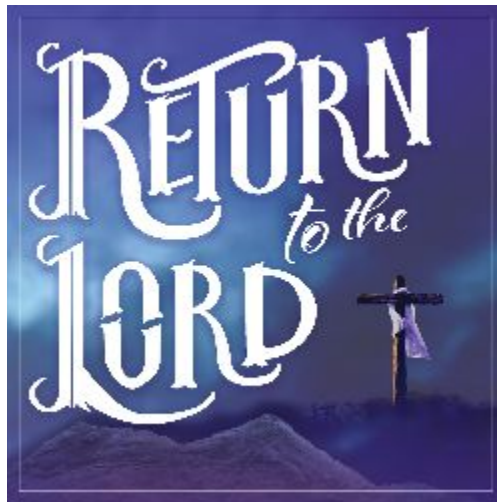




First Hearts March 2021

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters at First Lutheran,

Now we are in the throes of Lent. So here's a little breakdown of the season filled with 40 days of fasting, prayer and repentance. However, Lent breakdowns into three different sections. Each section has their own changes to the liturgy reflecting what Christ Himself is going through.

The first period of Lent is Ash Wednesday through the historic lectionaries week which begins with Laetare Sunday. The name comes from the first few words of the Introit in Latin, "Laetare Jerusalem" or "Rejoice, O

Jerusalem” from Isaiah 66:10. This is also called Rose Sunday because a golden rose was given by the pope to a prominent individual and the clergy wear rose colored chasubles and stoles. Laetare this year is March 14 or Lent 4. This Sunday acts as a break in our increasing repentance and faith.

Next we have Passiontide which begins Judica or “Judge Me” Sunday, March 21. Again, the title comes from the Latin Introit, this time from Psalm 43. Here the liturgy gets stripped away more and more. The liturgy is spoken. Less joy. More sorrow and contemplation of the Sacrifice. No Gloria after the Introit. The crucifix is veiled until Easter Sunday and Eastertide begins.

The second week of this section is Palm Sunday that begins with the crowds and us rejoicing as Jesus enters His city and the quick change to sorrow over what is coming during the week as the liturgy is stripped as He will be.

The third section of Lent is Holy Week itself. Here the Passion narratives are read according to the four Gospels. We’re in the upper room as Jesus’ washes feet and institutes His meal. And if a church does two services on Good Friday you’re at the foot of the cross with the reproaches spoken by Jesus at the first and the later Tenebrae, the extinguishing of candles as Jesus’ life is extinguished.

Holy Saturday’s historic Matins remembers Jesus’ rest in the tomb where He sanctifies — makes holy — our tombs and graves. That night is the Great Vigil that begins in darkness and ends in the glorious light of the resurrection.

Next month we will begin a several newsletter series on our statement “Strengthened by the Means of Grace, we faithfully witness to Christ in the community, and passionately share God’s love through acts of mercy.”

Have a blessed Lententide.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Wednesday - Lenten Service 7:00 pm (no service on March 31)

Board Happenings

3/9- School Board 6:00 pm

3/9 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

3/30 - Planning Council 6:30 pm

Other Church Activities

3/1 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

3/6 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

3/7 - Confirmation 9:45 am

3/20 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

3/21 - Confirmation 9:45 am

3/21 - Youth Group (immediately following 11:00 am service)

3/27 - Work Day 9:00 am

	Mar. 7	Third S. in Lent	Ex. 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 1:18-31	John 2:13-22 (23-25)
	Mar. 14	Fourth S. in Lent	Num. 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-9	Eph. 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
	Mar. 21	Fifth S. in Lent	Jer. 31:31-34	Psalm 119:9-16	Heb. 5:1-10	Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45
HOLY WEEK	Mar. 28	Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion	Zech. 9:9-12	Psalm 118:19-29 or Ps. 31:9-16	Phil. 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-47 or John 12:20-43

In Other News

Stewardship

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

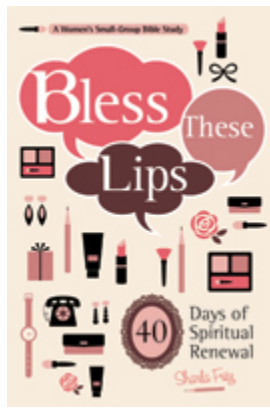
God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

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.

Easter Lilies. We are taking orders for Easter Lilies to decorate our church sanctuary for the Easter season. The cost will remain \$15 each. Order forms can be found at the back of the sanctuary. Please have order forms returned by **Monday, March 8, 2021.**

New Women's Bible Study! We will be reading "Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal" by Sharla Fritz. Below is a description of the book, copied from CPH.



Oops. A mouth mishap. The words just slipped out, and there is no taking them back.

Words are powerful. They can build up or tear down. They can affirm and teach or criticize and condemn.

By God's grace, a mouth makeover can improve our relationships and affect our attitude toward life. Our words can enrich our connection to God as we spend more time in prayer and praise. Most important, God desires that we use the gift of speech to give Him praise, encourage others, and verbalize our faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes. And each day's reading includes Bible study questions and suggestions for personal reflection.

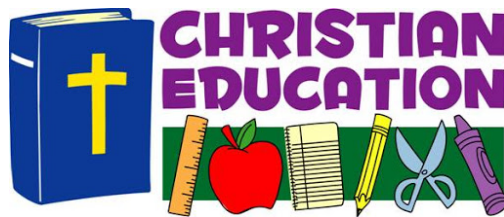
We're excited to begin this study, and hope that you will make plans to join us! The group will meet on Mondays at 7pm every two weeks via Zoom, beginning on March 29th. Books are \$14.99, and checks can be made to First Lutheran LWML. (We also have a couple of free books available, if cost is prohibitive to you!) **The deadline to RSVP is March 7th** so that we can order the books. Please contact Angela Lukens at amlukens@protonmail.com with questions or to RSVP! Please join us, and feel free to invite your friends!

Easter Desserts: Pre-Order your Desserts for your Easter Dinner from our Youth Group. Please order by March 28th. Desserts will be available for pickup from 10am-12pm on April 3rd or on Easter Sunday. You can get an order form from the bulletin board across from the church mailboxes, on the table by the school office, or Shellia Byrd. Thank you for helping support our Youth!

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

March 13th 2020 was the last “normal” day of school. Our teachers were already prepping for the transition to distance learning, and because of their proactive and positive attitude, we ended the year strong even if we weren’t in person. It has now been a year of masks, quarantines, and a whole lot of hand sanitizer. It has been exhausting at times, and there is no denying the pandemic is taking its toll on everyone.

On a more optimistic note, a number of our teachers and staff will be getting vaccinated this week. This opportunity has been a great reminder to not lose hope.

I often wish I could have an awards ceremony for the teachers and staff here at First Lutheran. It is so easy to take for granted all that they do each and every day without fanfare or complaint. They have taken over the role of janitor cleaning not just their classrooms but the halls and restrooms. They regularly create and purchase their own assignments and curriculum to ensure that our students continue to learn to the best of their ability. When someone has to quarantine or distance learn, they rise to the occasion personally delivering supplies and materials to their fellow teachers or students. They come in on weekends and stay late to make sure the job gets done, and because of how classes are in pods this year, they are doing without planning periods. This is just a snapshot of all they do, but if you get a chance please thank our incredible staff for all they do: send a card, send an email, just let them know they are appreciated.

While First Lutheran has seen growth this year, we want to continue to invite new students to join the First Lutheran family and to hear the message of Christ's love and salvation. In order to do to help spread the news about First Lutheran, we have marketing materials including yard signs, our website, printed materials, and promotional items. Currently, our Marketing Budget is \$0, but even a few hundred dollars would go a long way to helping us reach more people in our community. If you would be interested in helping with this particular aspect of our mission we would love to hear from you. It could be as simple as a small donation to purchase printed materials, or if you have the skills, it could be giving of your time and talents to help update our website. We are blessed at First Lutheran with such a generous community of believers

Lastly, as always, if you wish to donate plastic gloves or disinfectant wipes. It would be much appreciated. You would be amazed how happy teachers get about cleaning supplies.

Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Mar. 1: Kris Weaver

Mar. 2: Lily Varner

Mar. 4: Don Froemsdorf

Mar. 6: Michelle Breeden

Mar. 7: John Hofman; Andrew Lintz; Nicole Riffey

Mar. 8: Brian Cutler

Mar. 10: John Schulz, Jr.; David Varner

Mar. 12: Shelbie Bender; Carolyn Weaver

Mar. 14: Lin Holloway III; Zoe Price

Mar. 18: Sharon Lee

Mar. 19: Beth Crockett

Mar. 20: Christian Eimmerman

Mar. 21: Doug Rodenbeck; Eleanor Wadsworth

Mar. 22: AnnMarie Bissell; Bobbie Dunn

Mar. 23: Matt Kaiser

Mar. 25: Riah Mitchell
Mar. 27: Marion Samuel
Mar 29: Kristin Lintz
Mar. 31: Jon Eimmerman

Anniversaries:

Mar. 2: Rick & Michelle Breeden; Benny & Marion Samuel
Mar. 5: Don & Sandy Linde
Mar. 15: Mike & Shawna Anderson
Mar. 25: Roger & Melanie Bartholomay