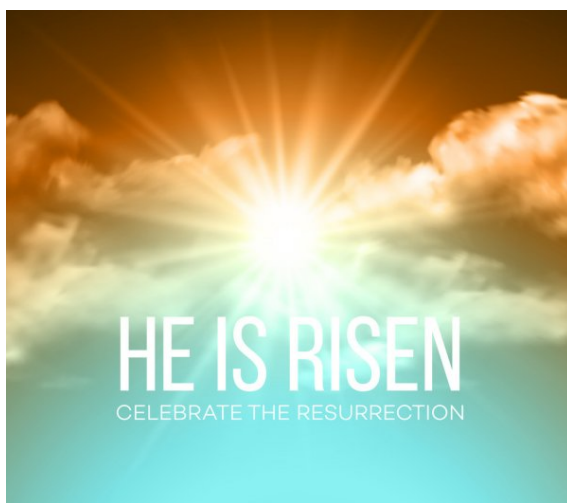




First Hearts April 2022

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The end of Lent is in view. Over the next two weeks, the Liturgy will be stripped more and more away. The Gloria will be removed. Chanting will cease on Palm Sunday. The organ will get quieter and quieter, offering more of a supportive role. Maundy Thursday ends with the stripping of the altar while Psalm 22 is read. Good Friday has a bare altar in our worship and what candles are lit end up extinguished.

Then things begin to change. Easter Vigil starts in that darkness. The light slowly breaks in. The darkness scatters until there is a place left for it. Baptisms are remembered. Eucharist is celebrated. Resurrection is exclaimed. More celebrating on Easter Day and the days following.

Whether we know it or not, our worship during Holy Week and beyond, are examples of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. These three: Goodness, Truth, and Beauty exist beyond space and time. They are transcendental. They relate to and seek to describe the nature of our

reality and being.

The three: Goodness, Truth, and Beauty are not subjective and for good reason. If Truth was subjective then we can't get angry when politicians lie to us. If Goodness is subjective then it's fine for people to abuse others for profit and greed. If Beauty is only in the eye of the beholder, then we have lost the right to be offended by obscene art.

The Good, the True, and the Beautiful are central to our concept of God. All three work together. Philosopher Peter Kreeft explained why when he said, "Goodness is first in value as truth and beauty have the end of good; beauty motivates us most; and, truth trumps both goodness and beauty."

Over these coming weeks, we are reminded that we are created to know God, receive His gifts, and worship Him. Because He made us, we want to know the Truth. We desire the Good for His salvation on that Friday. We love the Beautiful exemplified by a suffering Savior whose life surrounds us in stained glass on Sundays. Thus, Goodness, Truth, and Beauty are reflections of a perfect God who sent His Son to be born of Mary, commit no sin, suffer, die and rise again on Easter.

The Good, the True, and the Beautiful are found in Jesus Christ, His Word, His Creation, His redemption, His resurrection, and His doing it all for you.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Wednesday, April 6th - Lenten Service 3:45pm; Soup and Sandwich dinner 5pm; Lenten Service 6:30pm

Holy Week Services

4/14 - Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

4/15 - Good Friday Service 6:30 pm

4/16 - Easter Vigil 6:30 pm

4/17 - Easter Breakfast 8:00 am

4/17 - Divine Service 9:30 am

Board Happenings

4/5 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

4/12 - School Board 6:00pm

4/19 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

4/2 - LWML Lenten Tea 12:00 pm

4/4 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

4/16 - Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Dessert pick-up 10:00 am

4/18 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

4/24 - Youth 12:00 pm

School Activities

4/3 - 6th - 8th grade students sing at First Lutheran Church

4/7 - Open House/Meet the Teacher event 4:00pm - 7:00pm

4/14 - 4/18 - Easter Holidays (All facilities closed)

4/22 - Spring Musical 6:00pm



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)

The poster features a light gray background with a wooden cross in the bottom left corner and a wooden staff or stick in the top right corner. The text is arranged in a clean, organized manner, with the title 'LENT AND Easter Services' at the top, followed by the sermon series, service details, dates, and Holy Week services.

	Apr. 3	Fifth S. in Lent	Is. 43:16–21	Psalm 126	Phil. 3:(4b–7) 8–14	Luke 20:9–20
HOLY WEEK	Apr. 10	Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion)	Deut. 32:36–39	Psalm 118:19–29 or Psalm 31:9–16	Phil. 2:5–11	Luke 22:1–23:56 or Luke 23:1–56 or John 12:20–43
	Apr. 14	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Jer. 31:31–34 or Ex. 12:1–14	Psalm 116:12–19	Heb. 10:15–25 or 1 Cor. 11:23–32	Luke 22:7–20 or John 13:1–17, 31b–35
	Apr. 15	Good Friday	Is. 52:13–53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	Heb. 4:14–16; 5:7–9	John 18:1–19:42 or John 19:17–30
EASTER	Apr. 17	The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunrise)	Job 19:23–27	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 15:51–57	John 20:1–18
	Apr. 17	The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day)	Is. 65:17–25	Psalm 16	1 Cor. 15:19–26	Luke 24:1–12
	Apr. 24	Second S. of Easter	Acts 5:12–20 (21–32)	Psalm 148	Rev. 1:4–18	John 20:19–31

In Other News

Stewardship

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.”
(Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous.

The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

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! It's not too late! 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. The book is available on Amazon, with Kindle and audiobook versions available in addition to a printed book; 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. **For the month of April, youth will meet on Sunday, April 24th!**

Youth Annual Rummage Sale - Our youth group will be having their annual rummage sale on May 20-21, 2022. Start collecting your items now. Drop off of items and set up will be Thursday, May 19th. Please try to save your items until the drop-off day as the school will be using the gym for various activities until May 18th and we don't want any items to accidentally get damaged prior to the sale.

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 – 2nd grade

11:00am – Grades 3 and up

If you have any questions, or would like to help please contact Shellia 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 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/>

1, 2, 3... Stamp, stamp, stamp... Calling people who can count, add and/or stamp checks! We are going to resume counting the offering after church on Sundays! We need volunteers. We can train you. Contact Melanie Bartholomay at mlbartholomay@gmail.com of 865-607-1629.



News from First Lutheran School

The Following is taken from the LCMS School Ministry Mailing
"In All Things...Stand Firm" Dr. Steven Christopher

"Too busy. Way too busy!" This was the response of a young mother of two when a good friend asked, "How are things going?"

This is unfortunately, is not an uncommon statement. Not just for a young mother of two, but also for many of the rest of us, no matter our age.

It often seems that to get ahead in life we have to work longer and work harder to achieve those things we want; however, the desired result isn't always reached. Why is it that after working hard at a job for several years, a young father is let go? Why is it that after several seasons of success a single mom no longer finds her services needed at a company she has dedicated herself to for years? These questions are not always easily answered. Our response then is to try harder! Pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, and go after it again!

But, what are we going after? Are we seeking financial security? How about the comforts of a good life? How about excitement? Notoriety? Peace and quiet? Just predictability or some kind of stability? Maybe it's all of the above, or at least some combination.

Like a building, a well-lived life needs a firm foundation - a foundation that creates stability in the key areas of life, a foundation that will withstand the pressures of this busy world in which we live. Many seek the foundation of finance, health, friendships or community connections, workplace success, acquisitions or accomplishments. While these all contribute to an enjoyable life, they do not create the foundation needed to address the challenges of a 21st century world. Only faith does - faith in Christ alone!

Christ is the cornerstone on which we can build a life, and where we can find a firm foundation for our family and create a healthy home. It begins with faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior - faith that is given as a gift in Baptism and encouraged by the regular reading and hearing of God's Word, faith that is inspired through worship, faith that is assimilated in daily living through service to others. Stability in this life is framed by the knowledge that we have the assurance of eternal life in heaven through the perfectly lived life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Busyness won't bring happiness. Activity doesn't always produce productivity. We will never achieve a perfect life, no matter how hard we try. We can, however enjoy a life built on a foundation of faith in Christ Jesus. This is a life that will weather storms and remain firm in all things.

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Apr. 2: Christopher Dalton

Apr. 5: Becky Hodson

Apr. 7: Mike Anderson; Louise Hodson; Bob Sircy; Wendy Bennett-Turner

Apr. 8: Steve Keyes

Apr. 9: Carolyn Milligan

Apr. 10: Chuck Baum; Jackson Killian; Ephraim Maanum

Apr. 12: Ingrid Capparelli

Apr. 14: McKenzie Day; Gerene Jones; Larry Magnon

Apr. 15: Ed Niedens

Apr. 16: Jennifer Hodson

Apr. 18: Tonya Knopps; Mary McKenzie

Apr. 19: Mary Acuff Croes; Rebekah Parrott; Judy Testerman

Apr. 22: Kelsie Reed

Apr. 23: Alexander Blais; Ayden Laing; Stephanie McKenzie

Apr. 25: Larry Farris; Cheyenne Tillman

Apr. 26: Jeff McKenzie

Apr. 28: Isaac Davis; Shannon Mildbourn; Lydia Vandervort

Apr. 30: Lois Blais; Jeremiah Davis; Kathleen Holliday; Kamden Kreger

Anniversaries:

Apr. 1: Steve & Shellia Byrd

Apr. 5: Carlyle & Dolly Roth

Apr. 6: Bill & Rosie Rosen

Apr. 15: Barry & Melissa Lyke

Apr. 24: Doug & Wendy Slifka

Apr. 29: David & Susan Rodenbeck