



First Impressions

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

Volume 17 Issue 6

June 2010

The Yoke of Christ

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” – Matthew 11:29

Her name is Jenny. She is five years old and as a precious little girl she has already endured the pain of losing a playmate much like herself. One evening at the dinner table, when asked what she had done that day, she said she had gone to see her friend’s mother. Mom and Dad glanced at each other and then back at little Jenny. “What did you say?” asked her parents. “Nothing,” she replied. “I just climbed on her lap and cried with her.” Indeed, a five year old angel of mercy.

How many times have we seen the suffering of those we love and felt that we wanted to do something? We wanted to help. We wanted to say the right thing, take the right action. Yes, we detested that feeling of helplessness. Yet, after we had investigated all the possibilities, we had to conclude that there was little we could do.

As Christians, we are thankful that Jesus had no such problem. Like little Jenny who climbed on the grieving mother’s lap and cried with her, Jesus does *much more* the same thing for us. He lived with us; He cried with us; He died for us.

Unseen by a cruel world, a little five year old girl shared a lot of Jesus with a hurting soul. When saddened, those who are in Christ Jesus know they are not sad alone. They know that Jesus cries with them and they know he is powerful enough to bring them comfort, even when the tears flow. Indeed, the yoke of Christ is light because it is filled with love and mercy. He gives that yoke to you. Go and share it with others.

Prayer – Healer of my soul, grant the eyes of my heart the clarity to see the comfort of your love and mercy through the tears of pain I shed in this world. As you shoulder me with your yoke of comfort give me the passion to share that comfort with others. Amen.

PAX,
Pastor Tom

Mike Golchert—6/2

Violet Spencer—6/7

Buck Halbrooks—6/9

Ashley Davis—6/12



Abigail Kilbourne - 6/15

Sherry Stiefel—6/18

Jacob Mayhew—6/19

Aaron Thompson—6/21

June Weir—6/21



Mike & Myra Grund – 6/1/1973

Jill Hoostra & Chuck Pieplow – 6/5/1976

Graham & Victoria Sisson – 6/6/1992

David & Pat Ryan – 6/9/1990

David & Kimberly Hunter – 6/22/2002

Lutheran Night at the Barons

Birmingham Barons vs. Chattanooga Lookouts



Friday, July 30, 2010

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Fireworks following the game

Ticket price is \$11.00 per person

(includes dinner, drinks, general admission & fireworks)



Hot dogs, chips, cookies, peanuts & drinks provided in the Banquet Room



Sign up sheets are at the rear of the sanctuary and on the new bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

See June Weir to purchase tickets or call Terri Ray at 205-631-2585.



Change Address

Lucille Cooper
235 Inverness Center Drive
Apt. 519
Birmingham, AL 35242



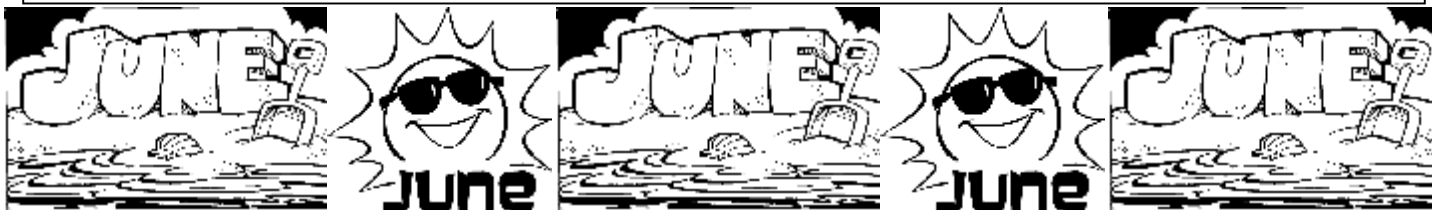
Congratulations and God's Blessings to the following graduates:

Trent Shiflett from Shades Valley High School.

Sarah Golchert from Kentucky University.

Jim Campbell's niece from Texas A & M.

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- June 6 - Julie Cvengros
- June 13 - Kate Cahill
- June 20 - Carol Lackey
- June 27 - NEED HELP

Readers:

- June 6 - Heather Lackey
- June 13 - Terry Lepp
- June 20 - Sandra Heidecker
- June 27 - Donna Speegle

Altar Guild: Terry Lepp

Candles: Carol Lackey

Communion Assistant: Graham Sisson

Ushers: Jim Campbell, Ray Hunter, Charlie Hayes, Wilson Whittington

Worship Assistant: Toby Cahill

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.

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.



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

Recovering: Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer, Hildegard Wesson.

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

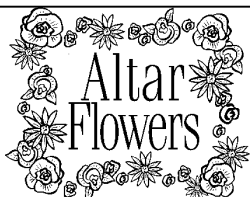
Illness: Corrine Donahoo, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor).

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.



20th - In honor of June Weir 's birthday

27th - In celebration of Drew 's Family Day.

JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship</p> <p>12:00 PM 8th Sunday Potluck</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Resewed - Bob C. Miller"</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Resewed - Bob C. Miller"</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Coffee, Biscuits, and Hymns</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p> <p>11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Resewed - Bob C. Miller"</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Resewed - Bob C. Miller"</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Deacons Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - Canceled until further notice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Team Meets</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Resewed - Bob C. Miller"</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Secretary Out of Office</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Secretary Out of Office</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Homeless Mission</p> <p>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous</p>

First

Stewardship Emphasis

“June—what a crazy month!” June used to be the most popular month for weddings so much so that “June brides” became a part of our vocabulary. Now there may be months when more weddings take place, but June is still a hectic, busy month. Not only are there weddings, but there are also graduations, vacations, plans for vacations and other summer activities. So much happens that it can get overwhelming and take the joy out of such a special month.

The same thing can be true of our lives as God’s stewards. When we starting thinking about stewardship as the managing of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes, we can also get overwhelmed. Stewardship is not just about time, talents and treasures [the well-known three T’s] but also about our stewardship of sharing the good news of Jesus, the building and maintaining of relationships, the care of our bodies, the care of God’s creation, and so much more. The challenge of being a good steward of all that God has entrusted to us can be so big that we might be tempted to simply give up! But, to do so would rob us of some of life’s greatest joys!

Stewardship is not meant to be an overwhelming thing but rather the best way to live in this world. People seek purpose and meaning in their lives. They want to make a difference! They want their lives to be bigger than themselves. Being God’s redeemed stewards is one of the best ways for bringing that real meaning and purpose to our lives. It helps us to identify who and whose we are. We are God’s redeemed stewards who have been chosen and equipped to manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Can anything be better than that??? Not for people who appreciate the great sacrifice that Jesus made to set us free from our sinful and selfish condition and help us to be the children of God in thoughts, words and actions.

Taken from the LCMS website

Dear Members of First and Emmanuel Lutheran,

As our school year comes to a close we are mindful of the many ways your church has been open and hospitable to us. We are grateful.

During morning-time, our school-wide daily gathering, I asked the students to name the particular gifts they appreciated in this place. I thought you might enjoy hearing their list-

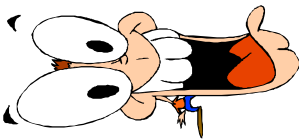
- The classrooms
- Going to the park everyday
- Friends
- A space right outside to eat snack
- The clean feeling of the building
- The large common room for rainy days where we can all be together
- The sanctuary for chapel
- The area to look at outside our classrooms and room for Miss Ivey’s bird feeders
- The beautiful Christmas decorations



With Gratitude

It is our hope and mission that our school would be a gift to our city. Thank you for being a gift to us.

Warmly,
RMCS



Mark Your Calendars!!

**Family Fun Day
Brown Family Lake house**

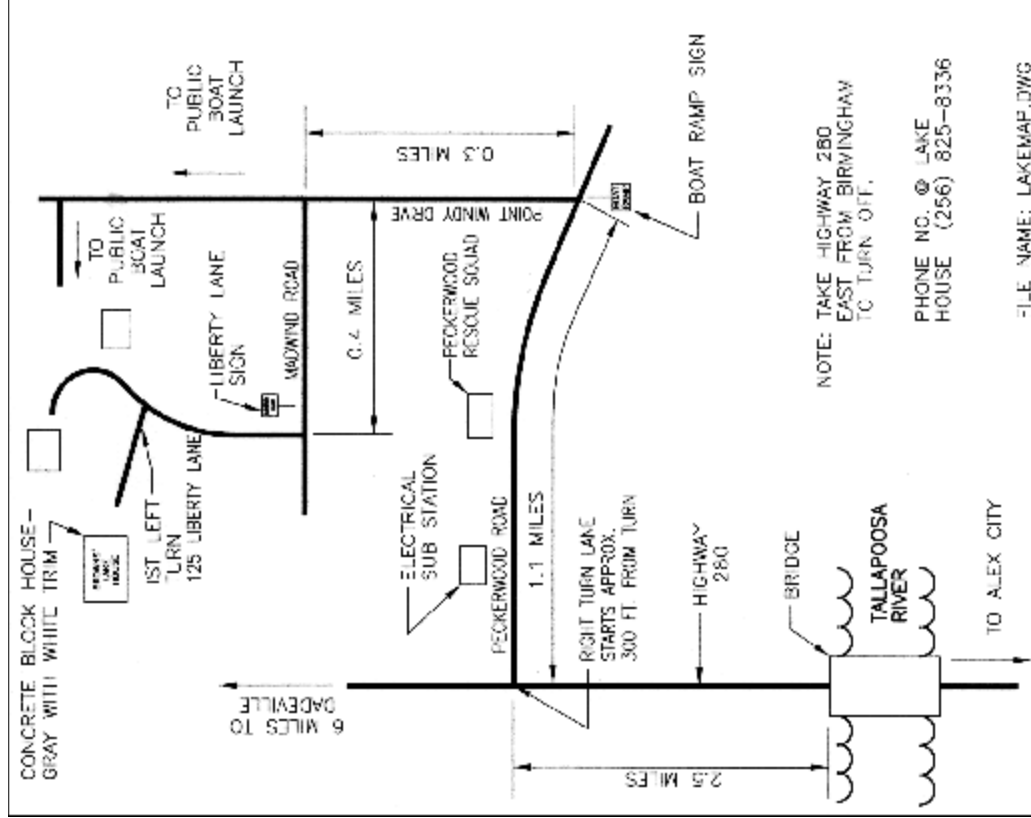
July 10, 2010, 10:00 a.m. 'til dusk

**Hotdogs, baked beans, and potato salad
for lunch**

Just bring a snack and drink to share

**Other items to consider bringing:
swimsuit, towel, bag chair, swim shoes,
sunscreen**

**Lake house phone: 256-825-8336
More info: 822-8078**



From The Deacons....



As we approach Pentecost, and the celebration of that very first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles, let us also be strengthened in the knowledge of our gracious God bestowing His Grace upon us; His Son's salvation for us; and the Spirit's power within us – to live by His commandments, to love one another, to love those around us, and to spread the Good News of the Resurrection!

For the second time, the Deacons and Fellowship boards planned, and then cancelled a social event to help our members get to know their deacons better. Inclement weather caused us to decide to cancel the previous two dates. We will reschedule, so keep a keen ear and eye for news in upcoming newsletter and bulletin notices.

Pastor Tom recently led a Sunday morning Bible study on the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in preparation for a change in our Communion frequency at First/Emmanuel. Starting soon, we will be offering the Lord's Supper every Sunday. Some might be surprised to learn, as we did during Pastor Tom's Bible study, that the Augsburg Confessions actually direct us to commune weekly, and that the practice of every other Sunday – or even less frequently – was developed resulting from local or regional decisions based on specific circumstances. We learned that, as Christians, we should yearn for the Sacrament as often as we can receive it – for the strength, grace, and forgiveness that It assures to each and every one of us. At the end of this article, you will find a link to another article that we studied in Pastor Tom's class – an article that I hope you will find interesting – one that illustrates the process another Lutheran Pastor went through during his study of this concept, and the conclusions he came to. I hope you all can join us in the joy to be found in participating in the Lord's Supper as often as possible!

On another worship related subject, the Deacons are monitoring a sub-committee's work in evaluating alternate worship options, as we consider a decision to offer a second service at First/Emmanuel. We anticipate that this second service will take on a "blended" format – meaning that it will be somewhat more contemporary in nature, with a strong liturgical foundation. This service may be held on another day of the week, or possibly as an early service on Sunday. All options are being considered.

Finally, with regards to the Call process – the Deacons have agreed to serve as the Call Committee, with the goal of issuing a Call for a senior Pastor by the end of the year. Soon, we will be sending out a Call Questionnaire to our membership, asking for their input on the qualifications, experience, attributes, and other requirements we should be looking for in our next senior Pastor. As with all things, if anyone has questions about these issues mentioned above, or anything else involving your church, please don't hesitate to contact one of the Deacons: Charlie Hayes, Wilson Whittington, Jim Campbell, Mike Twiss, Graham Sisson, Brett Stiefel, and Toby Cahill.

Communion Every Sunday
Why?

<http://www.gloryofchrist.org/Documents/COMMUNION%20EVERY%20SUNDAY.htm>



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

2507 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

Phone: 933-0380

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

Bulletin E-mail: secretary@firstlutheranbham.org

Web Site: firstlutheranbham.org

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June 2010

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