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# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

MISSOURI SYNOD ▪ KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



[First Hearts](#) [November 2019](#)

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*For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

That hymn (“For All the Saints”, [LSB](#) 677) tells the story of All Saints' Day (November 1), a day sometimes referred to as the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. “Saints” are all true believers on earth and in heaven, both living and dead. However, in the Lutheran Confessions, the departed ones do not hold a higher “position” in the Church. We do not pray to the departed saints, since God commanded we are only to worship and pray to Him, the one true God, the Triune God.

To be sure, some saints are revered for the role they served in Christ's Church, but just as all true believers today, each “saint” is just another sinner washed in the blood of Christ. A person is given the title of “saint” when through faith given by the Holy Spirit, they believe Christ is their Savior and Lord, and they are saved solely by His complete atonement for their sins. Christ's cross and

empty tomb say it all: ***“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*** (Romans 8:1).

In our celebration on Sunday, November 3, we remember those who have died in Christ with the hope of salvation and redemption by His grace. We are thankful for the blessings the departed saints we knew brought into our lives—faithful parents, grandparents, a brother or sister. We also remember the faithful from all generations—all those washed in the blood of the Lamb of God, confessing Him before the world. We are all members of the same family with them, as we confess in the Apostles Creed, ***“The Holy Christian Church, The Communion of Saints”***. All Saints Day is a day to glorify Jesus Christ, who by His holy life and death redeemed the lost and made them saints through Holy Baptism and faith in Him.

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Pastor Rockemann

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### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Divine Service 10:30 AM

Pastor Schulz New Testament Bible Study at 6:00 PM

### **Board Happenings**

11/5 Planning Council 6:30 PM

11/11 Elders Meeting 6:30 PM

11/11- School Board 6:00 PM

11/17 Voter's Meeting 12:15 PM

11/23 Trustee Workday 9:00 AM

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# Monthly Readings:

11/3 - Revelation 7:2-8, Psalm 149, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12  
11/10 - Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 148, 2 Thess. 2:1-8, 13-17, Luke 20:27-40  
11/17 - Mal. 4:1-6, Psalm 98, 2 Thess. 3:1-5, 6-13, Luke 21:5-28, 29-36  
11/24 - Mal. 3:13-18, Psalm 46, Col. 1:13-20, Luke 23:27-43  
11/28 -- Deut. 8:1-10, Psalm 67, Phil 4:6-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Luke 17:11-19

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## In Other News

### Stewardship

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

### LWML News

Do you want to get a jump start on Christmas shopping? LEGS will once again be selling luxurious lotion candles and sugar scrubs! Candles are \$10, and scrubs \$5, or you can bundle the two for only \$13! Back again are Pepperberry Mistletoe, Twisted Peppermint, and Vanilla Bean Noel, along with brand new scents Christmas Tree Farm and Holiday Cheer. Stop by our display in the narthex starting in November to sample the fragrances and place your order! We will be taking orders at church through November 17th, or you can email [angela.m.lukens@gmail.com](mailto:angela.m.lukens@gmail.com) to order. Your purchase will help support the mission of the LWML while checking items off your Christmas shopping list!

### 55 Alive

On Thursday, November 21st, we will have a delicious turkey dinner, dressing etc. at 12:00 noon. Cost will be \$7.00 per person. We have the privilege of hearing dear Pastor Derek Roberts, the former associate pastor of FLC from 2006-2012, as our presenter. He presently serves as pastor of Praise Lutheran Church in Maryville. He is married to Gretchen and they have 3 children:

Kate, Sophia and Jonathan plus the recent addition of a foster child! Hope you can join us!

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### **News from First Lutheran School**

The year is flying by, and I am not sure how November snuck up on us. The choirs are already practicing Christmas songs.

At the start of October our teachers attended the Lutheran Educator's Association Convocation where alongside over 2,500 other Lutheran educators, we learned how to better serve God, His mission, and our students. The teacher's commitment to learning more is a testament to their drive. Every teacher and staff member at First works to meet the needs of the whole student: Faithfully, Academically, Creatively, Physically, and Socially/Emotionally. None of these tenants exist in isolation, but I want to spotlight some of what I get to see each day.

Physically – Our Lady Lions ended their Volleyball with 8 wins and 1 loss. Basketball season has started and the teams are training hard to prepare for their first game. Our Cheerleaders and Pep Squad are doing their part as well getting ready to show their spirit. It is a great opportunity for students to learn sportsmanship and to show God's love on the court. Even if a student does not participate in sports, they benefit from regular recess and PE classes. One of my favorite things is watching older students play alongside their chapel buddies in games of tag or pretend. It is an excellent reminder that no matter how grown up they act even a 13 year old needs time to just play.

Creatively – While it is not uncommon to find a First Lutheran student who can tell you Frida Kahlo's life story, name the works of great Impressionist painters, or rattle off a list of Contemporary American artists, I love to see the students use their creativity in new and unique ways. Using their artistic skills and knowledge of science, three First Lutheran students placed in the Knox County Soil Conservation Poster Contest. Their entries will be sent onto the state competition, and we wish them well. Our First and Second graders built the Nile River Delta out of salt dough to better understand life in Ancient Egypt. Third grade is using math and symmetry to create Fall inspired art. Several of the grades have used skits to reinforce the subjects they are currently learning.

Faithfully – As I sat in chapel last week, watching and listening as our 6th graders presented the message. I couldn't help but think that these students have done as much to strengthen my faith as any Bible Study or Devotion Book. If only we could all have faith like a child. When our K-3 choir sang in church, 'Joy' was not just a lyric, but a feeling and a message that filled the sanctuary. Such joy is only possible through Jesus, and their glad song was a testament to that message. If those worship opportunities weren't enough of a reminder of what our mission was, the grandparent of one of our 4 year olds approached me to share how her grandchild sang 'Jesus Loves Me' all the way to school that morning, and that the day before she had overheard the little girl reciting the Lord's Prayer.



Those moments of unapologetic faith are why we do what we do, and why the mission of First Lutheran is so important. We are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our students and nothing could be more important. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

In order for our mission to continue to be successful, please continue to keep First Lutheran in your prayers. Pray for our teachers, staff, and students (past, present, and future).

Jessie Irwin, Principal

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## Anniversaries:

7: Mike and Mary Jones

22: Cameron and Jeannie Brown

27: Pastor John and Gloria Schulz

28: Randy and Joy Witt

18: Steve and Janice Kaiser

23: John and Carolyn Milligan

28: John and Sharon Mueller

## Birthdays:

1: Melanie Bartholomay

2: Michelle Tillman

3: Zoe McKenzie  
5: Pat Hinds  
7: Allie Bryant and Kelly Miller  
9: Rick Elmore and Dustin Samuel  
12: Erik Blumenberg  
14: Melissa Smith  
16: Jake Varner  
19: Nelson Tower  
24: Joe Haynes and John Haynes  
29: Bailey Hatmaker  
30: Gene Franklin

4: David Cooper  
6: Rosa Beck  
8: Lynda Graves and Karen Varner  
10: Eric Flanigan  
14: Fred Schell  
14: Katherine Whitaker  
18: Amanda Knopps  
20: Melissa Norton  
27: Kevin Booth  
29: Steve Kaiser and Tammy Wheat