



First Hearts August 2021

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

We've discussed four of the five pillars that make up the above statement. For review, we have discussed Worship, Education, Witness, and Fellowship. Today, we take up the last pillar, Mercy.

Mercy, as a pillar, applies to those both in and out of our Congregation. Many who need acts of Mercy, or human care, because they're sick, lonely, orphans, widow, widower and so on. The center of our Mercy is the cross of Christ. There on the wood of Calvary Jesus came to serve us and to be the ransom that pays for our sins.

Acts of Mercy are acts of providing and serving those in need. Our example of Mercy is Jesus, who **“came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”** (Mark 10:45) Mercy is not below any individual to give because it is created by the love of Christ which dwells in us richly. Jesus' obedience to the Father brought Him to the cross where, out of love for us, put our sins to death in His cross. His love for us causes us to seek our neighbor's good, serve them, and show them His Mercy. We serve Jesus by being a Little Jesus for others.

Our focus on Mercy being both in and out of the congregation highlights the overlap of Mercy, Witness, and Fellowship. Our lives, strengthened by the Word preached and given in the Sacraments, and taught to us our students, enlivens us. In other words, our pillars of Worship and Education underline, reinforce, and even create our other three pillars of Mercy, Witness, and Fellowship.

It is important to remember that even though Mercy, Witness, and Fellowship, overlap they are still different and offer us unique opportunities both at First and in the Knoxville area. For example, a member goes out to Witness a neighbor, they may also engage in an act of Mercy. Or, if in a Fellowship opportunity a fellow member shows a need, you may engage in an act of Mercy for them.

In the end, Mercy is human care for those in and out of First Lutheran. Mercy bears Witness to our Lord who came to serve. Mercy is part of our Fellowship and our life together at First. All flow from Christ's love for us while we were still sinners in His death upon the cross and resurrection on Easter.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

Sunday - Divine Service 9:30 am; Sunday School & Bible Study following
Wednesday - Evening Prayer Service 6:30 pm

Meetings

8/15 - Quarterly Voter's Meeting following Worship

Board Happenings

8/10- School Board 6:00 pm
8/10 - Elders Meeting 7:00 pm

Other Church Activities

8/2 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm
8/7 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
8/8 - Teacher Dedication (during service) and Potluck 11:30 am
8/15 - Youth Group (following Sunday School)
8/21 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
8/21 - Work Day 9:00 am
8/28 - GermanFest!

School Activities

8/9 - Opening Services for School
8/11 - First Day of School
8/27 - Half Day of School (to prep for GermanFest)
8/28 - GermanFest

	Aug. 1 (Prop. 13)	Tenth S. a. Pentecost	Ex. 16:2–15	Psalm 145:10–21	Eph. 4:1–16	John 6:22–35
	Aug. 8 (Prop. 14)	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	1 Kings 19:1–8	Psalm 34:1–8	Eph. 4:17–5:2	John 6:35–51
	Aug. 15 (Prop. 15)	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	Prov. 9:1–10 <i>or</i> Josh. 24:1–2a, 14–18	Psalm 34:12–22	Eph. 5:6–21	John 6:51–69
	<i>or</i>	St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord	Is. 61:7–11	Psalm 45:10–17	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 1:(39–45) 46–55
	Aug. 22 (Prop. 16)	Thirteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 29:11–19	Psalm 14	Eph. 5:22–33	Mark 7:1–13
	Aug. 29 (Prop. 17)	Fourteenth S. a. Pentecost	Deut. 4:1–2, 6–9	Psalm 119: 129–136	Eph. 6:10–20	Mark 7:14–23
	<i>or</i>	The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist	Rev. 6:9–11	Psalm 71: 1–8	Rom. 6:1–5	Mark 6:14–29

In Other News

Stewardship

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this.


Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40).

We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Board of Trustees – Special Project List

The Board of Trustees highly recommends that friends and members of the church and school prayerfully consider contributing to the HVAC fund, This request is due to the fact that these (3) units, purchased and installed in 1978, are struggling to keep the temperatures comfortable during this high heat spell. If you are able and would like to support this worthy project, please remember to write the item on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions about this project, contact Doc Sternberg.

 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL	COLLECTED	GOAL
	\$52,600	\$559,500
3 REMAINING HVAC UNITS (CIRCA 1978)	\$28,000	

Call Accepted! Miss Natalie Bahr has accepted the Divine Call we extended to her through our voters on June 20. We are thrilled to add another Commissioned Minister to our staff. The installation of Natalie and re-dedication of our teachers will be on August 8, followed by a congregational potluck.

Quarterly Voter's Meeting - the quarterly Voter's Meeting will take place on Sunday, August 15 immediately following Worship.

GermanFest returns on August 28. Join in on the largest outreach opportunity for church. There are envelopes in the narthex to contribute financially if you are able.

We need your help. We are excited to start up Fall Sunday School at First Lutheran. We need volunteers to teach or team teach. 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 and Mike Anderson mike_and@yahoo.com

Ushers - Are you looking for a way to help out around church? We need volunteers to help out with usher duties and to lead the usher teams on

Sunday mornings. Please speak to Greg Buckner if you would like to volunteer.

Youth! Mark your calendars, join in fun and fellowship after Sunday School 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/>

New Men's Bible Study -

The world's most widely circulated book is also one of its most highly debated. Check out how the Bible has withstood intense scrutiny from critics and cynics alike in *The Bible On Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*. You'll come away with a fresh appreciation of the Bible as an historical document and the Word of God.

THE BIBLE ON TRIAL

Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

First Lutheran Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
is beginning this four-part series

Saturdays @ 8 AM
July 17, August 7, August 21, & September 4

Contact the Church Office to Sign Up or for Additional Info

office@firstknoxville.org 865-524-0308

Holy Bible

LHM
MEN'S
NETWORK
www.lhmmen.com



News from First Lutheran School

Summer day camp has come to a close and the excitement of returning to school is upon us. The frenetic cleaning, organizing, and preparing has begun because it doesn't matter how hard a teacher works over the summer there are still about a million things left on their list. One of the things I had to do is clean out cabinets in the Principal's office. In the process I found what I thought was a wonderful summary of what makes Lutheran schools unique. As we enter this new school year, I know I will be using it as a regular reminder of the work God is doing at First Lutheran.

Religion Instruction and Quality Lutheran Schools

"With religion playing such an important part of First Lutheran School, just what does First Lutheran teach concerning religion? The following is an excerpt from a pamphlet written by Carl J. Moser, a former Director of Schools for the synod. It details what Lutheran schools teach concerning religion.

Lutheran schools are known for their academic quality and for their ability to aid moral development. They are religious schools which include daily teaching about religion and integrate religious beliefs into everything they teach. Many parents/guardians of children in Lutheran schools or who are considering enrolling their child wonder, "What will they teach my child at a Lutheran school about religion?"

Lutheran schools exist to teach what Lutherans believe. They believe:

- that the Bible is the source of their beliefs (*2 Timothy 3:15-17*);

- that all people and all faiths are shown respect (*Matthew 22:39*);
- that only through faith in Jesus Christ can people be saved (*John 3:16*)

Lutheran schools teach about God. God is:

- the Almighty, loving Creator of everything and everyone (*Genesis 1:1*);
- one God, but three equal persons (Triune)(*Matthew 28:19*);
- a Judge who requires us to fulfill His law perfectly (*James 2:10*);
- a Savior Who died for our sins and arose from the dead (*2 Timothy 1:10*);
- a Sanctifier Who gives us faith through His Word and sacraments (*1 Corinthians 6:11*);
- the Author of the Bible Who inspired men to write every word as He directed (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
- described in His true, errorless, unchanging Word (the Bible)(*John 17:17*);
- love. He loves all people perfectly, in spite of how they may act (*1 John 4:8*).

Lutheran schools teach about people. People are:

- created individually and specially by God (*Psalms 139:13*);
- loved always and completely by God (*John 3:16*);
- required by God to obey His law perfectly (*Matthew 5:48*);
- unable to obey God perfectly (everyone sins)(*Ecclesiastes 7:20*);
- saved from Hell by Christ's sacrifice (*Galatians 3:13*);
- unable to earn God's favor or forgiveness (*Ephesians 2:8-9*);
- brought to saving faith by the Holy Spirit and given eternal life in heaven (*1 Corinthians 6:11*);
- condemned to eternal suffering if they do not have faith in Christ (*Romans 6:23*);
- given forgiveness of sins and eternal life through baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)(*Acts 22:16; Luke 22:19-20*);
- motivated by God's love to love all other people and serve God (*John 14:23*);
- eager to share the Good News (Gospel of God's great love for all)(*Acts 4:20*)”

With this wisdom in mind, we know that by working together the Christian home, school, and church can prepare our students for the future. Providing from them an environment centered around Christ's love and God's Word, we

know our students will thrive.

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Aug 1: Mindy Lovelace

Aug 2: John Mueller

Aug 3: Gary Boatman; Noah Broyles; August Sirey

Aug 4: Sharon Mueller

Aug 5: Jered Sprecher

Aug 9: Christina Boatman

Aug 10: Ephraim Maanum; Kim Robinson

Aug 12: Kevin Holliday; Tyler Ward

Aug 13: Doug Bales; Shellia Byrd; Zach McSween

Aug 14: Fae Maanum

Aug 15: Wendy Appleton; Gary Munsey

Aug 16: Rex Bartholomay

Aug 17: Roger Bartholomay; Steve Killian; JoAnn Niedens

Aug 18: Terrie Yeatts

Aug 19: Chris Cox; Ruth Franklin

Aug 21: Phyllis Nall; Dawn Roberts

Aug 22: Nathan Baum; Robbie Miller

Aug 23: Emily Keyes

Aug 28: Keith Hodson

Aug 29: Eric Lintz; Annie Miller; Larry Miller

Aug 30: Jackie Wheat

Aug 31: Olivia Wolford

Anniversaries:

Aug 8: Carroll & Sherry Ward

Aug 19: Gene & Ruth Franklin

Aug 20: Erik & Emily Blomenberg

Aug 24: Doug & Martha Rodenbeck

Aug 28: Steve & Rebecca Keyes

Aug 30: Marc & Lois Blais