



# First Impressions

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

Volume 17 Issue 4

April 2010

## *Burning Hearts*

*They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:32*

Sometimes, when we journey alone or even in the company of another we have time to ponder or discuss a lot of things such as helping the kids with a homework assignment, what is going at work, perhaps even the pastor's sermon from the previous Sunday (ah, my heart is full of hope!).

Last month, on a lazy Sunday afternoon, during our return trip from Navarre to visit our grandson and children, Carol and I were enjoying just that kind of discussion. Moments later I noticed two men walking down a connecting dirt road with Bibles in hand. I naturally assumed they were either returning from or heading to a late Sunday afternoon worship service – a common thing in the rural South. One seemed happy and the other seemed to be listening intently to the words of the other. As I wondered what these men may be discussing, my thoughts turned to Cleopas and his companion as they journeyed along the road to Emmaus only three days after our Lord's death. Suddenly, while in deep discussion about the events of the last few days, a man, who seemed a stranger to them, mysteriously shows up, joins in their journey and inquires about their conversation. One could assume this private conversation between the two men was one filled with numbing anxiety, worry and a lack of understanding regarding the events of the last few days.

Although the men were slow recognizing the stranger, Scripture tells us that he is none other than our risen Lord. It is Jesus! But nevertheless, here he is, three days after his death, walking along a dusty road with worried, anxious men who are zoned out with confusion. In their midst He is fulfilling his promise ... He has Risen, indeed and He walks with them along the road to Emmaus. Gently, He inquires about their conversation and gradually relieves their tension as he explains why the Christ had come; not for a worldly reason, but rather for an eternal reason and their hearts longed for more. Oh, how they longed for more, so much so, that they invited this stranger to stay with them and break bread together. Their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. They were not alone and their hearts burned and yearned for more of the truths of Scripture and more of His presence amongst them, in Word and in the breaking of bread. At this point, it could be said that we are never to interpret our numbness as His absence.

Does your heart burn within? Is there a passion within you to tell the world that "the Lord has risen indeed?" So many times His presence goes unnoticed in our lives because of our numbness. But brothers and sisters in Christ, He does accompany you on your personal road to Emmaus. For you see, yes indeed, He has risen and He is with you always! Open His Word, come to His table, and rejoice in His presence. When the cloud of numbness is removed, the heart burns within. He is there!

*In His love,  
Pastor Tom*

David Mayhew - 4/7  
Eric Kilbourne - 4/8  
Mike Twiss - 4/8  
Diane Golchert - 4/10



Tom Lackey - 4/13  
Laurie Speegle - 4/13  
Sunni Sharit - 4/15  
Stacey Drews - 4/18  
Norma Jefferson - 4/22



*Rick & Deborah  
Halbrooks - 4/24/82*



**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



The Church Council Meeting, normally held the first Monday of the month, has been changed. The Council will meet on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 6:30 PM. Please make a note of it.

# WORSHIP WORKERS



### FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

#### Children's Church –

- April 4 - Julie Cvengros
- April 11 - Kate Cahill
- April 18 - Carol Lackey
- April 25 - Myra Grund

#### Readers:

- April 4 - Ray Hunter
- April 11 - Judy Drews
- April 18 - Graham Sisson
- April 25 - Victoria Sisson

**Altar Guild:** Sandra Heidecker

**Candles:** Carol Lackey

**Communion Assistant:** Toby Cahill

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

**Worship Assistant:** Wilson Whittington

**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

#### 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.



Add to your prayer list

Retirement Home: Annie Harrell, Leona Boehme

Recovering: Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer,

Hildegard Wesson, and Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother).

**Mourning:** Lillian White, Dorothy Adair.

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

**Missionaries:** Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

**Members who have lost their jobs.**

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



A sign up sheet for Easter Lilies has been posted on the board for altar flowers. Cost has not yet been determined,

but if you have any questions, please contact Terry Lepp.

**APRIL 2010**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Palm Sunday Worship</b> 11:30 AM Congregation/Fellowship Meeting 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	29	30 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM RMCs in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	31 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	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	2 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae	3 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous

4 7:30 AM Sunrise Service 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:15 AM Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Easter Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	5 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting	6 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	7 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	8 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	9 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	10 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
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11 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	12 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting	13 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	14 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	15 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	16 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	17 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
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18 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	19	20 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	21 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline	22 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	23 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	24 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
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25 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	26	27 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	28 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	29 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	30 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	1 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
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## **Luther's Legacy**

### **By Dr. Cameron A. MacKenzie**

Wittenberg 1517: population, 2000; ruler, Frederick the Wise; religion, medieval Catholic. No power-driven machines-no automobiles (or paved roads); no electricity, oil or gas furnaces and stoves. All work done by humans or animals. Also, no indoor plumbing or automated sewage removal. Just a lot of filth-and the sights and smells that accompany it!

The castle church in Wittenberg housed around 19,000 holy objects (relics). More than a thousand masses were sung each year; another 7,800 read. Their main purpose was to diminish the time and suffering that the faithful have to spend in purgatory.

Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2010: population, 250,000; government, democracy (part of the United States). Modern economy; sophisticated technology; Internet; Wi-Fi. Buses, automobiles, airplanes; Interstate Highway System; and even Amtrak (not too far away). Large malls; beautiful parks; and lovely homes. Religion: lots of churches-all kinds of Christian denominations. About half of population is "churched." Emphasis? Leading a decent life and helping people who are hurting.

You know what? There's lots that separates Luther's world from ours besides time and miles! So what then is his "legacy" to our world? Does Luther have anything to say to people alive now? Perhaps, surprisingly, the answer is a resounding yes! For in spite of all the obvious differences, there are even more important similarities-indeed, constants-that we see in Luther's world and our own. First of all, the contingency of human existence; and secondly, humanity's fatal flaw.

In Luther's day, and ours too, people died. Whatever distinguishes one person from another whether across time or right now, we all have this in common-we are going to die. As much as we don't like to think about it, it remains true. And that means that every person has to come to terms with his own mortality. What does death mean and what happens next?

But that in turn raises the second issue-humanity's flaw. As much as we might want to ignore this too or excuse it, every human being lives a self-centered life that all too often leads to injustice, vice or crime. In matters large and small, we find it very difficult- really impossible-to measure up to a standard that each of us understands instinctively-to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves! We know it but don't do it. So if we put the two points together-our moral imperfection and our mortality-we arrive at the question that confronts everyone: how are we going to enter eternity? Although the living have never themselves experienced death, it is not unreasonable to assume that there may very well be a judgment for which every person must be ready. Since it is clear that we are not the cause of our own existence, there must be a Creator/God; and since He has made us all with an inborn sense of right and wrong, it seems very likely that He will hold us to account for moral (and immoral) choices we have made.

But this is where Luther still speaks-not because he himself was so wise but because he was a spokesman for God who opened Luther's mind and heart to the Scriptures. And from this special book, the great Reformer spoke the Word of God's grace in Jesus Christ. The judgment that all of us face has already been faced by Him. Through His perfect life and atoning death, our Lord Jesus Christ has "redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature; purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil."

These familiar words of Luther's are not just the center of the Small Catechism but the heart of his entire theology-the message that animates his treatises as well as his hymns, his most sophisticated writings as well as his most down-to-earth sermons. We call it the Gospel.

And it is the Gospel that constitutes Luther's legacy to our times- indeed, all times. When we look around and experience the passage of time, we are tempted to conclude that everything changes. But that's not true. A lot does change; but not everything-not human nature and not humanity's fate. But neither does God's love in Jesus. Martin Luther knew this, so he spoke-and still speaks-to people who need to hear it-like us!

*Dr. Cameron A. MacKenzie serves as Chariman of the Historical Theology Department and Ellis Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

## **First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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