



First Hearts March 2023

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

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



From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Sitting here in my hospital room, I can't help but meditate on the meaning and purpose of Lent.

We are being called to be like John the Baptist who declared while in prison to the last of his disciples, "He must increase, but I must decrease." We experience this decreasing already on Ash Wednesday. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Thus we begin our 40 days of fasting. We fast from food, and pleasures of this world to spend more time in prayer, devotions, killing our old selves daily in baptismal contrition and repentance, and being raised in Absolution.

On the First Sunday in Lent we are comforted by the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. He goes out to do battle against the tempter on the tempter's grounds. 40 days of fasting, prayer and devotion. He fought off the devil's attacks where we would give in.

The next two weeks we will see the same temptations again, but in a different way. For example, in the Second Sunday in Lent, we see the Canaanite woman's steadfastness of faith for the salvation of her daughter's flesh. On the Third Sunday in Lent we have temptations of the world being conquered by Jesus in His teaching of a house divided not standing.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent we have the feeding of the five thousand. In the wilderness alone, Jesus refused to turn stones into bread. Now, in this Psalm 23-like wilderness, Jesus joyfully multiplies bread and fish to feed others.

Jesus is the One who sees us through Lent. He brings us through this "valley of the shadow of death." He will never leave nor forsake you. He proves it the end of our Lenten journey by His Good Friday death and Easter resurrection for sinners, for you.

Pastor Ed



Weekly Events

Sunday - Divine Service 9:30 am; Sunday School & Bible Study following
Wednesday - Spoken Divine Service 6:30pm

Board Happenings

3/14 - School Board 6:00pm
3/14 - Board of Elders 7:00pm
3/21 - Planning Council 6:30pm

Other Church Activities

3/4 - Men's Bible Study 8:30am
3/18 - Men's Bible Study
3/19 - Youth 12:00pm
3/25 - LWML Lenten Tea 10:00am

School Activities

3/5 - ECE age 3 through 8th grade sing at First Lutheran Church Service to kick off National Lutheran Schools Week
3/6 - 3/10 - National Lutheran Schools Week
3/30 - Drama Performance of The Wizard of Oz 6pm

	Mar. 5	Second S. in Lent (Reminiscere)	Gen. 32:22–32	Psalm 121	1 Thess. 4:1–7 <i>or</i> Rom. 5:1–5	Matt. 15:21–28
	Mar. 12	Third S. in Lent (Oculi)	Ex. 8:16–24 <i>or</i> Jer. 26:1–15	Psalm 136:1–16 <i>or</i> Psalm 4	Eph. 5:1–9	Luke 11:14–28
	Mar. 19	Fourth S. in Lent (Laetare)	Ex. 16:2–21 <i>or</i> Isaiah 49:8–13	Psalm 132:8–18	Gal. 4:21–31 <i>or</i> Acts 2:41–47	John 6:1–15
	Mar. 26	Fifth S. in Lent (Judica)	Gen. 22:1–14	Psalm 43	Heb. 9:11–15	John 8:(42–45) 46–59

In Other News

Stewardship

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God’s grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus’ work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God’s Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn’t just remind us of the sufficiency of God’s spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

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 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.

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.

Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus' impact looms large over the entire Old Testament, yet many modern scholars doubt its very existence as a real historical event. All men are invited to watch and discuss *Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus*, an award-winning documentary that examines archeological evidence challenging the status quo and pointing to the reality of this defining moment in Israel's history. The six-session study begins January 7 at 8:30 am, continuing the first and third Saturdays of each month.

ICE BEARS! Join us for a night of fellowship and hockey as the Ice Bears take on the Macon Mayhem on Friday, March 24 at 7:35 PM. Tickets are \$16. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office or Melanie Bartholomay at 865-607-1629 or mlbartholomay@gmail.com by March 20th.

Chili Cookoff was a great success! I personally enjoyed the fellowship and chili discussion more than anything. There is nothing like sitting at a table with someone who "doesn't even like chili" and has 11 bowls with the initials of the brilliant chefs written on them. The opinions on colors, flavors, placement in the line and secret spices were riveting... And then it came time to cast votes, with a hopeful look that Pastor wouldn't see me put my vote in someone else's bucket, I dropped a check in a basket. The children were eagerly awaiting the results and maybe raiding mom's purse to throw another buck towards the cause, all the while trying to persuade eager voters... In the end, the roof was the big winner with \$2,682.67. But, if you want to know how it really played out...

- 1 - Joe LaDue
- 2 - Seth Nutter
- 3 - Doc Sternberg
- 4 - Pastor Maanum
- 5 - Greg Buckner
- 6 - Jered Sprecher
- 7 - Larry Magnon
- 8 - Kevin Booth
- 9 - John Mueller

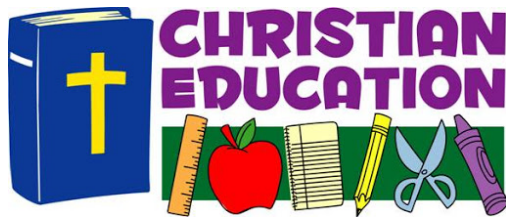
10 - Matt Sanderson

11 - Jon Eimmerman

Following the constitution and bylaws outlined in God's word, Matthew 18:15-17, Corey Mahler is under church discipline for unrepentant sin.

July 2022 - January 2023

Income	Actual	Budget
Total Church	\$242,202.76	\$234,229.05
Total School	\$637,755.28	\$616,775.07
Total Income	\$879,968.04	\$851,004.12
Expenses		
Total Church Expenses	\$208,190.01	\$205,494.38
Total School Expenses	\$600,772.36	\$630,320.67
Total Expenses	\$808,962.37	\$835,815.05
Net Operating Income	\$ 71,005.67	\$ 15,189.07
Net Income	\$ 71,005.67	\$ 15,189.07



News from First Lutheran School National Lutheran Schools Week



National Lutheran Schools Week provides our network of more than 1,800 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness

of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

Our school will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools week March 6-10, 2023. We have several fun and engaging activities for our students to participate in throughout the week. We hope you will enjoy student participation in our Divine Service on Sunday, March 5, artwork displayed throughout the school, and seeing all the fun activities on our school Facebook page.

As always, we want to thank you for your continued support of the school!

Hope and blessings,
Jessie Irwin, Principal



Birthdays:

Mar. 1: Kris Weaver
Mar. 4: Don Froemsdorf
Mar. 6: Michelle Breeden
Mar. 7: John Hofman; Andrew Lintz; Nicole Riffey; Mark Spangler
Mar. 10: Harley Cooper; John Schulz, Jr.
Mar. 12: Shelbie Bender
Mar. 14: Matthew Sizemore
Mar. 18: Sharon Lee
Mar. 20: Christian Eimmerman
Mar. 21: Doug Rodenbeck; Eleanor Wadsworth
Mar. 22: AnnMarie Bissell
Mar. 25: Riah Mitchell
Mar. 26: Allie Spangler
Mar. 27: Marion Samuel
Mar. 28: Jeffrey Laub
Mar. 29: Kristin Lintz
Mar. 31: Jon Eimmerman

Anniversaries:

Mar. 2: Rick & Michelle Breeden; Benny & Marion Samuel
Mar. 15: Mike & Shawna Anderson
Mar. 25: Roger & Melanie Bartholomay
Mar. 31: Larry & Karen Farris