



First Hearts December 2020

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent's upon us. It's that time of year. There are songs of cheer on the radio and in churches. There are wreaths hung, and not always with care. Cookies are eaten and hot chocolate and eggnog are drunk by fires while wearing comfortable pajamas.

“He is coming!”

There’s a joy in Advent that betrays the darkness that is around us. The sun is setting earlier and earlier. The days are short and getting shorter. And yet, we have light. Christmas lights all around us. Lights that testify to the coming Sun of Righteousness, the Bright Morning Star. Lights on houses that blink and flicker with glee. Lights on trees and lamppost that will line our fair city streets. Even our wreaths will get brighter and brighter.

Only time held by Christ gets darker and has more light at the same time.

That’s Advent. A season of waiting. A season of repentance. A season of hope. A season of anticipation of the King who comes just and having salvation. He is the King who becomes a Servant to redeem and save His Bride.

“He is coming!”

The hymn “What Child Is This” helps us understand why we wait and what we celebrate. In stanza one we sing, “What child is this, who laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?” (LSB 370 st 1) Sleeping as a newborn babe in His mother’s embrace and lap with tears of joy welling her eyes and moistening her cheeks. Thirty-three years later, He will rest one last time on His mother’s lap when taken down from Calvary’s wooden throne. He will be upon her lap resting from all that He had accomplished for our salvation. One last motherly embrace with tears of sorrow welling her eyes and moistening her cheeks. His death pierced her soul.

On Christmas, the King appears to us in servant’s clothes. The King is not alone, though. As we gather and celebrate His birth, we are reminded of His impending death where “Nail, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be born for me for you.” (LSB 370 st 2) We see the cost of following Him and believing in Him. We may end up martyred like St. Stephen (Dec 26), some may die in old age like St John the Apostle and Evangelist (Dec 27), or young like the innocent children of Bethlehem (Dec 28).

And yet, there is joy. Joy in sadness. Light in darkness. “Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary.” (LSB 370 st 3)

“He is coming!”

Have a blessed and happy Advent.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

Sunday - Divine Service 8:30 am and 11:00 am; Bible Study 9:45 am

Monday-Thursday - Morning Prayer - 7:30 am

Wednesday 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 - Advent Services 7:00 pm

Board Happenings

12/8 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

Other Church Activities

12/5 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

12/6 - Advent by Candlelight 5:30 pm

12/7 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

12/12 - Confirmation 8:30 am

12/19 -Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

12/19 - Work Day 9:00 am

12/20 - Youth Group (immediately following 11:00 am service)

12/21 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm (Mask Required)

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm (Mask Encouraged)

12/25 - Christmas Service 9:00am (Mask Required)

12/26 - Confirmation 8:30 am

ADVENT	Nov. 29 2020	First S. in Advent	Is. 64:1–9	Psalms 80:1–7	1 Cor. 1:3–9	Mark 11:1–10 or Mark 13:24–37
	Dec. 6	Second S. in Advent	Is. 40:1–11	Psalms 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
	Dec. 13	Third S. in Advent	Is. 61:1–4, 8–11	Psalms 126	1 Thess. 5:16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
	Dec. 20	Fourth S. in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16	Psalms 89:1–5 (19–29)	Rom. 16:25–27	Luke 1:26–38
CHRISTMAS	Dec. 24 Eve	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 7:10–14	Psalms 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
	Dec. 25 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 9:2–7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 62:10–12	Psalms 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 52:7–10	Psalms 2	Heb. 1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 27	First Sunday a. Christmas	Is. 61:10–62:3	Psalms 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40
	<i>or</i>	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	Rev. 1:1–6	Psalms 11	1 John 1:1–2:2	John 21:20–25
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus (<i>New Year's Eve</i>)	Is. 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalms 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

In Other News

Stewardship

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10–11). We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God’s people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17). And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has

wrought for us in His Son, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

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 11:00 am church on the third Sunday of every month.

Thank you.

I would like to thank our church family and friends who have expressed your kind words of sympathy to our family with cards, phone calls, gifts, and attending Carl's funeral.

This has been appreciated more than you will ever know. God blessed Carl with a wonderful family and full life - 83 years on this earth. He is now with his heavenly father in his heavenly home and at peace.

Thank you all once again to everyone. We are so blessed to be part of the family at First Lutheran for the past 50 years.

God's Blessing to all,
Judy Testerman and family

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:

Budget Information

	Acutal	Budget
Church Income	\$118,353.42	\$140,235.45
School Income	\$372,829.39	\$340,054.15
Total Income	\$491,182.81	\$480,289.60
Church Expense	\$155,082.75	\$122,331.25
School Expense	\$354,995.23	\$363,835.45
Total Expense	\$510,077.98	\$486,166.70
Net Income	-\$18,895.17	-\$5,877.10

*Additional expenses are due to paying off the \$25,000 line of credit that was taken out in the Spring of 2020.

News from First Lutheran School

'Twas the season of Advent, when all through the halls
The hope of the season was calling us all
The teachers were guiding with much love and care,
The love of God always present there.

The office was busy and bustling too,
First aid and copies, they are the school's glue
Sharing the info and spreading the word
Only they could keep these cats in a herd.

When out on the playground arose such a clatter,
The Ones and the Twos are painting. What splatter!
Away to the gravel they flew like a flash,
Their teachers perfecting that last minute dash.

The Threes are now dancing around Christmas trees
Motion and movement when learning is key
Down at the white house you'll find all the Fours
Eager and ready, they dare to explore.

Around the world it's Christmas, Kindergarten knows.
Traveling the world, they celebrate and grow.

First grade is ready; a chill's in the air.
Babe in the manger, the story they'll share.

The reason for the season, the second grade tells
A savior is born, Shout it from mountains and dells.
Reading and writing and arithmetic,
Third and fourth, they know all the tricks.

Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade, a puppy or two
Creative and caring, they're loyalty true.
On top of the tower are Seven and Eight,
The heights that they reach aren't the only thing great.

All of it's here, not a school can compare
The holiday spirt is filling the air.
Away in a Manger and Joy to the World
Our Savior has come the message is heard.

Dash down the hall, out the door, through the streets
Share the hope and the joy with all that you meet
He is here, Christ has come for all far and near.
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-YEAR

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Joy and Many Blessings,

Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays

- 3: Jeannie Brown
- 4: Diane Baum; Mary Jones
- 6: Rebecca Keyes
- 8: Zachary Blais
- 9: Branson Holton; Joe LaDue

12: Linda Perrine; Pastor Schulz; Justin Turner

17: Robert Boatman

18: Joshua Rodenbeck

19: Howard Rash

20: Samuel Witt

24: Stephanie Johnson

25: Kara Sircy

26: Doc Sternberg

28: Louisa Nutter; Gloria Schulz

29: Lillie LaDue

30: Margaret Ortstadt

31: Carlyle Roth

Anniversaries:

16: Chuck & Diane Baum

27: Ed & JoAnn Niedens

28: Brion & AnnMarie Bissell
