



## **First Hearts   June 2020**

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### **From the Pastor**

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”  
(Psalm 40:3)

One of the most popular hymns by the sainted professor and poet Martin Franzmann is *Thy Strong Word*. It’s a great hymn that shows why he was the chair of the exegetical department in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for many years. This hymn of praise is based on the Seminary’s motto “Anothen to Phos” — “Light from Above.”

Light that was there at creation. Light that opens our blind eyes to see our Savior as He is for us men and our salvation. Light that makes us holy. At the end of the working of this eternal light from heaven made manifest in the Savior, Jesus, we sing praises.

“Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name. Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send Fill our song with alleluias, Alleluias without end.” (LSB 578 st 5)

You notice the number of that stanza? It's stanza 5 of a 6 stanza hymn! Our response comes after all that God's great love works and accomplishes for us. We sing praises to God first. He acts. He comes to us. He scatters - no, scatters isn't a strong enough word. He *destroys* the darkness we find ourselves in. He acts and we receive.

From receiving in the liturgy, in life, we give thanks and praise with mouths and actions.

Luther, in his great Galatians commentary, points out that God works through masks. Masks of God include money, jobs, vocations and on. Masks of God working in members giving monetary contributions in amounts never given before. An awesome mask of God for us here and now. God working in leadership. God working in organist and video recorders and pastors and those watching.

It's with this mind that we thank God for all of you. Receiving from you, as masks of God, love and gifts. Welcoming us with arms and hearts open here in East Tennessee. Signs in front of our house. Food in fridge. Cards from students and members that brightened each morning when mail was delivered and opened. The joy on faces when talking and meeting for the first time. Thanks from lips being raised to God for His actions in and among us.

This thanks continues without end. Thanksgiving for those continuing to give during this time. Thanks that we can gather as a family once again. Thanks that God used this pandemic to teach us to ache and long for His body and blood in amounts we never thought possible. Thanks for an exemplary vacancy ministry led by Pastor Rockeman. Thanks for the leaders here at First. Thanks for our teachers who's love for their students never stops, who continued in sharing the love of Christ. Thanks for our principal, Jessie Irwin, who continued to make learning and teaching possible for our staff and students. Thanks for the members. Thanks for the recently confirmed who were welcomed in their own words of confession and who receive Christ in hand and mouth.

So we pray that God will continue to enlighten our eyes to see each other as gifts given by Him. We pray that we continue to give thanks and praise.

Pastor Ed Maanum

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### Weekly Events

Divine Service 9:00 am

Divine Service 10:30 am

### Board Happenings

6/9 - School Board 6:00 pm

6/9 - Elders Meeting 6:30 pm

6/13 - Trustee Workday 9:00am

6/28 - Voter's Meeting

### School Happenings

5/27 - 7/31 - Summer Day Camp

## Monthly Readings

	June 7	The Holy Trinity	Gen. 1:1—2:4a	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	Matt. 28:16–20
	June 14 (Proper 6)	Second S. a. Pentecost	Ex. 19:2–8	Psalm 100	Rom. 5:6–15	Matt. 9:35—10:8 (9–20)
	June 21 (Proper 7)	Third S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 20:7–13	Psalm 91:1–10 (11–16)	Rom. 6:12–23	Matt. 10:5a, 21–33
	June 28 (Proper 8)	Fourth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 28:5–9	Psalm 119:153–160	Rom. 7:1–13	Matt. 10:34–42

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## **In Other News**

### **Stewardship**

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation.

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1) It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us.

In the passages from Romans, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice?



Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

**Confirmation:** Sunday, May 31, First Lutheran Church welcomed 4 new members with the confirmation of Joshua Blumenberg, Danny Sanderson, Levi Sprecher, and Nick Weideman. Each of these gentlemen selected a Bible verse for their confirmation, and they are as follows:

Joshua Blumenberg:

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

Danny Sanderson:

*But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine."*

Isaiah 43:1

Levi Sprecher:

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

Nick Weideman:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Romans 1:16

**Online Services:** Please visit the church website [www.firstknoxville.org](http://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/>

## **Our year in Review:**

The 2019-2020 School year was certainly a learning experience with some of the lessons more expected than others. But though it all First Lutheran School remained faithful to its mission to provide a Christ-centered environment for families and their children to come together and develop their God-given gifts. While we may have ended the year apart, we were connected in Christ and with that we had a joy only he can give.

In fact our theme this year was Joy, and time and time again we see, hear, and feel so much joy from the teachers, students and families. Here are just a few of joyful happenings that took place this year.

**August** – We came back to school ready to don our dirndls and lederhosen and celebrate with Germanfest. Our students sang and created art while our PTL put on a spectacular auction and managed the games and events for our kids.

**September** – Grandparents and special Persons day was a great opportunity to show off our talented students and school. ECE Also took the opportunity to help others raising funds for St. Jude's WITH A Trike-A-Thon

**October** – Our students aren't the only one's learning. Our teachers meet with other Lutheran Educators from around the world at the LEA Convocation in St. Louis. With plenty of fun and fellowship, we learned how to be better teachers and share God's grace with our students.

**November** – There is so much to be thankful for in November with field trips to the symphony, a moving Veterans Day Assembly, and ECE Thanksgiving Feast. We also participated in National Novel Writing Month with multiple students writing a 10,000 word novel.

**December** – The Christmas season is one of the best times at First Lutheran. Everyone from Kindergarten to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed the Nutcracker put on by the Appalachian Ballet Company. Our Christmas Program had us singing and dancing in the aisles. We also has 2 beautifully decorated trees for the fantasy of Trees. Overall, it was a season of giving and caring.

**January** - With schools across the country, we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. It was a time of faith and fellowship, fun and frivolity.

**February** - First Lutheran hosted a basketball tournament for Lutheran Schools throughout the region. Our teams played well but more importantly the showed Christ's love and won the sportsmanship award.

**March** – As part of Knox County's Read City USA initiative, First Lutheran participated in a Book Drive and as part of the winning team our Student Ambassador was able to write a book with a member of the Zac Brown Band. Then Mayor Jacobs visited and read a book to the entire school. It just went to show that First Lutheran has a passion for reading.

**April** – Things changed as we found our stride with distance learning. Every class from the one year olds to middle school kept on learning even when our facilities were closed. When other schools stop introducing new contact and limited interactions with teachers, we remained committed to maintaining our relationships with students and families while continuing instruction.

**May** – We celebrated the end of the year in New and Different ways with Zoom Games, Yard Signs to celebrate our graduates, and End of Year Drive Though Celebration. In the end it wasn't what we expected, but we made it our own. Overall it was a great year and a year that was encapsulated by our theme verse: 1 **Thessalonians 5:16-18**, "Rejoice

always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” We rejoice we prayed and we gave thanks and we will continue to do so in all circumstances, because the First Lutheran family has faith in a God who is greater than all things.

Joy and Many Blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal

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## **June**

### **Anniversaries:**

1: Jim & Dawn Roberts	24: Eric & Holly Flanigan; Robert & Sheila Wolford
10: John & Shannon Milbourn	25: Chris & Cindy Cox
14: Keith & Becky Hodson	27: Al & Sally Collver; Keith & Cheryl Denton
17: Bob & Barb Eisold	30: Joe & Angela Lukens
22: Steve & Julie Killian	

### **Birthdays:**

1: Levi Sprecher	15: Bob Hotaling; Carroll Ward
2: Paul Ortstadt	19: Jennifer Sandie; Ezra Sprecher
3: Susan Rodenbeck; Christine Sprecher	21: Sandy Anthonijs; Michael Blomenberg; Sally Collver
4: Cayden Bland; Ken Christensen	23: Don Weaver
5: Karen Farris; Karla Hood	24: Brandon Shutt

11: Jen Meier

25: Emily Dalton; Matt Keller

12: Brandon Poore

26: John Crockett; Dan Jordan; Maria Sunda

13: Miranda Yeatts

27: Sherry Ward

14: Harper Mitchell

28: Al Collver; Gordon McSween

16: Elisabeth Krueger; Elsie Nutter

29: Olivia Cooper

17: Rachel Buckner

30: Anni Lasley; Avram Sprecher