



## **First Hearts   November 2022**

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### **From the Pastor**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When a new year happens we make resolutions, things we're going to change. Some changes are for the good, some for the worse, and some we say we're going to do and never even start. One thing that will happen here at First with the new year, beginning with Advent, is a change in our lectionary.

We've been using a 3-year rotation of readings. Starting in Advent we'll be making the switch to a 1-year rotation of readings. So the question is why make the change? Below are twelve

reasons why. Why twelve? Well, there were twelve tribes of Israel, Jesus had twelve apostles, and I really wanted to make a list that included twelve.

1. It is catholic: It has a wide use of people, times, and places. Being catholic it joins us to the ancient, medieval, and until the 1960's, modern church. We're participating in something greater than our own time, place, and culture.

2 It is catechetical: Repetition is the mother of learning. You get the whole counsel of God every single year. It challenges and grows the faith of old and young alike.

3 Resources: You can find sermons from the church fathers, Martin Luther, Johann Gerhard, C F W Walther, and Bo Giertz on that text.

4 Hymnody: There is a wealth of hymnody and music specifically composed for Sundays in the Historic Lectionary. Plus Bach wrote a cantata for every week, except for Lent.

5 It is organic: It spent centuries evolving and improving. There's a natural ebb and flow to the readings. For example, in the Easter season you have readings for Jesus' resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, to prepare one for Pentecost.

6 It challenges preaching: The readings aren't academically assembled and sterile. There are times at first glance where the Epistle and Gospel don't fit together. But, in reality, the Epistle is pushing you in new directions on the Gospel.

7 No hobby horses: It forces the pastors to give the church a diet based on all of Scripture, not just the parts that he really wants to talk about.

8 Challenging Scripture: There may just be some sections of Scripture that people would rather pass over. However, we should tackle those difficult passages and preach the whole counsel of God.

9 No cultural agenda: The Word of God sets the agenda for worship, not the world.

10 Less is more: There are around 250 portions of scripture used in the Historic Lectionary. These portions of Scripture are repeated year after year. That means if one misses a year, they'll get what they missed the next year, instead of having to wait until the 3-year circles back around to those texts.

11 It gives a reason for the rose colored candle during Advent.

12 You get to show off your learning by saying words like "Septuagesima," "Sexagesima," and "Quinquagesima."

Pastor Ed Maanum

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## Weekly Events

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

## Board Happenings

11/8 - School Board 6:00pm

11/8 - Board of Elders 7:00pm

11/15 - Planning Council 6:30pm

## Other Church Activities

11/5 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am

11/19 - Men's Bible Study

11/20 - Voter's Meeting (during Sunday School/Bible Study)

11/20 - Youth 12:00pm

11/30 - Advent Service 3:45pm; Soup & Sandwiches 5pm; Advent Service 6:30pm

## School Activities

11/11 - Veteran's Day Assembly at 1:30pm

11/13 - Kindergarten through 2nd grade sing during Worship Service

11/23 - 11/25 - School Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays

*\*If you attend Fantasy of Trees, our school and preschool both will have a tree on display so keep an eye out!*

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	or (Prop. 26)	Twenty-first S. a. Pentecost	Is. 1:10–18	Psalm 130	2 Thess. 1:1–5 (6–10) 11–12	Luke 19:1–10
<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>	Nov. 6 (observed)	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	or (Prop. 27)	Twenty-second S. a. Pentecost	Ex. 3:1–15	Psalm 148	2 Thess. 2:1–8, 13–17	Luke 20:27–40
	Nov. 13 (Prop. 28)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Mal. 4:1–6	Psalm 98	2 Thess. 3:(1–5) 6–13	Luke 21:5–28 (29–36)
	Nov. 20 (Prop. 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Mal. 3:13–18	Psalm 46	Col. 1:13–20	Luke 23:27–43
<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 or 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
<b>New Church Year Starts Here (Series A)</b>						
<b>ADVENT 2022</b>	Nov. 27, 2022	First S. in Advent	Is. 2:1–5	Psalm 122	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–11 or Matt. 24:36–44

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## In Other News

## Stewardship

### What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It’s the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

**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.

**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.

**Stephen Minister Training** - Are you interested in being a Stephen Minister? If you are interested and would like to go through the training, please contact Eric Lintz via phone or text at 865-771-4046 or via e-mail at [elintz36@hotmail.com](mailto:elintz36@hotmail.com).

**Mere Christianity:** All men are invited to read and study the classic work *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, arguably the most influential piece of Christian literature of the 20th century. Launching with a discussion of Book 1 on October 15, we will continue to meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month, with breakfast beginning at 8:30 am.

**Here is a quick snapshot of the budget.** Church income is down, which is not completely unexpected for the summer. Our church expenses were also elevated thanks to a fallen tree.

GermanFest was a great success with deposits of nearly \$30,000 with a profit of about \$17,000. (Final numbers are not yet available.) The PTL is predicting a profit of nearly \$12,000, which is not included in our budget. This wonderful event is not possible without the help of the congregation and school families.

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Income		
Total Church	\$80,572.40	\$81,208.30
Total School	\$238,306.71	\$197,650.02
Total Income	\$318,879.11	\$278,858.32
Expenses		
Total Church Expenses	\$75,359.71	\$68,712.68
Total School Expenses	\$146,248.10	\$180,091.62
Total Expenses	\$221,607.81	\$248,804.30
Net Operating Income	\$98,991.30	\$30,054.02

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,  
Melanie Bartholomay, Treasurer

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## **News from First Lutheran School**

We are now entering a month where we will continually be reminded to be thankful. I know I am incredibly thankful for First Lutheran, the school families, the students, the church and its congregation. Sometimes it can be hard to quantify what exactly we are thankful for, but in the words of the timeless tune, I spent last night counting my blessings instead of sheep.

Overall, it is abundantly clear that in the first quarter of the year our blessings have been numerous.

110 - The number of families who are a part of First Lutheran School. We currently have 90 students enrolled in our K-8 and 70 in our ECE

16 students in 2 Spark Lab Groups - Spark Lab is an after school program operating in conjunction with the German Department at UT. UT students are coming once a week to run a lab where FLS students have fun learning about German language and culture.

25 - The number of students who participate in our Basketball program

\$491.80 - The amount raised for Care Cuts of Knoxville which provides haircuts for the homeless.

53 - The number of times the students have joined together in worship whether at Chapel or at morning devotions

8 - the number of 3 ft. christmas trees our students are decorating and donating to local hospitals to go in rooms to help brighten someone's stay. We are also decorating 2 trees for Fantasy of Trees.

100 - the grandparents and special friends we had visit for our Grandparents Day celebration in September.

It doesn't take a mathematical genius to see that the numbers add up to something special, something that can't be counted, the love and joy that stem from the mission of First Lutheran School to share God's love with its students and their families.



Finally, we would like to invite you to our annual Veteran's Day Assembly on Friday, November 11 at 1:30pm. We know we have many members that love this assembly and we would love to share it with you.

Hope and blessings,  
Jessie Irwin, Principal

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**Birthdays:**

Nov. 1: Melanie Bartholomay  
Nov. 2: Michelle Tillman  
Nov. 3: Zoe McKenzie  
Nov. 4: David Cooper; Ezekiel Lukens  
Nov. 5: Pat Hinds; Kelly Sternberg  
Nov. 6: Rosa Beck  
Nov. 7: Allie Bryant; Kelly Miller  
Nov. 8: Lynda Graves; Karen Varner  
Nov. 9: Darby Allen; Rick Elmore; Dustin Samuel  
Nov. 10: Eric Flanigan  
Nov. 12: Erik Blumenberg; Madison Slomski  
Nov. 14: Fred Schell; Melissa Smith  
Nov. 16: Aja LaDue; Jake Varner  
Nov. 18: Amanda Knopps  
Nov. 20: Melissa Norton; Stacie Smith  
Nov. 21: Katherine Sizemore  
Nov. 23: Susan Spicer  
Nov. 24: Joe Haynes; John Haynes  
Nov. 25: Jules Maanum  
Nov. 26: Tammy Gross  
Nov. 27: Kevin Booth; Joy Froemsdorf  
Nov. 29: Tammy Wheat; Norah Toomire  
Nov. 30: Gene Franklin

**Anniversaries:**

Nov. 7: Mike & Mary Jones  
Nov. 22: Cameron & Jeannie Brown

Nov. 27: Charles & Canda Kandt; Pastor & Gloria Schulz

Nov. 28: John & Sharon Mueller; Randy & Joy Witt

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