



First Impressions

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

Volume 17 Issue 3

March 2010

At His Feet ... At His Table

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." – Luke 5:20

The house was at capacity ... standing room only. Those not able to squeeze in strained to catch a glimpse through the doorway. They were there to see Jesus who was teaching a crowd. But one man in particular could not get into the house. He could not peer over heads. He could not even stand. He was paralyzed.

Yet he and his four friends were determined to see Jesus. So his friends clambered up to the roof. They removed the tiles and then the thatching, enough to fit their friend through. Using the mat upon which he was lying, they lowered him down - **right at the feet of Jesus!**

Some might call them crazy. Others might say they were obsessed. Jesus called it faith. The paralyzed man and his friends were confident that Jesus was able to make him whole. And Jesus did with five small words: "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

It's not what many in the crowd expected to hear. It may not be the answer you want to hear when paralyzed with problems. We want real answers for our real problems. We want a cure for cancer. We want an end to family fights. We want money to cover our debts.

What about the problem of death? Death is the debt that we all must pay. But death is only the beginning. God's judgment upon sin lasts forever - in hell. That's what we deserve for thinking we have better answers than God does for life's problems.

God's answer? Jesus. God loves you so much he transferred your debt to his Son. On the cross, Jesus suffered for your sin. For you he endured hell's eternal fire. For you he died. And for you he rose to life victorious. His victory is your victory!

The paralyzed man's most critical problem was sin. So Jesus forgave him. Then, to prove to us that he is the perfect Son of God and the world's perfect Savior with the perfect answer to all our troubles, Jesus restored the man's legs. The man got up and walked home, praising God.

Have you been brought low? Troubled by sin? Each time we open our Bibles, we learn more and more of the forgiveness given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. We learn about and praise the miraculous Savior – our Jesus. His body and blood cleanses us of all our sins ... even those sins that we feel are unforgiveable. You are forgiven! By His power delivered in Word and Sacrament, He lifts us poor, miserable sinners back on our feet just like the lame man lowered through the roof and He does so freely and without hesitation. Remain in God's Holy Word. Receive His forgiveness and renewing strength often in His body and blood. We certainly need it. Remember, whatever your woes, Jesus is the answer every time!

Dearest Jesus, thank you for forgiving me ... time and time again. Amen.

Your shepherd and brother in Christ,
Pastor Tom



Mike Grund 3rd
Dolores Goehler 4th
Wayne Speegle 11th

Cecil Jefferson 23rd
Evelyn Krueger 23rd
Leone Boehme 26th
Tal Shiflett 29th

GREG & KRISTA WANAT 3/9/96
GLEN & PAT THOMPSON 3/17/73
PAUL & RACHEL NORRIS 3/19/05



Mid-week Lenten Services began on Wednesday, February 17 with Ash Wednesday and will continue for the next five weeks. Each week, one or more of the Boards will be hosting a "soup supper" before the evening worship service. If you would like to help, please contact a member of the Church Council.

"Soup Supper" - 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM



Schedule Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 28, 2010– Palm Sunday
10:15 AM Worship

Thursday, April 1, 2010 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM Communion Service

Friday, April 2, 2010 – Good Friday
7:00 Tenebrae Service



Easter Celebration!

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

7:30 AM – Sunrise Service

8:15 AM – Pancake Breakfast

10:15 AM – Worship Service

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- March 7 - Julie Cvenegros
- March 14 - Kate Cahill
- March 21 - Carol Lackey
- March 28 - Myra Grund

Readers:

- March 7 - Donna Speegle
- March 14 - Krista Wanat
- March 21 - Wilson Whittington
- March 28 - Toby Cahill

Altar Guild: Carol Lackey & Kate Cahill

Candles: Pat Ryan

Communion Assistant: Jim Campbell

Ushers: Mike Twiss, Jim Campbell, Wilson Whittington, Mike Grund

Worship Assistant: Charlie Hayes

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: Annie Harrell, Leona Boehme

Recovering: Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer, Hildegard Wesson, and Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother).

Mourning: Dorothy Adair, Leo Perry, 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).

Pregnancy: Sandra Heidecker

Missionaries: Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).


Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military: Former member, Walt Mattil in Afghanistan.



*Glen & Pat
Thompson in honor of
their wedding
anniversary on the
17th.*

MARCH 2010

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	 <p>8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting 11:30 AM Youth Spaghetti Dinner 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 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM Lenten Dinner 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 6:30 PM Lenten Service</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 Overseas 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>
7	<p>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>8</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>10 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM Lenten Dinner 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>11 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>12 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overseas Anonymous @ First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>13 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
14	<p>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>15</p>	<p>16 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>17 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM Lenten Dinner 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 6:30 PM Lenten Service 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>19 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overseas Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>20 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
21	<p>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>22</p>	<p>23 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>24 6:30 PM - 6:20 PM Lenten Dinner 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 6:30 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>25 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>26 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overseas Anonymous @ First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>27 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
28	<p>8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Palm Sunday Worship 11:30 AM Congregation Fellowship Meeting 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>31 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>1 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>2 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overseas Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>

First In



I'm so sorry I have been lax at getting out another update. I did know that Nathan and Cheryl had moved and wasn't sure how else to connect with you. So thank you for contacting me.

I am home now, and in good timing. After prayerful consideration, I felt God leading to come home in August. It was a good time to be home with the family, and can say now, that God's timing is perfect. My older brother had some health issues this last fall, and two weeks ago, passed away from a seizure. It's been a hard time for all of us, but I know that I know that God is sovereign over all things and this is not a surprise to Him. My brother Steve had not claimed the Christian faith, but I know God was wooing him, and Steve was finally starting to respond. If I had been in China, I would not have been able to share my witness with him the way I did.

In the meantime, I'm hopeful of future opportunities to serve overseas, especially in China. At this current time, I'm going back to school for certification as a veterinary technician. It's something I hope to be able to use on the field, ministering to other missionaries, and taking care of their pets. (Other ideas that this training would prepare me for return to the field is working with medical professionals in human/ animal contagions, or creating a platform in working with wildlife refuges and international zoos.) It's a 2 year program and I'm thriving with the challenge.

In this year, I have a short summer holiday, and am praying about taking a small group to Asia (Thailand and China) for a 2 week prayer journey. Praying against the bonds of the enemy in Buddhism, Confucianism, Animism and ancestor worship. Also, for the Christian light to shine.

I have thought of you all often and wondering how you all are doing in missions. I would LOVE to help you out with ideas to mobilize your congregants. Also, if you'd all like me to come back to help mobilize, I'd be delighted! Please let me know how I can serve!

Thank you again for connecting with me!

Meg



Toby Cahill - tobycahill@aol.com

Pastor Tom (church) - pastor-tom_felc@yahoo.com



First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church

8:00 AM Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Adults
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Communion Service 1st and 3rd and 5th Sunday

First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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