

FIRST Impressions

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First Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Pen Righteousness and Repentance

"I tell you that there will be in heaven over more rejoicing one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

- Luke 15:7

It is clear from the two parables that Jesus uses in Luke - the lost sheep and the lost coin - that he values repentance over righteousness. That may seem strange to us, since the New Testament exhorts us again and again to live godly and righteous lives. Yes, as followers of Christ we are to strive to live daily in a manner as free from sin and darkness as possible. In this process of

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Local Events

Saturday Mornings: The Market at Pepper Place; www.pepperplacemarket.com

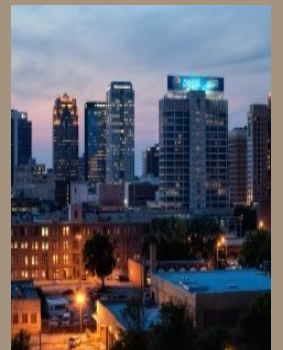
9/3: Cahaba Night Bazaar, Cahaba Brewing Company; <https://www.facebook.com/events/571293521196813>

9/13: *Croce Plays Croce*, Alys Stephens Center; www.alysstephens.org

9/16: Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, Alys Stephens Center;
www.alysstephens.org

9/16-17: *Ruben Studdard Sings Luther Vandross*, Dorothy
Jemison Day Theater; www.rubensingsluther.com

9/19: *Who's Live Anyway?*, Lyric Theatre; www.lyricbham.com



(cont'd from p. 1)

sanctification we need daily help from the Holy Spirit, who helps us recognize our sin, convicts us of it, and gives us the power to turn aside from its alluring temptation.

But Jesus values repentance even more highly, since it is through repentance that we can meet him and he can return us to a close relationship with him. We are the lost sheep, we are the lost coin. We wander away from time to time. We get lost in dark corners. We cannot find our way back. So in his great love, he comes to find us. In his mercy, he forgoes punishment and leads us back to the light, to the security of the sheepfold, and to the place of usefulness.

It is when we acknowledge that we have gone astray that Jesus comes to our rescue. It is then that we rediscover his mercy and love. We are like foolish sheep when we deny that we need his saving. We will remain lost when we fail to be honest about the state of our soul or about our dangerous circumstances. Sometimes he allows us to wander off until we are in danger. He waits for us to call out desperately to him before he reaches out to save us. He is always there. His love is constant, as he waits for us to express our need.

Prayer: Lord, help me to confess my sin and lead me in repentance back to you. Amen

In His Peace,
Pastor Schultz

**Join us on the Second Sunday
of the month at 5:00PM for**

Evening Prayer

✠ ENTER IN SILENCE ✠

✠ WORSHIP PRAYERFULLY ✠

✠ DEPART IN PEACE ✠



Called to Serve and Celebrate Ministry

With Jesus' Help

I will do my Best!

Jesus will give you the strength you need
when you trust Him and do your best
with love,
with patience, and
with gentleness in your heart.

Then don't worry about tomorrow.
Put your complete trust in the Lord.

His grace is sufficient.

His power is always present.

His arms will hold you.

His spirit will guide you.

His strength will sustain you.

His love will surround you.

His presence will watch over you.

"Lord Jesus, with your help.

I Will Do My Best!"

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org

Blessings,

Lorenza Robinson

Called to Serve & Celebrate Ministry

Worship Ministry

God's Creation of the World—What are We Missing? - Genesis 1: 1-31

The first book of the Bible as written by a servant of the Lord, named Moses. He tells us of God's magnificent creation of the world, the heavens, and the earth. Moses tells us the Lord our God created the world from nothing because there was nothing for Him to create it from. God has the omnipotent power to bring into existent from nothing the things that are. God made and arranged things of this world by the power of His Word and everything that God created was good to say the least. Everything that God created was very good. His first creative words called forth "Light" which was necessary for making His Creation visible and life possible. In six days, God had completed His work of creating the heavens and the earth, a paradise for man, the climax of His creation to live and enjoy.

The Lord our God created a paradise for us to in live and enjoy but there are many of us that are missing many of the things of God's creation and will never enjoy this earthly world. We find that our time is so precious to us that we are unable stop what we are doing see grandeur of God's creation, to hear the birds sing, to see the infinite beauty of the morning sunrise or the evening sunsets or to commune with God in the stillness of a quiet night.

Take time and stop, look, and listen and join our Lord and let Him take you by the hand and show you what he has done for you, without anything from you. So many of us leave this earth or world without ever seeing God's creation because of being so busy with our own self and things that we can't see the handiwork of the Lord, making us unable see what we are missing of God's Creation.

In His Peace,
Charles Craig
Worship Ministry Chair



Worship with us Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in
person or via Facebook or YouTube.

Christ Care Ministry Thankfully Serving

When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” - John 13:12-15

When our Savior joins Himself to us, our world is never the same again. Everything is changed. Jesus invades our personal space in the deluge of water as the Holy Spirit recreates us from a sinner to a saint. When we rise out of the waters of Baptism, the Word Incarnate is now a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We are not left scrambling to find the way to walk, but Jesus guides us by His words and works that reveal the truth that He came to serve us by washing dirty feet on the night on which He was betrayed. On that same night, He gave thanks over bread that is now His body broken in death and the cup of His blood shed for us. In remembrance of Him, we follow in Jesus’ way as we give thanks by our works, serving one another on bended knee, demonstrating Christ’s humbleness in our acts of mercy and charity.

Jesus enlivened us by His obedience unto death, even death on a cross, and His resurrection from the grave. In gratitude we joyfully follow Him. Jesus’ obedient word and works become our thankful word and works become our thankful word and works as we retell the stories of His service to a world broken by sin and death. Our gracious Lord now gives us His work to do and His Word to say. Gratefully, we join Jesus in His service to the world, washing one another’s feet as we embark together on the way in His Life.

Heavenly Father, thank You for recreating us through the waters of Baptism to be Your children, bringing us out of darkness and into light. Continue to nurture us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord in whose name we pray. Amen.

Be at peace, beloved, for God is with us all today,

Pastor Tom

** Paraphrased from *Visitation Resources for the Care of Souls.*, Edited By Arthur A Just, Jr. and Scot A. Kinnaman, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis © 2008

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee spent August discussing the direction that it should go. Should we ask President Johnson for a new call list or should we discuss with him and the seminaries the possibility of calling a new graduate in the spring? After much discussion and prayerful consideration, it was decided that we would initially pursue a new graduate. Pastor Schultz outlined the process to the committee and the timeframe involved. He explained that we have about a 50% chance of success if we have President Johnson's backing. He agreed to contact the seminaries placement directors and President Johnson and begin the process. He will also inquire about alternate route vicar candidates as possible pastoral candidates.

If we are successful in getting approval to move forward, the committee hopes to interview potential pastors in September and October. We would then rank the candidates and wait for the results of the

matching program in March 2023. If we match with a candidate, he would graduate in late spring and be onsite in the summer. If we do not match with a candidate, the committee will request another call list from President Johnson and will restart the process of reviewing, interviewing, and calling a pastor.

The committee knows that God is preparing us for that man he has chosen to lead the ministry at First Lutheran. We continue to listen to the feedback that we are receiving from the candidates that we have interviewed and/or called and the counselors that God has provided to us. We will continue to recommend changes to the congregation so that we can be prepared for the day that God reveals his servant to us.

Glen Thompson, Chairman
Call Committee

Joy of the Lord



From the President

Church Leadership Election Results

The following members were elected at the July voters' meeting to serve as church officers for the 2022-2024 term.

President	Glen Thompson
Vice-President	Robert Regulus
Secretary	Judy Brown
Treasurer	Frances Robinson
At-Large Members	Wendy Harris Heather Lackey
Board of Deacons	Charles Craig – Chairman* Mike Halbrooks Shane Harris Anthony McGraw Henry Mosley Robert Regulus Lorenza Robinson Stan Weir

Installation of new officers and deacons will be held on September 11. The deacons will select among themselves a chairman at that time.

*As of this writing, Charles Craig is chairman of the Board of Deacons. He may or may not remain in that position after the installation.

Current church officers remain in place until installation on September 11.

In His Peace,

Stan Weir
Congregational President





FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Kurtis Schultz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Kurtis Schultz

MINISTRY COORDINATORS:

CHRIST CARE

Rev. Tom Lackey

OUTREACH & INREACH

Vacant

SERVE & CELEBRATE

Lorenza Robinson

FACILITIES & PROPERTIES

Stan Weir

WORSHIP

Charles Craig

FIRST IMPRESSIONS EDITOR

Heather Lackey

Birthdays & Anniversaries



9/6: Meg Callahan
 9/7: Ashley Mercer
 9/7: Daralyn Sims
 9/8: Michelle Smith
 9/10: Priscilla Rivers-Williams
 9/12: Lorenza Robinson
 9/15: Doris Daniels
 9/25: Marjorie Bowens
 9/27: Terry Shiflett
 9/29: Mike Halbrooks
 9/30: Zoe Welch

No September Anniversaries on Record

Worship Team...September 2022

September 4

Pastor: Kurtis Schultz
 Worship Asst: Glen Thompson
 Reader: Wendy Harris
 Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & Jay McGraw
 Music: Larry Donaldson

September 18

Pastor: George Murdaugh
 Worship Asst: Anthony McGraw
 Reader: Judy Drews
 Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & Jay McGraw
 Music: Becky Schultz

September 11

Pastor: Tom Noon
 Worship Asst: Robert Regulus
 Reader: Eva Hill
 Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & Jay McGraw
 Music: Larry Donaldson

September 25

Pastor: Tony Ramsey
 Worship Asst: Charles Craig
 Reader: Jay McGraw
 Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & Jay McGraw
 Music: Larry Donaldson



MAN UP! Meets the 4th Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, prayer, and devotion.

Contact Lorenza Robinson for information on post-pandemic MAN UP! meetings.

