



## **First Hearts   June 2021**

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

T: 865-524-0308 Email: [office@firstknoxville.org](mailto:office@firstknoxville.org)

---



### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the third part in our five-part series on our Mission Statement here at First Lutheran. “Strengthened by the Means of Grace we faithfully witness to Christ in the community and passionately share God’s love through acts of mercy.”

Each of our discussions has been on a different pillar that makes up the Mission Statement. For review, the pillars are Worship, Education, Witness, Fellowship, and Mercy. We have discussed both Worship and Education. Today our topic is Witness.

So often we have misguided ideas about Witness from other church bodies. For instance, the idea that it’s up to you to save souls. Everyone you meet who isn’t saved is on you. It’s your job to make them want to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But is that what Jesus promises His disciples in Matthew 28:16-20?

These verses are a baptism text, or at least it was understood to be a baptism text until a few hundred years ago. Now we refer to it as the Great Commission. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” has been made the center of the text. Are you doing your job of going out? If no, then why not?

What if I told you that our English translations normally fail to emphasize what Jesus is saying? Because what Jesus says is, “as you are going”. As you are living your lives doing the things that you do, you will be baptizing and teaching. As you go about your daily tasks, you will be taught and strengthened for the days ahead.

This Matthew text was also historically used as a text supporting the Office of the Ministry in the “one holy Christian and apostolic Church.” (Nicene Creed) It is within this Church that we are fed the Word, receive the Sacraments, are taught and strengthened for our different daily callings and tasks.

That’s why this is the Third Pillar and not the First Pillar. We need to receive in the Divine Service before we can go out into the world. In Worship, the Word of God does the converting over time. We are then Taught, or catechized, in the Word. We hear it, ponder it, and are changed by it in our Educational offerings. We learn to trust that the Word will do what the Word always has done — make believers out of unbelievers.

That is why Evangelism is not knocking on doors and cold calling people. It’s inviting to the waters and the Word. Evangelism is about bringing others into the sphere of our activities which are all centered on that Word given in the Means of Grace and taught for daily living in the world.

Next month we'll discuss the topic of Fellowship.

Pastor Ed Maanum



### **Weekly Events**

Sunday - Divine Service 9:30 am; Sunday School and Bible Study following service

Wednesday - Evening Prayer Service 6:30 pm

### **Board Happenings**

6/8- School Board 6:00 pm

6/8 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

6/15 - Planning Council 6:30 pm

### **Other Church Activities**

6/5 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

6/7 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

6/13 -Confirmation 10:45 am

6/19 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

6/19 - Work Day 9:00 am

6/20 - Youth Group (following Sunday School)

6/21 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

6/27 - Confirmation 10:45 am

### **School Activities**

Summer Day Camp

	June 13 (Prop. 6)	Third S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 17:22–24	Psalm 1	2 Cor. 5:1–10 (11–17)	Mark 4:26–34
	June 20 (Prop. 7)	Fourth S. a. Pentecost	Job 38:1–11	Psalm 124	2 Cor. 6:1–13	Mark 4:35–41
	June 27 (Prop. 8)	Fifth S. a. Pentecost	Lam. 3:22–33	Psalm 30	2 Cor. 8:1–9, 13–15	Mark 5:21–43

---



---

## In Other News

### Stewardship

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let’s explore this topic.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that.


This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion

of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

### 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 (5) 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 would like to support a specific item, write the item on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions about the projects, you can contact Doc Sternberg.

 <b>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b>	COLLECTED	GOAL
	<b>\$52,100</b>	<b>\$559,500</b>
WHITE HOUSE ROOFING / GUTTERS	\$20,000	\$4,000
WHITE HOUSE WINDOWS	\$4,000	
RUBBER ROOF REPAIRS	\$18,000	COMPLETE
MAINTENANCE ROOFING CONTRACT	\$2,800	COMPLETE
SEAL LEAKING PARAPETS	\$9,100	COMPLETE
BUILDING STABILITY	\$375,000	
SANCTUARY ROOFING	\$60,000	\$5,600
LADIES BATHROOM REMODEL	\$30,000	
SCHOOL HVAC AIR SANITIZERS	\$3,600	COMPLETE
PAINT THE GYM	\$9,000	COMPLETE
3 REMAINING HVAC UNITS (CIRCA 1978)	\$28,000	

**SINCERE THANKS**, dear, members, the cost of the pro-life billboard facing the front door of First has been fully paid, as of last Sunday. Any additional gifts will be used for future worthy educational programs by Knox Co. TRL. Our prayer is that any considering taking the life of their unborn baby would be touched and moved by the message on these billboards to CHOOSE LIFE!!! Oh that all would remember: that which is in the womb of an expectant mother is "not a potential human being, but a human being with potential!!!" – Pastor Schulz

**Wednesday Worship:** We will begin Wednesday Evening Prayer Services again on Wednesday, June 2. These services will be at 6:30pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

**We need your help.** We are excited to start up Summer Sunday School at First Lutheran. We need volunteers to teach or team teach, beginning May 30 through Rally Day. There will be a Pre-K through 2nd Grade combined class and a 3rd-6th grade Sunday School class. 7th grade and older will join Pastor Ed in the Adult Bible Class. If you are available to teach, assist, or substitute for either class, please let us know. Email Pastor Ed [pastor@firstknoxville.org](mailto:pastor@firstknoxville.org) and Mike Anderson [mike\\_and@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_and@yahoo.com)

**Youth!** Mark your calendars, join in fun and fellowship Sunday School on the third Sunday of every month.

**Online Services:** Please visit the church website [www.firstknoxville.org](http://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

What a year it has been! While things definitely looked different, we ended May with much jubilation and celebration. We said a heartfelt good-bye to our graduating 8th grade students and celebrated the completion of Kindergarten and Preschool with graduation ceremonies. We reflected on a wonderful year while looking through the pages of our yearbooks and seeing all that we have accomplished throughout the year. Many memories were made as classes participated in special activities or field trips. And after the school year ended, teachers meetings took place and they are excited and energized about all the possibilities that next school year will bring!

The teachers and staff want to thank each of you for your support throughout the year. Your kind words and encouragement, donations, monetary support, cleaning, gifts, and meals have been a blessing, and were appreciated by everyone. It is because of the members of this congregation that First Lutheran School is able to complete its mission in the community!

Finally, summer is also a time for adventure and learning. Hopefully you will have many wonderful activities to do this summer. If you are looking for something to do, don't forget to check out the Knox County Library Summer Reading Program: <https://www.knoxlib.org/calendar-programs/programs-and-partnerships/summer-library-club>.

Have a great summer!

Hope and many blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal

---



**Birthdays:**

June 1: Levi Sprecher  
June 2: Paul Ortstadt  
June 3: Kristy Byrd; Susan Rodenbeck; Christine Sprecher  
June 4: Cayden Bland  
June 5: Karen Farris; Karla Hood  
June 11: Sheldon Yeatts  
June 12: Brandon Poore  
June 13: Miranda Yeatts  
June 14: Harper Mitchell  
June 16: Elsie Nutter  
June 17: Rachel Buckner  
June 18: Bob Hotaling; Carroll Ward  
June 19: Jennifer Sandie; Ezra Sprecher  
June 21: Sandy Anthonijis; Michael Blumenberg  
June 22: Danny Sanderson  
June 23: Don Weaver  
June 24: Brandon Shutt  
June 25: Emily Dalton; Matt Keller  
June 26: John Crockett; Dan Jordan; Maria Sunda  
June 27: Sherry Ward  
June 28: Gordon McSween  
June 29: Olivia Cooper  
June 30: Anni Lasley; Avram Sprecher

**Anniversaries:**

June 1: Jim & Dawn Roberts  
June 10: John & Shannon Milbourn  
June 14: Keith & Becky Hodson  
June 17: Bob & Barb Eisold  
June 22: Steve & Julie Killian  
June 24: Eric & Holly Flanigan; Robert & Sheila Wolford  
June 25: Chris & Cindy Cox  
June 30: Joe & Angela Lukens