



First Hearts October 2020

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the end of *Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, Martin Luther previewed what he was next going to write. In October 1520 Luther would publish his little ditty, his “little song” as he called it. *The*

Babylonian Captivity of the Church is truly Luther at his eviscerating best. His target? The citadel of Roman power — their power over the souls of men in the sacraments.

All recognized that sinful men cannot come near to God by his own doings. All need the grace of God. Rome taught that God gave all that grace to the Church. It was Mother Church's sacred, and exclusive, duty to dispense that grace to the faithful by means of the sacraments.

In *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, there are seven sacraments listed. However, most of this "little song" as Luther calls it, this tract, deals with two sacraments: the Eucharist and Baptism. Christ ordained both. They have promises attached to physical means which call for faith.

Later in the tract, Luther makes an argument for Penance, that is, Confession, but not in the mandatory way of verbalizing every sin and earning forgiveness by works of law. Even then there is no physical sign for penance, an argument for sacramental status can still be made.

The sacraments of Ordination, Confirmation, Marriage, and Extreme Unction were eliminated because they lacked biblical authority of a promise which calls for faith.

Luther and Melancthon would later clarify their definition of a sacrament in the Apology to the Augsburg Confession Article 13. There they argue that "Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Absolution (which is the Sacrament of Repentance) are truly Sacraments. For these rites have God's command and the promise of grace."

This tract was for the comfort of broken consciences. Luther was a pastor at heart. How do we give assurance of the Gospel to broken sinners? It is only through the sacraments, because it is in the sacraments where you cling to the promises of Christ and His salvation for you.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Monday-Thursday - Morning Prayer - 7:30 am

Board Happenings

10/13 - School Board 6:00 pm

10/13 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

10/20 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

10/1 - Meet Your Elder 6:00 pm (Jon Eimmerman - Last name J-Ma)

10/3 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

10/4 - LWML Sunday (during worship services)

10/10 - Confirmation 8:30 am

10/17 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

10/17 - Work Day 9:00 am

10/18 - Youth Group (immediately following 10:30am service)

10/19 - LWML 6:30 pm

10/24 - Confirmation 8:30 am

10/25 - Reformation Sunday

10/31 - Reformation Day

	Oct. 4 (Proper 22)	Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 5:1-7	Psalm 80:7-19	Phil. 3:4b-14	Matt. 21:33-46
	Oct. 11 (Proper 23)	Nineteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 25:6-9	Psalm 23	Phil. 4:4-13	Matt. 22:1-14
	Oct. 18 (Proper 24)	Twentieth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 45:1-7	Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)	1 Thess. 1:1-10	Matt. 22:15-22
	Oct. 25 (observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19

In Other News

Stewardship

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints' Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five

passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

- “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)
- “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)
- “The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘The worker deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

“When Paul says ‘all good things,’ this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. ... The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: ‘God is not mocked.’ ... All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one’s hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: ‘Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages’; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): ‘Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.’ It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages ... it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office.” (LW 27:125–126)

Please join us during worship on October 4th as we celebrate LWML Sunday! The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary group of the LCMS. It strives to support women in their faith while also supporting mission work around the world! On LWML Sunday, you'll learn more about this group as well as how you can get involved. We hope to see you there!

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 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 Monday, October 19th 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 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:	63,118.41	Budget:	87,891.27
School Income YTD:	246,958.99	Budget:	207,682.50

Combined Income YTD:	310,077.40	Budget:	295,573.77
Church Expense YTD:	66,839.75	Budget:	77,148.75
School Expense YTD:	206,473.81	Budget:	218,301.27
Combined Expenses YTD:	273,313.56	Budget:	295,450.02
Net Income YTD:	36,763.84		

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

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

News from First Lutheran School

During this pandemic it can be easy to get caught up in all the ways that things are different. We have to wear masks and get our temperature check. I am washing my hands so much I am worried they will be permanently pruney (but very clean). We don't get to sit with our chapel buddies and field trips are limited to places we can visit via the internet. Most of these differences are simply inconveniences that are designed to keep us healthy, and they are doing just that. Nevertheless it can be easy to get bogged down in all the things we can't do, but that is a waste of energy and an insult to the God who has blessed us beyond our expectations and what we deserve.

During our school day, the majority of things have not changed. Students still learn. They read and write as often as possible. We work on number skills and critical thinking.

Kindergarten just finished up reviewing the alphabet. The culmination of which was the letter parade which passed by every classroom with festive letter signs and costumes to match. They are now moving on to exploration and explorers. Kindergarten and Middle School also played a game of 20 questions over zoom one afternoon proving that even when we can't be together we can learn from one another.

In First grade, they are traveling back in time and learning about ancient Mesopotamia. 6th grade had just finished up the same topic, and to introduce their First Grade friends to the subject, they performed a socially distanced play taking place set Ancient Babylon.

Second grade and their 5th and 6th grade buddies have exchanged letters and completed collaborative art projects together.

We even manage to participate in chapel together each Wednesday with some of the students in the sanctuary and some streaming online. We are gathered together worshipping our heavenly Father, and it doesn't get much better than that.

So when things seem overwhelming and as if it will never be normal again, I encourage you to take inventory and look for those blessings that God continues to bestow on us. Look for opportunities to strengthen relationships and build connections.

Those connections and relationships formed in Christian love are what make First Lutheran School such a special place and we are not about to let a few changes stand in our way.

Lastly, we ask that as part of your regular prayers, remember to bring before God, First Lutheran School. Pray for our mission; teachers; staff; and students; past, present, and future.

Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays

- 1: Marc Blais; Aven Flanigan
- 2: Larry Hood; Nancy Magnon; David Rodenbeck
- 4: Stephanie Hamilton
- 7: Rick Breeden; Terrie Mahs
- 9: Susan Haun
- 13: Levi Gross

16: Jenna Maanum; Pat Wrinkle
18: Debbie Fettig; Christopher Yeatts
19: Sydney Reed
20: Lindsey Hofman; Sherry Wheat
21: Joe Lukens; Barry Lyke; Layla & Josie Zimmer
22: Ronnie Sanderson
24: Pat Baxmann; Harold Whitaker
30: Lindsey Garst; Peter Garst

Anniversaries:

3: Clinton & Tammy Gross; Larry & Karla Hood
9: Ron & Terrie Mahs
18: Scott & Jennifer Sandie
22: Wil & Lisa Wade
24: Chuck & Diane Baum
28: Carl & Julie Cloninger
