



# First Impressions

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

Volume 18 Issue 10

October 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

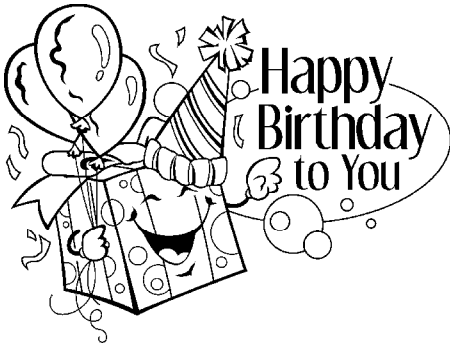
We have adopted a new mission statement to fortify and unify our new ministry thrust. The statement "*Connecting People to Jesus*" is the phrase that accurately captures the purpose of the Great Commission and defines our mission.

In order for us to be effective in our effort, we have to be committed to the serious study of God's Word. Over the years, I have collected and assembled reasons for attending Bible Study. From that list, I want to share with you *Ten Good Reasons for Attending Bible Study*.

1. **You'll learn.** You'll learn more than pieces and parts of the Scripture, but how they fit together. You'll go to the next level in your understanding of how your faith fits together; past, present, and future. You'll learn from the words of the Bible themselves; how they refer and reference each other in complete harmony.
2. **You'll connect** with other men and women who are hungry to take their faith to the next level. You'll make connections with some people you've seen, but don't know, and with people you've never seen, but need to know. The best way to grow together is to study together.
3. **You'll understand** how your faith fits together. Understanding the theology and the history of the Scripture is more important than understanding disconnected verses and stringing them together.
4. **It will be a great discipline.** Which means you're going to have to get up, get ready, get there, and be in your seat with your study Bible, highlighter, and note pad ready to go. If you commit to this, it will become a habit.
5. **It will help you obey the direct command of Scripture.** The New Testament says, "study to show thyself approved, a workman that does not need to be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of truth." This will help you be a student and know how to stand on your own as you discuss and defend your faith with others.
6. **It will make you a seeker of truth,** and God always rewards those who seek truth. He says, "the truth will set us free." The New Testament is timeless and is written from a perspective we understand in a modern urban city.
7. During the study of the curriculum books like Galatians, Romans and John **you'll get breakthroughs,** insights that you've always wanted to have. Things that you've always wanted to know become clear as you begin to put the small pieces together in the big picture.
8. **It will help you make application** of all the other things that you've learned about your faith in a more practical, step-by-step way. You will learn what the Bible says, what it means and then how to apply it to your lives.
9. **It will help you be a part of a genuine community.** What's one part of genuine community? The Word of God is where true unity in community happens and where connections truly become deeper and more productive. Our mission is "*Connecting People to Jesus*" and we can't do that without becoming the Christian community the Word of God gives.
10. You will start your day, with God's word fresh and alive in your heart, and **your whole outlook and perspective for Christian living will be different.**

I encourage each of you to be active in carrying out our mission of *Connecting People to Jesus*. Remember, in order to be effective, we must work together and grow together in God's Word. Peace be with you as we continue serving Christ together.

Pastor Porter



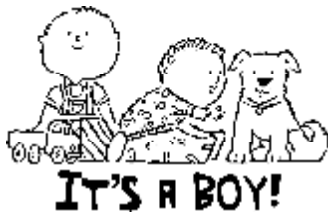
- 2nd - Nancy Clasby
- 5th - Judy Drews
- 9th Graham Sisson
- 9th - Wendy Lepp
- 10th - Robert Regulus
- 12th - Jennie Kilbourne

- 18th - Rev. Ahlemeyer
- 18th - Pat Ryan
- 19th - Amy Neimkin
- 22nd - Ernestine Craig
- 23rd - Cynthia Brown
- 28th - David Hunter
- 29th - Judy Brown

Lorenza & Frances Robinson - 10-04-74



Congratulations to Gwen Regulus, Nancy Clasby, Ernestine Craig, and Frances Robinson for correctly answering September's trivia question (Billy Martin). You have won a month's supply of Forgiveness - enjoy!



Wray and Anne Allen would like to announce the birth of Jack Henry Allen on September 3, 2011. He weighed in at 6 lbs 7 oz and he and mother Lara are doing fine. We thank the good Lord for this wonderful blessing of a new grandson and pray that God will bless him and his family now and forever. We also pray that as grandparents we can help guide him in God's path and plan for his life. The Grandman and Grandanne are very proud of both grandchildren, Avery and Jack Allen.

**We regret to inform you that our Saturday evening Praise & Worship Service, "Twilight Song" has been cancelled. We will review the need to possibly resume the service at a later date. A huge thanks to all those who put so much time and effort in to try to make this a successful way of "Connecting people to Jesus". We carry on!**



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 - Peace!

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

The ~ answers~ will be published in the following month's newsletter. Have fun and read on!

WORSHIP WORKERS



FIRST/ EMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Children's Church -

- October 2 - Judy Drews
October 9 - Kate Cahill
October 16 - Carol Lackey
October 23 - Pat Ryan
October 30 - Kate Cahill

Readers:

- October 2 - Glen Thompson
October 9 - Carol Lackey
October 16 - Dcs. Anderson
October 23 - Brian Hayes
October 30 - Kate Cahill

Altar Guild: Rhoda Rivers

Candles: Pat Thompson

Communion Assistant: Graham Sisson

Ushers: Wilson Whittington, Charlie Hayes, Toby Cahill

Worship Assistant: Jim Campbell

Nursery: Meg Callahan



2nd - Lorenza & Frances Robinson in honor of their Wedding Anniversary

16th - Glen & Pat Thompson in celebration of Aaron & Carrie's Wedding.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

Galatians - Taught by Pastor Porter & Pastor Lackey.

Adult Bible Study - Lutheranism 101 study taught by Graham & Victoria Sisson.

Beth Moore Series - taught by Donna Speegle.

Children's & Youth Sunday School Classes:

Pre-school - 3 - 6 years old. Taught by Lisa Whittington

Elementary - 6 - 11 years old. Taught by Wilson Whittington

Teenagers - 12 - 18 years old Gwen Regulus & Judy



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

Mourning: Estelle Hall

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

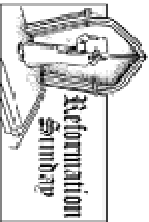
Missionaries: Bible Faith Lutheran Seminary (India).

Members who have lost their jobs.

Those Serving in the Military: Mike Golchert.

# OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25 Church Office Closed 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>28 Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study</p>	<p>29 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2 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</p>	<p>3 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>4 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study</p>	<p>6 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>7 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 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</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study</p>	<p>13 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>14 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 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</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>19 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study</p>	<p>20 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>21 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>26 6:00 PM Gospel of John Bible Study</p>	<p>27 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Nehemiah Small Group 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>29</p>
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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

**Readings: 10/2 = Is. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:7-19; Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46. 10/9 = Is. 25:6-9; Ps. 23; Phil. 4:4-13; Matt. 22:1-14. 10/16 = Is. 45:1-7; Ps. 96:1-9;**

**11 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22. 10/23 = Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18; Ps. 1; 1 Thess. 2:1-13; Matt. 22:34-46. 10/30 = Rev. 14:6-7; Ps. 46; Rom. 3:19-28; Matt. 11:12-19**


 The logo features the words "Stewardship Emphasis" in a white, cursive-style font, centered within a black oval. Below the oval is a decorative white flourish.
 

# Stewardship Emphasis

Christian stewardship is the **free and joyous activity** of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Many people may argue that Christian stewardship is more about following laws, rules and instructions than it is about **free and joyous activity**.

Historically, believing and living as Christians has also been more about laws, rules and instructions than it has been about a **free and joyous way of living**. On October 31 we will join with Christians around the world in celebrating the 494<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. In the years leading up to the reformation some serious false teachings had crept into the basics of the Christian life and faith so that people felt like they were **slaves** to all kinds of rules and regulations. Christianity was not very **free and joyous**. The good news of being saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our salvation, was in danger of being hidden from God's people. Jesus died so that we might have life and have it abundantly and joyfully. One of the key passages that opened Martin Luther's eyes to the true way of salvation was, of all things, from an Old Testament book. He found it in Habakkuk 2:4a: ***"The just [righteous] shall live by faith!"*** [NIV]

This discovery led to a new and refreshing way to look at the contents of the Bible. It is easy to find all kinds of laws, rules and commandments and get the idea that if you want to be right with God you must obey all of these laws, rules and commandments. The problem is that because of our sinful natures we are not able to keep all these laws, rules and commandments and are pretty much left with the options of either trying harder or giving up. Luther asked his followers to call themselves not Lutherans, but what? Neither of these options leads to a life that is **free and joyous**.

The Bible contains all kinds of laws, rules and instructions for our Christian living, but these laws, rules and instructions are not written for the purpose of saving us. Rather, they drive us to the good news of salvation through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Forgiveness of our sins frees us from past failures and opens up a new way of living. ***"Don't you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*** [Romans 6:3-4 NIV]

Through Christ we are freed from ***"have to living"*** to move toward ***"get to living ."*** What a refreshing freedom for us to live godly lives not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

***Truly, God's redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."***

Taken from LCMS website

## CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH



clergy  
appreciation  
month



### *Simple acts that feed a shepherd...*

Consider the following as you and your congregation care for and show appreciation to your pastor for the important work he does.

1. Pray for your pastor.  
Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, and joy, as he pursues the activities of ministry for you and your family.
2. Identify a special committee to “care for pastor”.  
This is a group of people in your congregation with the gift for caring. Their work 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 lead the rest of the congregation in the dynamics of caring for him and his family.
3. Express appreciation, spoken and written.  
A spoken compliment is always welcome. A written one can be read over and over again. Tell pastor’s wife something nice about him, she’ll appreciate it and he will hear about it later. For the same reason, compliment him to his children.
4. Celebrate with a special meal  
Host an annual celebration at which your pastor and his family are the honored guests.
5. Respect his time.  
When possible, give advance notice about meetings, confirmation parties, invitation to rehearsal dinners, and other events to which he will be invited.
6. Live in peace.  
Appreciation is more than cards and gifts, it’s an attitude. Pastors sometimes face a great deal of criticism, both to their face, and behind their back. Speak well of your pastor when you hear him criticized.
7. Encourage his personal interests.  
Find out what your pastor likes. Is he interested in baseball? How about music? Does he golf? He will feel appreciated when you discover and support the interests of his wife as well.
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. Help him know that he not only has permission to get appropriate rest and relaxation, but that it will benefit his ministry and provide a good model for the members.
9. Support a strategy for professional connections.  
Your pastor desires to be the best he can be in serving you, and will need to remain current with continuing education. Encourage him to meet regularly with other pastors. Your financial and emotional support in this regard is vital.
10. Encourage time with his loved ones.  
Ask if he has scheduled a “date night” and “family night”? Offer ideas about babysitting, if that would help.
11. Respect the dinner hour.  
Your pastor will feel obligated to answer the phone when it rings, so discover when he and his family typically sit down for dinner, and plan to contact him at a different time.
12. Show special attention to his wife, but treat his children the same way you treat other children.

**Bible We Will Be Using for Bible Study**

The preferred Bible for our Bible Classes is the *Concordia Self-Study Bible*. CPH is having a Fall Bible Sale at a price of \$41.99 (regular price \$54.99) with no tax and free shipping if we order 10 or more Bibles



The *Concordia Self-Study Bible* provides deeper understanding of God's Word. It combines the easy-reading language of the New International Version with Lutheran interpretive notes. As a study-enhancing resource, it's the ideal choice for bringing new vitality to personal and group Bible study.

The *Concordia Self-Study Bible* has these features for deeper exploration:

- Complete introductions and outlines of each book, which explore the significance of each book;
  - Study notes, edited by top Lutheran scholars, that guide you step-by-step through each Bible book;
  - NIV concordance for quick identification and location of important words;
  - Center-column cross-reference system, containing 85,000 entries, which lists interrelated themes, concepts, and words from the Old and New Testaments;
  - Full-color maps of the Holy Land, timelines, and charts that offer an informative overview of biblical history;
- Words of Christ in red.

Please let Pastor Porter or the Church Secretary (see sign up sheet on the Church Office bulletin board) know if you would be interested in purchasing one of these Bibles. Each member should have their own Bible.



**You bring the Hymnal, I'll bring the History**



During the American Civil War, in a certain overcrowded prison, men were dying daily. One of the new prisoners was a young preacher. As he saw the conditions surrounding him, he sobbed uncontrollably. Suddenly, from a window he heard, "Praise God, from whom all blessing flow . . ." More and more men began to join in, and the preacher that day was able to take courage and hope in a simple song called the "Doxology." Thomas Ken, the composer, had been chaplain to King Charles of England. He pleaded with the king many times to turn to Christ. The outcome is unknown, but Ken was faithful and gave a witness for Christ. The words to the "Doxology" are just a part of two larger hymns he wrote entitled Morning and Evening hymns.

**Hymn Hystory**



~~~~~  
*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
 Praise Him all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*  
 ~~~~~



## **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

Newsletter Deadline: 3rd Wednesday of the month

Bulletin Announcement Deadline: Tuesdays

## **First/Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

2507 Highland Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35205-2497

933-0380

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

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### **Church Staff**

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