



## **First Hearts   September 2021**

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### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few weeks ago we started our new Congregation at Prayer series. Part of the weekly devotional includes a section of the Catechism for memorizing and praying each week. For the next several months our newsletter articles will be a brief overview of one of the sections of the catechism. Today is an overview of the Small Catechism itself.

Luther first preached Catechism Sermons in 1516, a year before what we mark as the beginning of the Reformation. By 1522, there was a practice in Wittenberg of preaching through the Catechism four times a year. In 1528, Luther preached on the five chief parts of the Catechism at least three times. The following year, Luther's Holy Week sermons focused on Confession and the Lord's Supper for the Large Catechism.

Aside from many preached sermons, Luther also published several manuals for individual and familial devotion. He wrote tracts on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, on what faith is, and more. He published several catechetical hymns during this time, like, "Here is the Tenfold Sure Command" (1524), "We All Believe in One True God" (1524); "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You" (1523); and "O Lord, We Praise Thee" (1524).

In 1529, Luther published his Large and Small Catechism. The Small was intended for parents to use as instruction and training in prayer for their children. The Large was intended for preachers and teachers on how to instruct the parents.

"Written in Luther's direct, down-to-earth German, the Small Catechism was originally printed up on the equivalent of posters that could be hung in the family kitchen." (Nestingen, James A. "Martin Luther: A Life")

The Small Catechism was a response to three events. The first was a request of pastor Nicholas Hausmann for assistance in the instruction of the "common folk and children folk" in 1524.

Second, there was a disagreement between a former student, Agricola, and Luther's friend and colleague, Melancthon, about the purpose of the law in Christian life. Agricola argued that it was the Gospel, not the Law, that works repentance. This is why Luther organized his catechism as repentance (Ten Commandments), faith (Apostle's Creed), and Lord's Prayer (Holy Living). After this follows the treatment on the Sacraments, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. In a later edition, Luther added treatment on Confession and Absolution. He also added the Table of Duties which describes our faithful activities in everyday life, as well as a section on different prayers, and a section on questions Christians should review before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Third, in 1528, Luther and his fellow Wittenbergians visited many different churches to see how they were being run. Needless to say, things, were not going well. In the Saxon parishes conditions were so bad that a quarter of the pastors had to be removed from office.

In the end, Luther intended the catechisms as tools for the remaining pastors to use in catechizing the congregations. This is why some editions included woodcuts and other illustrations of key Bible Stories used as

examples. Some also included corrected versions of the Te Deum, the Magnificat, and the Great Litany. In 1543, a prayer against the Turks was also included. The edition of 1542 included the (relatively new) “children’s hymn” “Ernhalt runs Herr” (Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” as a conclusion.

That’s enough for today. Next month, we’ll discuss the importance of the Ten Commandments, what they teach, and why they’re placed first.

Pastor Ed



### **Weekly Events**

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

### **Board Happenings**

9/14 - School Board 6:00pm  
9/14 - Board of Elders 7:00pm  
9/21 - Planning Council 6:30pm

### **Other Church Activities**

9/4 - Men's Bible Study 8:00am  
9/11 - Youth 9:00am (see announcement below)  
9/18 - Men's Bible Study 8:00am  
9/18 - Work Day 9:00am  
9/19 - Youth Group 12:00pm  
9/26 - Fellowship Luncheon (following Sunday School around 11:15am)

### **School Activities**

9/6 - No School - Labor Day Holiday  
9/24 - Grandparents/Special Person Day

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	Sept. 5 (Prop. 18)	Fifteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 35:4–7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1–10, 14–18	Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37
	Sept. 12 (Prop. 19)	Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 50:4–10	Psalm 116:1–9	James 3:1–12	Mark 9:14–29
	Sept. 19 (Prop. 20)	Seventeenth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 11:18–20	Psalm 54	James 3:13–4:10	Mark 9:30–37
	Sept. 26 (Prop. 21)	Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost	Num. 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29	Psalm 104: 27–35	James 5:(1–12) 13–20	Mark 9:38–50

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## In Other News

### Stewardship

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy


of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

### **Board of Trustees – Special Project List**

The Board of Trustees has 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, please contact Doc Sternberg.

 <b>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b>	<b>COLLECTED</b>	<b>GOAL</b>
	<b>\$53,987</b>	<b>\$559,500</b>
<b>WHITE HOUSE ROOFING / GUTTERS</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$5,250</b>
<b>WHITE HOUSE WINDOWS</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	
<b>RUBBER ROOF REPAIRS</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE ROOFING CONTRACT</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>SEAL LEAKING PARAPETS</b>	<b>\$9,100</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>BUILDING STABILITY</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$104</b>
<b>SANCTUARY ROOFING</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>
<b>LADIES BATHROOM REMODEL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$533</b>
<b>SCHOOL HVAC AIR SANITIZERS</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>PAINT THE GYM</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>COMPLETE</b>
<b>3 REMAINING HVAC UNITS (CIRCA 1978)</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	

**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](mailto:pastor@firstknoxville.org) and Mike Anderson [mike\\_and@yahoo.com](mailto: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!** The youth group will be meeting at 9am on Saturday, September 11th at Liz Etzel's house to move donations to storage.

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

**Fellowship Luncheon.** On Sunday, September 26th Johnboys BBQ food truck will be here following Sunday School (around 11:15am). You can purchase lunch from the food truck and enjoy fellowship time with your church family.

**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 in September at 7:30 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!

**Thank you** - The family of Elizabeth Etzel would like to thank the congregation for their warm wishes, cards, prayers, and meals over the past several months. Liz loved her 1st Lutheran family, and thought of them as just that-- family. She will be greatly missed until we can meet again before our glorious father in heaven.

**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

The year is off to a great start, and we have already found our stride. What a blessings it is to come to work each day and work with the most amazing teachers and students. Our students are always busy learning and growing. Kindergarten is reviewing the alphabet, and each day is an adventure. They will also be working on their geography skills by reading maps, learning the 7 continents, and finding where they are in the world.

1<sup>st</sup> grade is building up their reading skills which will help them in science as they learn about the sun the moon and how light changes over time. In social studies, they are learning about North America, map skills and cardinal direction.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade is working on the geography of North and South America. They are also learning about nutrition and how to keep their brain healthy which is very helpful for young growing minds.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade is learning about the book of Matthew in Religion class; studying Canada, our neighbor to the north: and examining the physics of friction and force.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are stretching their musical muscles and can now identify *Cannon in D*, *Fanfare for the Common Man*, and *Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring*. They also reviewed the American Civil war before they head in the period of Reconstruction

All of Middle school is perfecting their writing while the 6<sup>th</sup> graders study ancient civilizations and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade get a start on colonial America. While in science and math, they are perfecting their critical thinking skills and use of the scientific method.

Did you notice something when you were reading though what the students were learning? At first glance, it almost looks like they are all learning the same things. In a way they are, several of our lower elementary classes are learning about North America, but I promise they aren't all learning the same thing. By teaching in such a way our teachers are able to ensure the curriculum is scaffolded in such a way that each year their knowledge builds on itself allowing the students to become masters of subject.

Lastly, and most importantly, the students continue to grow in faith by gathering together every morning to study God's word in devotions and chapel, having religion class each day, and praying together. We ask for your prayers as well; that you continue to pray for our students, our staff, and our mission as we continue to reach out to the families we serve and to the community at large.

Hope and blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal



**Birthdays:**

Sept. 1: Dennis Graves; Nathan Sanders  
Sept. 5: Veronica Bartholomay; Kevin Broyles; Dolly Roth  
Sept. 6: Carrington Tillman  
Sept. 7: Emaleigh Wadsworth  
Sept. 8: Alexis Gibson; Janie Lanham  
Sept. 9: Mariah Keyes  
Sept. 10: Ariane Blais  
Sept. 12: Elizabeth Boyd  
Sept. 13: Emma Brown  
Sept. 14: David Bryant; Sophia Weideman; Mary Ann Wheat  
Sept. 15: Melissa Hardin  
Sept. 16: Melissa Lyke  
Sept. 17: Shannon Schell  
Sept. 18: Dylan Baum; Amanda Knopps  
Sept. 20: Taylor Smith  
Sept. 21: Mary Bales  
Sept. 23: Jadealynn Flanigan  
Sept. 24: Kyizer Fielden (Wheat)  
Sept. 25: Cindy Cox  
Sept. 26: Alycia Hacker (Wheat)  
Sept. 27: Hayden Reed; Robert Wolford  
Sept. 29: Beth Buckner; Rebecca Nutter  
Sept. 30: Cameron Mabe

**Anniversaries:**

Sept. 8: Rick & Lynda Elmore  
Sept. 9: Howard & Monika Rash; Dave & Tammy Wheat  
Sept. 26: Mark & Michelle Tillman

\*We also want to recognize Eric & Kristin Lintz who had an anniversary on Aug. 22nd. They were left off of last months list.