



First Hearts November 2021

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Ten Commandments, we saw how God keeps the Old Adam, the sinner in us, on a leash. His Commandments act as a hedge around us and our neighbors. In the Commandments, we see how God has prepared a promise for us. That's where the Apostle's Creed comes in. Here we see how the Old Adam dies and the New Man in Christ lives.

Jaroslav Vajda, a writer of hymns, who understood this about the Creed, penned the hymn, "Now the Silence" (LSB 910). This hymn discusses how we come to know the God of the Apostle's Creed backward in the Lord's Supper. The Apostle's Creed confesses our individual beliefs in God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the Lord's Supper and Luther's Large Catechism, we meet God in the reverse order. Sure we can know of a god from creation, like the Magi in Matthew's Gospel. Just like them, natural knowledge would only take us so far. We need the Son to reveal Him to us because

whoever knows the Son, knows the Father (Matt 11:27). How can we know the Son unless the Spirit has revealed Him to us?

The hymn ends with the words, "Now the Spirit's visitation, now the Son's epiphany, now the Father's blessing, now, now, now."

These echo the words of Luther: "For, as explained above, we could never come to recognize the Father's favor and grace were it not for the LORD Christ, who is a mirror of the Father's heart. Apart from him, we see nothing but an angry and terrible judge. But neither could we know anything of Christ, had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit. (LC II: Creed 64-65)"

So we have the Trinity in reverse: the Holy Spirit makes known the Son, whom we could not know and who is, in turn, the mirror of the Father's heart. This Father is the God of the First Commandment who declared that we shall have no other gods before Him. He has declared Himself as God for Me.

The phrase "for Me," is how faith expresses itself. God created Me. He died for Me. He calls Me. He preserves Me. He has declared Himself to Me in His Word and Sacraments. He has proclaimed His Law where we have no other gods that we fear, love, and trust. We are to find no others in whom we find our identity, security, and meaning.

The Father gives Me all things in His Son. The Son has accomplished salvation For Me. The Holy Spirit has delivered and preserves Me in that salvation through the external Word and Sacraments.

Next month we see our Christian Hope as expressed in the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Ed

Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

11/09 - Board of Elders 7:00pm
11/30 - School Board 6:00pm

Other Church Activities

11/01 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm
11/06 - Men's Bible Study 8:00am
11/15 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm
11/20 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am
11/21 - Voters' Meeting
11/21 - Youth serving Thanksgiving Feast (free-will offering)
11/29 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

School Activities

11/10 - ECE sing at Chapel

11/12 - 1st/2nd grade Veteran's Day Assembly
 11/14 - 6th through 8th grades sing at First Lutheran Church service
 11/17 - 6th grade presents chapel
 11/24 - 11/26 - Thanksgiving Holidays

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| ALL SAINTS' DAY | Nov. 7 (observed) | All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) | Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17 | Psalm 149 | 1 John 3:1-3 | Matt. 5:1-12 |
| | or (Prop. 27) | Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost | 1 Kings 17:8-16 | Psalm 146 | Heb. 9:24-28 | Mark 12:38-44 |
| | Nov. 14 (Prop. 28) | Twenty-fifth S. a. Pentecost | Dan. 12:1-3 | Psalm 16 | Heb. 10:11-25 | Mark 13:1-13 |
| | Nov. 21 (Prop. 29) | Last S. of the Church Year | Is. 51:4-6 or Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14 | Psalm 93 | Jude 20-25 or Rev. 1:4b-8 | Mark 13:24-37 or John 18:33-37 |
| THANKSGIVING | Nov. 25 | Thanksgiving Day | Deut. 8:1-10 | Psalm 67 | Phil. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4 | Luke 17:11-19 |
| New Church Year Starts Here (Series C) | | | | | | |
| ADVENT | Nov. 28, 2021 | First S. in Advent | Jer. 33:14-16 | Psalm 25:1-10 | 1 Thess. 3:9-13 | Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36 |

In Other News

Stewardship

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of *all nations*” (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission

need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

New Directory - Smile, it is time to get your picture taken! Each Sunday in November the Elders will be taking photographs of church families to put in our New Membership Directory. After Sunday Service, stop by the picture taking station, review your contact information, answer a few questions, and smile for the camera.

Sunday School - Just a reminder that we have Sunday School available from Pre-School through High School. Pre-School-1st grade meets in the Library, 2nd-6th grade meets in Ms. Jessie's room, and 7th grade-High school meets in Mrs. Hofman's room. Please join us. We'd love to have you!

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.

Youth – On Nov. 21st the youth will be serving a Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria after Sunday School/Voter's Meeting. Free will offering.

Nuts - the Youth will be selling nuts again this year. Pricing and ordering information below.

It's PECAN Time at First Lutheran Church!

Youth Group is selling Atwell PECANS, Cashews and Pistachios to help fund their trips. Assorted nuts will be here in time for your **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas** desserts!

Please see or call Shellia Byrd (865-300-8350) if you would like to order.

High Quality Cashews and Atwell PECANS and the YOUTH REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

Mammoth Atwell Pecan Halves (1 lb) \$ 12.00 per bag

Atwell Medium Pecan Pieces (1 lb) \$ 12.00 per bag

Roasted & Salted Cashews (1 lb) \$ 10.00 per bag

Roasted & Salted Pistachios in Shell (1 lb) \$10.00 per bag



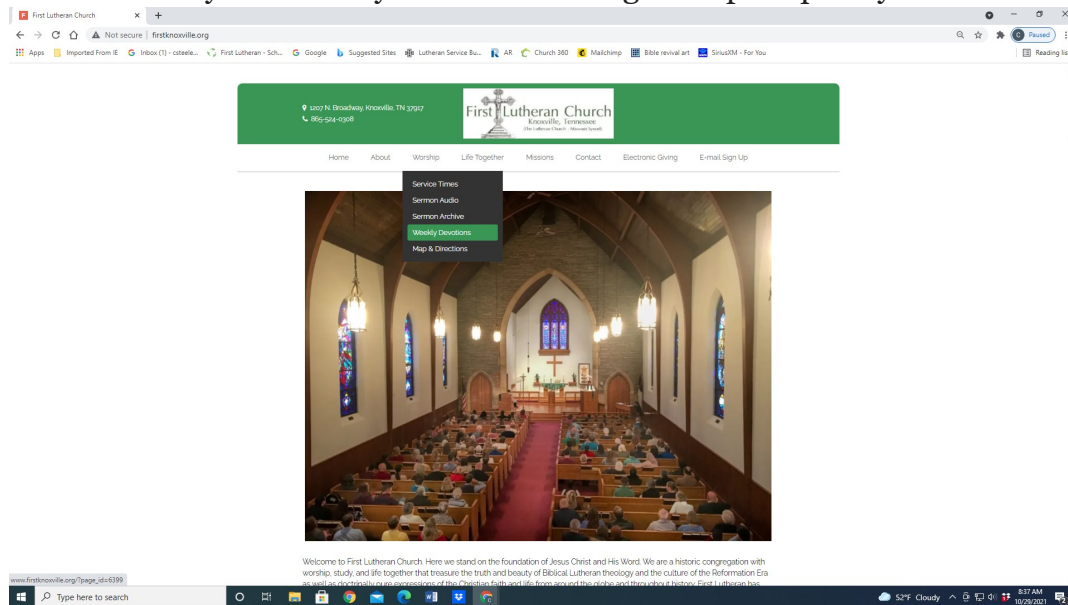
Choir - We are going to start choir backup this fall! Ed Niedens and Karen Farris between them are going to share directing responsibilities. If you would like to join us, our next rehearsal will be November 3rd at 7:30 in the choir room. To start things off, we're just going to rehearse the 1st Wednesday of each month, and sing twice a month. We would love to have you join us!

Poinsettias – It's time to order poinsettias to decorate our church sanctuary for the 2021 Christmas season. The cost is \$15 and orders must be in to the church secretary by Monday, November 29th. Order forms can be found inside your bulletin or at the back of the church.

Veteran's Day Assembly - Our 1st and 2nd grade students will be presenting a Veteran's Day Assembly on Friday, November 12th at 1pm. The students will be presenting a program

and the Daughters of the American Revolution will do a special presentation on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We would love to have you attend and help us honor our veterans.

Weekly Devotion Inserts - If you miss church and want to get the weekly devotional insert, you can now find and print them from our church website. Just go to our website. www.firstknoxville.org find the worship tab and select "weekly devotion" from the drop down menu. Thank you to Bobby Eisold for setting this up so quickly and maintaining it for us!



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

We are now entering a month where we will continually be reminded to be thankful. I know I am incredibly thankful for First Lutheran, the school families, the students, the church and its congregation. Sometimes it can be hard to quantify what exactly we are thankful for, but in the words of the timeless tune, I spent last night counting my blessings instead of sheep.

Overall, it is abundantly clear that in the first quarter of the year our blessings have been numerous.

110 - The number of families who are a part of First Lutheran School. Including 81 students in the K-8 and 68 in the ECE, We currently have 81 students enrolled in our K-8 and 69 in our EC

6 - The number of winners and honorable mentions that came from FLS in Knox County Soil Conservation poster contest

32 students in 2 Spark Lab Groups - Spark Lab is an after school program operating in conjunction with the German Department at UT. UT students are coming once a week to run a lab where FLS students have fun learning about German language and culture.

9 - The number of New Cleartouch panels have been installed, and the teachers have had a great time working with the new technology

25 - The number of students who participate in our Basketball program

\$1,500 - The amount raised for Lutheran Hour Ministries efforts in Thailand

42 - The number of times the students have joined together in worship whether at Chapel or at morning devotions

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to see that the numbers add up to something special, something that can't be counted, the love and joy that stem from the mission of First Lutheran School to share God's love with its students and their families.

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Nov. 1: Melanie Bartholomay

Nov. 2: Michelle Tillman

Nov. 3: Zoe McKenzie

Nov. 4: Ezekiel Lukens

Nov. 5: Pat Hinds; Kelly Sternberg

Nov. 6: Rosa Beck

Nov. 7: Allie Bryant; Kelly Sternberg

Nov. 8: Lynda Graves; Karen Varner

Nov. 9: Darby Allen; Rick Elmore; Dustin Samuel

Nov. 10: Eric Flanigan

Nov. 12: Erik Blumenberg; Madison Slomski

Nov. 14: Fred Schell; Melissa Smith
Nov. 16: Aja LaDue; Jake Varner
Nov. 18: Amanda Knopps
Nov. 20: Melissa Norton; Stacie Smith
Nov. 23: Susan Spicer
Nov. 24: Joe Haynes; John Haynes
Nov. 25: Jules Maanum
Nov. 26: Tammy Gross
Nov. 27: Kevin Booth; Joy Froemsdorf
Nov. 29: Norah Toomire; Tammy Wheat
Nov. 30: Gene Franklin

Anniversaries:

Nov. 7: Mike & Mary Jones
Nov. 22: Cameron & Jeannie Brown
Nov. 27: Pastor & Gloria Schulz
Nov. 28: John & Sharon Mueller; Randy & Joy Witt
