



First Impressions

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

Volume 16 Issue 8

August 2009

“A Rose is a Rose is a Rose”

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Every spring and summer I have struggled with weeds in the yard, in the flower beds, and if I had a garden I would struggle with them there, too. No matter how much I pull, spray, or fertilize, those rascals just pop up everywhere. These green and brown things that come in many shapes and sizes are just part of our “yard-styles” in the South. They don’t even burn out with the hot sun of July and August. Like that bothersome “in-law” in the movies, they just won’t go away, until winter hits, that is. By that time I’m good and tired of them and just leave them to die out and turn brown with the season.

Early last Spring I witnessed something unusual about those weeds in the front yard. Looking out the window, just as the sun was rising I saw light begin to rest right upon a small rose blooming in the midst of some of those tall, old brown ugly things I gave over to winter kill. Here I had ugly, old, left-over, brown weeds towering over one single beautiful rose arrayed in God’s first light of the morning. When you add the early spring morning dew to the petals of that rose, I don’t have to tell you what a beautiful picture it made.

As I began preparing this week’s sermon on Jesus encouraging the disciples to provide food for the multitudes (5000 plus), this rose scene came to mind. We all know what happened - Jesus delivered on the need. He stood amongst that throng of 5,000 hungry people whose souls were plagued with the pain of life, the pain of bearing their own personal crosses, the pain of the soul longing for relief and peace. He stood amongst the ugliness of sin and ...He delivered.

Today, it is virtually impossible for us not to watch TV, read a newspaper or even “Google” on our laptops or cell phones without feeling we are surrounded by the weeds of ugly sin. We feel and experience prejudice, pain, and hurt – the misery of sin everyday of our lives. It is in our “face” ... books ... and we, too, are like those brown weeds and the 5000 hungry souls sitting there seeking the peace of God. But our assurance is this - contrasting the ugliness of sin in this world - we have that Rose amongst the weeds. We have the beautiful love of a Savior who gave His all for us so that we might have life eternal.

The Holy Spirit has transformed us who were covered with the ugly -old - brown weeds of sin and made us anew. We, too, share that beauty because of the love of Christ – the perfect Rose. Perhaps our Lord, when He looks down from above and sees that glow radiating from us, comments “I don't think I've ever seen anything prettier than those Christians. In a weedy, old and sinful world they just stand out.”

Smile and share the “Son-shine.” Jesus loves you! Don’t be afraid to standout. Let it be known!

God’s Peace to you all –
Pastor Tom

Thanks to Pastor Ken Klaus of the Lutheran Hour for inspiring me to look out the window that morning.

Sarah Golchert - 2nd
Arvel Gschwend - 6th
Jim Hammel - 6th
Rachel Otte - 8th
Kate Cahill - 12th
Paul Norris - 12th
Ray Hunter - 12th
Nelson Sharit - 12th
Dot Claunch - 13th



19th - Chuck Pieplow
21st - Michael Norris
21st - Phillip Norris
24th - Evelyn Veal
25th - Jonathan Grund
27th - Doug Venable
27th - Greg Wanat
29th - David Pugh
30th - Jessica Wilson
31st - Nolan Hayes



8/1/1981 - Michael & Diane Golchert

8/14/1971 - Tom & Carol Lackey

8/18/1968 - Wray & Anne Allen



The family of Janice Grund Eulitz would like to thank our brothers and sisters in Christ for their thoughts and prayers during her illness and death. Also, many thanks for the wonderful meal following the Memorial Service.

Mike, Myra, and Edna Grund



Altar Flowers

8/23 - Krista Wanat in Honor of Greg Wanat's 50th Birthday (27th).



MEET OUR GRADUATE

TIM ALLEN GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LAW SCHOOL IN MAY AND WILL TAKE THE BAR EXAM IN JULY. TIM AND LARA ARE EXPECTING THEIR FIRST CHILD, A DAUGHTER, IN NOVEMBER AND WRAY AND ANNE ALLEN ARE TWO VERY PROUD PARENTS, LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING GRANDPARENTS. TIM AND LARA ARE RESIDING IN THEIR GRANDPARENT'S (C.J. AND HAZEL SCHEINERT) FORMER HOME AT 100 DEXTER AVENUE, MOUNTAIN BROOK, AL 35213



Annual Church ELECTION

VOTERS MEETING

THE NEXT VOTERS MEETING IS ON SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 2009 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE. THE AGENDA CONTAINS, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL OFFICERS AND BOARD CHAIRPERSONS. YOUR VOTE COUNTS; PLEASE ATTEND!



Dearest Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Thank you all so much for all you did for my Ordination – the wonderful, service, the reception and all the time and effort you put forth. It was truly and act of sharing the love of Christ. Each day I thank God for blessing me with each and every one of you. You, brothers and sisters in Christ at First and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, are blessing to both Carol and I and I thank God every day for each and every one of you.

Thank you also for the beautiful green stole you gave me as an ordination gift. All of this is still so overwhelming and each time I place it around my shoulders I rejoice in the fact that Christ has place me amongst such loving individuals. I can say no more. You have loved me with the love of Christ and that is what we are called to do. May God continue to richly bless each you with his wonderful love and mercy -
 Pastor Tom

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST/EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- August 2 - Abby Cahill
- August 9 - Kate Cahill
- August 16 - Carol Lackey
- August 23 - Myra Grund
- August 30 - Kate Cahill

Readers:

- August 2 - Toby Cahill
- August 9 - Krista Wanat
- August 16 - Wilson Whittington
- August 23 - Donna Speegle
- August 30 - Mike Grund

Altar Guild: Terry Lepp

Candles: June Weir

Communion Assistants:

- August 2 - Mike Twiss
- August 16 - Mike Twiss
- August 30 - Mike Twiss

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

Worship Assistant: Toby Cahill

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.

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.



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, Buck Halbrooks, & David Cybul (Krista Wants' brother)

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

Evangeline Belle DeFluiter


Illness: Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother), Gene Duncan (co-worker of Pastor Tom & Heather Lackey), Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor), 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.

Those Serving in the Military: Joel Lackey deployed to Iraq

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
26	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting/Lunch 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	27		28		29	30 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	31 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Divergaters Anonymous @First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	1 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group
2	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	3 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Church Council Meeting @First	4	5	6 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	7 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Divergaters Anonymous @First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	8		
9	 Congregational Meeting 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Voters Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	10	11 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Yahweh Sisters Women's Bible Study	12	13 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	14 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Divergaters Anonymous @First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	15 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group		
16	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	18	19 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline	20 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	21 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Divergaters Anonymous @First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	22		
23	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting/Lunch 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	24	25	26	27 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	28 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Divergaters Anonymous @First 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	29		
30	Possible Family Day & 5th Sunday Potluck?? 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	31	1	2 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM Family Dinner 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM Family Activities	3 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @First	4	5 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group		



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | JULY 17-21, 2010
WWW.LCMSGATHERING.COM

JOHN 20:31

National LCMS Youth Gathering

The Countdown Begins!

**The Twenty-Ten Gathering +
New Orleans, LA
July 17-21, 2010
+ WE BELIEVE +**

"But these are written that you may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John 20:31

+ The LCMS National Gatherings provide opportunities for youth and adults to boldly come together in the name of Jesus Christ to proclaim, celebrate, and witness their salvation through Him, rejoice in the fellowship of their church and be affirmed and nurtured in their lives as God's people through Word and Sacrament. The 2010 Gathering marks the 11th National Youth Gathering and the third time New Orleans has been home to the thousands of youth and adult participants who will gather over five-days for celebration of their faith and life in Jesus Christ.

+ Be sure and check out the official Gathering website for the latest and most up to date info at <http://www.lcmsgathering.com/>

+ Make plans now to be a part of the Big Easy... 2010. These National Gatherings only happen every 3 years and we several youth who are eligible to attend.

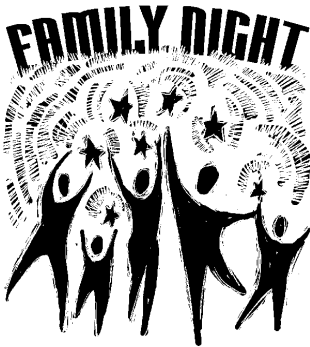
We will be raising funds over the next year to pay for the cost to attend.

Our first fundraiser is underway – The Ugly Tie contest.

Please vote now and often for your favorite

Ugly Tie to be worn by Pastor Tom in August.

Announcements



We will NOT be holding Family Night on Wednesday nights this summer (Family Night will resume after Labor Day). The rest of our small group activities are continuing with the Barnabas small group on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month and the Nehemiah small group on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month. If you would like to join a small group, please talk to Mike Grund.



Rally Day has been tentatively scheduled for August 30 to coincide with our '5th Sunday of the month' potluck dinner. See Mike Grund for information on Rally Day and stay tuned to the announcements in your weekly Sunday bulletin.

As you may know, our Phone Tree is up and running, however the Church Council felt a few guidelines needed to be instituted. They are as follows:

1. Reasons for using the system are: Major Events, Deaths, Change of Dates, or Important Voters Meetings (that may require a certain quota).
2. Submit your script - no longer than 35 seconds and subject to editing - to the secretary at secretary@firstlutheranbham.org.
3. Allow 7 days notice whenever possible.
4. Most Phone Trees will be done on Tuesday afternoons.
5. If there are any questions regarding the importance of a request, the church office will defer to the council.



THE DEADLINE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETINS IS WEDNESDAYS AT 11:00 AM. REQUESTS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO SECRETARY@FIRSTLUTHERANBHAM.ORG OR BY PHONE 933-0380.



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS UPDATING RECORDS FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY AND PHONE TREE. WE HOPE TO RELEASE THE NEW DIRECTORY SOMETIME THIS FALL, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP! AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IS A LIST OF MEMBERS (PAST & PRESENT). PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE LIST AND CORRECT, ADD, OR DELETE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING YOURSELF, FAMILY, OR FRIENDS.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE,
THE CHURCH SECRETARY.



Your Deacons just recently revised and updated their every member contact list. Listed below, by Deacon, is that list. If any member's name does not appear on this list please contact Toby Cahill as soon as possible. It is our goal to stay in contact with our members on a regular basis, either by phone, mail, e-mail, or in person. This effort is a two-way street, however, so we would encourage each of you to contact your Deacon whenever we can be of assistance to you.

Toby Cahill
 Dorothy Adair
 Frank & Judy Brown
 Wray & Anne Allen
 Matt & Abbey Cahill
 Dcs. Peg Anderson
 Leona Boehme
 Dot Claunch
 Lucille Cooper
 Jim Campbell
 Corrine Donahoo
 LaShanda Curry
 Larry Donaldson
 Ray & Julie Cvengros
 Alexis Dais
 Judy Drews
 Flo Fischer
 Brian Grau
 Charlie Hayes
 Edna Grund
 Dolores Goehler
 Michael & Myra Grund
 Annie Harrell
 Buck Halbrooks
 Jay & Sandra Heidecker
 Sebastian & Sharon Hudd
 Ray & Judy Hunter
 Graham Sisson
 Jennie Kilbourne
 Don & Liz Janssen
 Eric & Jodie Kilbourne
 Cecil & Norma Jefferson
 Debbie Kilgore
 Evelyn Krueger
 Wendy Lepp
 Heather Lackey

Brent Stiefel
 David & Dee Mayhew
 Tom & Carol Lackey
 Dean Mizzell
 Terry Lepp
 Rachel Mudd
 David & Gail Pugh
 Kathy Roberts
 Paul & Rachel Norris
 Mike Twiss
 Jana Rotten
 Greg & Tammy Rudd
 David & Pat Ryan
 Nelson & Marcy Sharit
 Charlene Seibert
 Wayne & Donna Speegle
 Rebecca Troullier
 Glen & Pat Thompson
 Wilson Whittington
 Evelyn Veal
 Jeri Troullier
 Doug & Debbie Venable
 Greg & Krista Wanat
 Stan & June Weir
 Faye Whisler
 Hildegard Wesson
 Lillian White

Deacons Meeting



The deacons meeting schedule is as follows:

8-23,
 9-27,
 10-25,
 11-22,
 12-20

Meetings are held after Sunday service and involve lunch.



First 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

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: pastortom@firstlutheranbham.org

Bulletin E-mail: secretary@firstlutheranbham.org

Web Site: firstlutheranbham.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Church Calendar.....	Page 4
Deacons.....	Page 7
Member Information.....	Page 6
Prayer Requests.....	Page 3
Worship Workers.....	Page 3
Youth.....	Page 5

Church Staff

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Bob Collier, Director of Music
Krista E. Wanat, Secretary
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