



First Hearts May 2020

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

T: 865-524-0308 Email: office@firstknoxville.org



From the Vacancy Pastor

There must have been Lutherans gathered in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost. As we read in Acts 2, the folks hearing the sounds and seeing the sights were **“amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’**” That’s the Lutheran question, straight out of Luther’s Small Catechism. Lutherans hearing that question today might well pipe up with the standard response: *“We should fear and love God that...”*

Ah yes—familiar question to our ears. **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** Apropos for Pentecost, that’s for sure! **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

Without that first New Testament Pentecost, we'd be asking that question ceaselessly into the wind. What does this mean? We'd be unable to put two-and-two together when it comes to anything that really matters. All things God would be well beyond even our best grasping efforts. What does this mean?

Thanks be to God, however, that the "wind blows where [He] wills," and His Spirit is sent forth to answer the question: "What does this mean?"

It means this: *"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me for all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil..."*

The One in the wind "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."

He's the One you met in the deep waters of your Baptism, the One Who carries the Living Word past your eardrums and lances it deep within your heart, the One Who makes you hungry for the righteousness that is fed into you at the Table of your Lord Jesus. He's the One Who, on the Last Day, will raise you up from out of your grave and surprise you forever in the presence of the Holy One of Israel, Christ crucified and risen, Christ triumphant and reigning.

He's also the One Who has kept a wonderful group of young people of our congregation in the faith and brings them before the Lord and before you on Pentecost Sunday as they confirm the faith that He planted and kept within each of them. And He's the One Who has blown a new pastor into your midst—Hurrah and Hallelujah for that!

Pentecost Sunday is Holy Spirit Day! It's the answer to the Lutheran question: *"What does this mean?"*

Pastor Rockemann

Vacancy Pastor (for just a little while longer...)



Weekly Events

Sunday School 9:15 am

Divine Service 10:30 am

Board Happenings

5/12 - School Board 6:00 pm

5/12 - Elders Meeting 6:30 pm

5/16 - Trustee Workday 9:00am

5/26 - Planning Council 6:30 pm

Other Church Events

5/12 and 5/26 - Quilter's Group 9:30am

5/22 and 5/23 - Church Rummage Sale

	May 3	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 2:42–47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19–25	John 10:1–10
	May 10	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2–10	John 14:1–14
	May 17	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 17:16–31	Psalm 66:8–20	1 Peter 3:13–22	John 14:15–21
	May 21	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Psalm 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 24	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 68:1–10	1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11	John 17:1–11
PENTECOST	May 31	The Day of Pentecost	Num. 11:24–30	Psalm 25:1–15	Acts 2:1–21	John 7:37–39

Monthly Readings:



In Other News

Stewardship

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity.” (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God’s gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. We should support the Lord’s work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Help Welcome the Maanums!

Dear First Lutheran Family,

The long awaited day is almost here!!! Pastor Maanum and his family will be arriving on May 5th. There are several things that we need your help with, to give them a big welcome! First, we ask the cooks of the congregation to please prepare a meal to be frozen for later consumption. That will help tremendously - it's no fun to cook in an empty kitchen! They have no food allergies. I have created a sign-up sheet for meals on Perfect Potluck, to make sure they don't get 10 variations on the same dish! The site made me pick a date, but please disregard that. Just drop off your meal to church whenever you are able. <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/SJZY2393>

In addition to food, we are also collecting other things to ease the transition. Paper towels, tissue boxes, gift cards to places that might help as they're setting up their home (Walmart, Target, Home Depot, etc). And, if you're really generous, why not supply them with a roll or two of toilet paper??? It doesn't have to even be a full pack! Or, anything else that you'd like to add to that list to shower them with love would be greatly appreciated!

Want to get the kids involved? Have them make cards for the Maanum children! They are Ephraim (11), Tabi (9), JoJo (8), Fae (6), and Jules (3).

All donations can be dropped off at church between 9am and 1pm, Monday - Friday. We can also arrange other times, including throughout the weekend. Please call the office before you come, or let me or the office know that a different time is needed. You can also mail cards, gift cards, or even Amazon orders directly to the church (1207 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917). Thanks so much for helping!!!

God's blessings,
Angela

55 Alive will be cancelled for May due to Covid 19 and school closure. We will resume again on September 17th.

Right to Life Billboard. The Heins Memorial Bible Class and members of First Lutheran Church have for a number of years sponsored one of the Right to Life billboards posted directly across from FLC entrance. The cost for the month of May is \$550. Anyone willing to assist in this project, please call Pastor Schulz -(805-6464) and make a check (for any amount) payable to: TN Right to Life. Send or bring to FLC. Always remember, that which is growing in the womb of an expectant mother is “not a potential human being, but a human being with potential!”

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/>

Online School Opportunity

Greetings

In this time of uncertainty, First Lutheran School has made the transition to distance learning so our students may continue to grow and learn. Our goal is to support our students and families spiritually, emotionally, and academically. Our Elementary and Middle School teachers have compiled lessons and resources that may be helpful to you as schools remain closed for the remainder of the year.

We have created three digital Guest Classrooms for grades Kindergarten -2nd, 3rd -5th, and 6th-8th grade. These Google classrooms are intended to help provide supplemental learning opportunities while students are out of school. Please note this is a modified version of what we are doing with our own classes and students. While we can't digitally replicate the learning environment in our school, our hope is to provide you with some resources.

We know that the idea of suddenly “home schooling” your child is overwhelming and trying to navigate your options is challenging. You all are extremely busy, and we wanted to create a simple, user friendly resource that you can enjoy. We are plugging your students into existing websites and curriculums that have been shown to help learning and create more successful retention through the summer months or extended closures.

The structure of each classroom varies based on the needs and abilities of the grade levels included, but overall, we hope to provide students, through this uncertain time, with resources and activities not only to continue academic learning but also faith and knowledge in Christ.

These Guest Classrooms will open to Guest Learners on Wednesday April 22 and remain open through May 20th.

If you are interesting in accessing these Classrooms, please email me at jirwin@firstlutheralschool.com with the information below.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Preferred Email

Student Name:

Student Grade:

Grace and Good Health,
Ms. Jessie Irwin, Principal
First Lutheran School

News from First Lutheran School

Wow! This year is not ending as we expected which is a shame because we were having an amazing time. We were learning so much, growing friendships, sharing joy. As a result, it is that much harder to have to abruptly change course, but nevertheless First Lutheran perseveres and learning never stops.

There are so many things that we miss when our building is closed. I miss silly jokes, art hanging on the walls, hearing the creative stories the students are writing. We miss singing and praying together. We even miss homework and having to walk quietly in the halls. However, as empty as our building has been without our students to fill it with joy, I often find myself singing the song "We are the Church." If you don't know it, some of the lyrics are "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people."

Over the past month, I have been reminded repeatedly that's what makes First Lutheran School so special. How beautiful is it that even when we are apart, we are able to still maintain the relationships which make First Lutheran a family? I know that devotion and commitment would not be possible if Christ was not at the center of all we do.

As we look ahead to an uncertain future, our students know their teachers and staff at First Lutheran are working hard for, praying for, loving, and supporting them. More importantly, our students know they have a great and mighty God who is watching over them and who sent His son to be the Savior of the world.

If you have not already, I encourage you to follow us on Facebook it is an excellent opportunity to seen what is happening now as we have transitioned to distance learning. Then be sure to share it with your friends.

Joy and Many Blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



May.

Anniversaries:

19: David & Karen Varner	28: Brad & Bethany Capehart; Don & Terrie Yeatts; Doc & Kelly Sternberg
26: Mike & Melissa Sanders	30: Joe & Angela Lukens
27: Kevin & Vicki Broyles	

Birthdays:

1: Barb Eisold	15: Margot Bridges
3: Alice Munsey	16: Mike Jones, Kim Mabe
4: Clara Cox	18: Heidi Bartholomay
5: Morgan Slomski	19: Dylan Keiser, Aaron Wade, Joe LaDue
6: Jim Roberts	21: Taylor Day, Cutter Tillman
7: Brion Bissell	22: Michael Warwick, Penny Wright
9: Jim Scarlett, Emily Rodenbeck	23: Beth Watson
10: Chuck Baum, Carmine	25: Chelcie Holloway
12: Larry Mabe	27: Olivia Killian, David Norton, Jeffrey Turner
13: Greg Buckner	28: Liam Milbourn, Benny Samuel
14: Miranda Witt	31: Scott Testerman

