



## **First Hearts   March 2022**

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

T: 865-524-0308 Email: [office@firstknoxville.org](mailto:office@firstknoxville.org)

---



### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Church building is organized to show us the important things of God. The pews are all

arranged pointing toward the altar. Flanking the altar is the lectern and pulpit where the Word is read and proclaimed. Our attention is focused on the altar from which we offer prayers and receive declarations of absolution. In the middle of the altar sits the Sacrament of the Altar because it is here where God's Word of Absolution is delivered to us.

On the altar, Jesus' Words of Institutions are declared over bread and wine. We are left with not only bread and wine but also the body and blood of Christ. Body and blood, bread and wine. Word and Sacrament. Both for the forgiveness of sins. No body and blood mean no forgiveness of sins. To deny this is to deny Christ Himself and His Word of forgiveness that He gifts to us in a particular place and at a particular time.

Luther once gave an example of a priest talking to a peasant about the Lord's Supper. The priest protested that the peasant wanted the Sacrament, after all the Peasant was just absolved in the Divine Service, why need more? The Peasant said, "I know that absolution is sufficient. But, isn't it wonderful that God gives us His grace in so many different ways."

We daily sin much and require much forgiveness. Our broken and sinful conscious needs forgiveness. This is why God declares our forgiveness in Baptism, Absolution, and here in the Supper. The more one partakes of forgiveness, the more one sees their need for it.

Someone is ready to receive this gift of Christ's body and blood by having faith in Jesus' Words. Jesus the doer of the Sacrament. They are Jesus' Words, it is His bread and wine, His body and blood. Jesus uses His ministers to proclaim and administer His gifts. Jesus places Himself into your mouths. He declares your forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The Sacrament of the Altar is all about Jesus giving Himself to you.  
Next month we'll begin a news series on Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.  
Until then, happy Lent.

Pastor Ed Maanum



### **Weekly Events**

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

Wednesday - Lenten Service 3:45pm; Soup and Sandwich dinner 5pm; Lenten Service

6:30pm

## Board Happenings

3/8 - School Board 6:00pm

3/8 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

3/15 - Planning Council 6:30pm

## Other Church Activities

3/1 - LWML meeting 6:30 pm

3/5 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

3/19 - Men's Bible Study 8:00 am

3/20 - Youth 12:00 pm

3/21 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

## School Activities

3/6 - All students sing at First Lutheran Church

3/7-3/11 - National Lutheran Schools Week

3/14 - 3/18 - Spring Break (All facilities closed)

A poster for Lent and Easter Services. The title "LENT AND Easter Services" is at the top, with "LENT" in a bold serif font and "AND Easter Services" in a script font. Below the title is the text "Lent Sermon Series - Lord, Have Mercy: The Penitential Psalms in Lent". Then, "Wednesday Services will be at 3:45pm(Service); Soup and Sandwich dinner at 5pm; 6:30pm (Service)". A list of dates follows: "Dates: Wed., March 2 (Ash Wednesday), Wed., March 9, Wed., March 16, Wed., March 23, Wed., March 30, Wed., April 6". Then, "Holy Week Services" is listed: "Thursday, April 14 at 6:30pm (Maundy Thursday), Friday, April 15 at 6:30pm (Good Friday), Saturday, April 16 at 6:30pm (Easter Vigil), Sunday, April 17 at 8am (Breakfast) and 9:30am (Divine Service)". The poster features a wooden cross in the bottom left and a wooden plank in the top right.

**LENT**  
AND  
*Easter Services*

Lent Sermon Series - Lord, Have Mercy: The Penitential Psalms in Lent

Wednesday Services will be at 3:45pm(Service);  
Soup and Sandwich dinner at 5pm; 6:30pm  
(Service)

Dates:  
Wed., March 2 (Ash Wednesday)  
Wed., March 9  
Wed., March 16  
Wed., March 23  
Wed., March 30  
Wed., April 6

**Holy Week Services**  
Thursday, April 14 at 6:30pm (Maundy Thursday)  
Friday, April 15 at 6:30pm (Good Friday)  
Saturday, April 16 at 6:30pm (Easter Vigil)  
Sunday, April 17 at 8am (Breakfast) and 9:30am  
(Divine Service)

<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	Mar. 2	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19	Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Cor. 5:20b— 6:10	Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21
<b>LENT</b>	Mar. 6	First S. in Lent	Deut. 26:1–11	Psalm 91:1–13	Rom. 10:8b–13	Luke 4:1–13
	Mar. 13	Second S. in Lent	Jer. 26:8–15	Psalm 4	Phil. 3:17—4:1	Luke 13:31–35
	Mar. 20	Third S. in Lent	Ezek. 33:7–20	Psalm 85	1 Cor. 10:1–13	Luke 13:1–9
	Mar. 27	Fourth S. in Lent	Is. 12:1–6	Psalm 32	2 Cor. 5:16–21	Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

## In Other News

### Stewardship

#### God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves; that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands

move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (*Luther's Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

**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.

**Ladies' Bible Study** - Ladies! We're starting a new Bible Study, and we'd love to have you join us! We're going to read *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren. This book focuses on slowing down and appreciating the ordinary moments of a Christian life. Chapters focus on things like sitting in traffic, making the bed, and eating leftovers! Because of the book's formatting, we will be treating this more like a book club than the traditional Bible study format. We will be meeting Monday nights at 7pm on Zoom, on March 21, April 4 & 18, May 2 & 16. Books are \$11.99, with checks payable to First Lutheran LWML. If you'd like us to order your copy please let Angela know by March 10

at [amlukens@protonmail.com](mailto:amlukens@protonmail.com). The book is also available on Amazon, with Kindle and audiobook versions available in addition to a printed book if you'd like to order your own; just let us know you plan to join so we include you in the group! So invite a friend or two and join us!

**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.

**Easter Desserts** - Pre-Order your Desserts for your Easter Dinner from our Youth Group. Please order by April 10th. Desserts will be available for pickup from 10am-12pm on April 16th or on Easter Sunday. You can get an order form from the bulletin board across from the church mailboxes, on the table by the school office, or Shellia Byrd. Thank you for helping support our Youth!

**Easter Egg Hunt** – We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th with the schedule as follows:

10:00am – ages 4 and under

10:30am – Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

11:00am – Grades 3 and up

If you have any questions, or would like to help please contact Sheilla Byrd. We hope to see you there!

**EASTER LILIES** - It is time to order Easter lilies to decorate our church sanctuary for the Easter season. The cost is \$15.00 each. Please place order form with payment in the church offering or give to the church secretary by Monday, April 4, 2020. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.

**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**

As part of celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week March 6th through 10th, we will officially transition to our new school mission statement. This statement is meant to work alongside the church's mission statement and demonstrate First Lutheran's commitment to sharing the Gospel with our members, our students, and our community. This new mission statement is a summary of what we believe. It is what will guide our choices as we look toward the future at First Lutheran. From developing curriculum to hiring staff, these are the ideas that guide us to maintain a Christ centered focus.

Since 1869, First Lutheran School has educated thousands of students through multiple generations. We provide more than mere academics, we are a family where students are provided the foundations necessary to help them grow creatively, socially, emotionally, physically and most importantly in their faith. It is my earnest prayer that this mission statement will be just the first step in a long journey of growth and discipleship.

First Lutheran School and ECE Mission Statement:

*Strengthened by God's grace, we learn.*

*Sharing Christ's love, we grow.*

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we serve.*

With our mission in place, we look forward to a week of celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week which provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings



within the communities we serve.

Hope and blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal

---



**Birthdays:**

Mar. 1: Kris Weaver  
Mar. 2: Lily Varner  
Mar. 4: Don Froemsdorf  
Mar. 6: Michelle Breeden  
Mar. 7: John Hofman; Andrew Lintz; Nicole Riffey  
Mar. 10: John Schulz, Jr.; David Varner  
Mar. 12: Shelbie Bender; Carolyn Weaver  
Mar. 14: Lin Holloway III; Zoe Price  
Mar. 18: Sharon Lee  
Mar. 20: Christian Eimmerman  
Mar. 21: Doug Rodenbeck; Eleanor Wadsworth  
Mar. 22: AnnMarie Bissell; Bobbie Dunn  
Mar. 25: Riah Mitchell  
Mar. 27: Marion Samuel  
Mar. 29: Kristin Lintz  
Mar. 31: Jon Eimmerman

**Anniversaries:**

Mar. 2: Rick & Michelle Breeden; Benny & Marion Samuel  
Mar. 15: Mike & Shawna Anderson  
Mar. 25: Roger & Melanie Bartholomay