



First Hearts February 2022

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

T: 865-524-0308 Email: office@firstknoxville.org



From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Private Confession and Absolution are gifts of God's forgiveness. Total gift. Yet we, in our infinite wisdom, turn this gift into merit. This was especially true in the Middle Ages where sins that weren't confessed and absolved by the priest were on the individual until they were properly removed in purgatory.

The Fourth Lateran Council of 1215 stated that to be considered a Christian, one MUST attend confession once a year. This was normally around Easter. What you confessed were the sins one does consciously and of which one is aware. To aid with this view of Confession several manuals were produced for the priests to follow that were called mirrors.

To not Confess means to not be forgiven. If one does not Confess to the priest, the priest has no way to ascribe the correct penance in the manual for Absolution.

The idea that God is pleased, loving, and forgiving **IF** we confess drove Luther crazy. Dr. Bainton in his book, *Here I Stand* tells us that Luther would refuse to eat for three days at a

time. Fasting provided more comfort than did Easter. Luther would do more prayers and vigils than were required and left off blankets until he nearly froze to death.

Strong was the teaching of Law and Confession was your way of making the Law easier to handle.

Confession is not a transaction. It is not an apology that we do to make God forgive us and get off our backs. We are forgiven and marked as God's own children in Holy Baptism. Being forgiven means that we are set free to Confess the sins that weigh us down. God is our gracious and loving Father. He knows that we've sinned and what we'll Confess before we Confess them. He reminds us that we are His forgiven children and that this too is also forgiven.

Confession is the daily exercise of Holy Baptism by which the Old Adam daily drowns and dies. Absolution, the pronouncements that this sin is forgiven is then a present declaration of a future even. In the Absolution, it is as if the minister is saying to you, "Yes, this sin is forgiven and to you belongs the resurrection of the body."

Pastor Ed Maanum

Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

2/8 - School Board 6:00pm

2/8 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

2/15 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

2/5 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

2/7 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

2/19 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

2/20 - Voter's Meeting 10:45 am (during Bible Study/Sunday School)

2/20 - Youth 12:00 pm

2/21 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

School Activities

2/16 - 7th and 8th grade present chapel

2/21 - Presidents - Holiday - No School

	Feb. 6	Fifth S. a. the Epiphany	Is. 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Cor. 14:12b-20	Luke 5:1-11
	Feb. 13	Sixth S. a. the Epiphany	Jer. 17:5-8	Psalm 1	1 Cor. 15:(1-11) 12-20	Luke 6:17-26
	Feb. 20	Seventh S. a. the Epiphany	Gen. 45:3-15	Psalm 103:1-13	1 Cor. 15:21-26, 30-42	Luke 6:27-38
	Feb. 27	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Deut. 34:1-12	Psalm 99	Heb. 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36

In Other News

Stewardship

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let

then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

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 Gathering Envelope Fundraiser (National Youth Gathering Sponsor Wall) Is up across the Hall from mailboxes.

Directions: Take an envelope or two and put the amount of money of the number that is on the envelope in the envelope. Return the envelopes to the offering plate. (Make checks payable to First Lutheran Youth) If you give cash and would like it to be reported on your giving report, write your name on back of the envelope and we will get it reported.

The Youth would like to thank you all for your continued support.

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/>

Budget through January 31, 2022

Church Income	\$246,693
School Income	\$517,382
Total Income	\$764,076

Church Expenses	\$173,633
School Expenses	\$551,279
Total Expenses	\$724,912

Net Profit	\$39,164
------------	----------



News from First Lutheran School

An FLS Valentine

February means Valentine's Day and thoughts of love, so we asked some members of the First Lutheran School family what they love about First Lutheran.

From Parents:

- I love FLS because my children are happy and excited about school for the first time in their lives! They have been welcomed with open arms and feel loved and encouraged every day! Parent of 1st and 4th grader
- I love FLS because they are coming alongside my husband and I, and pointing our children to Jesus! - Parent of 1st, 4th, and 7th grader
- I love FLS because my kids have a blast there and I feel safe and secure leaving them there. We absolutely love their teachers, all the staff really, but special shout out to Ms. Newell and Ms. Anderson! - Parent of an ECE student and Kindergartener

From Teachers:

- I love teaching at FLS because it is a home away from home to minister at. A place filled with love and compassion!
- I love teaching at FLS because encouraging children and their families as they grow in their faith can have an eternal impact that we may never see until we meet in heaven. Hearing children singing hymns and songs of praise at recess or during class time reminds me that childlike faith is precious and builds my trust and hope in Christ.
- I love teaching at FLS because my fellow teachers and my students' parents are supportive and caring.

From Students:

- I love attending FLS because of my wonderful friends and wonderful teachers. - 3rd grade student
- I love attending FLS because the teachers help me learn - 6th grade student
- I love attending FLS because there are less opinions when I express myself. I can be myself. - 6th grade student
- I love attending FLS because I can learn about science and Christianity together. - 6th grade student
- I love attending FLS because all my friends are here and I love learning about God. - 1st grade student

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal

**Birthdays:**

Feb. 2: Luke Buckner; Jason Gibson
Feb. 3: Audrey Miller; Mike Sanders; Denver Slifka; Brittany Tipton
Feb. 5: Dave Wheat
Feb. 7: Dawn Johnson
Feb. 9: Kari Williamson
Feb. 10: Kara Eimmerman; Judy Kelley; Kate Maanum
Feb. 13: Morgan Lyke
Feb. 14: Elizabeth Davis; Emily Norton; Katie Wells
Feb. 18: Shawna Anderson; Seth Nutter
Feb. 20: Lynda Elmore
Feb. 21: Steve Hardin; Joshua Keyes
Feb. 22: Easton Sternberg
Feb. 23: Julie Cloninger; Sara Keyes
Feb. 24: Dustin Breitzkreuz
Feb. 25: Nicaea Lukens
Feb. 27: Lindsey Blair
Feb. 28: Emily Blomenberg; Erin Rodgers

Anniversaries:

Feb. 16: Larry & Kim Mabe