

ATTENDANCE: July 26-Aug 1	
Sunday Worship	81
Sunday School	16
Mid-Week Studies	
• Wed. Morning Bible Class	10
• Wed Evening Class –	13
• Thursday am Zoom.....	8
• Thursday pm Zoom	10
BUDGET Status: As of July 31	
Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$ 3,980.00
Total Budget Receipts to date:	\$ 174,901.71
Actual Budget Expenses:	\$ 162,437.02
Net Operating Revenue:	\$ 12,658.00
Ratio of Receipts to Expenses:	107.67%
July 26 Noisy Offering (\$53.06) . . Current total	\$ 729.30
Noisy Offering recipients: <i>Choices Resource Center, Paradox Teen Ctr, Free Medical Clinic , Faith Quilters, FLC LWM, Venezuela Lutheran Mission</i> in equal shares.	

Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN, will celebrate their 75th anniversary on October 18th. Pastor Marty Nutter was a child of this congregation and has invited everyone to join the celebration. A banquet will follow the 10:30 service. Reservations need to be made by Sept 20 with an email to faithsecretary@lighttube.net

Agnus Day



Congregational News

You have almost certainly received birthday and/or anniversary cards from “Faith Lutheran Church.” Jill Wilson has maintained this **greeting card ministry** for the past four years, but she is no longer able to continue. We are looking for one or more people to continue this valuable ministry. The church can purchase the cards and you will get a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries (average of 8 birthdays and 5 anniversaries.) Most of the cards can be put in the narthex mailboxes, but cards for the shut-ins need to be mailed.

The **Elders will meet this Monday, Aug 3**, at 6:00pm. If you have business for the Elders, see your Elder or Logan Kearney, the team secretary.

This Week: Aug 3 – 5, Prof David Lewis will discuss [Reading and Preaching the Gospel of Mark](#) at Wartburg. This will be valuable for both pastors and lay people. Sessions meet from 9:00am to 3:00pm and you are welcome to drop in for a session or two even if you didn’t register for the whole seminar.

The 10:00am Wednesday morning Bible Class will not meet this week due to the Prof Insights course at Wartburg.

The Board of Directors will meet this Thursday, Aug 6, at 6:30pm in room 224. If you have business for the BOD, see Emma Clark, or come to the meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Jill Wilson has started collecting unused Christmas cards so we can send Christmas Cards to our deployed military and vets. We need to start early on this project as it takes time and the cards must be sent off early. We plan to have a table at our October Fest for those that wish to fill these out and will probably schedule other times as well. Thank you so much. Jill

Summer Book Study is back! Pastor Lefort is leading a study of C.S. Lewis’ *Space Trilogy*. This is a masterful blend of speculative fiction and Christian apologetics. We have just started and you can still get full value.

GermanFest is coming to Knoxville August 22 from 11:00am to 8:00pm. First Lutheran Church and school is sponsoring this exciting event with German food, fun, and frivolity. We have a few free admission tickets and there is more information on the narthex bulletin board.

August 2026

Ψ Holy Communion
is celebrated on the
1st, 3rd and 5th
Sundays of the
month.

Church Office Hours:
Mon & Tues 9:00am – Noon
Thurs & Fri.....9:00am - Noon

Sermons can be found at
www.FaithOakRidge.com
Recordings are available
through the church office

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Service ₪ 11:30 AM Coffee Hour	Aug 3 9:00 AM Prof Insights: The Gospel of Mark at Wartburg 6:00 PM Elders Meeting	Aug 4 9:00 AM Prof Insights: The Gospel of Mark at Wartburg 10:00 AM Men's Prayer Group	Aug 5 9:00 AM Prof Insights: The Gospel of Mark at Wartburg 6:00 PM Book Study	Aug 6 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 1:00 PM Caregiver Support Group 6:30 PM B.O.D. Meeting	Aug 7 6:00 PM Theology on Tap	Aug 8 10:00 AM Confessions Study
Aug 9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Matins	Aug 10 10:00 AM Quilters	Aug 11 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	Aug 12 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Book Study	Aug 13 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class	Aug 14	Aug 15
Aug 16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Divine Service ₪	Aug 17 10:00 AM Women's Prayer Group	Aug 18 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Men's Prayer Group	Aug 19 10:00 AM Bible Class; Missionary Here 6:00 PM Book Study	Aug 20 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 1:00 PM Caregiver Support Group 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class	Aug 21	Aug 22 10:00 AM Confessions Study 11:00 AM Germanfest Knoxville; First Lutheran
Aug 23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Matins	Aug 24 10:00 AM Quilters	Aug 25 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	Aug 26 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Book Study	Aug 27 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Class 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Class	Aug 28	Aug 29 6:00 PM Game Night



BIRTHDAYS

Aug 1 - Jim Evers	Aug 15 - Curt Goff
Aug 3 - John Aperans	Aug 20 - Natalie Paret
Aug 3 - Joshua Smith (1 yr)	Aug 20 - Bonnie Smith
Aug 5 - Russel Langley	Aug 25 - Leon Cochran
Aug 5 - Karen Stevenson	Aug 25 - Jill Wilson
Aug 6 - Rachelle Nelson	Aug 29 - George Smith
Aug 8 - L.G. Noe	Aug 29 - Chelsea Stenvig
Aug 10 - Brigitte Hall	Aug 31 - Linda Kerekes
Aug 11 - Cynthia Kangas	Aug 31 - Bonnie Saupp
Aug 14 - Ryan Scott	



- ♥ Aug 6 - Ron and Jill Wilson
- ♥ Aug 19 - Tom and Joan Vicary 54 yrs
- ♥ Aug 29 - Kurt and Emma Daniels 6 yrs
- ♥ Aug 31 - Leon and Douglas Cochran 10 yrs



Faith in Action

August 2026

St. Athanasius - On the Incarnation

Part One: Creation and Divine Justice

In June we introduced the character of Athanasius, but what really makes him important is what he wrote. As Lewis wrote in his preface to *On the Incarnation*, the Fathers' writings are both profound and accessible—and that is certainly the case with this little 68-page book. It is part two of a two-part book (the first part, is called *Against the Gentiles*), and in it he seeks to explain why the Word of God put on flesh to suffer and die.

One of the beauties of this work is that, as it lays out the foundation of our Christian faith, it's not really *Athanasius'* ideas but simply what he has received from the Christian community in Alexandria. Athanasius is young here, perhaps just 20 years old, seven years before the Arian controversy. As the translator puts it, "It is a statement of the traditional faith of the Catholic Church; and there is, in a sense, nothing of Athanasius in it, for the wonder of the mystery fills all the picture and leaves no room for the author to obtrude himself."

We will look at Athanasius' *On the Incarnation* in three parts, beginning with creation and God's dilemma after the Fall.

In the peace ✝ of Christ,
Pastor Lefort

[We know, of course, that God is our creator, and that the Father created all things through the Word: "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). But why did the Word, the Son of God, have to become flesh and die? Athanasius writes:]

"He has not assumed a body as [if it were] proper to His own [Divine] nature—far from it!—for as the Word He is without body. He has been manifested in a human body for this reason only, out of the love and goodness of His Father, for the salvation of us men. We will begin, then, with the creation of the world and with God its Maker, for the first fact that you must grasp is this: *the renewal of creation has been wrought by the Self-same Word Who made it in the beginning*. There is thus no inconsistency between creation and salvation; for the One Father has employed the same Agent for both works, effecting the salvation of the world through the same Word Who made it in the beginning." (1)

"He made all things out of nothing through His own Word, our Lord Jesus Christ; and of all these His earthly creatures He reserved especial mercy for the race of men. Upon them, therefore, upon men who, as animals, were essentially impermanent, He bestowed a grace which other creatures lacked—namely, the impress of His own Image, a share in the reasonable (Gk:

Message from Pastor, continued

Himself, so that, reflecting Him and themselves becoming reasonable and expressing the Mind of God even as He does, though in limited degree, they might continue for ever in the blessed and only true life of the saints in paradise... He set them in His own paradise, and laid upon them a single prohibition. If they guarded the grace and retained the loveliness of their original innocence, then the life of paradise should be theirs, without sorrow, pain or care, and after it the assurance of immortality in heaven. But if they went astray and became vile, throwing away their birthright of beauty, then they would come under the natural law of death and live no longer in paradise, but, dying outside of it, continue in death and in corruption.” (3)

“The presence and love of the Word had called them into being; inevitably, therefore, when they lost the knowledge of God, they lost existence with it; for it is God alone Who exists. Evil is non-being, the negation and antithesis of good.” (4)

[This leaves God with a dilemma:]

“It would, of course, have been unthinkable that God should go back upon His word and that man, having transgressed, should not die; but it was equally monstrous that beings which once had shared the nature of the Word should perish and turn back again into non-existence through corruption... What then was God, being Good, to do?” (6)

“For this purpose, then, the incorporeal and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered our world. In one sense, indeed, He was not far from it before, for no part of creation had ever been without Him Who, while ever abiding in union with the Father, yet fills all things that are. But now He entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us... He, the Mighty One, the Artificer of all, Himself prepared this body in the virgin as a temple for Himself, and took it for His very own, as the instrument through which He was known and in which He dwelt.” (8)

“The Word perceived that corruption could not be got rid of otherwise than through death; yet He Himself, as the Word, being immortal and the Father's Son, was such as could not die. For this reason, therefore, He assumed a body capable of death, in order that it, through belonging to the Word Who is above all, might become in dying a sufficient exchange for all, and, itself remaining incorruptible through His indwelling, might thereafter put an end to corruption for all others as well, by the grace of the resurrection. It was by surrendering to death the body which He had taken, as an offering and sacrifice free from every stain, that He forthwith abolished death for His human brethren by the offering of the equivalent. For naturally, since the Word of God was above all, when He offered His own temple and bodily instrument as a substitute for the life of all, He fulfilled in death all that was required. Naturally also, through this union of the immortal Son of God with our human nature, all men were clothed with incorruption in the promise of the resurrection. For the solidarity of mankind is such that, by virtue of the Word's indwelling in a single human body, the corruption which goes with death has lost its power over all.” (9)

[Next month: Part Two, the Renewal of the Image]

OUR WORK FOR THE LORD – August 2026

August 2
10:30am
Elder of the Week.....Darrell Bultman
Communion Elder.....Darrell Bultman
Communion Usher.....Canik/Noe
A-V Technician Bret and Debra Cole
Lay ReaderJohn Aperans
Offering ReaderCarol Noe
Offering Recorder Emma Clark

August 16
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Logan Kearney
Communion Elder..... Logan Kearney
Communion Usher.....Bertels/Downes
A-V Technician Ken Kaiser
Lay ReaderLuke Bertels
Offering ReaderCarol Noe
Offering Recorder Emma Clark

August 30
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Alan Kerekes
Communion Elder..... Alan Kerekes
Communion Usher..... Goff/Woody
A-V Technician Ken Kaiser
Lay Reader Linda Kerekes
Offering ReaderCarol Noe
Offering Recorder Emma Clark

August 9
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Merry Ann Hansen
Communion ElderN/A
Communion Usher.....N/A
A-V Technician..... Ruben Popa
Lay Reader.....Emma Clark
Offering Reader..... Carol Noe
Offering Recorder.....Emma Clark

August 23
10:30am
Elder of the Week..... Jane Miniard
Communion ElderN/A
Communion Usher..... N/a
A-V Technician.....Bret and Debra Cole
Lay Reader..... Margaret Woody
Offering Reader..... Carol Noe
Offering Recorder.....Emma Clark

Special Service(s)
Elder of the Week.....
Communion Elder
Communion Usher.....
A-V Technician.....
Lay Reader.....
Offering Reader.....
Offering Recorder.....Emma Clark