



First Hearts November 2020

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

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



From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 1520, Martin Luther wrote a letter to Pope Leo X. Luther was polite in tone while reminding the Pope that he held the power to reform the Church. A month before, Leo sent his Papal Bull excommunicating Luther. This was not the response he was expecting. We don't know if Leo ever got the letter or not.

But we know that with this letter was a copy of Luther's tract *The Freedom of the Christian*. In this tract, Luther argues two ideas: 1) A Christian is an utterly free man, lord of all, subject to none. 2) A Christian is an utterly dutiful man, servant to all.

Luther showed that he was following Jesus and St. Paul, not Aristotle. Aristotle argued that if there is a servant, then there is a master and vice versa. However, according to scripture, a Christian is both a master and servant in Christ. By faith alone, man is free in Christ. By faith alone, man serves his neighbor as a servant. In Christ, we live between these two poles of being slave and free at the same time. Love binds us together.

We see this distinction played out in Law and Gospel. Law shows that we need salvation. Christ alone is free to do anything, and yet He bound Himself under the Law to serve and save us with His death and resurrection. That is the source of our freedom in Christ — freedom to love and serve.

When you were baptized into Christ's death, you were set free from the penalty of the Law. This does not mean that you can do anything you want or have permission to go against the Law. Rather, having been set free from sin, we are set free to serve and love and be a servant of all. So it goes with Christ, so it goes with us.

The Freedom of the Christian is a confession, our confession. Freedom comes only from Christ Himself — His incarnation, cross, and empty tomb. Faith Alone by Grace Alone in Christ Alone revealed in Scripture Alone justifies us. Christ changes us. We are free in faith and free to serve in love.

Faith and love. That's what it's all about. That's what it's always been about.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Board Happenings

11/10 - School Board 6:00 pm
11/10 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm
11/24 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

11/1 - All Saint's Day Service and Picnic
11/7 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
11/9 - LWML 6:30 pm
11/9 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm
11/14 - Confirmation 8:30 am
11/15 - Consecration Service
11/15 - Youth Group (immediately following 11:00 am service)
11/21 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
11/21 - Work Day 9:00 am
11/23 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm
11/28 - Confirmation 8:30 am
11/28 - Decorate Church for Christmas

	Nov. 1	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalms 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
	Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalms 70	1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13
	Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7-16	Psalms 90:1-12	1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30
	Nov. 22 (Proper 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalms 95:1-7a	I Cor. 15:20-28	Matt. 25:31-46
	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1-10	Psalms 67	Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4	Luke 17:11-19

In Other News

Stewardship

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

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.

LWML will be meeting on Monday, November 9th at 6:30 PM. If you would like to join us, contact Angela Lukens or Melanie Bartholomay.

Dear Members,

We are so blessed to have a loving church family who remembered us with prayers, delicious food, cards, phone calls and texts during our bout with

Covid-19 virus. Yours and our prayers have been answered. We thank God that we are fully recovered. May God continue to richly bless you with health, happiness and joy in serving our Lord Jesus! Pastor & Gloria

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/>

Budget Information

	Actual	Budget
Church Income	\$86,479.80	\$112,188.36
School Income	\$309,187.06	\$272,243.32
Total Income	\$398,666.86	\$384,431.68
Church Expense	\$86,313.51	\$97,865.00
School Expense	\$297,910.01	\$291,068.36
Total Expense	\$384,223.52	\$388,933.36
Net Income	\$11,443.34	-\$4,501.68

News from First Lutheran School

November is a time to think about all the things you are thankful for. God has blessed First Lutheran School with so much, and we are reminded of His abundant grace and mercy every day. The song says "Count your blessings," so we took this chance to put together a list of 10 things for which we are thankful.

1. We are thankful for our Church body and members that support the mission of the school through their time, talents, and treasures.
2. We are thankful for amazing teachers who not only impart knowledge through amazing lessons, but who share the love of Christ through their words and deeds. They are teachers who are willing to give up their planning periods and clean the entire school every day so that FLS is able to continue to serve our students.
3. We are thankful for our incredible Trustees who are willing to fix things when they don't work as they should and who are responsible for us, once again, having air conditioning in the gym.
4. We are thankful for students who show up every day eager to learn, excited to share the Gospel, and ready to be a great friend.
5. We are thankful for our First Families who share their love for the school with everyone they meet, who volunteer to clean bathrooms, and donate

disinfectant wipes.

6. We are thankful Mrs. Hillard who does an amazing job as church and school secretary. She is what keeps this school running smoothly. We are also Thankful for Mrs. Bartholomay who filled in for much of the first quarter.
7. We are thankful for the tasty foods like baked ziti, chicken noodle soup, and chicken tenders; all lovingly made by Ms. Emily and Ms. Stacy who make the greatest hot lunches ever
8. We are thankful for good health. With temperature checks and regular screenings, we are so blessed this year to have been able to continue with in person instruction.
9. We are thankful for technology which allowed us to continue learning last Spring even when the school was closed, and even now allows us to worship together by streaming chapel services.
10. We are thankful for our loving, heavenly Father who sent his Son Jesus to die for us for the forgiveness of our sin, so that we may have the promise of heaven and be filled with the hope of the Holy Spirit.

Also, part of being thankful means taking opportunities to give back. If you are interested in giving back to the school, we are always looking for volunteers to help clean the building after school. We also are always thankful for your prayers, words of encouragement, and thanks.

Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays

- 1: Melanie Bartholomay
- 2: Michelle Tillman
- 3: Zoe McKenzie
- 4: David Cooper; Ezekiel Lukens
- 5: Pat Hinds; Kelly Sternberg
- 6: Rosa Beck
- 7: Allie Bryant; Kelly Miller
- 8: Lynda Graves; Karen Varner
- 9: Darby Allen; Rick Elmore; Dustin Samuel
- 10: Eric Flanigan

12: Erik Blomenberg; Madison Slomski
14: Fred Schell; Melissa Smith; Katherine Whitaker
16: Aja LaDue; Jake Varner
18: Amanda Knopps
20: Melissa Norton; Stacie Smith
23: Susan Spicer
24: Joe Haynes; John Haynes
25: Jules Maanum
26: Tammy Gross
27: Kevin Booth
29: Bailey Hatmaker; Tammy Wheat; Norah Toomire
30: Gene Franklin

Anniversaries:

7: Mike & Mary Jones
22: Cameron & Jeannie Brown
27: Pastor & Gloria Schulz
28: John & Sharon Mueller; Randy & Joy Witt
