



First Impressions

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

Volume 18 Issue 3

March 2011

The Dust of God

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” – Genesis 2:7

Created by God from dust and given life by His very breath - becoming a living creature fully created by God the Father Almighty – that’s us! Today new babies will be born, given this life by God – yes, a magnificent gift directly from His hand. As you read this, a new baby is born and breathes in the breath of God. He or she begins a venture into a world filled with good and wonderful things. But like all of us, he or she is born into a world also plagued by sin – the sin of all humankind – sin that will become a part of them. On Ash Wednesday God reminds us individually of that sin as the ashes are placed upon our foreheads - ***“... you will return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” – Gen 3:19b.***

But praise God for the gift he has given us! Throughout this season of Lent, God continually reveals to us His Son, Jesus the Christ, and points us to the fact that He was sacrificed for us on the cross. These ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. Jesus gives us the reflection of our baptism and reminds us daily that ***“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” – 2 Cor. 5:17.*** This lifeless dust is changed solely by the grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ and a new creation comes forth. At the foot of His cross newness of life is given. The brokenness of the world drifts away as the warm radiance of the cross leads us to serve others. The good news of the Gospel is shared as the Holy Spirit works within us. Yes, our Lord calls us daily to the cross where we *rejoice* in the outcome of His passion, suffering, death and resurrection. We *rejoice* because it is by this redeeming act we can say the dust we have come from has been given new life - eternal life - by the very drops of our Savior’s blood.

Dust to eternal life by the blood of Christ!

The peace of Christ enrich you all this Lenten season –

Pastor Tom

... taken from “The Vicar’s Corner” – First Impressions, First Lutheran Church Newsletter - February, 2008 (Vicar Tom Lackey)

MIKE GRUND 3RD
DOLORES GOEHLER 4TH
WAYNE SPEEGLE 11TH



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 begin on Wednesday, March 9 with Ash Wednesday and continues for the next five weeks. The Board of Fellowship will be hosting a dinner on Ash Wednesday at 5:15 PM followed by Evening Service at 6:00 PM. The remainder of the mid-weeks will be Evening Service ONLY at 6:00 PM (no dinners).

Ash Wednesday Dinner - 5:15 PM - 5:50 PM
Evening Service: Miracles of Lent - 6:00 PM



The Family of Tom (Buck) Halbrooks, would like to thank all of our First Lutheran Family, for the expressions of love given to Dad and us during his illness; and the comfort you offered to us as we grieve our loss on this earth. We also rejoice with you in his reunion with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

March Spring Break!

Spring is on the way and you know what that means; no, not time for a Spring Break - it's time for Spring Cleaning! Grab your yard tools and cleaning supplies because we are giving the church a good spring cleaning on Saturday, March 19, 2011, from 8:30 am until 1:30 PM. Lunch will be served to all the "worker bees".

In the meantime, please look around carefully for tasks that need to be scheduled and send them to June Weir at sjweir@bellsouth.net, or put a note in the Trustees box at church. We will attempt to include these on the "to-do" list. Many hands make for a light work day, so please plan to at-

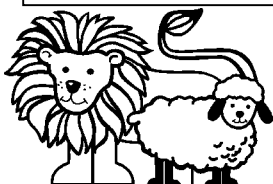


There is a new "Song" in town, it's called Twilight Song. It's here for you and me and others to connect with Christ. A time for all ages to make a joyful song in a relaxed setting. You should check it out, Twilight Song, a new experience in praise & worship. Find it on Facebook or on the "net"

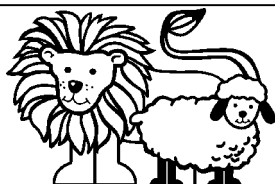
www.TwilightSong.org.

Saturdays @ 5 pm at First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

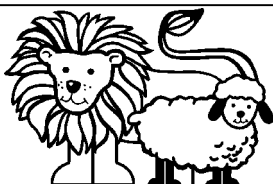
WORSHIP WORKERS



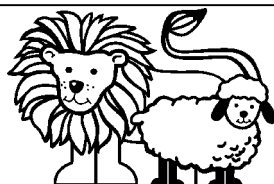
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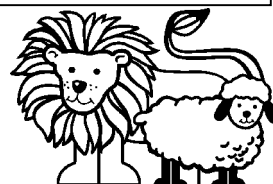
March



March



March



March

FIRST/ EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- March 6 - Julie Cvengros
- March 13 - Kate Cahill
- March 20 - Carol Lackey
- March 27 - Pat Ryan

Readers:

- March 6 - Donna Speegle
- March 13 - Heather Lackey
- March 20 - Glen Thompson
- March 27 - Wilson Whittington

Altar Guild: Carol Lackey & Kate Cahill

Candles: Pat Thompson

Communion Assistant: Wilson Whittington

Ushers: Jacob Mayhew, Jay Heidecker, Frank Brown, Ray Cvengros

Worship Assistant: Charlie Hayes

Nursery: Meg Callahan

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

Adult Bible Study - General Bible study taught by Pastor Tom.

Beth Moore Series - "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" taught by Judy Drews and Donna Speegle.

Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes:

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

High School - For youth in 9th - 12th grade.



Assisted Care: Annie Harrell, Leona Boehme, Lucille Cooper, Edna Grund.

Recovering: Julie Cvengros, Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer,

Hildegard Wesson.

Mourning: Hildegard Brandenburg and Buck Halbrooks.

Illness: Ethan Melton, Billie Gardner (Pat Thompson's mother), Norma Jefferson, Corrine Donahoo, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor).

Thanksgiving: For the birth of Anna Elizabeth Heidecker.

Missionaries: Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

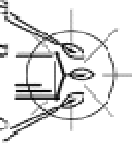
Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military: Mike Golchert, Joel Lackey, and former member, Walt Mattil in Afghanistan.



The Altar Flower sign up sheet is located on the wall next to the church office. Donations are \$35.00.

MARCH 2011

| 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</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>1 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>2 8:15 PM - 9:30 PM Lenten Service Dinner 6:00 PM Ash/Wednesday Service</p> | <p>3 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>4 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>5 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service</p> |
| <p>6 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</p> | <p>7 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p> | <p>8 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM RMCSS 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>9 8:15 PM - 9:30 PM Lenten Service Dinner 6:00 PM Ash/Wednesday Service</p> | <p>10 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>11 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>12 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service</p> |
| <p>13 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</p> | <p>14 RMCSS spring break thru 18th</p> | <p>15 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>16 DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM Lenten Service</p> | <p>17 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>18 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>19 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service</p> |
| <p>20 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</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>23 6:00 PM Lenten Service</p> | <p>24 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>25 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal and Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>26  9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM Mahal/Saundal Wedding Service - CANCELLED 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service</p> |
| <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</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>30 6:00 PM Lenten Service</p> | <p>31 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>1 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p> | <p>2 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service</p> |

Stewardship Emphasis

Many regions in our country have been struggling through one of the severest winters in recent memory. As this article is being written, Punxsutawney Phil (the official prognosticator of the coming weather) says spring is just around the corner. Unfortunately, historically, old Phil is correct on his predictions only 39% of the time. Regardless, the people living in many parts of our country ravaged by winter storms look forward to the coming of spring on March 20 with the confidence that better weather is on the way. Spring ushers in a new start as fields, orchards and gardens are prepared for the raising of new crops that will produce food for all God's creatures.

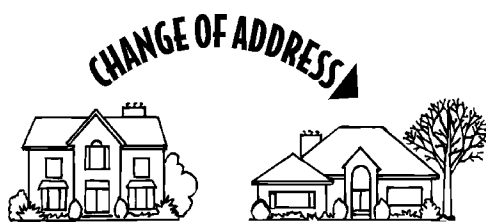
On March 9, Ash Wednesday ushers in the season of Lent. For Christians this is a very special time for examining their lives in the light of God's Word and will. Lent provides an extended opportunity to review the work of Jesus for the salvation of sinners. This season begins with the stark reminder that we came from dust and will return to dust again. The season ends with the death and burial of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. During this season we are reminded of the seriousness of our sin and the supreme sacrifice of Jesus to earn forgiveness for us and all people on earth. With repentant hearts we seek forgiveness for all our past sins and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to live lives pleasing to God and beneficial for our neighbors.

What really counts for us is how we use the time between our birth and our death. That "in-between time" is God's gift that He intends for us to use wisely and well. We remember that we became stewards on the day we were born and became Christian stewards on the day when we were baptized. Christian stewards recognize ***that by the grace of God we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*** (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Christian stewardship is about so much more than our use of money. Christian stewardship is a lifelong journey on which we are to manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. And because God is so good and gracious we have been blessed with many things to manage and use. How we use our time, how we use our gifts and talents, how we manage our money, how we strengthen our relationships, how we care for God's creation are just some of the things we manage. Christian stewardship is whole-life, year-round and for all ages. And just like spring is a promise of new life for the earth, so Lent is a great time for reflection and a fresh start.

Regret looks back. Worry looks around. But faith looks up and for that reason Christian stewards practice good stewardship of all of life and life's resources, and do it freely and joyfully!

(Taken from LCMS website)



Flo Fischer
5141 Emory Oak Circle
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Bessemer, AL 35022

From the Deacons ...

How do we define the next pastoral leader for our congregation?

Based on the responses from the 22 surveys returned, one could argue that we are looking for two different people.

The common traits mentioned, include: a strong faith; a good preacher; good at delivering sermons; being a good communicator; open and honest; a good listener; a man of integrity; be a leader of Bible studies; good organizational skills; be willing to ask the hard questions; be a good leader and capable of motivating members to participate on boards and committees; be gregarious; be able to delegate responsibilities; and a good relationship builder.

There were another set of traits that would point us towards a more pastoral leader, including: calling on delinquent members, shut-ins, and shut-ins; a man of compassion; be a shepherd of the flock, with a servant's heart; and strong in pastoral care.

Another set of traits show a desire for someone who has a gift for evangelism; outreach; with a charismatic personality; high energy; innovative thinker; engaging; a strong conviction for the Great Commission; a conviction for reaching out to youth, teens, and young adults; help focus the congregation on the goals voted upon two years ago; have at least 5 years of experience - preferably in an urban setting; should be married and with children.

So, what are our next steps? The Call committee will submit this information to District President Schultz, for his review and advice. With his knowledge of the pastoral resources available throughout the Synod, we expect that he will be able to provide suggestions on how to move forward.

As always, if anyone has questions, please contact one of the deacons: Graham Sisson, Charlie Hayes, Wilson Whittington, Jim Campbell, Mike Twiss, and Toby Cahill.



There are several ways to volunteer with Habitat Birmingham:

CONSTRUCTION (new house construction and home repairs) volunteers assist with construction tasks from framing to landscaping led by a Habitat Construction Supervisor. No prior construction knowledge or experience is necessary. Habitat Construction Supervisors demonstrate and teach volunteers, ensure safety and oversee quality control. If you have construction skills and experience and enjoy teaching and leading others, then you may be interested in a Volunteer Construction Crew Leader role. Please call us at (205)780-1234 if you are interested in this type of volunteer leadership role.

HABITAT RESTORE volunteers stock shelves, price merchandise and help with general cleaning.

HABITAT OFFICE volunteers assist with answering phone, cleaning and general office duties.

WORKSHOP LEADER volunteers with expertise in banking, social services and insurance lead education classes to potential homeowners.

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES include recycling, fundraising, and community service activities.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Volunteers are encouraged to register online at www.habitatbirmingham.org. Volunteers can also call Habitat Birmingham at 205-780-1234. On your scheduled volunteer day you will be asked to sign in on site and wear a name tag.

SCHEDULE:

Construction - Construction takes place Tuesday through Saturday, 7:30 am to 4 pm. Work begins with a safety orientation and prayer. It is important to arrive promptly at your scheduled time in order to achieve building goals for the day.

Habitat ReStore – The ReStore is open Monday – Friday, 8 am to 7 pm and Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Habitat Office – Open Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

Workshop Leaders – Homeowner education classes are offered monthly.

TOOLS: Tools are available on site, however, volunteers are asked to bring basic tools such as a nail apron, hammer, tape measure, utility knife and pencil if possible. Work gloves are helpful. Please consider donating your tools used on site.

CLOTHING: Wear clothes appropriate for construction activities – Do not wear open-toed shoes or sandals, large ear rings or oversized clothing.

ON SITE PROVISIONS: Water, portable toilets, construction materials and work supervision are provided. Lunch, snacks or transportation is not provided. Don't forget your camera!

WEATHER: In case of inclement weather contact the construction site supervisor. Habitat reserves the right to remove any volunteer from the worksite if, in the opinion of a Habitat staff member, the volunteer is acting in a manner that creates risk of injury or harm to that volunteer or others.



Thrivent Builds!

2011 presents our congregation with another opportunity to support, and participate in a joint Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Financial



project involving 10 of the Birmingham area Lutheran churches. The build site this year, is located in the Northern part of Centerpoint, near Pinson. The family we

are building for this year is the Michelle Hatcher family, including he two sons, 15-year old Jamison and 9-year old Timothy.

We are asking for your support, whether it is participation at the construction site, providing meals, financial, or through prayer. Our church's financial goal is to contribute \$1,000.00 to the project. That represents 1/10th of the total the ten churches are expected to contribute, which is added to the \$90,000.00 that the Habitat organization contributes.

Build days normally fall on Saturdays, and occasionally Fridays. The first build date is Saturday, March 5. The project is scheduled for completion eight weeks later, on April 16. Listed below are the work dates, and the work planned for those dates. There will be sign up sheets posted on the hallway bulletin board, for those interested in joining in the fun!

If anyone has any questions about the project, please contact Toby Cahill - phone: 205-681-1157, or by e-mail at tobycahill@aol.com.

Schedule:

Sat., March 5: Groundbreaking & wall framing

Fri., March 11: Sheath walls, wrap house

Sat., March 12: Set trusses, deck/felt roof

Fri., March 18: Roofing, siding installation, wall insulation

Sat., March 19: Siding installation, drywall installation

Sat., March 26: Siding installation, Drywall installation

Sat., April 2: Interior and exterior trim, prime

Fri., April 8: Painting/cabinets

Sat., April 9: VCT Tile/Hardware Installation, Concrete Driveway

Sat., April 16: Landscaping, clean up, punch list

Sat., April 30: Dedication

Thanks for your support. Let's Build!

LOCATION:

148 Martin Drive

Birmingham, AL 35215

From Downtown Birmingham to the Hatcher Home:

☐ Travel I-20 East/ I-59 North

☐ Keep left at the fork, staying on I-59

☐ Take exit 134 for AL-75/Roebuck Pkwy

☐ Turn left at Roebuck Pkwy

☐ Continue onto Parkway E/ Centerpoint Pkwy

☐ Turn right onto Martin Drive

FAMILY SUMMARY

MICHELLE, JAMISON, AND TIMOTHY

Michelle Hatcher was born in Birmingham and raised in Pulaski, TN. Michelle is employed with Regal Cleaners as a presser and attends Agape Missionary Baptist Church where she is on the Adult Usher Board. Michelle also volunteers at Woodlawn High School and Robinson Elementary, where her two youngest children attend school. In her spare time Michelle enjoys watching good movies and cooking.

Jamison, age 15, is in 9th grade at Woodlawn High School where he is in ROTC. He loves basketball and would like to join his school's team. Timothy, age 9, is in 3rd grade at Robinson Elementary where he enjoys learning. When he's not at school, Timothy loves to ride his bike and play football and basketball.

"This new home will definitely bring stability for me and my boys," Michelle says. "I am thankful for what I have. I just want to bring peace of mind and a new beginning for my family and me."



First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church

8:00 AM Choir Practice
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Adults
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship and Communion Service

5:00 PM Saturday Evening - Twilight Song

First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church

2507 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

933-0380

Pastor's E-Mail: pastortom@firstlutheranbham.org

Bulletin E-mail: secretary@firstlutheranbham.org

Web Site: www.firstlutheranbham.org

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March 2011

Place first class
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