



First Hearts June 2022

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From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month we saw how the Ancient Greeks defined the transcendental ideals of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. This month we will see how the early church, specifically in the Greek East, defined these terms.

In short, the cosmos is filled with divine meaning and purpose. Everything within was created and is sustained by God through the Son, the eternal Logos, the Word of God. All things are made “from,” “in,” and “through” Jesus. (1 Cor 8:6; Col 1:15-20)

The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, heightened the Hebrew creation account. It altered “And God saw that it was good” to “And God saw that it was beautiful”

The radical fall into sin and death brought disorder into the cosmos. Everything became marred by sin, death, and the devil’s evil intentions. But the Son became flesh and overcame sin and death. Heaven and earth are unified in the resurrected body of Christ. In Him, all things are made new (Rev 21:5)

Humanity is created “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:26). That image of God eventually took on flesh and became one of us except without sin. We are made in the image of the Logos’ humanity and we come to understand ourselves and humanity by that Image of God.

The Logos, Jesus, comes to us in the grain and fruit created on the third day, in the Eucharistic Meal, the Lord’s Supper of His vivifying body and vivifying blood. Creation and incarnation come together and forgive our sins, which restores our communion with God and with each other.

For the ancient Greek East, one experiences this connection of creation and incarnation in Goodness, Truth, and Beauty because these are all part of the image of God in which we were created.

Goodness is seen in creation where all was made good, and only stays good, insofar that it participates in what it was designed to do. Beauty acts like gravity in that it either draws us to the Good or away from it. True Beauty draws one to the Good, False Beauty draws one away towards lust and seduction. Truth, as it is revealed in the person of Jesus, extends into everything as divine love, like a cosmic yearning, which creates and draws one into the Good and the Beautiful.

The Greek East Fathers, like Gregory of Nyssa, would argue that Christ creates a desire, a love, for God. That includes contemplating the divine attributes of the True, the Good, and the Beautiful in anticipation of all things being restored when Christ comes again.

Next month we’ll see how the Latin West understood Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.

Pastor Ed Maanum



Weekly Events

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

Board Happenings

6/14 - School Board 6:00pm

6/14 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

6/21 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

6/4 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

6/18 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

6/24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist 6:30pm

6/26 - Youth 12:00pm

6/29 - St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles 6:30pm

PENTECOST	June 5	The Day of Pentecost	Gen. 11:1–9	Psalm 143	Acts 2:1–21	John 14:23–31
TRINITY	June 12	The Holy Trinity	Prov. 8:1–4, 22–31	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22–36	John 8:48–59
	June 19 (Prop. 7)	Second S. a. Pentecost	Is. 65:1–9	Psalm 3	Gal. 3:23–4:7	Luke 8:26–39
	June 26 (Prop. 8)	Third S. a. Pentecost	1 Kings 19:9b–21	Psalm 16	Gal. 5:1, 13–25	Luke 9:51–62

In Other News

Stewardship

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very

ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

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.

Introduction to Apologetics: All men are invited to join us on Saturday, June 18, at 8:30 am as we embark on a new video course from the 1517 Academy. Taught by Dr. Adam Francisco, this comprehensive five-lesson study surveys the major facets of the defense of the Christian Faith. We gather on the first and third Saturdays of every month in the meeting room, beginning with breakfast at 8:30 am. Please join us for Lesson 1 on June 18!

Youth! Mark your calendars, join in fun and fellowship after Sunday School on the third Sunday of every month. (For the month of JUNE Youth will be moved to the fourth Sunday - June 26 - due to Father's Day)

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.

Leiderhosen – Susan Batchelor has a small men's Leiderhosen for sale. If interested, please contact her at 865-803-4581

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.

The Church Year sets aside days in our calendar where we remember God's activities in people and events for the sake of the Gospel. Beginning this summer, First Lutheran will be observing several of these important people and activities. We'll be following the service of Evening Prayer at 6:30pm for:

June 24 -- Friday -- Nativity of St John the Baptist

June 29 -- Wednesday -- St Peter and St Paul, Apostles

July 25 -- Monday -- St James the Elder, Apostle

August 15 -- Monday -- St Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 29 -- Monday -- Martyrdom of St John the Baptist



News from First Lutheran School

First Lutheran School Mission:
Strengthened by God's grace, we learn.
Sharing Christ's love, we grow.
Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we serve.

Summer is an interesting time for a school. You would think it would be a calm, peaceful time of rest and relaxation, but instead teachers are already trying to do a school years' worth of prep to be ready for the upcoming school year. Then in the building, our summer day camp is bustling. We have 125 children enrolled filling the halls with laughter and the classrooms with

fun, games, and learning. Overall it is an exciting time, and though it may still be busy, it is a chance to reflect on the successes of the past year.

Looking back at the 2021 and 2022 school year, we started off the year bigger and better than ever before. As our enrollment grows, it is a blessing to see the First Lutheran family grow with it.

Not only did our students grow in knowledge but they also grew in Faith. This year we started something new with whole school devotions every morning. Each morning our kindergarten through 8th grade classes reflected on God's word and prayed together. We also took this opportunity to review our weekly memory verse and it was great to see the students think about what God's word means to their life. We also were blessed to see parents join us some of those mornings as well.

I loved to hear about students asking questions about faith and the Bible. Though we are blessed with a largely Lutheran staff who do a great job of answering those questions, sometimes Pastor would need to be consulted. Watching a 1st grader bring their questions and eagerly await the response is something special. Then there are the moments when students randomly break into song singing the songs from chapel or spring musical. It is simply amazing to witness the Holy Spirit working on the hearts of our students.

As a mission and pillar of First Lutheran Church, our school has an excellent opportunity to reach out to the community and spread the message of Christ's love and salvation. Regardless of the growth we have seen, there are still desks that could be filled and opportunities for more students and families to hear about God's word.

How to support the mission of First Lutheran School and ECE

1. Pray without ceasing - Prayer is essential. As part of your regular prayers, remember to bring before God First Lutheran School. Pray for our mission; teachers; staff; and students; past, present, and future.
2. Remember your weekly offering. - First Lutheran School is the primary mission of First Lutheran Church and a portion of your tithe goes to supporting this mission.
3. Tell people about our school - Share with your friends and neighbors about the quality Christian Education at First Lutheran School and encourage them to send their children. Provide them with promotional materials and invite them to schedule a tour or visit our Open House. You can also follow us on Facebook or Instagram and share posts

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal

**Birthdays:**

June 1: Levi Sprecher

June 2: Paul Ortstadt

June 3: Kristy Byrd; Susan Rodenbeck; Christine Sprecher

June 4: Cayden Bland

June 5: Karen Farris; Karla Hood

June 11: Sheldon Yeatts

June 13: Miranda Yeatts

June 14: Harper Mitchell

June 16: Elsie Nutter

June 17: Rachel Buckner

June 18: Bob Hotaling; Carroll Ward

June 19: Jennifer Sadie; Ezra Sprecher

June 21: Sandy Anthonijs; Michael Blumenber

June 22: Danny Sanderson

June 23: Don Weaver

June 25: Emily Dalton; Matt Keller

June 26: Dan Jordan; Maria Sunda

June 27: Sherry Ward

June 28: Gordon McSween

June 29: Olivia Cooper

June 30: Anni Lasley; Avram Sprecher

Anniversaries:

June 1: Jim & Dawn Roberts

June 14: Keith & Becky Hodson

June 17: Bob & Barb Eisold

June 22: Steve & Julie Killian

June 24: Eric & Holly Flanigan; Robert & Sheila Wolford

June 25: Chris & Cindy Cox