



First Hearts October 2021

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month we began a series on the Small Catechism. We discussed its history and purpose. This month, we'll be discussing the Ten Commandments. From the third and fourth centuries, most catechetical materials followed the ordering of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, "faith, hope, and love." Faith comes first and that's described in the Apostle's Creed. The second was hope and our Christian hope is expressed in prayer. The third was love. Christian love is seen in the Ten Commandments. Love is the greatest, the Ten Commandments were greatest, so they were last. Even then the Ten Commandments were mainly used for self-examination leading to private confession. Training in the virtues and vices was more important for moral direction.

Luther, however, begins with the Ten Commandments. He begins with life experience. The Ten Commandments explain the context of God's demands and the conditions that press down upon us from birth to death.

Luther doesn't use the Commandments because they are from Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 10. Rather, he encourages the head of the household to have everyone learn the Commandments because they are the best summary of natural law. God is the creator of life. He designed it to work in a particular way. That design is hard-wired into creation. The Ten Commandments are a summary of God's design.

For example, the First Commandment demonstrates we need to center upon God as the source of our identity, security, and meaning in life, otherwise, life has no meaning. The Fourth Commandment explains why we should listen to our parents when they tell us to be home before dark. The Seventh Commandment shows us that if we don't return and steal our neighbor's weed-whacker there will be conflict and consequences.

So these Commandments act as fences around God's gifts. They act like fences in the idea that we don't create new life or create a community on our own. Individually, though, we can destroy life and community. That's why Luther includes in eight of his ten definitions a negative which serves as a boundary or protective fence. The only two that don't have a negative definition are the First and Sixth. He also includes in all ten definitions a positive sense for how we as Christians, motivated by God's love for us in Christ Jesus, go above and beyond in loving our neighbors and God Himself, especially commandments 2-10)

Luther views Commandments 2-10 like pearls on a thread. The First Commandment, however, is the thread that runs through them making them into a necklace. He does this by beginning his definitions for Commandments 2-10 with "We should fear and love God so that. . ." The First Commandment is the source from which the others come. All sins, all breaking of the Ten Commandments by taking our life from God and hurting our neighbor being with not fearing and loving God.

If that's the case then how should we view Commandments 2-10? As a commentary on the First Commandment. They clarify to teach us how to take God, as our Father seriously. They also show what happens in our lives when we don't and when we do.

Luther didn't have a doctrine of God apart from His relationship to His creation and His creation to Him. This is also true to know what humanity is based on God's promises to be our heavenly Father and His promises to us. "God promises us grace and every blessing."

Next month, we'll discuss the importance of the Apostle's Creed which focus' upon the Gospel which declares that Christ has broken into the world of the law to take it upon himself in his death and resurrection to make sinners his own, thereby freeing them from the powers of sin, death, and the devil.

Pastor Ed



Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

10/12 - Board of Elders 7:00pm
10/19 - School Board 6:00pm
10/26 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

10/2 - Men's Bible Study 8:00am
10/10 - Confirmation (during service - followed by Potluck lunch)
10/16 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
10/18 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm
10/17 - Youth Group 12:00pm

School Activities

10/9 - 10/17 - No School - Fall Break
10/18 - 10/22 - Parent Teacher Conferences
10/20 - PTL - Teacher Appreciation
10/21 - Kindergarten Kickoff 4:30pm - 7pm
10/24 - 3rd through 5th grades sing at First Lutheran Church
10/27 - 3rd Grade Presents Chapel

	Oct. 3 (Prop. 22)	Nineteenth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 2:18–25	Psalms 128	Heb. 2:1–13 (14–18)	Mark 10:2–16
	Oct. 10 (Prop. 23)	Twentieth S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:6–7, 10–15	Psalms 90:12–17	Heb. 3:12–19	Mark 10:17–22
	Oct. 17 (Prop. 24)	Twenty-first S. a. Pentecost	Eccl. 5:10–20	Psalms 119:9–16	Heb. 4:1–13 (14–16)	Mark 10:23–31
	Oct. 24 (Proper 25)	Twenty-second S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 31:7–9	Psalms 126	Heb. 7:23–28	Mark 10:46–52
REFORMATION	Oct. 31	Reformation Day	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalms 46	Rom. 3:19–28	John 8:31–36 or Matt. 11:12–19

In Other News

Stewardship

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:


Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL	COLLECTED	GOAL
	\$53,987	\$559,500
WHITE HOUSE ROOFING / GUTTERS	\$20,000	\$5,250
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	\$104
SANCTUARY ROOFING	\$60,000	\$5,600
LADIES BATHROOM REMODEL	\$30,000	\$533
SCHOOL HVAC AIR SANITIZERS	\$3,600	COMPLETE
PAINT THE GYM	\$9,000	COMPLETE
3 REMAINING HVAC UNITS (CIRCA 1978)	\$28,000	

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.

Choir - We are going to start choir backup this fall! Ed Niedens and Karen Farris between them are going to share directing responsibilities. If you would like to join us, we're going to start rehearsals the 1st Wednesday of the month in the choir room. To start things off, we're just going to rehearse the 1st Wednesday of each month, and sing twice a month. We would love to have you join us!

Phone number: Just a reminder if you are trying to call the church, the phone number is (865) 524-0308. The old number is no longer in service.

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

For Lutherans October is a special time of year and not just because of all the exciting Octoberfests that are happening (though those are fun too). October means Reformation and plenty of talk about our favorite reformer, Martin Luther. While Martin Luther's main claim to fame may be the changes he brought to religion in Europe, the reforms he brought to education are worth noting as well. There is a reason it was once a requirement of those wishing to start a Lutheran church that the congregation start a school as well.

At a time when only the wealthiest males were educated, Martin Luther had the radical notion that everyone, regardless of class or gender, should be educated. Not only would this allow greater opportunity, but most importantly it allowed all people to study God's Word. Furthermore, Luther saw the necessity of education to strengthen community and to provide for the future. Considering God's instructions to care for and educate children, Luther writes, "What would it profit us to possess and perform everything else and be like pure saints, if we meanwhile neglected our chief purpose in life, namely, the care of the young? I also think that in the sight of God none among the outward sins so heavily burdens the world and merits such severe punishment as this very sin which we commit against the children by not educating them."

In a pamphlet calling on governments of Germany to establish schools, Luther writes, "My dear sirs, if we have to spend such large sums every year on guns, roads, bridges, dams and countless similar items to insure the temporal peace and prosperity of a city, why should not much more be devoted to the poor neglected youth? A city's best and greatest welfare, safety and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable and well-educated citizens." Martin Luther understood that God's mission went beyond a single congregation or even a single generation. It was about being able to share the message of salvation with as many as possible.

With education, children are not only able to grow in knowledge but more importantly, they are able to grow in faith. Therefore, it makes sense that education remains an important tenet of the Lutheran church with 1,885 schools across the nation sharing Christ's love with 200,000 students and their families. First Lutheran School is blessed to be able to provide just such an education to our congregation and community.

Finally, if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about First Lutheran School and the Christ centered education we provide, please call or email to set up a tour. Additionally, we will also be holding a special Kindergarten Kick Off event for interested families on Thursday, October 21st from 4:30pm -7:00pm.

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal

**Birthdays:**

Oct. 1: Marc Blais; Aven Flanigan
Oct. 2: Larry Hood; Nancy Magnon; David Rodenbeck
Oct. 4: Stephanie Hamilton
Oct. 7: Rick Breeden; Terrie Mahs
Oct. 9: Susan Haun
Oct. 13: Levi Gross
Oct. 16: Jenna Maanum; Pat Wrinkle
Oct. 18: Debbie Fettig; Christopher Yeatts
Oct. 19: Sydney Reed
Oct. 20: Anne Asquith; Lindsey Hofman; Sherry Wheat
Oct. 21: Joe Lukens; Barry Lyke; Josie & Layla Zommer
Oct. 22: Ronnie Sanderson
Oct. 24: Pat Baxmann; Harold Whitaker
Oct. 28: Jojo Maanum
Oct. 31: Archie Sircy

Anniversaries:

Oct. 3: Clinton & Tammy Gross; Larry & Karla Hood
Oct. 9: Ron & Terrie Mahs
Oct. 18: Scott & Jennifer Sandie
Oct. 22: William & Lisa Wade
Oct. 24: Chuck & Diane Baum
Oct. 28: Carl & Julie Cloninger