



## First Hearts   September 2020

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### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year is the 500th Anniversary of three of Martin Luther's most important works. The three works: Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, and The Freedom of the Christian marked another turning point in Luther's thought. This and the next two newsletters will be about each.

Most of us know that Luther struggled with indulgences. He eventually preached on indulgences in January 1517 and then presented his 95 Theses in October 1517. As Rev. Dr. Norman Nagel said, "The goose is in the oven, but it's not quite cooked." Which means Luther isn't Lutheran yet. He's not yet to Christ who reconciles us to the Father single handedly. That's not until 1518 at Heidelberg, where Luther concludes that God has put into the preacher's mouth the Word of the Gospel.

Between 1518 and 1519, Luther became Europe's most published author. In those two years, he wrote 45 different compositions (25 in Latin and 20 in German). Publishers couldn't keep up. Of these alone there were 291 editions by German printers because of the tremendous demands from the public. Luther's *Address to the Christian Nobility* would be another publishing phenom.

In it, he asserts that the papacy has protections put in place to stop reform from happening. The first protection of the pope Luther criticized was the traditional distinction between the “temporal” and “spiritual” orders—the laity and the clergy—arguing that all who belong to Christ through faith, baptism, and the Gospel shared in the priesthood of Jesus Christ and belonged “truly to the spiritual estate”. “For whoever comes out of the water of baptism can boast that he is already a consecrated priest, bishop, and pope, although it is not seemly that just anybody shall exercise such office.” All baptized believers are called to be priests, Luther said, but not all are called to be pastors.

The “priesthood of all believers” did not mean, “I am my own priest.” It means: In the community of saints, we are all priests to each other. We stand before God and intercede for one another, we proclaim God’s Word to one another and we celebrate his presence among us in worship, praise, and fellowship. Moreover, our priestly ministry does not terminate upon ourselves. It propels us into the world in service and witness.

The second protection against reform argued that only the pope could interpret Scripture. If only the pope can interpret, then no one can question his interpretation. Luther argued this as well, on the basis that all Christians, by the Holy Spirit, have equal access to the Scripture and understanding it. He would later explain this fuller in His Great Galatians Commentary, where anyone can understand Scripture, since it interprets itself. However, if one can’t interpret it correctly, like popes and councils are constantly disagreeing and arguing over, the problem lays with humanity, not Scripture.

The third projection against reform was that the only way to reform was through councils. Popes are historically resistant to councils, despite, as Luther points out, that many reforms happened in them.

After Luther knocks down these protections of the pope from reform like a wrecking ball, he includes various reform proposals, 27 in total. Many of these weren’t Luther’s individual positions, but were positions of various reformers from the previous century. Among these were paying taxes to the papacy and rejection of Rome inserting itself in local affairs. He even included reforms to education, including teaching Hebrew and Greek and the “Classics” over canon law.

This was gasoline on the fire of the reformation that was starting to spread outside of Wittenberg. Naturally, it lead to many different views. Some loved it. Melanchthon refused to reject or endorse it. Some wrote heated rebuttals of twisted or circular logic against it. But for us, it’s a striking reminder of our service to our neighbors.

Next month we’ll discuss The Babylonian Captivity of the Church.

Pastor Ed Maanum

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WORK WILLINGLY AT WHATEVER YOU DO,  
AS THOUGH YOU WERE WORKING FOR  
THE *LORD* RATHER THAN FOR PEOPLE.

COLOSSIANS 3:23 NLT



### Weekly Events

Sunday - Divine Service 9:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday-Thursday - Morning Prayer - 7:30 am

### Board Happenings

9/8 - School Board 6:00 pm

9/8 - Elders Meeting 6:30 pm

9/19 - Trustee Work Day

### Other Church Activities

9/5 - Men's Bible Study, 8 am

9/10 - LWML at the Bartholomay's

9/12 - Confirmation 8:30 am

9/13 - Voters' Meeting 9 am, Confirmation 11:30 am

9/19 -Men's Bible Study 8 am

9/20 - Youth Group

9/26 - Confirmation 8:30 am

9/27 - Confirmation 11:30 am

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	Sept. 6 (Proper 18)	Fourteenth S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 33:7-9	Psalms 32:1-7	Rom. 13:1-10	Matt. 18:1-20
	Sept. 13 (Proper 19)	Fifteenth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 50:15-21	Psalms 103:1-12	Rom. 14:1-12	Matt. 18:21-35
	Sept. 20 (Proper 20)	Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost	Isa. 55:6-9	Psalms 27:1-9	Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30	Matt. 20:1-16
	Sept. 27 (Proper 21)	Seventeenth S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalms 25:1-10	Phil. 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18	Matt. 21:23-27 (28-32)

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## In Other News

### Stewardship

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, serving, obeying and loving them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

**Mite Collection** We will be starting up our collection of mites again this Sunday! Mites are coins collected by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, to be used for mission work all around the world. You don't have to be a member of the LWML to help with this important work! So bring your spare change this Sunday (and every 1st Sunday monthly) and place them in the large mite box in the back of the sanctuary. And if you need your own mite box, we will be distributing them on October 4th as we celebrate LWML Sunday!

**Looking for substitute Organists or Pianists** for Sundays and possibly Wednesdays. We are blessed to have Kay Irwin serving as organist for First Lutheran. The Board of Elders is putting together a list of substitute accompanists for times when Kay is not available. Please contact Jered Sprecher at [jeredsprecher@gmail.com](mailto:jeredsprecher@gmail.com) or 917.656.7844

**Parrish Education** - Are you interested in facilitating Sunday School and VBS? First Lutheran is looking for volunteers to help organize Sunday School and other Parrish Education activities. Please reach out to Pastor Ed or Jered Sprecher.

**Youth!** Mark your calendars, join in fun and fellowship after 10:30 church on the third Sunday of every month.

LWML will be meeting on Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM outside at the Bartholomay's Home. If you would like to join us, contact Angela Lukens or Melanie Bartholomay.

**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.

**From the Treasurer:** I am working on the loan forgiveness for the Payroll Protection Plan loan and hope to complete that within the month. Below is a brief report on the finances to date.

Church Income YTD:	44,776.99	Budget: 56,094.18
School Income YTD:	193,838.91	Budget: 138,455.00
Combined Income YTD:	238,615.90	Budget: 197,049.18
Church Expense YTD:	42,864.03	Budget: 51,432.50
School Expense YTD:	135,084.68	Budget: 145,534.18
Combined Expenses YTD:	177,948.71	Budget: 196,966.68
Net Income YTD:	60,667.19	

**Facebook Page:** Follow First Lutheran on Facebook for all the latest updates: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxFirstLutheran/>

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# News from First Lutheran School

## First Lutheran School by the Numbers

As an English teacher I love words. The nuance of language and the poetry of words placed in just the right order never fails to leave me enthralled. However, I also know that number can speak volumes as well. So I thought it might be interesting to look at First Lutheran by the numbers.

- 81 students in Kindergarten through 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade. This is up from 52 students at the end of last year. Even with the growth, the student to teacher ratio is low allowing teachers to better understand and know each and every student.
- We have 50 Students in ECE with our One and Two-Year-Old rooms filled.
- 7 full time teachers. Five are Lutheran and four are Synodically trained, and at a time when many schools are struggling to Call teachers what a blessing it is to count these wonderful teachers among out staff.
- 150 years serving the children and families of Knoxville.
- 10,000 plus books in our library. First Lutheran is a school filled with great readers and writers. Every year our students participate in National Novel Writing month. Last year 7 students completed novels of at least 10,000 words.
- Countless prayers are said each day and an equal number of praises are sung.

As you can see the numbers tell us much and are just another way to see how First Lutheran and its mission. However, there are many more intangible factors that make First Lutheran School special. In the end, First Lutheran will continue to serve its students and families. Their physical, emotional, and spiritual health is a top priority, and our faculty and staff has worked tirelessly to create a safe environment while maintaining the warmth and connection that is so special to the First Lutheran Family. There must be a balance and with God's guidance we will achieve it, you can count on that.

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If you are interested in ways you can support FLS, we are currently looking for volunteers to help cover the office while Amanda is healing. Also, as you may know, the teachers have taken over all the custodial responsibilities this year. If you would be willing to help out one or two afternoons after school lets out, please contact the office. You wouldn't need to do the whole school but every little bit helps. We have simple checklist for each area, and remember many hands make light work. If we have enough people interested, it would be nice to set up a schedule of some sort.

Jessie Irwin, Principal

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### **Birthdays**

1: Dennis Graves  
5: Veronica Bartholomay, Dolly Roth  
6: Carrington Tillman  
7: Emaleigh Wadsworth  
8: Alexis Gibson, Janie Lanham  
9: Mariah Keyes  
10: Ariane Blais  
13: Emma Brown  
14: David Bryant, Mary Ann Wheat, Sophia Weideman  
17: Shannon Schell  
18: Dylan Baum  
23: Jadealynn Flanigan  
25: Cindy Cox  
27: Hayden Reed, Robert Wolford  
29: Beth Buckner, Rebecca Nutter  
30: Cameron Mabe

### **Anniversary**

8: Rick and Lynda Elmore  
9: Howard and Monika Rash  
26: Mark and Michelle Tillman

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