

# FIRST Impressions

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A Publication of First Lutheran Church • Birmingham, AL

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Birmingham, AL 35205  
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[www.firstlutheranbham.org](http://www.firstlutheranbham.org)

[View our Church Calendar](#)



## Pastor's Pen

### I Will Meditate on Your Law

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." Psalm 1:1-2*

Delight is probably not the first word that comes to mind when thinking about laws or rules. Perhaps words like obligation or duty are more common. At the very least, laws stand as the line between what you can do and what you cannot do. They are the walls between righteous and unrighteous. Most certainly something worthy of our meditation.

*Continued on page 2*

## Local Events

**Through 6/29:** Disney's *Frozen, the Broadway Musical*; Red Mountain Theatre; [www.redmountaintheatre.org](http://www.redmountaintheatre.org)

**Through 9/14:** Birmingham Barons Baseball, Regions Field; [www.milb.com/birmingham](http://www.milb.com/birmingham)

**Through 10/25:** Birmingham Legion Soccer, Protective Stadium; [www.bhmlegion.com](http://www.bhmlegion.com)

**6/5:** The Temptations & The Four Tops, Alabama Theatre; [www.alabamatheatre.com](http://www.alabamatheatre.com)

**6/6:** Summer Movie at the Alabama - *The Goonies*, Alabama Theatre; [www.alabamatheatre.com](http://www.alabamatheatre.com)

**6/7:** Festa Italiana, Sloss Furnaces; [www.festaitalianabham.com](http://www.festaitalianabham.com)

**6/24-29:** *Tina - The Tina Turner Musical*, BJCC Concert Hall; [www.americantheatreguild.com](http://www.americantheatreguild.com)

**6/27:** Summer Movie at the Alabama - *Grease Singalong*, Alabama Theatre; [www.alabamatheatre.com](http://www.alabamatheatre.com)



*(cont'd from p. 1)*

But how can we delight in such a task? For us, there is a unique, nearly crushing, weight to the words, “I must.” Especially when you are not up to the task of fulfilling those duties placed upon you. Fear, doubt, sorrow, anger, resentment, disappointment all rush in to fill the gap between what you should be doing and what you are actually doing. So how Lord? How am I supposed to delight in your law when it kills me every time I take it up?

Brothers and sisters, we ought not look at God’s law as a checklist for our own righteousness. I fear sometimes we do this in an attempt to justify ourselves. Instead, we look at God’s law as the guiding light it is meant to be. Meditating on His law day and night keeps us away from the counsel of the wicked, off the path of sinners, and out of the seat of scoffers. And when we find ourselves in those places, God’s law is the thing guides back to Him. We delight in the law of the Lord because it is good and righteous. Truly good and righteous with no room for doubt or excuse. We can rest in comfort and assurance that God tells us to do the right things. Where men muse, God commands.

There is a comfort in knowing. There is a unique freedom in order. There is an overwhelming delight when things go according to plan. While we may not experience that in full now. We know God’s law will reign forever. There in the heavenly places we will not struggle with God’s law but delight in it fully. We will finally get to enjoy righteousness.

*Pastor Tommy*



### Need to reach Pastor Tommy?

Email [t.presley@firstlutheranbham.org](mailto:t.presley@firstlutheranbham.org) or call the church at 205.933.0380 and press 5 when prompted to “select from the following menu.” This will connect you directly to him at any time.



## From Our Congregational President

Summer is upon us and most everyone is planning activities. Some will plan long vacations while others will plan short stays – potentially just a weekend. A lot of planning goes into getting away. When you are planning your summer trip(s), please remember to take care of your church responsibilities. If you are scheduled to serve at the time you are away, swap with someone. Please do not make people scramble to cover your responsibility. We want everything to be done in good order and to the glory of God.

I also want to encourage everyone to continue to provide their tithes and offerings during the summer. The summer has been historically a time when offerings decrease. The expenses of the church do not go down in the summer. Actually, the summer has been a time when the church has tried to complete projects. In May we had a problem with the unisex and men's restroom plumbing. The real cause of the problem was a root that completely obstructed the sewer line. A partial replacement of the sewer line was installed and a cleanout access was added. The Total cost of the project was \$3500.

This summer the Christ window will be restored. The glazing holding the leaded glass panes in place has deteriorated. All the degraded glazing left on the window will be removed and replaced. The total cost of this project is \$5875.

I hope you have a fun-filled summer and I look forward to seeing you in Bible study and worship when you are in town.

In Christ's Service,  
Glen Thompson, Congregational President

## LWML News

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His love endures forever.*

*- Psalm 136:1*



The Lutheran Women in Mission here at First have made our final decisions regarding mission projects for 2025.

Our **international projects** will support two separate missions. One is Baer Christian Hospital and Clinic, India. The other is a missionary, Amanda Epperson, who has been called to Zambia in Africa. Our **national project** will be Worship Anew, which has an outreach to the elderly. This mission is based in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Our **local mission** will be Ronald McDonald House in association with Thrivent Action Projects.

Our sister Frances Robinson will travel to Omaha, Nebraska to attend the 42nd Biennial LWML Convention June 26-29 where she'll have the opportunity to meet with LWML sisters from around the globe. Please join with us in prayer for her. We look forward to hearing her report about all the exciting new mission projects LWML will select. If you are interested, more information is available at [LWML.org](http://LWML.org).

During the months of May and June, we celebrate our earthly parents. Some of us were blessed with Godly parents that taught us and lead us according to Ephesians 6:1-4. Some are not so blessed, thus the need for missions and missionaries. Therefore, please keep the LWML in prayer as we continue to serve the Lord through mission.

As always, we seek your prayers and support in all of our endeavors. We pray for the success of our chosen projects for all of those involved.

Frances Burks Foy  
President, First Lutheran LWML

*2 Peter 3:18 - Growing in God's Grace*

# WORSHIP

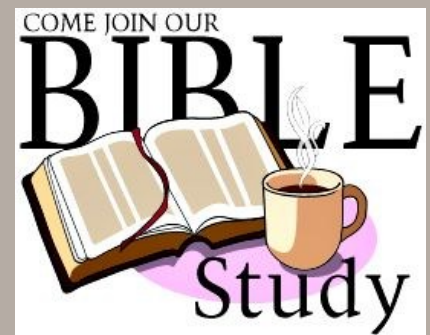
Worship with us Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in person  
or online via Facebook or YouTube.



## Joy of the Lord

### Bible Study Opportunities

- Sunday Mornings (in person at First Lutheran) - 9:00 a.m.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays - Ladies Bible Study (in person at First Lutheran) - 11:00 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](mailto:georgeearl@hotmail.com).

### Man Up! Men's Ministry

The June Man Up! gathering will take place **the last Saturday in June (June 28) at 8:30 a.m.** at the church. All men are invited and encouraged to attend. We'll begin with a prepared breakfast, followed by a short Bible study and a work project. A sign-up sheet will be posted on one of the bulletin boards. Please sign up by June 22 so we'll know how many to plan on for breakfast. Contact Glen Thompson with any questions.



## Stewardship

**What is “Stewardship?”** It is a word that describes how we use our God given gifts of time, talents, and treasures. We all have those gifts which we utilize in response to God’s Direction! In the current issue of the *Portals of Prayer* devotional booklet, the May 9 devotion is entitled “God Uses the Ordinary.” It tells about the ordinary donkey being used for *holy purposes* (carrying our Lord into Jerusalem – found in Matthew 21:1-11).

God uses *ordinary people* to do His Holy Work. God uses each one of us to spread His love and further His kingdom. Paul says, “*God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God*” (1Corinthians 1: 28-29). We don’t need a PhD in education or theology. We don’t have to be wealthy. God uses our unique talents and gifts to live our lives as true witnesses to His word. Think about it! May our words and actions inspire others to become more faithful followers of Jesus.

“Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey- on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). Let us follow the example of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, the humblest of animals. May we not boast or think too highly of ourselves. May we be humble. We pray that our hands, feet, words, and actions are pleasing to God. We are called to be evangelists sharing the Gospel, the good news of Jesus’ love for each of us.

*A Prayer: Thank you, dear Heavenly Father for the gift of Your Son Jesus, our Savior, for the forgiveness of our sins and for Your guidance in our daily lives. AMEN.*

Lynn M. Phifer  
Council Member at Large

## **It's Time for Fifth Sunday**

### **Potluck !**

**Sunday, June 29**

**In the Fellowship Hall after  
Worship Service**

**Bring a dish to share!**



**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

### PASTOR

Rev. Tommy Presley

### 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



6/3: Frances Robinson

6/5: Henry Mosley

6/21: June Weir

6/25: Tommy Presley

6/29: Rhonda Graham

6/30: Sean Golden

6/17: Shane & Wendy Harris

6/27: Kurtis & Becky Schultz

6/28: Anthony & Sheree McGraw

## Worship Team...June 2025

### June 1

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Robert Regulus

Communion Asst: Glen Thompson

Reader: James McGraw

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris &  
James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

### June 22

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Glen Thompson

Communion Asst: Robert Regulus

Reader: Frances Foy

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris &  
James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

### June 8

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Anthony McGraw

Communion Asst.: Stan Weir

Reader: Sheree McGraw

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris &  
James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

### June 29

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Anthony McGraw

Communion Asst: Stan Weir

Reader: Open

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris &  
James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

### June 15

Pastor: Tommy Presley

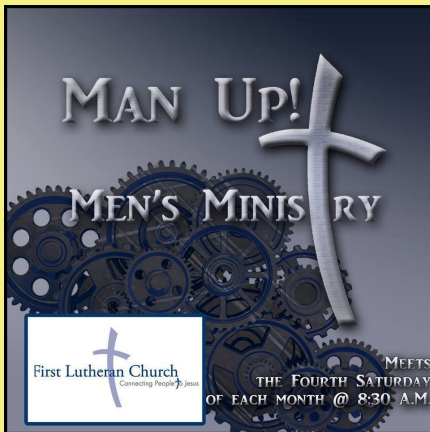
Worship Asst: Mike Halbrooks

Communion Asst: Henry Mosley

Reader: Carol Lackey

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris &  
James McGraw

Music: Becky Schultz



**Our men's ministry, Man UP!,  
meets the last Saturday of the  
month at 8:30 a.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall.**

**All men are welcome!**

