



# First Impressions

Worship God, strengthen His people, and reach out  
with the Love of Christ

Volume 17 Issue 1

January 2010

## Desires of the Heart

**“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him” – Matthew 2:1-2**

When we read the story of the Magi and their encounter with Herod soon after the birth of Jesus (Matt 2:1-12) we learn much about desires of the heart. The surface desire of the Magi was to find “the one born King of the Jews.” Our text also tells us the Magi’s primary desire - “we have come to worship Him” (Mt. 2:2). By contrast, Herod’s “surface” desire was to find the “one born King of the Jews”. His secondary desire, as we well know, was to kill the baby Jesus and ... primarily speaking, he wanted to remain king. The evil desire of his heart “troubled all Jerusalem” for they were well aware of his cruel hand.

Today, we can find ourselves in the midst of the “Herod desires” can we not? Trying not to get caught up in them is a constant battle and we sinners, often times, find ourselves loosing that battle. We try to escape the consequences of our actions or trying to get something that we cannot get with the truth. We get caught up in the lies of the devil. We push the truth aside and when we do that, we push our Jesus aside. It is here that we come face to face with the desire of Herod and the desire of God.

I know you hear pastors speak constantly of “remembering your baptism”. We do so because it is the reflection of what Jesus has done for and continually does for you. It is your strength for the day. It is the assurance that your Savior is constantly with you and never gives up on you. It is the one sure hope in an uncertain and troubled world. In the new life of our Baptism our desires become the desires of the Magi. The Holy Spirit drives us to seek and find our Jesus as he reveals himself to us in His Word, in worship and in His supper that He serves us with His own body and blood.

We live in a world that tends to reflect its desires of the heart in very cruel and self serving ways ... ways that can be harsh and even violent. The time of Epiphany reminds us of our loving Father and His desires for us – His very own eternal love and saving presence. Our Epiphany confidence is found in Christ Jesus alone who gently tells us, “I came that that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10b).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may your lives be filled with reminders of the abundant life Christ has given you and may the Holy Spirit move you to share that love with those around you.

In Christ love – Pastor Tom

Paraphrased from parts of a sermon entitled “Manifested Desires by Rev. Mark W. Love - CPH



TIM ALLEN – 3<sup>RD</sup>  
 TERRY LEPP – 5<sup>TH</sup>  
 WILSON WHITTINGTON – 6<sup>TH</sup>  
 LILLIAN WHITE – 11<sup>TH</sup>  
 MATHEW GRUND - 17<sup>TH</sup>

TEAGAN SHIFLETT - 19<sup>TH</sup>  
 DONNA SPEEGLE – 21<sup>ST</sup>  
 STAN WEIR – 22<sup>ND</sup>  
 LASHANDA CURRY – 27<sup>TH</sup>  
 AMIE CAHILL – 31<sup>ST</sup>

**Voters' Meeting**

**VOTERS MEETING**

**We will be having a voters' meeting to hopefully approve the church budget for 2010. Please attend this meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2009 after the 10:15 AM worship service.**



What a better way to start the New Year than with a 5th-Sunday-of-the-month Fellowship Dinner. Please join us on Sunday, January 31st for a potluck dinner after the 10:15 AM worship service. Bring your favorite dish (maybe some chili!) and yourself and we will meet and eat in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.

Check out the full set of The People's Bible Commentary -

Pastor Tom highly recommends it.

Dear Members of First/Emmanuel Lutheran,

Our school is mindful this season of the gift you have given us by making room for us so generously. Thank you for offering us the love of Christ as we walk your halls and fill your classrooms during the week.

We are grateful with you for the light and life of Christ this Advent,

Melanie



# WORSHIP WORKERS



## FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

### Children's Church –

- January 3 - Julie Cvengros
- January 10 - Kate Cahill
- January 17 - Carol Lackey
- January 24 - Myra Grund
- January 31 - Kate Cahill

### Readers:

- January 3 - Toby Cahill
- January 10 - Ray Hunter
- January 17 - Krista Wanat
- January 24 - Wilson Whittington
- January 31 - Donna Speegle

**Altar Guild:** ???

**Candles:** ???

### Communion Assistants:

- January - Charlie Hayes

**Ushers:** Victoria Sisson, Graham Sisson,  
Pat Ryan, David Ryan

### Worship Assistant:s:

- January - Jim Campbell

**Nursery:** Meg Callahan

**Harvest** - Graham and Victoria Sisson go through the Bible one chapter at a time.

**Small Group** - Topical Bible study for a limited number of participants taught by Rachel Mudd.

**Adult Bible Study** - General Bible study taught by Mike Grund.

### Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes:

**Pre-School** - for kids 2-5 years old who cannot read.

**Early Elementary** - for kids in 1st - 3rd grade with limited reading skills.

**Upper Elementary** - for kids in 4th - 5th grade.

**Middle School** - for youth in 6th - 8th grade.



**Retirement Home:** Dorothy Adair, Annie Harrell

**Recovering:** Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer, Leo Perry, Hildegard Wesson, David Cybul & Bernie Cybul (Krista Wanats' brother & Father), and Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother).

**Mourning:** Anna Schmidt (mother of Becky Schultz), and Major Jeff Graham, USAF (friend of Joel Lackey).

**Illness:** Corrine Donahoo, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor).

**Missionaries:** Meg Tumbleson (China), Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

**Members who have lost their jobs.**



January 3 - Poinsettias

January 10 - Poinsettias

# JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>30 6:00 PM NO Prayer Team Meeting</p>	<p>31 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>1 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>3 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>4 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>5 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>7 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>8 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>9 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>10 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>14 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>15 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>16 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>17 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>22 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>23 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>24 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>29 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>31 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM 5th Sunday Potluck 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>1 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>2 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>3 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>4 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>5 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>



## **Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary in India**

### **Financial Needs:**

Pastor Average costs \$125/month \$1500/annually  
Living expenses and school

Moriah School and Children's Home  
50 Children in the Home \$35/month per child cost of living

400-450 Children in School  
The children from the community pay for school on a sliding scale.

\$3000 - \$3500 / month to run Moriah Children's Home and Day School ,  
home, education and teacher salaries - overhead

They are looking to purchase equipment for \$10,000 that can produce bricks used to build churches and also can provide a living for several men – who could eventually sell the bricks in the community for other building needs.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help our brothers and sisters in  
India.

Addressed Envelopes are on the table at the back of the church.



## **First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Adults  
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service  
Communion Service 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

## **First Lutheran Church**

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### **Church Staff**

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January 2010

Non Profit  
Organization  
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Birmingham, AL  
Permit No. 2725