



## **First Hearts   July 2022**

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### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his Confessions, St. Augustine writes, “our hearts were made for You, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in You.” St. Augustine tried to find a purpose for life in the Greco-

Roman philosophers, especially Cicero. He longed for meaning and purpose outside of himself. In reading Cicero, St Augustine realized there exists a concept of Beauty. Yet, all the philosophers, including Cicero, failed to lead him to that Beauty.

St. Augustine later saw that the God is the author and perfecto of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. In the Scriptures, we come to learn and know God. By receiving God's gifts in love, we come into contact with the image of God. Our souls are directed toward the God whose image it bears.

The movement from the soul, which bears the image of the Beauty of God, to the source of that image, begins with encountering the Truth. The Truth is not a concept, but a person, God Himself. "Where I found truth, there I found my God, who is the Truth itself." The Truth is revealed to us in the Good, is the Word of God, by which all things were originally made good.

In his book On Christian Doctrine, St Augustine argues that only God is worthy of being loved for His own sake because He is supremely valuable. Everything else we love is subordinate to the love of God; all created thing are to be loved as objects that cause us to delight in God.

Beauty draws the believer into an encounter with God. The love that the Holy Spirit awakens for Beauty is always with the Good and the True. Beauty then acts like a gravitational force pulling the believer towards God and up to His Goodness and Truth. In other words, Beauty, Goodness, and Truth are divine attributes by God draws us closer to Himself and also deeps our understanding of ourselves by being in Him.

For Augustine, and the Greek Fathers, the quest for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty is a quest for God Himself.

Next, we will see how Thomas Aquinas, the thirteenth century theologian, added to our understanding of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.

Pastor Ed Maanum

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## **Weekly Events**

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

## **Board Happenings**

7/12 - School Board 6:00pm

7/12 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

7/19 - Planning Council 6:30pm

## Other Church Activities

7/2 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

7/16 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

7/17 - Youth 12:00pm

7/25 - St. James the Elder, Apostle Service 6:30pm

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	July 3 (Prop. 9)	Fourth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 66:10–14	Psalms 66:1–7	Gal. 6:1–10, 14–18	Luke 10:1–20
	July 10 (Prop. 10)	Fifth S. a. Pentecost	Lev. (18:1–5) 19:9–18	Psalms 41	Col. 1:1–14	Luke 10:25–37
	July 17 (Prop. 11)	Sixth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 18:1–10a (10b–14)	Psalms 27:(1–6) 7–14	Col. 1:21–29	Luke 10:38–42
	July 24 (Prop. 12)	Seventh S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 18:(17–19) 20–33	Psalms 138	Col. 2:6–15 (16–19)	Luke 11:1–13
	July 31 (Prop. 13)	Eighth S. a. Pentecost	Eccl. 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26	Psalms 100	Col. 3:1–11	Luke 12:13–21

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## In Other News

### Stewardship

#### New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

**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** - Our youth group will be attending the National Youth Gathering this month from July 9-13. If you would like to join us virtually, you are encouraged to join us at the Gathering livestream each night at: [lmsgathering.com/livestream](https://lmsgathering.com/livestream).

**Save the Date!** GermanFest is right around the corner and preparations are in full swing. Please mark your calendars and reserve August 27 to participate in this year's event. If you are able to help financially to offset some of the costs, there are envelopes across from the mailboxes in the hallway to make a donation.

**Introduction to Apologetics:** All men are invited to join us on the first and third Saturdays of July and August as we continue a video course from the 1517 Academy taught by Dr. Adam Francisco. We gather in the meeting room, beginning with breakfast at 8:30 am. Each lesson is self-contained, so don't worry if you have missed any: please join us anyway!

**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/>

**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](mailto: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

**The Point Knox** will be hosting a community event "Light In the Darkness: Uncovering the Shadow World of Human Trafficking" on Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 9am - 1pm. This is a free event and lunch will be provided. Go to [MID-SOUTHLCMS.ORG](https://MID-SOUTHLCMS.ORG) to register or see the flyer in the church bulletin for the QR code.



### **News from First Lutheran School**

How is it the summer is already half way over! Before we know it, it will be time to prepare to come back to school. While things are definitely more relaxed during the summer, there are still a number of things that are happening.

Summer Camp is in full swing, under the direction of Shirley Eimmerman and her staff. (If you see them be sure to thank them for their hard work.) Approximately 125 children are enjoying opportunities to learn, read, play, cook, and splash in water together. It is nice to have their noise and laughter in the building with us during the day!

The enrollment process continues for the 2022-2023 school year. As we continue to grow, we are hopeful that through the efforts of our amazing staff and referrals from school families and members of the congregation, that God will send us additional students to fill our classrooms. We are already looking forward to another year sharing the message of God's love and forgiveness with the students and their families.

We are continuing to look for the Middle School Math and Science Teacher that God has planned for us. We have faith that God will provide the right person, and we ask for your continued prayers in this matter.

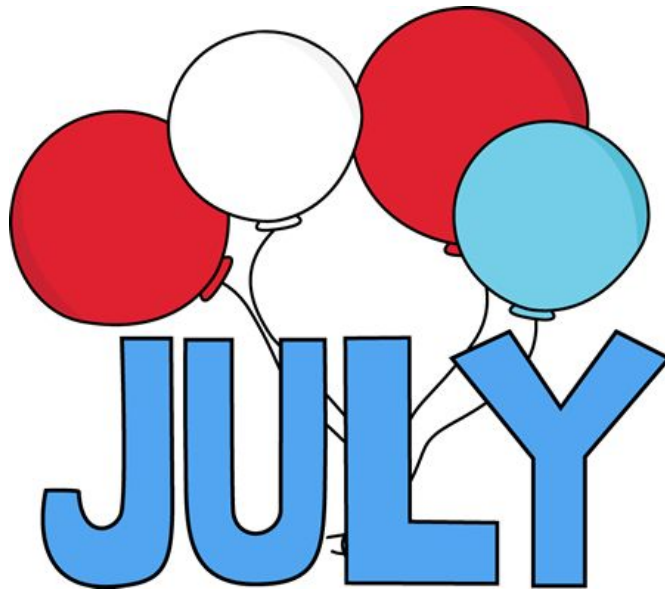


As the start of the school year approaches, there are always projects that need to be done around the building. If any of you would like to volunteer to help us get the building or classrooms ready for the start of the year, please contact me, and we will find a project that fits your abilities and talents. The faculty and staff of First Lutheran School are so thankful to the congregation for the opportunity to work and minister here in the school, and we would love you to experience some of joy we have working here. We are truly blessed.

I pray that each of you has an opportunity to slow down and relax a little bit this summer. As always, I thank you for your prayers and support on behalf of the school, the students and their parents, and the staff. God is so good, and He is at work right here in this place!

Hope and blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal

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**Birthdays:**

July 1: Holly Flanigan; Nick Weideman

July 2: Trevor Anderson; Tabi Maanum

July 3: Steve Wheat

July 4: Brett Anthonijs

July 6: Jim Perrine

July 8: Bobby Eisold; Tabitha Lukens; Monika Rash

July 9: Cameron Brown; Angela Lukens

July 11: Pastor Ed Maanum

July 12: Zachary Mueller; Melissa Sanders

July 13: Michleen Jones

July 14: Lin Holloway, Jr.

July 16: Avery Anderson; Amy Keller

July 19: Tara Chrapliwy; Karen DeArmond; Sheila Wolford

July 20: Martin Slomski; Nathan Wade  
July 22: Melissa Schell; Marilyn Waldeck  
July 23: Theo Anthonijs; Kim Smith  
July 26: Jonathan Boatman  
July 29: Jayda Turner; Lisa Wade  
July 30: Wendy Slifka; Drew Slomski  
July 31: Abby Sanderson

**Anniversaries:**

July 10: Jered & Christine Sprecher  
July 12: Kevin & Kathleen Holliday; Scott & Karen Spaid  
July 17: Seth & Rebecca Nutter  
July 21: Fred & Melissa Schell  
July 24: Greg & Beth Buckner; John & Lindsey Hofman  
July 31: Mark & Debbie Fettig

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