



# First Impressions

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

Volume 18 Issue 8

August 2011

## *The Path of the Carpenter*

*And the Word became flesh ...and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth ... and we beheld His glory - John 1:14*

In Nazareth he was known only as Jesus, the son of Joseph. You can be sure he was respected in the community. He was good with his hands. He had many friends. He was a favorite among the children. Maybe he even told a good joke or two and filled the air with contagious laughter.

I often wonder if he wanted to stay in Nazareth ... in the serenity of his carpenter shop out back where he could work things out. Maybe he thought, "I could do a good job here in Nazareth. Settle down. Take a bride and raise a family. Be a civic leader."

I wonder because I know he had already read the last chapter. He knew that the feet that would step out of the safe shadow of the carpentry shop would not rest until they'd been pierced and placed on the Roman cross. It was all about the mission.

He could have changed direction and ignored the call or at least postponed it. Maybe he could have stayed in the carpenter shop a while longer. He could have come back as a man in another era when society wasn't so volatile - when religion wasn't so stale and when people would listen better.

He could have come back when crosses were out of style.

But his heart wouldn't let him. If there was hesitation on the part of his humanity, it was certainly overcome by the compassion of his divinity. He could not turn from the mission for his heart was and is the very heart of God. His divinity heard the voices. His divinity heard the hopeless cries of the poor, the bitter accusations of the abandoned, and the dangling despair of those who are even trying to save themselves.

And his divinity saw the faces. Some wrinkled. Some weeping. Some hidden behind veils. Some obscured by fear. Some earnest with searching and some blank with boredom. From the face of Adam to the face of the infant born somewhere in the world as you read these words, he saw them all.

You, my friends, can be sure of one thing. Among the voices that found the way into that carpenter shop in Nazareth was your voice. Your silent prayers uttered on tearstained pillows were heard before they were said. Your deepest questions about death and eternity were answered before they were asked. And your direst need, your need for a Savior, was met before you were ever born ... yes, before you ever sinned.

And not only did he hear you, he saw you. He saw your face aglow in the hour you first knew him. He saw your face shame the hour you first fell. The same face that looked back at you from this morning's mirror looked at him. And ... it was enough to kill him.

He laid his worldly security down because of you and for you. He was crucified on that cross of wood for you. He gave himself unto death for you and blood ran for the forgiveness of your sins. And in the peace and tranquility of that first Easter morn, he stepped from the grave and gave you a clear path. And now he reaches out his hand to grasp yours and he simply says, "*come with me.*"

*Sola Deo Gloria -  
Pastor Tom*

\* Paraphrased from "God Comes Near - Chronicles of The Christ" by Max Lucado

Sarah Golchert - 2nd  
Tom Noon - 3rd  
Anthony McGraw - 6th  
Janice Porter - 6th  
L'Tanya Sims - 9th



Austin Stallworth - 10th  
Kate Cahill - 12th  
Paul Norris - 12th  
Nelson Sharit - 12th  
Dot Claunch - 13th

24th - Evelyn Veal  
25th - Jonathan Grund  
**27th - Greg Wanat**  
29th - David Pugh  
31st - Nolan Hayes  
31st - Alan Lackey



8/1/1981 - Michael & Diane  
Golchert  
8/14/1971 - Tom & Carol  
Lackey



Congratulations to Robert Regulus for correctly answering July's trivia (1930). You have won a month's supply of Grace - enjoy!

**A voters meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, August 21, 2011 following the Worship Service. If you have not attended a meeting in over a year, or are a new member, please be sure to sign the rolls before the meeting begins. If you have any questions, contact the Church President, Glen Thompson.**



Find out what our Library has for you! Luther's Works along with lots of Biblical study resources and commentaries are available. Fiction, non-fiction, devotionals, money matters, and information on the Dead Sea scrolls are all waiting for you. Drop by for a tour before and after worship, Wednesday before Bible study, or afterwards. Everyone - adults, teens, and children are invited to stop by the library to sign up for a library card. At other times you can use the self-checkout system by signing the card in the back of the book, enter the date checked out, and leave the card in the acrylic stand on the desk. You will find instructions for this process also on the desk. Check out the library! A world of information is waiting for you.



**From the Editor**

In July, we discontinued sending the newsletter via e-mail. In lieu of a survey to see who is actually reading the newsletter, we will be hiding a ? trivia question? within an article, announcement, or some other clever place each month. You may answer the question by sending it to the secretary's e-mail (see back page), on the website, or writing it on a piece of paper along with your name and placing it in the church secretary's mailbox across from the church office. The prize this month - Mercy!

The newsletter is available online at our website: [www.firstlutheranbham.org](http://www.firstlutheranbham.org).



Our Saturday evening casual praise and worship service, Twilight Song, was on vacation for the month of July. We look forward to its return this month on Saturday, August 6, 2011 with a songfest - an introduction to some of the music we will be singing the rest of the year. Plan on attending and stay tuned to your bulletin for more details!

# WORSHIP WORKERS



## August



### FIRST/ EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

#### Children's Church –

- August 7 - Judy Drews
- August 14 - Kate Cahill
- August 21 - Carol Lackey
- August 28 - Pat Ryan

#### Readers:

- August 7 - Pat Thompson
- August 14 - Donna Speegle
- August 21 - Brian Hayes
- August 28 - Jim Campbell

**Altar Guild:** Terry Lepp

**Candles:** June Weir

**Communion Assistant:** Wilson Whittington

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

**Worship Assistant:** Toby Cahill

**Nursery:** Meg Callahan



8/14 - In honor *Altar Flowers* of Pastor Tom & Carol Lackey's 40th Wedding Anniversary

8/28 - In honor of Greg Wanat's birthday on the 27th.

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

Ephesians - Taught by Pastor Porter.

Adult Bible Study - Lutheranism 101 study taught by Pastor Tom.

Beth Moore Series - "Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" taught by Judy Drews and Donna Speegle.

#### Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes:

Pre-school - 3 - 6 year old.

Jr. High - 5th - 8th grade.

Early Elementary - for kids in 1st - 4th grade with limited reading skills.

#### Homebound/Assisted Care:

Charlene Seibert, Corrine Donahoo, Lucille Cooper, Hildegard Wesson, Dean Mizzell, Edward Royal, Dolores Goehler, Leona Boehme, Edna Grund, Charlotte Newell, Becky Jenkins, Evelyn Krueger, Norma Jefferson.



Recovering: Delores Goehler, Hildegard Wesson.

Illness: Dean Mizzell (arthritis), Edward Royal (cataract surgery), Alice Callsen (Krista's god-mother has tumor), Ethan Melton, Norma Jefferson, Corrine Donahoo, Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor), and Arnold Hardin (stomach cancer).

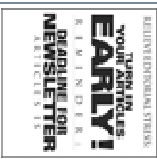

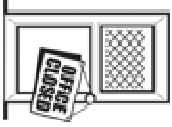
Intercession: For the people of Norway, Japan, Libya, Haiti, and the tornado and flood victims.

Missionaries: Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military: Mike Golchert, Joel Lackey (deployed).

# AUGUST 2011

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	8:40 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM 3rd Sunday Potluck cancelled 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Truham person/Spiegel tea party 7:40 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	1 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	2 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM Elizabeth of RMCS & church 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	3 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study	4 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	5 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	6 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service
7	8:40 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:40 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	8	9 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM Elizabeth of RMCS & church 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	10 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study	11 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	12 8:30 PM - 9:40 PM Nehemiah Small Group 9:00 PM - 9:40 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	13 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service
14	8:40 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 7:40 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	15	16 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM Elizabeth of RMCS & church 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	17 	18 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	19 8:00 PM - 9:40 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	20 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service
21	 8:40 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Vales Meeting 7:40 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	22	23 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	24 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study	25 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	26 8:30 PM - 9:40 PM Nehemiah Small Group 9:00 PM - 9:40 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	27  Church Office Closed 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service
28	Church Office Closed 8:40 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Desson Meeting 7:40 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous	31 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study	1 Church Office Closed 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	2 Church Office Closed 8:00 PM - 9:40 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	3 Church Office Closed 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Twilight Song Service

*First*



Many people look forward with excitement to months with special occasions or celebrations, like New Year's Day in January, Valentine's Day in February, Easter in March or April, Mother's Day in May, Father's Day in June, Independence Day in July, Labor Day in September, Reformation Day in October, Thanksgiving Day in November and Christmas in December. August seems to be one of those months when there is not much to celebrate. Major League baseball players refer to this month as the "Dog Days of August." It seems to be a month that has been simply added to the calendar to fill out 31 more days that will add up to 365 for the year.

Even kids sometimes look at August as a boring month. Vacations are usually over, the days seem to move by so slowly, and they actually look forward to the end of August or early September when a new school year starts again. Of course, that will change before very long.

Life is like that. Not every day, week or month is as exciting as some others, but each one presents another opportunity for service. Redeemed stewards look for opportunities to make the most of time because time is an important gift from God. Making the most of time can take us in a number of different directions. Included among these directions are time for meditation and reflection, time for rest and time for planning ahead.

God's Old Testament people sometimes grumbled about getting the Sabbaths over so they could get back to selling wheat, skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales...(Amos 8:5). Rather than observing the Sabbath as a day of rest, reflection and worship, they saw it as a wasted day.

Perhaps August has been given to us from God to use like a Sabbath rest. As God's redeemed stewards we can use quiet times for worship, reflection, meditation and planning. This can be a very positive way to use time that some might think is boring.

***God's redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, manage all of life and life's resources [including time] for God's purposes.*** Other life resources include money, relationships, abilities, care of our bodies and creation, sharing the Gospel of salvation in Jesus and so much more! Let August be a reminder that we are God's stewards 365 days a year and we live freely and joyfully as His stewards in August as well as the other eleven months of the year.

Have a refreshing, relaxing and blessed August!



Please note the following e-mail corrections in your directory:

Robert Regulus: [regulus49@att.net](mailto:regulus49@att.net)

Gwendolyn Regulus: [GwenJ@att.net](mailto:GwenJ@att.net)





**Teachers  
Needed**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education is seeking dedicated teachers, teachers in training (we will provide the training!), or individuals who want to explore whether teaching is one of your hidden spiritual gifts.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** We provide a 30 minute Children's Church for 3 – 7 year olds, during the sermon during every Sunday worship service. We need substitutes and one or more regular Children's Church leaders. The leader is supplied with a one page Bible story, suggestions for how to teach the story, as well as application to today, and materials for the children to color and take with them. Call Judy Drews (823-1937) if you want more information or want to discuss whether this is your calling. ?In 1505, at what University did Martin Luther begin Law School?

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We need substitutes for all ages and teachers for several classes (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) for this coming school year. Teachers will be provided curriculum materials appropriate for the age group and a regular Teacher's meeting to assist with planning and presenting the Word to your age group. Contact Judy Drews if you are interested (823-1937). Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

It will soon (too soon) be Fall when we traditionally think about heading back to school. So we also think about learning in Christ at First. It is time to **Rally Around the Word**.

You are each invited to join us for a Sunday School class. We have something everyone – children, youth and adults. Classes will officially start on **Rally Day, September 18<sup>th</sup>**, but most of the classes are going right now, so you don't have to wait. Sunday School is Sunday from 9 am – 10 am and we begin each month with a joint opening when we celebrate birthdays of that month. Be there to get your cupcake!

**ADULTS:** Lutheranism 101 taught by Pastor Lackey; Ephesians taught by Pastor Porter; Women's Study taught by Donna Speegle; Harvest (younger adults) taught by Graham and Victoria Sisson (presently joining Ephesians class).

**YOUTH:** (confirmation through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**CHILDREN:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; 3 – 6 year olds  
We look forward to a great year in Bible study and growing in Christ.



### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS



For anyone interested in serving as a Sunday morning worship reader, usher, or greeter - please add your name and contact information to the sign-up sheet located in the office hallway. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact either Wilson Whittington or Jim Campbell, whose numbers are in the directory. We appreciate those who have served thus far, and welcome any who wish to join our worship service helpers.

### Board of Fellowship's Reason for Being

The Board of Fellowship helps facilitate Christian fellowship among the members of First Lutheran Church and provides opportunities for members to invite guests to fellowship with us. Below is a list of some fellowship opportunities the Board helps organize throughout the year:

### Board of Fellowship



1. Provides weekly coffee service for Sunday School.
2. Coordinates 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday pot-luck dinners after church.
3. Organizes meals for special church year services such as Lent and Advent.
4. Organizes and helps serve Easter breakfast after sunrise service.
5. Works with other boards to support special events planned by those boards.
6. Organizes post funeral luncheons for members' families.
7. Plans special "just for fun" fellowship events.
8. Hosts celebration receptions for confirmands, new pastors and new members.
9. Maintains the kitchen and keeps food and supplies stocked for our fellowship events.

The Board of Fellowship welcomes anyone interested in serving in this area. Please contact Kate Cahill or Donna Speegle to make this desire known.



Other Boards/Committees at First/Emmanuel you may be interested in serving:

Evangelism - contact June Weir

Altar Guild - contact Terry Lepp

Trustees - contact June Weir



If you received an information sheet in the mail with an item highlighted, please fill in the correct information and return it to the church office. Thank you!





## **First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

8:00 AM Choir Practice  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Adults  
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship and Communion Service

5:00 PM Saturday Evening - Twilight Song  
Find us on Facebook!

## **First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

933-0380

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Bulletin E-mail: [secretary@firstlutheranbham.org](mailto:secretary@firstlutheranbham.org)

Web Site: [www.firstlutheranbham.org](http://www.firstlutheranbham.org)

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### **Church Staff**

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Rev. Arthur Porter, Associate Pastor  
Bob Collier, Director of Music  
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