


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
MISSOURI SYNOD • KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



First Hearts December 2025

1207 North Broadway Knoxville, TN 37917

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



From the Pastor

The Year of Living Liturgically

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Rejoice and celebrate, for we are in a new Year of Grace. Our church year moves in cycles of days, weeks, months, and seasons. It provides a structure for us and acts as a guide to living a full life.

The heart of that full life is a liturgical one. The center of a liturgical life is the Divine Service. Each week, our Congregation at Prayer insert provides you with the next Sunday's readings and hymns. I encourage you to read the texts on Saturday night. Let the text resonate in your mind before hearing it proclaimed on Sunday. This is especially helpful for those of us with little ones who bounce around in and around our pews.

During the week, take the daily readings, the hymn of the week, and the psalm back to your home altar. Begin and end your day in prayer. A good place to start is the one-page Morning, Noon, Early Evening or Close of Day services on pages 295-298 in our Lutheran Service Book. Start small. Do what you can. Add more later. Don't make it Law, for these devotions are times to be with God, and to rejoice in His gifts. The purpose is simple. Ken Korby said, "The altar at church leads to the altar at home. The altar at home leads to the altar at church."

Set aside a designated space in your home for these devotions. A table works great. Maybe light a candle or two. Put up an icon or a favorite painting or print of Jesus or a Bible story on the wall behind it. Keep this place special and dedicated to family worship time. No distractions. No phones. No technology. Just you and God.

To help with this, our weekly insert includes liturgical year information as well as saint and feast days. It acts as a framework in which memorials of faith are lived out day to day. Some days are for feasting and celebrating like Christmas and Easter. Some days are penitent and good for fasting as reminders that our bodily urges are not our masters like in Advent and Lent. Some days, we commemorate a saint or an event of God's faithfulness to every generation.

If you need ideas on how to incorporate older traditions into your life, the website All the Household (www.allthehousehold.com) has some excellent resources, including recipes and activities.

Living liturgically helps to shape us, to mold us, like potter's clay, into better versions of ourselves. I encourage you to start living this new year liturgically. Create a family prayer routine, memorize hymns together, and create your own family favorite feast meal traditions. Most of all, be strengthened by the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings,

Pastor Ed Maanum

Weekly Events

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

Additional Services

12/3 - Fellowship Meal 5:30pm; Advent Service 6:30pm (Confession available 5:30pm - 6:00pm)

12/10 - Fellowship Meal 5:30pm; Advent Service 6:30pm (Confession available 5:30pm - 6:00pm)

12/17 - Fellowship Meal 5:30pm; Advent Service 6:30pm (Confession available 5:30pm - 6:00pm)

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

12/25 - Christmas Day Service 9:30am

Board Happenings

12/9 - School Board 6:00pm

Other Church Activities

12/2 - Adult Confirmation Class 6:00pm

12/6 - Christkindlmarkt 4:00pm - 8:00pm

12/7 - Children's Christmas Program 10:45am

12/7 - Christkindlmarkt 1:00pm - 4:00pm

12/9 - Adult Confirmation Class 6:00pm

12/10 - Youth Confirmation 3:30pm

12/12 - Christmas Program 6:00pm

12/13 - Youth Confirmation 9:00am

12/14 - Young Adult Bible Study 12:00pm

12/14 - Advent by Candlelight 5:00pm

12/16 - Adult Confirmation Class 6:00pm

12/17 - Youth Confirmation 3:30pm

12/19 - Men's fellowship - Knoxville Ice Bears game

12/20 - Youth Confirmation 9:00am

12/21 - Youth 12:00pm

12/21 - Soup and Carol Sing 5:30pm

	Dec. 7	Second S. in Advent	Isaiah 11:1–10	Psalm 72:1–7	Rom. 15:4–13	Matt. 3:1–12
	Dec. 14	Third S. in Advent	Isaiah 35: 1–10	Psalm 146	James 5:7–11	Matt. 11:2–15
	Dec. 21	Fourth S. in Advent	Isaiah 7:10–17	Psalm 24	Rom. 1:1–7	Matt. 1:18–25
	Dec. 24	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Isaiah 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2025	Dec. 25	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Midnight)</i>	Isaiah 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
		The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Dawn)</i>	Isaiah 62:10–12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
		The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Isaiah 52:7–10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 28	First S. after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7–14	Psalm 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Matt. 2:13–23
	or	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Jer. 31:15–15	Psalm 54	Rev. 14:1–5	Matt. 2:13–18
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus <i>(New Year's Eve)</i>	Isaiah 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalm 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

In Other News

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.

Introducing the GermanFest Christkindlmarkt: A New Holiday Tradition!



Now accepting
vendor
applications

Christkindlmarkt

Gifts Crafts Decor Food

December 6, 4-8 pm | December 7, 1-4 pm

We have exciting news! Due to the tremendous success of our annual GermanFest, we are thrilled to announce a significant expansion of our fundraising efforts: the inaugural GermanFest Christkindlmarkt! This festive German Christmas market is designed for all ages and is set to become a wonderful new tradition for our First Lutheran family and the wider community.

What is the Christkindlmarkt?

- **German Inspired Christmas Market:** The Christkindlmarkt is a festive holiday market designed to bring the magic of German Christmas traditions right here to Knoxville.
- **Unique Partnership:** We are presenting this market in conjunction with the prestigious 35th Annual Old North Knoxville Victorian Holiday Home Tour. They will sell tickets at the market and First Lutheran Church will showcase the beautiful sanctuary on the tour this year.
- **What to Expect:** Stroll through vendor booths to find unique holiday treasures, enjoy delicious homemade treats, and sip on classic German holiday drinks as you soak up the festive ambiance.
- **Open to All:** Everyone is welcome to join this magical holiday experience—a Home Tour ticket is not required to enjoy the Christkindlmarkt!

How First Lutheran Families Can Help

As a First Lutheran family, your support is invaluable. Here are some ways you can help.

- **Silent Auction Donations (Funds):** We welcome any and all monetary donations which will be used to purchase high-quality silent auction items, ensuring a successful bidding event.
- **Silent Auction Donations (Items & Services):** We are actively seeking donations of specialty services or curated gift baskets. If you or your company offers a unique product or service that aligns well with the holiday season, please consider donating it to our auction!
- **Volunteers:** We need dedicated help to set up, work minimal shifts and clear and pack everything away after the event. Here is a sign up genius link for all shifts needed.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4BABAD2BA5FF2-60383833-germanfest>

We sincerely hope this new event creates excitement and provides vital funds for our entire school and church family. Please reach out to Lindsey Hofman (lhofman@firstlutheranschool.com) or Jessyca Williams (jessyca@greenthumbdiy.com) to help or donate in any way you can!

www.germanfestknoxville.com

Contacts for Donations and Volunteering:

- Lindsey Hofman (lhofman@firstlutheranschool.com)
- Jessyca Williams (jessyca@greenthumbdiy.com)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4BABAD2BA5FF2-60383833-germanfest>

There will be a Men's fellowship event on Friday, December 19 at the Ice Bears game. If you are interested in joining, please let John Hofman know. Tickets will be around \$20-\$30, depending on the number of participants.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 7th during the Sunday School hour. The children wanting to participate will practice Saturday, December 6th 10am-11am. If you have any questions, please see Susan Rodenbeck or Kari McClanahan.

Advent by Candlelight - Sunday, Dec 14 - 5:00pm in the Meeting Room. Ladies of First, please join us for an evening of fellowship as we await Jesus' birth. Let us know you'll be attending by signing the sheet on the bulletin board (by the mailboxes) or via the LWML Group Me app. Please bring your favorite treat to share (sweet/savory, large/small, food/drink - whatever works for you). Looking forward to a lovely LWML evening.

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/>



News from First Lutheran School

Making the Advent and Christmas Season Memorable

We hear it again and again: Christmas just isn't what it used to be.

Between the whirlwind of shopping, packed schedules, and endless to-dos, it's easy to forget what the season is really about. As educators, parents, and family members, how do we help our children find joy in the holidays while keeping their hearts focused on the true meaning of Christmas? Here are a few ideas to help you navigate the busy season with purpose and peace.

Children's Christmas Programs

Whether it's the Sunday School performance at church or a program like the one we host here at FLS, nothing captures the spirit of Christmas quite like hearing children proclaim the story of Jesus' birth in song and verse. Their voices have a way of softening even the grumpiest Grinch and bringing hearts back to the manger.

Stay Home and Slow Down

You don't need Pinterest-perfect plans. Turn on a Christmas movie, pop some popcorn, make hot cocoa (the kind from a packet is fine) and relax. Not everything needs to be a production. The mugs don't have to match, and you don't need an elaborate charcuterie tray. Simply enjoy time with your family. If movies aren't your thing, try board games. Whatever you choose, turn off the phones and tablets and tune in to one another.

Hands-On Jesus

Make sure your children have access to a nativity set they can move and explore. The fancy, delicate ones may be beautiful, but allowing children to rearrange shepherds, animals, and wise men helps make the story come alive as you read Luke 2 or one of the many picture books that share the account of Christ's birth.

Family Devotions

There are many wonderful Advent devotionals designed for families, some with simple activities or ornament ideas. I personally love the devotions on the Jesse Tree. Whatever you choose, taking time each day, or even once a week, to read, reflect, and pray together brings a peace that only Jesus can provide.

Blast Those Carols

In the car on the way to school or in the kitchen while making dinner, sing hymns or even fun secular songs. A family that sings together smiles together!

As we enter this season of hustle and bustle, pause, take a breath, and remember that it is often the unscripted moments that make the greatest impact.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas.



Birthdays:

- Dec. 3: Jeannie Brown; Vicki Broyles
- Dec. 4: Diane Baum; Mary Jones
- Dec. 5: Abby Wheat
- Dec. 7: Arthur Heine
- Dec. 8: Zachary Blais; Melinda Busch; Cullum Mitchell
- Dec. 9: Branson Holton; Deuce LaDue
- Dec. 10: Martin Heine; Linda Perrine; Justin Turner
- Dec. 17: Robert Boatman
- Dec. 18: Joshua Rodenbeck
- Dec. 19: Howard Rash
- Dec. 20: Samuel Witt
- Dec 24: Stephanie Johnson
- Dec. 25: Kara Sircy
- Dec. 26: Doc Sternberg
- Dec. 28: Louisa Nutter; Gloria Schulz
- Dec. 29: Lillie LaDue
- Dec. 31: Carlyle Roth

Anniversaries:

- Dec. 10: Maurice & Kari McClanahan
- Dec. 16: Chuck & Diane Baum; Matthew & Katherine Sizemore
- Dec. 27: Ed & JoAnn Niedens