

FIRST Impressions

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A Publication of First Lutheran Church · Birmingham, AL

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First Lutheran Church

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www.firstlutheranbham.org

[View our Church Calendar](#)



Pastor's Pen Don't Hold Your Breath

"And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." - Acts 2:2

Scientists tell us that most of us take a breath at least twenty thousand times per day. It is an understatement to say that this is a great deal of activity. Yet, when was the last time you noticed yourself breathing? (I know, probably as soon as you read this question!) Breathing itself is a primal act that we usually take for granted. The experience, or even the thought, of not being able to breathe can fill us with fear and panic, for we know it means certain death –

(cont'd from p. 1)

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Local Events

Through 6/11: Birmingham Stallions Football, Protective Life Stadium; www.theufl.com/teams/birmingham

Through 8/18: *Heroes and Villains: The Art of the Disney Costume*, Birmingham Museum of Art; www.artsbma.org

5/8-12: Regions Tradition, Greystone Golf and Country Club; www.regionstradition.com

5/11: ASO presents *Bond and Beyond*, a concert of music from classic spy films, Alys Stephens Center; www.alabamasymphony.org

5/17: ASO presents Dvorak's Cello Concerto & Brahms' First Symphony, Alys Stephens Center; www.alabamasymphony.org

5/18: Do Dah Day, Cahaba Brewing Company; www.dodahday.org

5/21-26: SEC Baseball Tournament, Hoover Met; www.secsports.com



(cont'd from p. 1)

“When thou takest away their breath they die and return to dust” (Ps 104:29). The account of our beginnings in the book of Genesis depicts God, as if bent over his newly formed clay creation, as he “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life” (Genesis 2:7). At that moment, “man became a living being.” The breath of God is the spring of our life, yet its very quietness and subtlety can delude us into thinking that we are independent and self-sufficient, unless something comes along to remind us again of our life’s source.

The church, as the climax to the entire Easter season, celebrates the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, the perfect fulfillment of God’s promise (7x7+1). And Easter is the story of our salvation through Jesus Christ, the hope of our own resurrection, the pledge of our inheritance of new and eternal life, even as the Son of God “breathed his last” (Luke 23:46). It is perhaps no surprise, then, that one of the signs of the Holy Spirit’s presence among Jesus’ disciples on that day of Pentecost was the sudden blowing of a “mighty wind.” Contained within a single room, such a squall must have caused a frenzy of sight and sound!

Here is the genesis of the newly born Body of Christ, a new beginning for the people of God. By this storm, the Spirit comes to resuscitate a dying world. Into the lungs of the infant church, God is breathing the breath of life. The image of that event is a vivid and vibrant reminder, throughout the generations, that only God can give life, and that when he does, wonderful things begin to happen. For the Spirit still comes breathing, moving, and blowing where he will (John 3:8). Is there any better day than the Day of Pentecost to ask that he breathe afresh in us?

Come Holy Spirit, by whose breath,
Life rises vibrant out of death;
Come to create, renew, inspire;
Come kindle in our hearts your fire.

In His Peace,
Pastor Schultz

*joy of
the Lord*

And let us consider
how we may
spur one another on toward
love and good deeds

Hebrews 10:24

From the President

On April 14, the Voters Assembly approved issuing a call to Pastor Adam Barcott to be our next pastor. Pastor Barcott is currently serving a start-up congregation in Orlando Florida called the New City Church. He has been with this congregation since 2010. Unfortunately, on April 26 Pastor Barcott communicated to us that he would not be accepting our call. He stated that he did not think that now was an appropriate time for him to consider a call. We are disappointed with his decision but trust that the Holy Spirit has led him to this decision. We will continue to pray for his ministry in Orlando.

On Saturday, April 27, the **Man Up** men's fellowship met for the first time since Covid 19 forced it to stop meeting. The group of 10 men met for breakfast in the fellowship hall and a Bible study led by Pastor Lackey. After the Bible study, the men tackled a deep cleaning of the kitchen. Please take time to appreciate the work completed and thank those who participated. A special thanks to Mike Halbrooks, Andy Sullivan, Stan Weir, Nelson Sharit, Henry Moseley, and Pastor Schultz. Well done good and faithful servants! The next meeting of **Man Up** is scheduled for Saturday, May 25. More details will be announced--all men of the congregation are invited to attend.

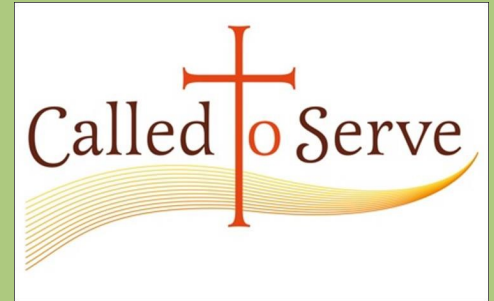
Events coming up in May and June that you should be aware of include the yard sale on May 18 and on Sunday, June 2, election of the Board of Directors (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and two members-at-large). Our constitution designates our Board of Deacons as the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or want to nominate someone for a position, please contact Charles Craig our Chairman of the Deacons. All nominations must be in before May 19. A Voters Meeting will be held after the morning worship service on June 2 to elect the officers for 2024-2026.

In God's service,

Glen Thompson
Congregational President and Chairman of the Call Committee

Called to Serve and Celebrate Ministry

*"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, ...but encouraging one another."
- Hebrews 10:24*



Are you doing your part? So much more can be achieved when everyone pulls together towards a goal. If everyone contributes something, the total achievement will increase substantially with less effort from each person. Alabama pastor, Thomas Lane Bush, tells a humorous story from his teen years, which carries a great lesson. Tom was helping an uncle harvest logs for a sawmill. After a rain one day, they started down a dirt road in a truck loaded with logs. Suddenly, the truck slipped off the road and stuck in the muddy ditch. They knew that they needed help to get it back on the road. Tom's uncle went to a farmhouse nearby and asked the farmer if he could help them. The farmer said he had a mule he thought could do the job. A deal was made and the farmer was soon hitching a mule, which he called ol' Blue, to the truck. When all was ready, the farmer yelled, "Pull, Blue!" Blue pulled, but the truck did not move at all. The farmer yelled again, "Pull Blue! Pull Mack! Pull Maude!" Ol' Blue dug his hooves into the road, strained forward mightily, and the truck was soon out of the ditch and back on the road. Tom and his uncle were relieved, but both were confused. "Why," the uncle asked the farmer, "did you call out the names of two other mules besides ol' Blue?" Smiling, the farmer said, "Well, ol' Blue is blind and when he thought he was pulling alone he couldn't do the job. But when he thought Mack and Maude were pulling with him, he was encouraged to pull all the more. So now your truck is out of the ditch." Do you see the message in this story that has to do with stewardship? It is this. No one of us can meet all of the needs of our church. But when we know we are pulling together with others, we can accomplish whatever needs to be done.

Lorenza Robinson
Called to Serve & Celebrate Ministry

Man Up! Men's Ministry

Saturday, May 25

Another reminder that our men's ministry, Man Up!, has resumed and takes place the last Saturday of the month. The next gathering is May 25. All men are invited and encouraged to attend. We'll kick off with breakfast, followed by a short Bible study then a work project of some sort. There is a sign-up sheet on one of the bulletin boards outside the kitchen. Please sign up by May 19 so we'll know how much breakfast to plan for. Contact Glen Thompson with any questions.



Deacons' Corner

Who is Your Shepherd?

"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want..."

- Psalm 23:1

This psalm is a psalm of thanksgiving describing a situation of distress and how God delivers David and you and me. How wonderful that our Shepherd does not withhold his blessings from us, but still cares for our needs and more. As people in the world, we know who our leaders are and what they might do for us as citizens. Usually, it is about what they claim to be able to accomplish through their leadership. You might say that our leaders are shepherds. But how often do we think about what our Lord and Father, the Good Shepherd has done for us and continues to do without anything from us?

On the other hand, in Psalm 23 David describes the Lord as a shepherd. Although David had been a shepherd of his father's sheep, he had also been a leader of men. He compared himself to a sheep that has a faithful shepherd (leader) that leads him. He recognized the Lord God as his Shepherd. The good shepherd leads (guides) us in the path of righteousness—to safety offering safety and well-being. He reassures and comforts us and seeks us when we go astray. He is our sustainer and protector. The Good Shepherd provides lovingly everything that we need in this life, but we often fail to recognize these gifts that come from him. We tend to focus on the things we want, yet our Lord, our Shepherd does not withhold His blessings from us, He focuses on our needs.

Graciously, the Good Shepherd placed dedicated shepherds in our presence, opening the Church during the pandemic when we were without a pastor to continue the care of His flock. He has given us His only Son. How often do we think of the Lord as the Good Shepherd and we as His

In His Service,
Charles Craig
Chairman, Board of Deacons

Christ Care Ministry

The Son of Perdition???

*“Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except **the son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” - John 17:12*

The *son of perdition*? What or who in Aunt Sally’s flower garden is the Apostle John talking about? After reading St. John’s account of Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer in Chapter 17 and focusing on verses 11b-19, one can conclude that it is Judas Iscariot. Can one find Gospel in those words of verse 12? It would seem almost blasphemous. After all, Judas is the son of *perdition* (translated “*destruction*” in the ESV) - and Jesus is the Son of God. The one is evil personified; the other is purity incarnate. Indeed, it does seem blasphemous to speak of an evil Judas and the pure Son of God together in one sentence. Yet, used responsibly, the phrase *son of perdition (destruction)* takes us to the very white-hot center of the Gospel.

On the cross Jesus, the Son of God, became a son of perdition on the eyes of God His Father. Purity incarnate became—evil incarnate. For there God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). And because the sinless Son of God was, in fact, teeming with our sins on the cross, God cursed Him (Gal.3:13). God damned Him. God regarded Him and treated Him as a *son of perdition (destruction)*. The Father spared His own beloved Son neither death nor hell in the interest of our eternal salvation. Death and hell were the price of our salvation—and Jesus paid it in full.

Jesus was made a *son of perdition (destruction)* so that we might be made son and daughters of the kingdom. Glory be to Jesus!

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

Pastor Tom L.

Paraphrased from *Gospel Handles - Finding New Connections in biblical Texts* - Francis C. Rossow - ©2001 - Concordia Publishing House - St. Louis, MO.

Multi-Family Spring Yard Sale Saturday, May 18, 9 am – 3 pm

Location: First Lutheran Church Lawn & Parking Lot
2507 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, AL

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure!

First Lutheran Church is hosting a neighborhood yard sale on May 18th, 9 am until 1 pm. Anyone interested in participating may reserve a table for a \$25 donation made payable to First Lutheran Church. If you would like to volunteer to help or if you have any questions, please contact **Wendy Harris at 205-706-9229**. If you would like to participate in the yard sale, please email events@firstlutheranbham.org.

Table Request Form. Please complete this form and return with your donation of \$25. Your space will be confirmed upon receipt of your donation. Payment can be made on our website at www.FirstLutheranBham.org. Select "Give Now" and designate "Spring Yard Sale." Table location assignments are based on the order received. A table (8' long) and chair will be provided.

Please complete this form and email to events@firstlutheranbham.org to reserve your table.

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email address:

Number of tables requested: ____ X \$25 = Total due ____

Would you like a receipt? Yes ____ No ____ Confirmation will be sent via email.

Please add events@firstlutheranbham.org to your contact list to avoid "spam" designation.

OR

You may print and mail this form along with your \$25 check made payable to First Lutheran Church. Please indicate "Spring Yard Sale" on the memo line.

Mailing address:

First Lutheran Church, 2507 Highland Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35205

Please note, in the event of rain, an alternate date will be announced.

You may opt to donate any remaining items to charity and we will make arrangements for a pick up for Saturday afternoon. Yes ____ **I want to donate unsold items.**

Coming This Summer

Family Game Night is Back!

We are kicking off this event with a grand ole fashioned BINGO game! Please save the date Wednesday, July 17th at 6 pm. This fun night is open for members and neighbors of all ages.



We need your help to make this happen - any small prizes that you want to donate will be appreciated. Watch the newsletter and our website for more details.

Contact June Weir at junerweir@gmail.com

More Fun at Movie Night on the Lawn

As summertime is winding down and school is starting up again—let's enjoy one more fun event! Join our movie night on Saturday, August 10th at 6 pm on the front lawn weather permitting or the Fellowship Hall if weather doesn't cooperate.

Please let us know what movie(s) you want to see, keeping in mind this event is open to the neighborhood and will entertain all ages.

If you have a DVD player or projector that we may use for the event, please let June Weir know. **Send your recommendations for family-friendly movies to junerweir@gmail.com**



Thanks to everyone who
donated eggs and candy for our Easter
egg hunt. Your generosity is much
appreciated!

Bible Study Opportunities

- Sunday Mornings (in person at First Lutheran) - 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Evenings (via Zoom) - 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday Mornings (via Zoom) - 9:00 a.m.

If you are interested in participating in one of the Zoom studies, please email Pastor George Murdaugh at georgeearl@hotmail.com.



WORSHIP

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

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

Evening Prayer

✠ ENTER IN SILENCE ✠

✠ WORSHIP PRAYERFULLY ✠

✠ DEPART IN PEACE ✠





FIRST LUTHERAN STAFF

INTERIM PASTOR
Rev. Kurtis Schultz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
Rev. Kurtis Schultz

MINISTRY COORDINATORS:

CHRIST CARE
Rev. Tom Lackey
SERVE & CELEBRATE
Lorenza Robinson

FACILITIES & PROPERTIES
Stan Weir

WORSHIP/DEACONS
Charles Craig
DIGITAL MEDIA
June Weir

FIRST IMPRESSIONS EDITOR
Heather Lackey

Birthdays & Anniversaries



5/1: Margaret Golden
5/5: Mali Mathru
5/6: Mandy Nuss
5/12: Dorothy Sims
5/17: James Melton
5/17: Kelsey Washington
5/18: Charlie Hayes
5/28: Sophia Rotton

5/21: Kris & Mandy Nuss

Worship Team...May 2024

May 5

Pastor: Kurtis Schultz
Worship Asst: Anthony McGraw
Reader: Frances Robinson
Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw
Music: Larry Donaldson

May 19

Pastor: Tom Lackey
Worship Asst: Henry Mosley
Reader: Carol Lackey
Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw
Music: Larry Donaldson

May 12

Pastor: Tom Noon
Worship Asst: Charles Craig
Reader: Sheree McGraw
Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw
Music: Becky Schultz

May 26

Pastor: Tony Ramsey
Worship Asst: Glen Thompson
Reader: Frances Foy
Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw
Music: Larry Donaldson



ManUP! Our men's ministry meets the last Saturday of each month. Contact Glen Thompson for more information.

