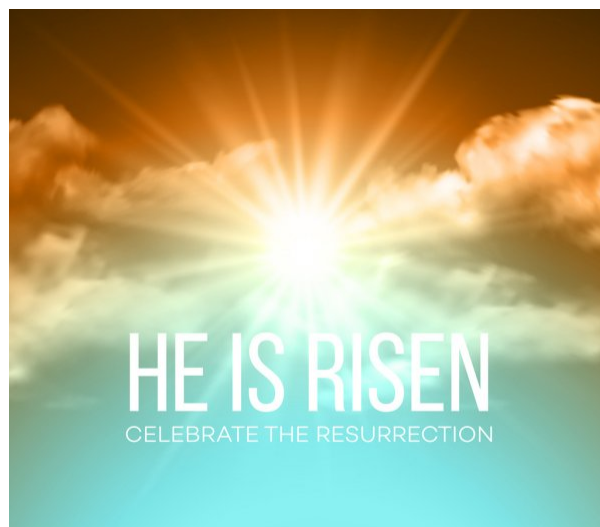




First Hearts April 2021

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“For through the Word and the sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given, and the Holy Spirit produces faith, where and when it pleases God, in those who hear the gospel.” (AC V, 2)

“Strengthened by the Means of Grace, we faithfully witness to Christ in the community, and passionately share God’s love through acts of mercy.”

That’s our congregations new mission statement, which is comprised of five pillars. These pillars are Worship, Education, Witness, Fellowship, and Mercy. Over several newsletters, we’ll be taking a quick tour of these pillars.

The first pillar is Worship. Most churches emphasize Worship in terms of us serving God. For many Worship starts with me. When it comes to worship, we Lutherans are different. We emphasize that Worship begins, ends, and has its substance in God’s doing. He’s the one running the verbs and it’s His show.

The German word is Gottesdienst or Divine Service. God speaks the Words and we listen. He doesn’t speak just any ordinary words. God speaks Law and Gospel. Death and Life. Repentance and Forgiveness. These words, God’s Words, evoke the faith which receives the gifts. Our faith is born and strengthened from what is heard, and it rejoices in the gifts received. We also respond with thankfulness and praise to our giver God.

God’s actions to us and our response are called sacramental and sacrificial worship. In the sacramental, God does the work, is arousing faith, and comforts the broken conscience with His gifts. In the sacrificial, we respond by using the “ceremony itself to the praise of God, in order by this obedience to show its gratitude; and testif[ying] that it holds in high esteem the gifts of God.” (Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV 74)

That is worship. From God to us, then from us back to Him. He gives the gifts of Word and Sacrament, the Means of Grace, the Jesus stuff. We respond. Together we receive. Our faith is strengthened towards God. Our love is increased toward each other in witness, fellowship, and acts of mercy.

The best news is, God never runs out of His gifts. There are always more gifts, more forgiveness, more receiving.

Next month we’ll discuss Education.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

4/13- School Board 6:00 pm

4/13 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

4/20 - Planning Council 6:30 pm

Other Church Activities

4/3 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

4/4 - Breakfast 9:45 am

4/12 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

4/17 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

4/18 - Confirmation 9:45 am

4/18 - Youth Group (immediately following 11:00 am service)

4/24 - Work Day 9:00 am

4/26 - Ladies' Bible Study

School Activities

4/1 - 4/5 - Easter Holidays

4/12 - 4/16 - National Week of the Young Child

	Apr. 1	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 24:3–11	Psalm 116:12–19	1 Cor. 10:16–17	Mark 14:12–26
	Apr. 2	Good Friday	Is. 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9	John 18:1—19:42 or John 19:17–30
EASTER	Apr. 4	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Sunrise</i>	Ex. 15:1–11	Psalm 118: 15–29	1 Cor. 5:6b–8	John 20:1–18
	Apr. 4	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Day</i>	Is. 25:6–9	Psalm 16	1 Cor. 15:1–11	Mark 16:1–8
	Apr. 11	Second S. of Easter	Acts 4:32–35	Psalm 148	1 John 1:1—2:2	John 20:19–31
	Apr. 18	Third S. of Easter	Acts 3:11–21	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1–7	Luke 24:36–49
	Apr. 25	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 4:1–12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16–24	John 10:11–18
	or	St. Mark, Evangelist	Is. 52:7–10	Psalm 146	2 Tim. 4:5–18	Mark 16:14–20

In Other News

Stewardship

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

Our Lord Jesus Himself says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: : “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for

us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

Board of Trustees – Special Project List

Doc Sternberg and the Board of Trustees have put together a list of (11) key projects for facilities improvements for the church and school. (See attached below). The dollar amounts, shaded in green are the estimated amounts needed to complete each project, with the column on the right showing what has been raised thus far. As of this past Sunday, there are (4) projects that have been fully funded but there are many important projects that are still in need of donations.

Please prayerfully consider contributing to one or more of these funds over the next few weeks and months. If you have any questions about the projects, you can contact Doc Sternberg.

 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL		COLLECTED	GOAL
		37,890	\$559,500
***IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT A SPECIFIC ITEM, PLEASE WRITE THE ITEM ON THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK.			
WHITE HOUSE ROOFING/GUTTERS	\$20,000	2,800	
WHITE HOUSE WINDOWS	\$4,000		
RUBBER ROOF REPAIRS	\$18,000	COMPLETE	
MAINTENANCE ROOFING CONTRACT (X3 YEAR CONTRACT)	\$2,800	COMPLETE	
SEAL LEAKING PARAPETS	\$9,100	COMPLETE	
BUILDING STABILITY (INCLUDES \$77,000 FOR WASHING, REPOINTING, CAULKING & WATERPROOFING FOR THE 1948 SCHOOL BUILDING)	\$375,000		
SANCTUARY ROOFING	\$60,000	75	
LADIES BATHROOM REMODEL (LUV PASTOR'S OFFICE - SEPARATE INTO 2 BATHROOMS, WOMEN'S & MEN'S)	\$30,000		
SCHOOL HVAC AIR SANITIZERS	\$3,600	COMPLETE	
PAINT THE GYM	\$9,000	1,671.36	
3 REMAINING HVAC UNITS (CIRCA 1978) (\$11,000 EA OR REPLACE AT ONE TIME FOR \$28,000)	\$28,000		

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.

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/>



News from First Lutheran School

I freely admit I love the quizzes in magazines and on Facebook. Things like ‘Which Star Wars character are you?’ or ‘What European country should you vacation to?’ always get my attention. What I love about these quizzes is they allow us to dream and also reflect. I don’t really expect them to have the answer, and more often than not you know what the answer is going to be, but they can make you consider things you haven’t before.

So I decided to create a quiz to help everyone figure out “If First Lutheran is a good fit for your family?”

1. What does your household look like?

- A. We have 2.5 children and a white picket fence.
- B. We lost count and have forgotten what silence is.
- C. I am retired and spend my days spoiling my grandchildren.

2. Are you a member of a Lutheran Church?

- A. My family has been Lutheran since the Reformation.

- B. I visited once, but I love my home church.
- C. Luther? Wasn't he the guy who ate worms.

3. How does your child spend their free time?

- A. If it involves a ball and completion, they are there.
- B. They are a creative spirit always writing or painting.
- C. Building digital worlds and defeating the next boss in the game.

4. Where do you live?

- A. Old North Knox - We love our Victorian bungalow.
- B. West Knoxville – We know every family in the subdivision.
- C. Halls – We have it, though we aren't sure what it is.

5. How old is your student?

- A. Entering Kindergarten
- B. Just turned two-years-old
- C. Middle school

Mostly As – You are ready to be a part of the First Lutheran family.

Mostly Bs – We can give you the enrollment application today.

Mostly Cs - When would you like to schedule a tour?

If you haven't already gathered, First Lutheran is a school for everyone serving students from one year of age through 8th grade. It doesn't matter where you live; after all, a Broadway is easily accessible from all over Knoxville. You don't even have to be Lutheran to attend First, but LCMS Members do get a tuition discount. We offer Tuition Assistance and multi student discounts because we do not want finances to prevent anyone from attending and hearing every day the Gospel message while also receiving a quality education in a loving environment.

Maybe you don't have children to enroll at First Lutheran, but you may know someone who could just as easily take this quiz and come to the realization that maybe First Lutheran is where God wants them to be.

So before you dismiss my silly quiz, take a moment to reflect, who do you know who is ready to join our First Lutheran family? Maybe it is you? Maybe it is the young couple who walk with their toddler each evening? Maybe it is your niece or nephew for whom Middle School has been a struggle?

Hope and many blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Apr. 2: Christopher Dalton

Apr. 5: Becky Hodson

Apr. 7: Mike Anderson; Louise Hodson; Bob Sircy; Wendy Bennett-Turner

Apr. 8: Steve Keyes; Bekah Wolford

Apr. 9: Carolyn Milligan

Apr. 10: Chuck Baum; Jackson Killian; Ephraim Maanum

Apr. 12: Ingrid Capparelli

Apr. 14: McKenzie Day; Gerene Jones; Larry Magnon

Apr. 15: Ed Niedens

Apr. 16: Jennifer Hodson

Apr. 18: Tonya Knopps; Mary McKenzie

Apr. 19: Mary Acuff Croes; Rebekah Parrott; Judy Testerman

Apr. 22: Kelsie Reed

Apr. 23: Alexander Blais; Ayden Laing; Stephanie McKenzie

Apr. 25: Larry Farris; Cheyenne Tillman

Apr. 26: Jeff McKenzie

Apr. 28: Isaac Davis; Shannon Milbourn; Lydia Vandervort

Apr. 30: Lois Blais; Jeremiah Davis; Kathleen Holliday; Brittany Johnson;
Kamden Kreger

Anniversaries:

Apr. 1: Steve & Shellia Byrd

Apr. 5: Carlyle & Dolly Roth

Apr. 6: Bill & Rosie Rosen

Apr. 15: Barry & Melissa Lyke

Apr. 24: Doug & Wendy Slifka

Apr. 29: David & Susan Rodenbeck
