



First Impressions

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

Volume 17 Issue 5

May 2010

“Bad News/Good News”

The Reverend Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick tells this story of some bad news that turned good. It does remind us of how much the angels in heaven rejoice each time we repent before our God and receive his forgiveness. Take a moment – read and enjoy the fullness of God’s forgiveness.

The bad news is that last week our son-in-law’s pickup truck was stolen. It’s a Ford F-250, quad cab, diesel—the truck of his dreams. Although nine years old, paid for, and well used, it’s like a member of the family. So when Todd came out of the Home Depot and saw an empty space where his truck was parked only minutes earlier, he was crushed. The police investigator said this model is a favorite of truck thieves and would probably be used to make a quick trip across the U.S./Mexico border, returning with undocumented workers who are willing to pay \$1,000 per person for the privilege of a seven-hour ride, crammed in the space where the back seat once was, in order to find well-waged work here in America.

The good news is that two days later, our daughter Angie called with the news, “They found Todd’s truck!” It was in one piece, back seat removed, full of beer cans, soda cans, and cigarette butts. The taillights were damaged, not by the villains, but by the tow truck that transported the vehicle from its discovery location, with 11 other stolen trucks, to the city police pound in a small town pasture 20 miles east of Austin. It needed a new starter and a thorough cleaning, but it has been returned to a very happy owner. I shared that good news with my staff, together with Jesus’ parable of the lost (and later found) coin, which ended with these words: “And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ***‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents***” (Luke 15:9-10)

May the peace of God be with you always,

Pastor Tom

Mary Grace Whittington - 2nd
 Dean Mizzell - 8th
 Corrine Donahoo - 11th
 Victoria Sisson - 13th
 Makayla Rudd - 13th
 Brooklyn Wildrick - 16th
 James Melton - 17th

This
 Month's
 Birthdays



Charles Hayes - 18th
 Hildegard Wesson - 21st
 Rachel Norris - 21st
 Bob Hunter - 21st
 Tammy Rudd - 26th
 Krista Wanat-28th
 Sophia Rotton - 28th



David & Dee
 Mayhew -
 5/23/81



SPRING DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

The spring edition of the First/Emmanuel member directory will be out soon. Copies will be available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. If you are unable to pick one up, please contact the church and we will mail one to you.

The cost of the Easter lilies for this year is \$25.00. If you ordered lilies (and you know who you are), please turn in your donation by May 9, 2010.



Please make out your checks to First Lutheran and indicate "Easter lilies" in the memo section. Thank you for helping to beautify the house of the Lord during this most joyous season. He is Risen! Alleluia!



Mark your calendars!

We are having a fifth Sunday of the month potluck fellowship dinner on Sunday, May 30, 2010. Bring a dish (with food in it) to share and we will fellowship after the regular 10:15 AM worship service.

See you there!



Outreach to the "least of these" in our community

The Evangelism Board would like remind you of the opportunity for our members to help us reach out and serve "the least of these" in our community. For the past few months, we have been working along side a team from Highlands Methodist as they serve the homeless in our community. Highlands has been growing in this ministry for 20 years and First/Emmanuel has been helping on the first Saturday of each month.

We work alongside a team from Highlands and other area churches from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Please contact Dee Mayhew or see the signup sheet in the hallway to volunteer for any of these Saturdays that you can "do for the least of them as unto Christ" - Mathew 25:35-40

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- May 2 - Julie Cvengros
- May 9 - Kate Cahill
- May 16 - Carol Lackey
- May 23 - Myra Grund
- May 30 - Kate Cahill

Readers:

- May 2 - Krista Wanat
- May 9 - Myra Grund
- May 16 - Carol Lackey
- May 23 - Kate Cahill
- May 30 - June Weir

Altar Guild: Carol Melton

Candles: Pat Thompson

Communion Assistant: Charlie Hayes

Ushers: Toby Cahill, Ray Cvengros, Mike Grund, Mike Twiss

Worship Assistant:s: 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 Twiss.

Sacrament of the Altar - Associate Pastor Tom Lackey

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.



5/30 - In honor of David Cybul's, Krista Wanat's, and Bernie Cybul's Birthdays (27, 28, 29)

Mourning: Dorothy Schucknect (Krista's Great Aunt), Lillian White (Dee's Aunt), Dorothy Adair.

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

Thanks & Praise: Floyd Seibert whose latest test was normal and received a medical release!

Missionaries: Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India). Members who have lost their jobs.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 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 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	26 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	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 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @	1 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
2 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	3 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	4 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	5 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	6 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	7 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	8 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
9 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	10 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	11 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	12 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	13 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	14 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	15 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
16 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	17 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	18 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	19 10:30 AM RMC'S St. George & Dragon Feast 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline	20 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	21 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	22 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Wedding
23 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 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	24 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	25 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	26 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	27 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	28 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	29 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous
30 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	31 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	1 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Cancelled until further notice	2 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets	3 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	4 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Over eaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	5 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



On March 26, 2010, Leona Stole Harriman Boehme celebrated her 100th Birthday. The members, along with the Board of Fellowship at First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Birmingham, Alabama, hosted a reception for Leona on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Associate Pastor Tom Lackey (pictured with Leona) read the following testimony, written by Leona, of her life and faith in Christ. You can also access a copy of her testimony by going to www.firstlutheranbham.org and clicking on the May Newsletter.

What my faith has done for me through life's experiences I must truly say it is not "my faith" but the one in whom my faith trusts and caused that faith to grow, which has made my life's experiences meaningful.

All honor to our Triune God I will relate a few of His ordinary and extraordinary ways He has done this.

In my early life I lost my father when I was only 16 months. My mother had to bring up a family of eight children under the age of 18 years, while paying for a farm my father had contracted to buy.

Mother kept faith meeting life's difficulties, teaching us right from wrong and keeping us in Sunday school, church, and confirmation classes in the Lutheran Church. God not only gave me the gift of faith, but also kept me believing and learning more about my faith in Him.

In my childhood faith, I thought everyone believed in Jesus. All the people I knew went to church and heard as I did that by Adam's sin, we all have sinned and need a savior and that God took care of this according to John 3:16, which was my first memorized scripture: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who so ever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Yes, I thought everyone believed this until I heard a foreign missionary speak on our little church and I came to understand and realized some people had never heard the Gospel. This early basic experience influenced me later in my life, especially for foreign missions.

In addition to the gift of faith, God wanted me to grow in trusting Him. I thought I was to make the right choices on my own by principle I had been taught. I did not really seek Him for special guidance. However, God graciously sheltered me throughout my days of education and work by having a Christian family and friends around me. God seemingly was controlling things for me.

By way of a family car accident, he led me from country school teaching into the nursing field. I could relate many instances when I look back and see god's provision and leading me through the years. Only God knows what His plans for me might have been.

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I sincerely desired to serve the Lord but the desire to serve Him my way was stronger.

After a few years, I chose to marry and be a homemaker which had been “my ambition” since childhood. My favorite Bible verse, next to John 3:16 is Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all Thine heart and lean not upon Thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths”. I chose this for my marriage text as if that would make my marriage God’s will; instead or as well as my choice.

I was still trying to serve Him my way by teaching Sunday school, holding various offices in the Women’s Missionary League, and using my nursing skills when called on.

It was during this time while I was Treasurer of our Women’s Missionary Federation that God used a different, more direct approach. At the close of our year, we were dispersing the remaining funds, I made a suggestion for foreign missions. Another lady, who was older, strongly disagreed and stated it should be used for home projects and home missions only, which carried in the vote. I quietly submitted to the majority, but that night I could not sleep. I cried and prayed and asked God if I was wrong in my decision to use the money for foreign missions. I prayed and asked Him to give me a sign and God does have the power to answer prayers and did so by writing on my bedroom wall, just as He did to King Belshazzar in the book of Daniel. Before long His answer appeared in the darkness on the wall:

“Diversified interests in the word of the Lord is healthy, it must not hinder.”

I accepted this, was at peace and ready to go to sleep when on the wall appeared a picture of a square, two-story house similar to the one I lived in as a child. The prominent part of the picture was the two upper windows with awnings, which looked like 2 eyes half closed. My thoughts asked, “Why am I seeing this?” An answer came, saying:

“Some only half see the work of the Lord.”

Then another picture appeared – that of a sculptured marble head with eyes closed. Again I wondered – “Why am I seeing this?” Then God spoke:

“Some do not see at all the work of the Lord.”

My interest grew and I was anxious to see and hear more. There was no more – just a blank wall where the pictures had been. But this blank wall seemed to have meaning and then came the message:

“There is no one who fully sees the word of the Lord.”

Several years later after moving to Alabama and while attending a Bible conference at Ben Lippen near Ashville, NC with two of my Christian friends, God presented another picture during my bedtime prayer with Him. It was a picture of a human bloody heart with a sword piercing it. It seemed to be a sequel to what He had shown me a few previous. Instead of telling me the meaning of this one, He let me, by faith, interpret this picture.

I remembered in Ephesians 6:17 is stated, “The sword of the spirit is the word of God.” I was made to see God’s will fully. Thus, the importance of letting God’s word speak to us by continuing to study and obeying His inexhaustible truths.

In this way we will know His will and what is pleasing to Him.

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According to Ephesians 5:9-10, “For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” When we continue faithfully to read and study God’s word, sincerely applying it to our individual lives, we can be assured by God’s grace and love we will come to possess the fruits of the spirit, which according to Galatians 5:22-23 are:

“Love, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such, there is no law.”

Though I have failed Him often during my life, He has been very patient with me, providing physical healing, as well as spiritual well-being through His word and sacraments and forgiving my sins of omission as well as sins of commission. God’s presence in His Son and Holy Spirit did succor and comfort me in the loss of two husbands and the tragic death of a 21 year old grandson, giving me the insight to thank Him in all things.

What I marvel at is His steadfast love for me in spite of myself.

Praise the Lord, o my soul, and all that is within me.

Praise His Holy name!

Isaiah 26:3, “You who keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed in you, for He trusts in you.”

Quote from “Our Daily Bread”:

“Your life is God’s gift to you – make it your gift to God.”

From the Board of Stewardship



“God’s stewards are served and serving.” This means that **“God’s stewards recognize that their stewardship involves**

a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in

servant hood within all the arenas of life.” By the grace of God we are reminded that we are to serve our Lord with personal acts of compassion and service as well as financial gifts. Some people seem

inclined to think that stewardship is just about money. Yes, it is about money and how we manage it, but that is only the tip of the iceberg. Stewardship involves our wise management and use of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

What a blessing and encouragement it is to know and believe that Christ died for us, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven as the divine conqueror of sin, death and the devil, and now sends His Holy Spirit to be the Lord and Giver of life. May the Holy Spirit enable us to use our time, talents, relationships, treasure and all the other special gifts and blessings in a way that honors our God and blesses our neighbors.

Taken from LCMS website



First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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 Lutheran Church

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