. He makes us able to speak in love, to confess, to forgive, to be reconciled.

He is in control. Until He comes again, we walk by faith in the Word of God and not by sight when we see the ways of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. There is a constant battle between our senses, our experiences, our fears, with what the Scripture testifies. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, we have the words of eternal life. God is in control. He sees us through today, just like He did yesterday.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

Divine Service 9:00 am

Divine Service 10:30 am

Board Happenings

7/14 - School Board 6:00 pm

7/14 - Elders Meeting 6:30 pm

7/11 - Trustee Workday 9:00am

Other Church Activities

7/6 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

7/18 - Youth Rummage Sale 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

7/20 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

School Happenings

7/2 - Ice Cream Social (Distance) 6:00pm

5/27 - 7/31 - Summer Day Camp

Monthly Readings

	July 5 (Proper 9)	Fifth S. a. Pentecost	Zech. 9:9–12	Psalms 145:1–14	Rom. 7:14–25a	Matt. 11:25–30
	July 12 (Proper 10)	Sixth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 55:10–13	Psalms 65:(1–8) 9–13	Rom. 8:12–17	Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23
	July 19 (Proper 11)	Seventh S. a. Pentecost	Is. 44:6–8	Psalms 119:57–64	Rom. 8:18–27	Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43
	July 26 (Proper 12)	Eighth S. a. Pentecost	Deut. 7:6–9	Psalms 125	Rom. 8:28–39	Matt. 13:44–52

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In Other News

Stewardship

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other

words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

Youth Rummage Sale! We will have our Youth Rummage Sale (located outside) on Saturday, July 18th from 8am - 3pm. If you have been "quarantine" cleaning and need a way to rid yourself of these extra items, please consider donating them to the Youth group for our sale. For questions regarding donations of items, please contact Shellia Byrd.

KARM. We have notified KARM that we have decided to not continue with this ministry at this time. Thank you to everyone that helped participate in this and prayerfully considered taking over this ministry.

Online Services: Please visit the church website www.firstknoxville.org to view our worship services and to

participate in worship at your home. There are also links for Bible study and other resources.

Facebook Page: Follow First Lutheran on Facebook for all the latest updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxFirstLutheran/>

News from First Lutheran School

Joy and Many Blessings,

Once upon a time there was an enchanted educational kingdom called First Lutheran. First Lutheran was a happy place where children were free to grow and learn. Not only do the Knights and Ladies of God's Enchanted learn about things like theatre, acting out classic fairy tails like the Three Billy Goats Gruff and the arts, painting in the style of Jackson Pollock, but they also learn the sciences creating lava lamps in soda bottles and growing bean stalks tall enough to reach a castle in the sky.

In order to enter the kingdom of First Lutheran, each child must face a fire breathing thermometer and answer three questions. If they accomplish the task they may enter the building healthy and happy. Some Children enjoy the Kingdom, so much they never want to leave. What a blessing it is to work in a place so enchanted that students would rather be here than anywhere else.

As you may have gathered, our Summer Day Camp is in full swing we average 80 students a day. Our theme is God's Enchanted Kingdom. Castles, fairy tales, and dragons are filling our days and ensuring that everyone is having a great time.

We are taking the steps necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy with prescreening and limiting who can be in the building. Though things are different we are having a great summer overall.

Also if you know anyone who is interested in an exceptional education in a loving Christian Environment be sure to remind them that First Lutheran is here serving our students and families, and we would love to have them join us.

Jessie Irwin, Principal



July

Anniversaries:

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| 2: Lawrence & Ingrid Capparelli | 21: Fred & Melissa Schell |
| 10: Jered and Christine Sprecher | 24: Greg & Beth Buckner; John & Lindsey Hofman |
| 11: Scott & Karen Spaid; Kevin & Kathleen Holliday | 31: Mark & Debbie Fetting |
| 17: Seth & Rebecca Nutter | |

Birthdays:

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| 1: Jacob Cloninger; Holly Flanigan; Nick Weideman | 16: Avery Anderson; Amy Keller |
| 2: Trevor Anderson; Tabi Maanum | 19: Tara Chrapliwy; Karen DeArmond; Sheila Wolford |
| 3: Steve Wheat | 20: Martin Slomski; Nathan Wade |
| 4: Brett Anthonijs | 22: Melissa Schell; Marilyn Wing |
| 6: Jim Perrine | 23: Theo Anthonijs; Kim Smith |
| 8: Bobby Eisold; Tabitha Lukens;
Monika Rash; Abby Walkup | 25: Gianna Haun-Harshaw |
| 9: Cameron Brown; Angela Lukens | 26: Jonathan Boatman |
| 11: Pastor Ed Maanum | 27: Liz Etzel |
| 12: Zachary Mueller; Brian Poore; Melissa Sanders | 29: Jayda Turner; Lisa Wade |
| 13: Michleen Jones | 30: Wendy Slifka; Drew Slomski |
| 14: Lin Holloway, Jr. | 31: Abby Sanderson |

