



First Hearts May 2022

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

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



From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month I began a series on Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. Today I'm going to give a brief overview of how the Ancients viewed these transcendentals. To do that, we must understand the Ancient World.

The Greco-Roman world was based on a simple premise: the cosmos is divine. Each person has a divine obligation to live in a harmonious relationship with the world and each other. Every person was a microcosmos and the cosmos itself was viewed as a macro-human.

This relationship began with Empedocles (490-430BC). He was the first to have systematic teaching that the four elements of earth, fire, air, and water were connected to the four humors (or liquids) of the human body: black bile, yellow bile, phlegm, and blood. The four humors played the same role in the human body as the four elements do in the cosmos. Disease was believed to be an imbalance of the four humors. Healing was the restoring of the symmetry to the human body which reflected the symmetry of the cosmos.

The Greek city-state, the polis, was viewed as a bridge between the microcosmic person and the macro-human cosmos. Temples were built with this idea in mind. Plato (417-347BC) in *Symposium* observed that "the heaven and earth and gods and men are held together by communion and fellowship." Sacrifice was used to keep communion between gods and men. Thus the polis, city-state, became a cosmopolis a place for creating harmony among the cosmos, humanity, soul, and society.

The ancients started schools or Paideia. It was a place where citizens of the polis could continue this cosmic communion and achieve individual intellectual growth. This included instilling in their students a love for the cosmic values of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Plato taught how these three: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, cultivated the human soul, allowed us to live in harmony with each other, and demonstrated the harmony that sustained the world.

For Plato, the Good is "that Idea from which all Ideas emerge and on which they all depend." The Good must be revealed to us and that which reveals the Good is the Truth. Beauty, then, is what pulls us to the True and the Good. Beauty communicated the True and the Good through its radiance, awakening of love, and the classical virtues of wisdom, moderation, justice, and courage.

Next month we'll see how the early Greek church, used these distinctions of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty to ultimately leads to Christ the ultimate source of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

5/3 - School Board 6:00pm

5/10 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

5/2 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm

5/7 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

5/7 - Hofman Baby Shower 1:00pm

5/14 - Men's Bible Study 9:00am

5/15 - Youth 12:00pm

5/16 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm

5/19 - Rummage Sale (Set up and Drop Off)

5/20 - Youth Rummage Sale

5/21 - Youth Rummage Sale

5/21 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

5/22 - Voter's Meeting 10:45am

5/28 - Men's Bible Study 9:00am

School Activities

5/17 - Kindergarten & 8th Grade Graduation 7:00pm

5/18 - Last Day of School

5/25 - First Day of Summer Day Camp

	May 1	Third S. of Easter	Acts 9:1–22	Psalm 30	Rev. 5:(1–7) 8–14	John 21:1–14 (15–19)
	May 8	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 20:17–35	Psalm 23	Rev. 7:9–17	John 10:22–30
	May 15	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 11:1–18	Psalm 148	Rev. 21:1–7	John 16:12–22 or John 13:31–35
	May 22	Sixth S. of Easter	Acts 16:9–15	Psalm 67	Rev. 21:9–14, 21–27	John 16:23–33 or John 5:1–9
	May 26	The Ascension of Our Lord	Acts 1:1–11	Psalm 47	Eph. 1:15–23	Luke 24:44–53
	May 29	Seventh S. of Easter	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 133	Rev. 22:1–6 (7–11) 12–20	John 17:20–26

In Other News

Stewardship Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving

us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says: “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13) This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

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.

Men’s Bible Study is returning Saturday, May 7th at 8:30am. Please join us for Bible study and fellowship in the meeting room on the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month.

Voter’s Meeting – We will have our Voter’s Meeting during the Sunday School/Bible Study time following the service on May 22, 2022.

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

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.

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

In All Things

Author: Dr. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of LCMS School Ministry

"Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

May is a time for reflection. A parent of a student in a Lutheran school writes, "Thanks for everything you do. I always knew it was the best thing we would ever do for our kids sending them to a Lutheran school. I miss those days, but the lessons live on in my children that are no longer children. Thanks for being such a blessing to so many. The lessons we teach our children reach further and live longer than any of us can ever know."

What a great time to thank God for our churches and schools! And we have a national opportunity in May to give thanks as well. In 1952, a formal National Day of Prayer was established by Congress and signed into law by President Harry Truman. In 1988, President Reagan signed an amendment that designates the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer.

This year, the theme for this day of prayer is Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us. The theme is based on Colossians 2:6-7, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges and reminds us that we are created in God's image and that He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Scripture tells us that prayer is effective and that our loving God responds to His children in powerful ways. It is an honor and privilege to gather together to pray for our nation, churches, schools, educators and the communities we serve.

Our 16,241 educators serving in 1,854 Lutheran schools are on my list during this month of reflection. In all things, children and students in early childhood through high school hear the life-changing Gospel message daily. Our educators are blessed to be a blessing to those they serve.

An alumnus writes, "Of all those incredible teachers, my seventh and eighth grade teacher, and also the principal, left the most indelible impression. He was cool, he was Christian, he made us play by the rules, but loved us all no matter what. He was the reason I went to college at Concordia in Nebraska and became a Lutheran school teacher."

As we pray together for the faithful educators serving children and families across the nation, we are reminded that God listens to our prayers. A second grader affirms this with a thoughtful note, "We have the best teachers in the world. I love my teacher and my friends too. The teachers and I get to learn about God and Jesus and the Lord." In all things, God's Word makes this way of life possible.

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

May 1: Barb Eisold
May 3: Alice Munsey
May 4: Clara Cox
May 5: Morgan Slomski
May 6: Jim Roberts
May 7: Nicholas Mueller
May 9: Emily Rodenbeck; Jim Scarlett
May 10: Chuck Baum; Carmine Capparelli; Harrison Killian
May 12: Larry Mabe
May 13: Greg Buckner
May 14: Miranda Witt
May 15: Margot Bridges
May 16: Mike Jones; Kim Mabe
May 18: Heidi Bartholomay
May 19: Joe LaDue; Aaron Wade
May 21: Taylor Day; Cutter Tillman
May 22: Michael Warwick; Penny Wright
May 23: Beth Watson
May 25: Chelcie Holloway
May 26: Jeff Wheat
May 27: Olivia Killian; David Norton; Jeffrey Turner
May 28: Liam Milbourn; Benny Samuel
May 31: Scott Testerman

Anniversaries:

May 19: David & Karen Varner
May 26: Mike & Melissa Sanders
May 27: Kevin & Vicki Broyles
May 28: Brad & Bethany Capehart; Doc & Kelly Sternberg; Don & Terrie Yeatts
May 29: Don & Joy Froemsdorf
May 30: Joe & Angela Lukens