

FIRST Impressions

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A Publication of First Lutheran Church • Birmingham, AL

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www.firstlutheranbham.org

[View our Church Calendar](#)



Pastor's Pen Rest for Your Soul

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11:28-30

The cycle of summer is once again upon us. A time, hopefully, for rest and relaxation or at the very least a less hectic schedule for some of us. This is even reflected in the church calendar. We have entered what is called the “non-festival” half of the church year where most Sundays will carry the title of “[X] Sunday after Pentecost.” A time of contemplation on Christ’s teachings.

Continued on page 2

Local Events

Through 7/6: World Police & Fire Games, various venues around Birmingham (see schedule online); www.bhm2025.com

Through 9/14: Birmingham Barons Baseball, Regions Field; www.milb.com/birmingham

Through 10/25: Birmingham Legion Soccer, Protective Stadium; www.bhmlegion.com

7/4: Thunder on the Mountain, Fireworks from atop Red Mountain; www.visitvulcan.com/event/thunder-2025

7/5: Styx in Concert, Coca-Cola Amphitheater; www.livenation.com

7/12: *SixtiesMania*, Lyric Theatre; www.lyricbham.com

7/17 - 8/3: *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Virginia Samford Theatre; www.virginiasamfordtheatre.org

7/18 - 8/10: *Waitress*, Red Mountain Theatre; www.redmountaintheatre.org



(Cont'd from p. 1)

However, the seasons of life hardly follow the calendar year. Troubles come in fall, winter, spring, or summer regardless of our desires. Work increases and decreases in an erratic way for many where “the best laid plans” may not come to fruition as we hope or imagine. While the earth may be on a distinct schedule, we are not. We are beholden to many things outside of our control all demanding our labor. Demanding we carry the heavy burden. Always coming to us with the underpinning threat, “Carry the weight or be crushed by it.” For you are responsible party are you not? You have the power, the strength, required to carry all things without misstep or mistake, right?

If those questions cause trepidation, let the words of Jesus come to you. “*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” We know we cannot do all things perfectly. We know we will make mistakes, fall, and fail even with the best of intentions or efforts. Jesus knows this and comes to us to comfort us in our distress. He tells us to come to him, the one who cannot fail and who is not crushed. He offers us His yoke, the one where He bears the burden of perfection as we are guided along His way. And no matter how many times we stumble, trip, or fall He will remain steadfast on the path and see us through to the end. What end you might ask? Paradise. The yoke is easy and the burden is light because Jesus bears it all.

In Christ,

Pastor Tommy

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

Evening Prayer

✠ ENTER IN SILENCE ✠

✠ WORSHIP PRAYERFULLY ✠

✠ DEPART IN PEACE ✠



From Our Congregational President

It is with great joy that we celebrate with Pastor Tommy and Tori the purchase of their first home. They will move from their current rental home in Center Point on June 28. Their new address is 1617 20th St North, Birmingham, AL 35234. If you can help move them to their new home, any help would be appreciated. We will gather at their current address of 3127 Fieldstone Circle, Birmingham, Al 35215 at 10:00 AM on June 28. We will load cars, trucks, and any other vehicles available and will move them to their new home. A moving company has been hired to handle the heavy and bulky items but we will need to handle the small things. Please come and help.

The church council has been working on reviewing and updating a couple of policies. A committee reviewed the wedding policy during the spring and brought it to the council for approval in June. The policy was discussed and approved. A copy of the policy has been posted on the bulletin board if you want to read it. Broadcast policies are currently undergoing review. A committee of church members has been organized and has developed a draft policy on photography/video imaging. The church has engaged an attorney to review the policy and provide guidance to the committee. After the council finalizes and approves the policy, we would like to develop a pictorial directory using a secure online program that would be password protected. The deacons are assisting with the project by updating our membership rolls.

At the June council meeting, challenges being faced by the church were discussed. Maintenance issues with a 75-year-old building are always possible. Since the first of the year, we have had a sewer issue, an air conditioner failure, and a deterioration of the Christ window. Repairs of these issues are expected to cost approximately \$11,000. Additionally, the council reviewed the impact the tax bill being considered by Congress would have on our healthcare insurance costs for 2026 if it is passed in its current form. It is anticipated that it would increase our cost between \$16,600 and \$25,000 per year. The council will continue to monitor the bill and look for any changes that may be passed.

In July, the church will be house a youth group from St. Peters Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana as they go to and come back from the national youth gathering in New Orleans. The youth group will be at the church July 17/18 and July 24/25.

A Chrismon workshop is being planned for July 26 by Wendy Harris and June Weir. It is an event to make Chrismons for your Christmas tree and would be a great activity to invite your friends and neighbors to attend. Please contact Wendy or June for more details.

In Christ's Service,
Glen Thompson, Congregational President

LWML News

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Proverbs 8: WISDOM

We the Lutheran Women in Mission here at First had the pleasure of meeting with Amanda Epperson. She is the young woman who has been called as a missionary to Zambia, Africa. While there, she will work with young girls who have been placed in and endured very precarious situations.

At this meeting we had a delicious potluck luncheon and learned more details regarding Amanda's upcoming service in Zambia. She will face some very difficult times requiring much wisdom in thought, word, and deed. Please join us in prayer for her as she answers this call of Christ on her life.

Several of us attended the Thrivent celebration dinner at The Club to honor Grace House Ministries. Following this, our sister Priscilla Williams purchased wish list items for this ministry. Thank you, Priscilla.

As of this publication, our sister Frances Robinson has already attended the 42nd Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. We are thankful to God for her willingness to serve in this manner. We look forward to her report on the upcoming projects chosen for the next two years.

We are in prayer for Cheri Endrichs, our LWML district president, after the loss of her father. We are also praying for healing and the return to wholeness for two of our members who have undergone surgery.

As always, we seek your prayers and support for all of us and our ongoing projects.

Frances Burks Foy
President, First Lutheran LWML

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



WORSHIP

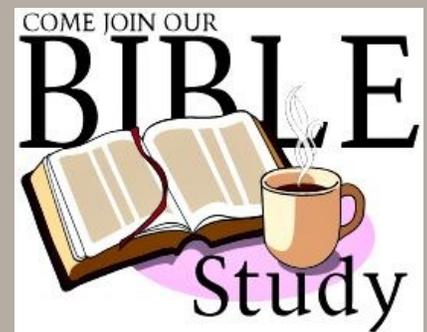
Worship with us Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in person
or online via Facebook or YouTube.

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.

Man Up! Men's Ministry

The July Man Up! gathering will take place **the last Saturday in July (July 26) 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 July 20 so we'll know how many to plan on for breakfast. Contact Glen Thompson with any questions.



Stewardship

The year 2025 is half over! Six months have passed. How can that be possible? Time really does fly!

Let's look at our accomplishments for the first half of this year. Most of us set goals at the beginning of the year. Have we accomplished our goals?

Many of us must answer, "No!" Why not? Were our goals unrealistic? Did we put too high of an expectation on ourselves? Often, this is what happens. Then we become discouraged and even upset with ourselves. Let's not put a level of guilt on ourselves for not reaching our preplanned goals.

Guilt is self-deprecating. According to Webster's New World College Dictionary, guilt is defined, as "a sin or an offense, either legal or ethical, or the feeling of self-reproach resulting from a belief one has done something wrong."

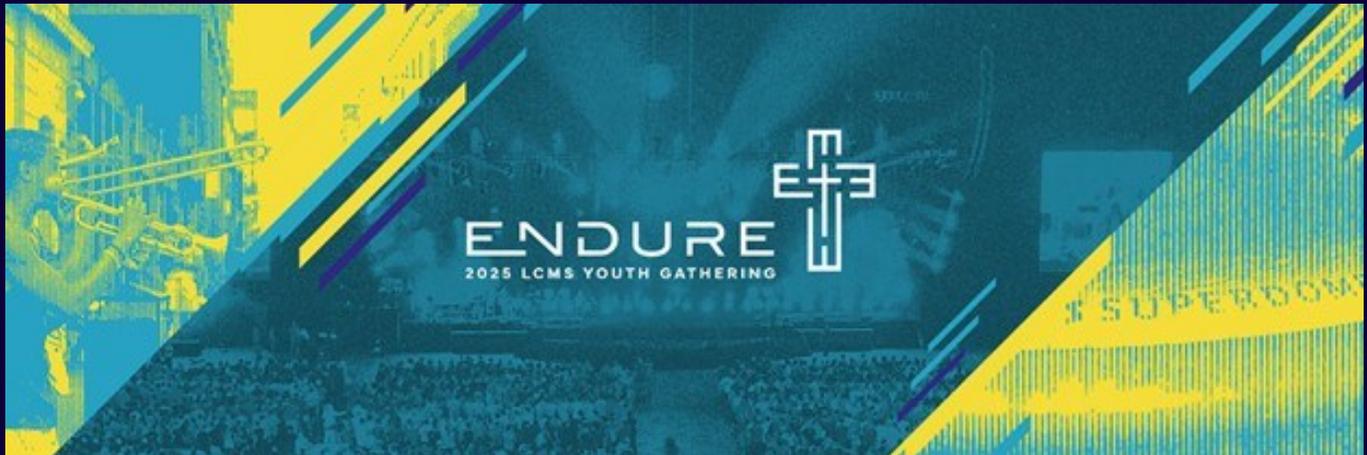
May we be positive as we move on in the second half of 2025. God tells us when we confess our sins as we do on Sunday morning in church during the Confession, our sins are forgiven. Our guilty slate is wiped clean. That gives us the courage, strength and motivation to move forward in our lives. What a blessing we receive! Let us be good stewards as we utilize our stewardship gifts of time, talents and treasures. We all have the same amount of time. God wants us to relax. When God created the earth, He devoted the seventh day as a day of rest.

However, we do not want to waste our time. We all have God-given talents, yet these talents are unique. How wonderfully made we are so our talents don't overlap or interfere with each other's. Our final stewardship word is "treasures." As a noun, it means, "something very valuable." As a verb, it means, "value greatly, appreciate." Although it is often used in reference to money, we see that it means much more. I remember in my LCMS church where I grew up in New York, the "S" in Stewardship was spelled with a dollar sign, such as, "\$tewardship." My Dad was the church treasurer, so maybe he started that!

Let's remember to be good evangelists. On Sunday mornings, we can help Pastor Presley, who welcomes our visitors. We, too, can welcome before or after church service or during the welcome time. Besides being friendly, we may be inviting someone who is looking for a new church family. Encourage them to use the QR code on the back of our bulletins so we can reach out to them.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Phifer
Council Member at Large



The 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans, LA from July 19-23, 2025. The event is organized by [LCMS Youth Ministry](#) and will take place over five days. The theme for the 2025 gathering is "ENDURE", based on [Hebrews 12:1-3](#).

Ah, so - we are not sending any youth to this event - and yet, we have a wonderful opportunity to support some of the youth attending!

Youth and adult counselors from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN, will spend the night at First Lutheran on their journey to and from the event. Estimated time of arrival on July 18th is 4 pm and on the return trip home, July 24th around 5 pm.

Here are a few ways to show these young people some love:

July 18th: help prepare dinner and snacks

July 19th: help prepare breakfast

July 24th: help prepare dinner and snacks

July 25th: help prepare breakfast

Additional items needed for sleepover: beddings, cots, inflatable mattresses, manpower to move tables and chairs for sleeping spaces.

Special request: prayers for their safe journey and blessings for their ministry!

To volunteer for the overnight activities, please call the church office at 205-933-0380 or email secretary@firstlutheranbham.org.

Christmas in July

Chrismon Workshop

Oh, the weather outside is frightful (hot-that is), and the A/C is delightful! So join us for a really *cool* event on Saturday, July 26, at 1:30 pm at First Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall. We'll pretend there is a snowman and search for blizzards all around. James Spann will say "No man!" But there will be plenty of fun to be found.

Fun for all ages will include all things Christmas: cookies, snowballs, holiday movie and crafts.

Our craft is a Chrismon ornament (Christ-monogram) for your home Christmas tree. The ornaments of familiar symbols for Christ and His work. Some examples are fish, Celtic cross, Jerusalem cross, shepherd's crook, chalice, shell, and a crown. There is a small fee of \$10 to cover the craft supplies.

We want to share our Christmas traditions with you and would like to invite you to come and make a Chrismon with us. The ornaments you make will be yours to take home.

Details

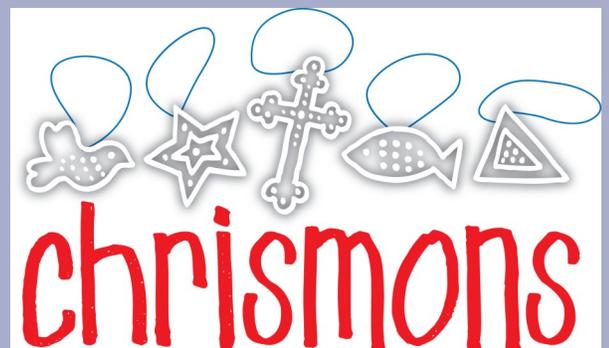
Date: Saturday, July 26

Time: 1:30 pm

Donation: \$10 for the craft supplies

Email Events@firstlutheranbham.org to reserve your spot.

We hope you will come with your family and friends and join us for a wonderful time of fun, food and fellowship.





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



7/4: Beverly Halbrooks

7/5: Josephine Stallworth

7/11: Dan Phiifer

7/26: George Murdaugh

7/28: E.J. Robinson

7/17: Marcy & Nelson Sharit

Worship Team...July 2025

July 6

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Henry Mosley

Communion Asst: Mike Halbrooks

Reader: Pat or Glen Thompson

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

July 20

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Anthony McGraw

Communion Asst: Stan Weir

Reader: Heather Lackey

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw

Music: Becky Schultz

July 13

Pastor: Tommy Presley

Worship Asst: Robert Regulus

Communion Asst.: Glen Thompson

Reader: Henry Mosley

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson

July 27

Pastor: Tommy Presley

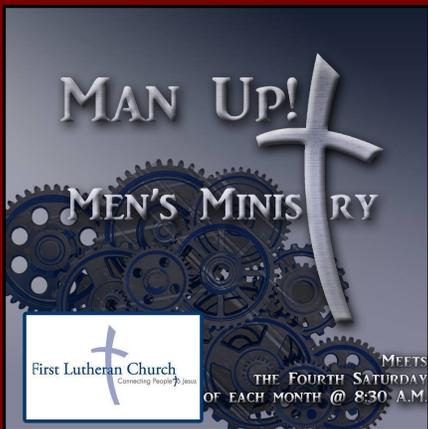
Worship Asst: Robert Regulus

Communion Asst: Glen Thompson

Reader: Mike Halbrooks

Live Stream Asst: Shane Harris & James McGraw

Music: Larry Donaldson



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!

