



# First Impressions

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

Volume 16 Issue 7

July 2009

## So, How's Your Smell?

*“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”*

[Isaiah 40:11](#)

So ... how do you smell? What's that suppose to mean, Pastor? I showered today – I don't **SMELL!** Do you know that you have been called to smell? Christ has called us, his sheep, to be his ministers, and to be his ministers we sheep stumble into the big sandals of the shepherd. We are called not only to tell others the Gospel message, but to be a living example of the Christ who came down as a human to live amongst us. The Christ who feels our hurt, rejoices with the good and the bad, who fellowships with us, who loves us for what we are and where we are in our lives. When is the last time you picked up a stray sheep and slung that creature of God over your shoulders and really wrapped yourself fully in the sheep, so you smelled like sheep? “Hey Pastor Tom, I'm not a herdsman – I don't make my living keeping up with smelly sheep!” No, maybe not - but we are intricately entwined with our brothers and sisters in Christ and we are called to serve our Lord and share his love with all God's creatures, in and outside the fold. We are called to care for one another, just as the shepherd cares for his sheep. Caring for each other when we are hurt, feeding those that are hungry, rescuing the endangered from the jaws of the wolf that prowls, and just loving each other where we are in our lives – without judging – just like Jesus does for each of us. As Jesus is our shepherd, we too become little shepherds, being the servant He calls us to be, as we care for each other and those around us. To love each other in such a way, we are to be so close amongst the fold that we begin to smell of “the sheep”- yep, smell of each other! We soon begin to see that we, the sheep, in a loving way, become someone's shepherd too - smell and all. So, just how is your smell, shepherd? Do you smell of sheep? Your Jesus does!

*-You, oh little shepherd, are the only Jesus that some may see... and smell-*

*God's Peace to all-  
Pastor Tom*

Teri McClung—7/16  
Laura Rhodes—7/16  
Kelly Shiflett—7/16  
Dorrie Mayhew—7/19



Justin Rudd—7/19  
Helen Hunter—7/23  
Suchi Dasari—7/25  
Dee Mayhew—7/27



Steve & Val Hubbard — 7/3/71  
Jay & Sandra Heidecker — 7/3/99  
Wilson & Lisa Whittington — 7/7/01  
Steve & Ann Hajduk — 7/14/75  
Nelson & Marcy Sharit- 7/17/93  
Toby & Kate Cahill — 7/24/76



Congratulations to Jody & Eric Kilbourne on the birth of their daughter, Abbigail Ruth. She was born at St. Vincent's Hospital on June 15, 2009 at 10:24 am, and weighed in at 6 lbs. 10 oz.

We look forward to meeting her and give thanks and praise to the Lord for this wonderful gift.



**Pastor Nathan & Cheryl Schuetze**  
4619 Pierre St.  
Columbia, MO  
65202



**ATTENTION COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH HAS BEEN CHANGED. WE ARE MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 13 AT 6:30 PM AT FIRST. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS - WE HAVE A LOT TO DO!

We would like to welcome our new church secretary, Krista Wanat. While she may not be able to 'wear all the hats' that Cheryl did, she is looking forward to working with Pastor Tom and serving the church and our Lord.

Her office hours are as follows:  
M, W - F 7:00 am - 11:00 am  
Tues 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Council Meeting Nights - 3:30 pm until meeting is adjourned.



# WORSHIP WORKERS



## FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

### Children's Church –

- July 5 - Abby Cahill
- July 12 - Kate Cahill
- July 19 - Carol Lackey
- July 26 - Myra Grund

### Readers:

- July 5 - Toby Cahill
- July 12 - Mike Grund
- July 19 - Wilson Whittington
- July 26 - Carol Lackey

**Altar Guild:** Sandra Heidecker

**Candles:** Carol Lackey

### Communion Assistants:

- July 5 - Graham Sisson
- July 19 - Graham Sisson

**Ushers:** Charlie Hayes, Wilson Whittington, Mike Grund, Myra Grund.

**Worship Assistant:** Jim Campbell

**Nursery:** Meg Callahan

Basics of the Christian Faith - Walk through the fundamentals of our faith with Pastor.

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 ?

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.

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



Retirement Home: Dorothy Adair

Recovering: Leona Boehme, Edna Grund, Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer; Leo Perry, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Hildegard Wesson, Annie Harrell, Frank Brown, Dean Mizzell, Braden DeBow, David Mayhew, Buck Halbrooks, & David Cybul (Krista Wants' brother)

Thanks & Praise: Healthy birth of Abbigail Ruth Kilbourne & Cheryl Schuetze's niece, Evangeline Belle DeFluiter



Illness: Dot Claunch's sister-in-law Sherry, Laurie Stroud's friends Kim Lukich and Lynne (brain tumor), Vicar Tom's friend Donna, Kelly Shiflett, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor), and Michael Flick (5 year old with lung cancer).

Mourning: Family of Janice Eulitz (Mike Grund's sister; Edna's daughter), Neil Jefferson; Diana Donahoo Rice, daughter of Corrine Donahoo; Family of Dr. James Darth.

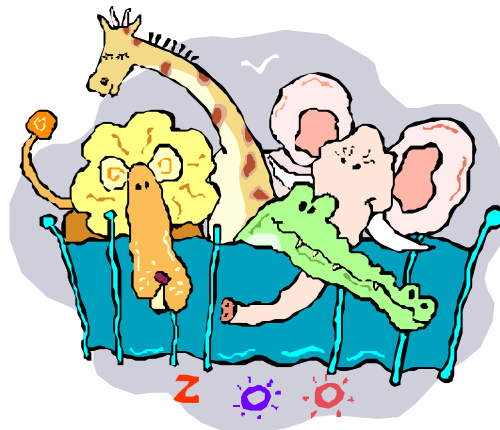
Missionaries: Meg Tumbleson (China), Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India)

Members who have lost their jobs.

**JULY 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b></p>	29	30	1	2 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	3 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Overeaters Anonymous @ First</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	4  6:00 PM - 8:00 PM <b>Barnabas Small Group</b>
<p>5 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b></p>	6 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM <b>Church Council Meeting @ First</b>	7 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM <b>Yahweh Sisters Women's Bible Study</b>	8	9 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	10 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Overeaters Anonymous @ First</b> 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Nehemiah Small Group</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	11  10:00 AM - 8:00 PM <b>Family Fun Day at the Lake</b>
<p>12 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b></p>	13	14	15	16 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	17 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Overeaters Anonymous @ First</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	18 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM <b>Barnabas Small Group</b>
<p>19 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM <b>Youth Group</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b></p>	20	21	22	23 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	24 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Overeaters Anonymous @ First</b> 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Nehemiah Small Group</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	25 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM <b>Deacon's Meeting</b>
<p>26 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM <b>Sunday School</b> 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b></p>	27	28	29	30 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	31 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM <b>Overeaters Anonymous @ First</b> 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <b>Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</b>	1 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM <b>Barnabas Small Group</b>

## Where the Wild Things Thrive



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is hosting a fun day for families at The Birmingham Zoo on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Every day, children receive messages about money and spending. From video games to movies, toys to music concerts—it can leave parents feeling overwhelmed. Now there's a way for parents to instill sensible money habits in their kids and have fun doing it.

On Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am you and your family can join Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a lively and interactive educational experience at The Birmingham Zoo, 2360 Cahaba Road, Birmingham AL. Using innovative tools and techniques, **Where the Wild Things Thrive** will focus on teaching kids a values-based approach to money management. Together, families will explore ways kids can share, save and spend; discuss the importance of being responsible with money; and build a financial foundation for children that will last a lifetime.

Families can look forward to an enjoyable day at the zoo with a free lunch, activities, and educational materials to take home. Parents will gain a better understanding of why it's important to teach kids about financial principles. Kids will learn how even small decisions regarding money can make a big difference.

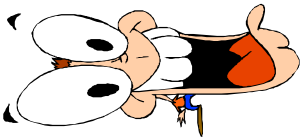
**Where the Wild Things Thrive** is free and open to families (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) with children ages 6-10. You do not have to be a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. No products or services will be sold.

Register before July 8<sup>th</sup> at

<http://thriventatbirminghamzoo.eventbrite.com>

or email [marjorie.gluckner@thrivent.com](mailto:marjorie.gluckner@thrivent.com)

If you have questions, call Terri Ray at 205-631-2585 or Marjorie Gluckner at 423-790-8940.



# Mark Your Calendars!!

## Family Fun Day Brown Family Lake house

July 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m. 'til dusk

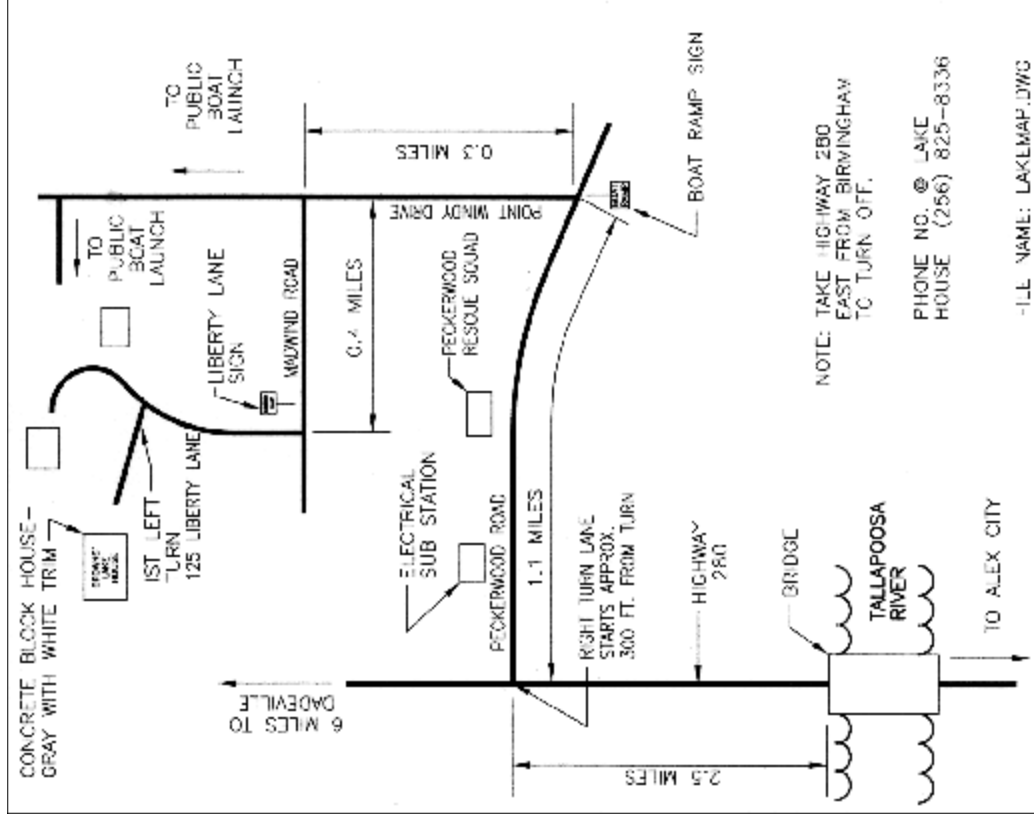
Sandwich makings provided for lunch

Just bring a snack to share

Other items to consider bringing: swim-suit, towel, bag chair, swim shoes, sun-screen

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

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





DEACONS

Our ministry has experienced significant events in the recent weeks, such as the end of Pastor Nathan's ministry here at First/Emmanuel and the ordination/installation of Pastor Tom Lackey. While we are saddened by Pastor Nathan's decision to leave Birmingham, we wish him and Cheryl the very best in their new endeavors in Missouri. Our prayers will continue to be with them as they travel and relocate. With the sorrow of their departure, there also is great joy and celebration in the ordination and installation of Pastor Tom Lackey, a long time member of our congregation. In his role as Associate Pastor, Pastor Tom's focus will be on the mercy ministries, preaching, and teaching.

Over the next several months, our ministry here will experience both new activities, and the continuation of previously started activities that we hope and pray will come to fruition. We are reaching out to other LCMS pastoral resources within our community to assist us in filling the Pulpit on Sunday mornings. Pastor Tom will be in the pulpit at least two Sundays each month. The Deacons, with Pastor Tom, are undertaking a review of our current worship format, and considering options, such as more regular use of the hymnals. More on that to follow.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to provide the use of our facility to the Red Mountain School for their day school starting near the end of August. We see this as an outreach opportunity for us, allowing us to help a local community school with a Christian based grounding, and by so doing, see regular daily use of the facility while earning some rental income.

Efforts to market the 119 property continue. The original offer to purchase the entire site has failed due to the zoning board in Shelby County. That same developer is considering a plan "B" - purchasing a parcel of the property - not including the Church building - for the construction of estate-style homes. We also have a church interested in purchasing the church building and 2-3 acres. There is a possibility that we can complete the sale of the entire 119 property before the end of the year - if not sooner.

Many of you have asked what is happening with the decision to sell both properties for relocation to a third site where we can pursue the ministry of reaching families in the community. As mentioned above, efforts continue to sell the 119 property. Regarding the Highland Avenue site, discussions initiated by the Southern District office of the LCMS have led the leadership to consider an option that may allow us to not only pursue our goal of planting a new church in a third location, but to also provide for the continued use of the downtown property as a "Cathedral" concept. As a "Cathedral", the facility would continue to serve as a LCMS ministry in Birmingham, with support from, and inclusion of several other LCMS congregations within the Birmingham area. More on that to follow, after a meeting with District President Schultz in late July. Although some might consider this a delay in our goal of relocating to a new, third location, the fact of the matter is that our current financial situation and the current commercial real estate situation prevent us from considering any physical move at this time. Any serious preliminary research into identifying a new location will require a shoring up of our financial resources - which we hope and pray the potential sale of a portion of the 119 property will do.

In conclusion, we have many exciting opportunities ahead of us as the balance of 2009 unfolds before us. We have elections of new officers coming up next month (we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider how they can participate), the on-going considerations on planting a new church in a third location, welcoming and supporting Pastor Tom, and establishing a Call Committee to search for the next shepherd to become the head Pastor. Pray for our ministry; pray for our leaders; pray for Pastor Tom; pray for Pastor Nathan - we have much to do ahead of us.

God's peace!



## **First Lutheran Church**

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

## **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

Sunday Morning Worship Service &  
Sunday School for Children & Adults  
Combined at First

## **First Lutheran Church**

2507 Highland Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

933-0380 Fax 933-8879

Pastor's E-Mail: [church@firstlutheranbham.org](mailto:church@firstlutheranbham.org)  
Bulletin E-mail: [secretary@firstlutheranbham.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutheranbham.org)  
Web Site: [firstlutheranbham.org](http://firstlutheranbham.org)

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### **Church Staff**

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July 2009

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Organization  
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