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**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
MISSOURI SYNOD • KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



**First Hearts October 2025**

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**From the Pastor**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The death of nature all around us. Leaves are changing colors and falling from branches. Cooler nights and mornings. Days that grow shorter and shorter. For some, autumn is our favorite time of year. It's sweater weather, football season, Thanksgiving, and, of course, pumpkin everything. For others, autumn is a time of sadness. It is filled with loneliness, reminders of loss, and anxiety.

The Scriptures remind us that Jesus is with us during those times of want and loss. This month's assigned readings from Luke's Gospel draw our eyes to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. He keeps His promises. He answers our prayers.

- Jesus gives a warning to those who bring offense against those who belong to Him. Even though we are unworthy servants, Jesus answers our prayer to "increase our faith" (Luke 17:1-10).
- As Jesus cleansed the ten lepers, so Jesus has cleansed us from the leprosy of sin. We join the Samaritan in giving the highest praise, returning and receiving more of His gifts (Luke 17:11-19).
- There is the widow who is persistent in her crying out for vindication, which is the Church crying out for deliverance from her enemies (Luke 18:1-8)
- The violent try to take the kingdom of God by force, violence, and death. As John the Baptist was killed, so was Jesus. In His death, Jesus is enthroned as the King who has delivered us from sin (Mt 11:12-19).

Everything a pastor does comes not from himself, but from the promises of Jesus. Preaching the Word, administering His sacraments in times of joy and need. Christ comes to you in worship, in the hospital, in your home, and in private confession and absolution. Everything flows from Him, through Him, to Him, by Him.

If you are struggling with loss, loneliness, worry, or just need someone to listen, never hesitate to reach out. The Church isn't a place for the strong or for those who have life put together. The Church is only for sinners. We're talking about weary, broken, scared, and scarred sinners. You are never alone. Christ is with you.

As we celebrate the Reformation, remember what it was all about. It's all about Jesus. Jesus, who, in mercy and love, comes to you through His Word, incarnated on His altar, and giving you peace which the world cannot give.

In Christ's name,

Rev. Ed Maanum

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## Weekly Events

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

## Board Happenings

10/14 - School Board 6:00pm

10/20 - Board of Elders 6:00pm

10/21 - Planning Council 6:30pm

## Other Church Activities

10/4 - Men's Bible Study - 8:30am

10/12 - Young Adult Bible Study - 12:00pm

10/15 - Ladies' Bible Study - 5:45pm

10/18 - Men's Bible Study - 8:30am

10/19 - Youth Group - 12:00pm

10/29 - Ladies' Bible Study - 5:45pm

10/30 - LWML Meeting - 6:15pm

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	Oct. 5 (Prop. 22)	Seventeenth S. after Pentecost	Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalm 62	2 Tim. 1:1-14	Luke 17:1-10
	Oct. 12 (Prop. 23)	Eighteenth S. after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1-19a	Psalm 111	2 Tim. 2:1-13	Luke 17:11-19
	Oct. 19 (Prop. 24)	Nineteenth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 32:22-30	Psalm 121	2 Tim. 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
<b>REFORMATION</b>	Oct. 26 (observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	Matt. 11:12- 19 or John 8:31-36
	or (Prop. 25)	Twentieth S. after Pentecost	Gen. 4:1-15	Psalm 5	2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-17

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## In Other News

### Stewardship

#### Harmonious Stewardship

*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).*

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these

words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

**Gloria Schulz was privileged to attend the Mid-South District Pastors' Wives Retreat** on Sept. 12th, 13th, and 14th in Memphis, TN. Heather Cox from Hixson, TN drove here to join us as well as Christina Childers, associate pastor's wife from Grace Lutheran and Sarah Anderson, senior pastor's wife at Grace who drove us to Memphis and home on Sunday. On Fri. night, we had a bonfire and S'mores, and it was an evening of sharing and caring.

On Sat., the theme was "Lavish Love" which was presented by our guest speaker, Wendysue Fluegge for a special time of renewal and encouragement. She sang a text from Scripture namely Zephaniah 3:17(a song she wrote):

"The Lord your God is with you  
He is mighty to save  
He will take great delight in you  
He will rejoice over you in singing."

In the evening, we even did some line dancing.

On Sun. morning, we had a beautiful service with worship and communion. It was truly an inspiring weekend!!!

**LWML** is making Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits go all over the world to support people in their time of need. Join us on October 30 at 6:15 PM in the meeting room to assemble kits OR donate the components of a kit.

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended;

TWO bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz.

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

ONE sturdy comb

ONE metal nail clippers.

**Sunday School** - Just a reminder that we have Sunday School available from Pre-School through High School. We look forward to having you!

**Young Adult Bible Study** - please join us on the second Sunday of every month.

**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/>

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## **News from First Lutheran School**

### Lutheran Education

For Lutherans October is a special time of year and not just because of all the exciting Octoberfests that are happening (though those are fun too). October means Reformation and plenty of talk about our favorite reformer, Martin Luther. While Martin Luther's main claim to fame may be the changes he brought to religion in Europe, the reforms he brought to education are worth noting as well. There is a reason it was once a requirement of those wishing to start a Lutheran church that the congregation start a school as well.

At a time when only the wealthiest males were educated, Martin Luther had the radical notion that everyone, regardless of class or gender, should be educated. Not only would this allow greater opportunity, but

most importantly it allowed all people to study God's Word and be in the Word. Furthermore, Luther saw the necessity of education to strengthen the community and to provide for the future. Considering God's instructions to care for and educate children, Luther writes, "What would it profit us to possess and perform everything else and be like pure saints, if we meanwhile neglected our chief purpose in life, namely, the care of the young? I also think that in the sight of God none among the outward sins so heavily burdens the world and merits such severe punishment as this very sin which we commit against the children by not educating them."

In a pamphlet calling on governments of Germany to establish schools, Luther writes, "My dear sirs, if we have to spend such large sums every year on guns, roads, bridges, dams and countless similar items to insure the temporal peace and prosperity of a city, why should not much more be devoted to the poor neglected youth? A city's best and greatest welfare, safety and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable and well- educated citizens." Martin Luther understood that God's mission went beyond a single congregation or even a single generation. It was about being able to share the message of salvation with as many as possible.

With education children are not only able to grow in knowledge but more importantly, they are able to grow in faith. Therefore, it makes sense that education remains an important tenet of the Lutheran church with 1,885 schools across the nation sharing Christ's love with 200,000 students and their families. Additionally, at the beginning of October our teachers will be joining Lutheran teachers from around the country in St Louis for the Lutheran Educator Association Convocation. First Lutheran School is blessed to be part of this group and to be able to provide just such an education to our congregation and community.

If you are interested in providing additional support for Lutheran Education and First Lutheran you can contribute to our Annual Fund or Endowment fund.

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### **Birthdays:**

Oct. 1: Marc Blais; Aven Flanigan; Doug Huffman

Oct. 2: Larry Hood; David Rodenbeck

Oct. 7: Rick Breeden; Terrie Mahs

Oct. 9: Esther Heine

Oct. 13: Levi Gross

Oct. 16: Jenna Maanum; Pat Mueller

Oct. 18: Debbie Fettig; Christopher Yeatts

Oct. 19: Sydney Reed

Oct. 20: Anne Asquith; Lindsey Hofman

Oct. 21: Barry Lyke

Oct. 22: Ronnie Sanderson

Oct. 24: Pat Baxmann

Oct. 28: Jojo Maanum

Oct. 30: Thomas Wadsworth

Oct. 31: Archie Sircy

### **Anniversaries:**

Oct. 3: Clinton & Tammy Gross; Larry & Karla Hood

Oct. 9: Ron & Terrie Mahs

Oct. 18: Scott & Jennifer Sandie

Oct. 22: William & Lisa Wade

Oct. 24: Chuck & Diane Baum; Archie & Lisa Wolfe

Oct. 30: Doug & Brittany Huffman