



First Impressions

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

Volume 16 Issue 10

October 2009

In Communication with You

And as he [Jesus] taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'?" – Mark 11:17

In some of my sermon studies, I have been reading through part of Mark, chapter 11. It amazes me how God's Word impacts our lives, even as we casually read through it on a daily basis. I find that it's so often relevant to the issues in my life and this world, that very day.

In this specific passage, we read about several things, especially prayer. What really stands out to me is Jesus calling His house, the place where His followers gather, a **"house of prayer"**. Then later, He explains that faith and forgiveness are both connected to prayer; how refreshing. Jesus isn't just concerned about our wishes when we talk with Him. C.S. Lewis once discussed prayer as a shaping force, a living conversation with God Himself, and one that isn't bound by space or time, nor bound by our efforts or earthly connections. Prayer [the request(s)] is up to God to grant or refuse: (from *God in the Dock*) "[Just as] it's not unreasonable for a headmaster to say, *"Such and such things you may do according to the fixed rules of this school. But such and such other things are too dangerous to be left to general rules. If you want to do them you must come and make a request and talk over the whole matter with me in my study. And then – we'll see."* God doesn't grant every request in the way or time we would like, but He longs to have us make every request, just as I have cherished my own children's requests. This dialogue between two beings is truly a beautiful thing, as is all dialogue with others in our lives. Yet, this dialogue, open to all, is part of God Himself transforming us in His likeness.

One way to be with Him is praying as you walk with Christ Jesus through reading His Word. The essence of our prayers and of God's response is rooted in His Word. This is where He reveals Himself to us. If you believe that God speaks to you away from His Word, then I would tell you it is because of something that was originally revealed to you through the reading of God's Word. I invite you to take a few minutes each day to walk with Jesus Christ and allow Him to love you. Guiding resources are available - Portals of Prayer devotionals are available each quarter and are placed at the back of the church. One can also access those readings and scripture at LCMS.org (which will guide you to Biblegateway.com for the Scripture references). Another program even takes you through the Bible in a year. Check out these alternative options for being in God's Word daily. Listening to God reveal Himself to you is good for the soul because God wants to talk with you. Why not take a moment daily to "chat" with Him?

Alternative Options: www.lcms.org

Left hand column – main page - **Daily Devotional**

Left hand column – main page - **Through the Bible in a Year**

- or -

See our webpage (www.firstlutheranbham.org) for upcoming direct links to the same.

Blessings - Pastor Tom (ptl)



3rd - Tim Shiflett
 5th - Judy Drews
 9th Graham Sisson
 9th - Wendy Lepp
 12th - Jennie Kilbourne

18th - Pat Ryan
 19th - Amy Neimkin
 23rd - Liz Janssen
 28th - David Hunter
 29th - Judy Brown
 30th - Judy Hunter



On Sunday, October 25, 2009 we will be celebrating Reformation Day with a special service and possibly some other special events. Stay tuned to your local bulletin to catch all the details!

The Board of Trustees (Ray Cvengros) and the Board of Stewardship (Judy Brown) are in need of a few good Christians! If you are willing to serve on either board, please contact Ray or Judy at your earliest convenience. They would appreciate and welcome all the support you may have to offer.



Pastor Tom will be on vacation beginning Sunday, September 27 through Sunday, October 4. If you need help during this time, please contact your Deacon.
 Happy trails Ptl.



We would like to thank Paul & Rachel Norris for their very generous gift of new commodes for all of the bathrooms at First/Emmanuel LCMS. We are sitting pretty now, but would like to cover the cost of installation. If you wish to help in this endeavor, please place your contribution in the offering plate and designate it 'flush fund'.

Holiday Services Survey

Please make your choices and give to usher or place in Pastor Tom's mailbox no later than October 18th.

Would you rather attend service:

- A. Thanksgiving Eve
- B. Thanksgiving Day

Which Christmas Service(s) do you think you will attend? (circle all that apply)

- A. Christmas Eve early
- B. Christmas Eve midnight
- C. Christmas Day



HOLIDAY SURVEY

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church –

- October 4 -
- October 11 - Kate Cahill
- October 18 - Carol Lackey
- October 25 - Myra Grund

Readers:

- October 4 - Krista Wanat
- October 11 - Toby Cahill
- October 18 - Ray Hunter
- October 25 - Mike Grund

Altar Guild: Sandra Heidecker

Candles: Carol Lackey

Communion Assistants:

- October 4 - Graham Sisson
- October 18 - Graham Sisson

Ushers: Charlie Hayes, Wilson Whittington, Mike Grund, Ray Hunter

Worship Assistant: Jim Campbell

Nursery: Meg Callahan



The sign up sheet for altar flowers is on the wall between the Pastor's office and the secretary's office.

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 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.

Who will be someone about nothing - but the something of praise - with thanksgiving - praise your name - in quiet the no - but - Philippians 4:5



Retirement Home: Dorothy Adair, Annie Harrell

Recovering: Delores Goehler, Flo Fischer, Leo Perry, Hildegard Wesson, & David Cybul (Krista Wanats' brother)

Thanks & Praise: Healthy birth of Abbigail Ruth Kilbourne.

Illness: Floyd Seibert (Charlene Seibert's brother), Judy Drew's brother-in-law, Steve Norby (brain tumor).



Mourning: Family of Janice Eulitz (Mike Grund's sister; Edna's daughter).

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

Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military: Joel Lackey deployed.

OCTOBER 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	 <p>The Pastor Will Be Here Pastor Tom on vacation 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/Lunch 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	28 Pastor Tom on vacation	29 Pastor Tom on vacation	30 Pastor Tom on vacation	1 Pastor Tom on vacation 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	2 Pastor Tom on vacation 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	3 Pastor Tom on vacation Youth Varc Sale 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group
4	Pastor Tom on vacation 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	5 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	6 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Yalweh Sister's Women's Bible Study	7 Pastor Tom out of town	8 Pastor Tom out of town 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	9 Pastor Tom out of town 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	10 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group
11	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	12	13 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Yalweh Sister's Women's Bible Study	14	15 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	16 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	17 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Barnabas Small Group
18	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	19	20	21 11:59 PM Newsletter Deadline	22 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM "Reserved - Bob Collier" 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	23 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	24
25	 <p>Regeneration Academy 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/Lunch 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First</p>	26	27	28	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 Overeaters Anonymous @ First 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous @ First	31

From the **Board of Deacons****CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH**

Simple acts that feed a shepherd...

10 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor**1. Pray for your pastor.**

Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom, and courage. Pray for maturity and growth in the faith, and that his work among you will be a source of joy for him.

2. Express appreciation verbally.

Your pastor appreciates words of encouragement. Consider sharing complimentary remarks to others about the gifts of your pastor, occasionally in his presence.

3. Express appreciation in writing.

A spoken compliment is always welcome, but a written one can be read over and over again for years. So, when you hear or see something you like from your minister, write an appreciative note. .

4. Celebrate with a special meal

Host a special celebration at which your pastor and his family are the honored guests, or provide a private dinner for him and his family.

5. Use your skills to share a blessing with your pastor.

Are you gifted at lawn care? Are you a mechanic...a wonderful cook? Offer a free service or at a reduced rate.

6. Live in peace.

Appreciation is more than cards and gifts, it's an attitude. Do not get pulled into petty diversions that unnecessarily bring strife and discord. If you hear a negative comment, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or, if people are gossiping, just walk away. Not only do you honor your pastor in this way, but you give a practical testimony to God's grace and mercy.

7. Offer to meet a need.

If you're aware of a need in the congregation, approach your pastor saying, 'I'd like to help by...'. If you see an area that can be improved, take responsibility for contacting the appropriate board or committee, and suggest a plan before you begin working on it. Get involved by teaching a class, leading a workshop, singing in the choir, feeding the hungry. Ask your pastor where and how you can employ your gifts.

8. Lovingly insist on "time off".

Your pastor will need to take time for renewal and rest, but may feel as though there is too much work to get done before he can take a "day off". Help him know that he not only has permission to get appropriate rest and relaxation, but that it will benefit his ministry and provides a good model for the members.

9. Support a strategy for continuing education.

Your pastor desires to be the best he can be in serving you, and will need to remain current with continuing education. Your financial and emotional support in this regard is vital.

10. Identify a "Mutual Ministry" committee.

This is a group of people in your congregation with the gift for caring. This group is completely separate from the elders, church council, or other governing board of the congregation. They represent, serve, and advocate for the needs of the pastor and his family.

MINISTERIAL GROWTH & SUPPORT

A Ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Outreach to the “least of these” in our community

The Evangelism Board would like to offer the opportunity for our members to help us reach out and serve “the least of these” in our community.

Highlands Methodist has invited us and several other churches to join them as they serve the homeless in our community. Their church on the square in the Five Points area welcomes, serves breakfast, and fellowships with the homeless six mornings a week. Also, Monday through Saturday from 1:00 pm to 1:50 men and women are fed, can receive new clothes, have their clothes washed, receive mail, and receive assistance in applying for I D’s.

Highlands has been growing in this ministry for 20 years and First will have a group helping on the first Saturday of each month. We will be working 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” Matthew 25: 35-40.

Hello dear members of First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

I am writing to express our deep appreciation for your hospitality, for making room for all of us at Red Mountain Community School. We have long loved your building and been drawn to your location. Our school is only entering its fifth year; however, in all that time we have often asked ourselves, ‘Wouldn’t it be lovely if we could meet in the beautiful Lutheran church by the park?’

Thank You!

Now that we have had the opportunity to meet your leadership and work in your space, we find that we are even more aware of what a gift it is for us to be here.

Our school is a collaboration of love and we would be happy for you to join us at any of our seasonal celebrations, weekly chapels or parent gatherings. We have provided a copy of our ‘Field Guide’ (family handbook) in the church office for your perusal. Our kindergarten teacher, Ivey Young will be updating a bulletin board in the hall so that you can see pictures of our days and get to know us better.

On October 1 we will offer a ‘Sampling’ of our school from 11:30-12:30. Lunch is served, I give a short presentation of our work, and we have a tour of classes. Please give us a call at 218-4965 if you are interested in joining us.

Again, thank you for your generosity and kindness to our little school. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Warmly,

Melanie Walker
Head of School

Youth Group Meeting

October 11, 2009

We will be meeting after the 10 am worship service for great a time of fellowship, food and fun!

WHO'S INVITED??

Any youth grades 7 through 12 who are interested in just having fun

WHAT TO BRING

A friend

Your favorite game

LUNCH MENU

We will be making tacos and nachos

Bring any taco or nachos

Ingredient, such as;

Soft or hard tacos shells

Nachos

Cheese dip

Salsa

Lettuce

Tomatoes

Jalapenos

Refried beans



TAKE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH

Over the next 11 months the youth will be selling shares of stock in a continued effort to raise funds for the 2010 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Shares, which may be purchased from our youth, are \$10.00 each and the shareholder will receive a stock certificate. This certificate entitles the shareholder to a dinner and special presentation where the youth will share their experience(s) upon returning from the Gathering.

Please consider taking STOCK in our Youth and purchase more than one share and help our youth attend this awesome event!

Special thanks to Sherry Stiefel for volunteering to be one of two chaperones needed for this event. We still



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: church@firstlutheranbham.org
Bulletin E-mail: secretary@firstlutheranbham.org
Web Site: firstlutheranbham.org

IN THIS ISSUE

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

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