

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

February 1, 2010
Volume 49, Issue 3
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Global Mission Weekend *February 6 & 7, 2010*

Come and celebrate Global Mission Weekend on February 6 & 7. Ms. Sue Edison-Swift, Assistant Director Global Mission Support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be giving the message at all services.



Worship Schedule

Saturday at 5:30 p.m. — Informal worship with African hymns from our ELW.

Sunday at 8:30 a.m. — This service will feature an anthem presented by our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choirs, and Psalm 150; percussion provided by the 1-2 grade Faithtime Troupe; and a puppet play presented by the 3-6 grade Faithtime Troupe.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m. — The Children's Choirs will join Joyful Spirit in singing Michael W. Smith's "A New Hallelujah."

A video with a message from Pastor Metili of our companion congregation, Osupuko of Arusha, Tanzania will be shown in Conference Room A after the service on Saturday and between services on Sunday morning.

Transfiguration Weekend *February 13 & 14, 2010*



Join us for a New Orleans style Jazz Service on Transfiguration Weekend, February 13 & 14.

Worship Schedule

Saturday at 5:30 p.m. — This service will feature a touch of Jazz with Jim Cassens.

Sunday at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. — The "River City Six" returns to raise the roof with their toe-tapping, hand-clapping Dixieland Jazz music.

Sunday at 11:00 a.m. — Farewell Party for Heather Monson.

FIRST NOTES:

- Cinnamon Roll Sunday on February 7!
- First Friends: Senior Luncheon on Thursday, February 11 at noon in the Fellowship Room.
- CPR Training for ushers on Saturday, February 27 from 9 a.m. to Noon in Conference Room A.

Pointing To Jesus



Pr. Arthur's Note: Our synodical bishop is the Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim. His office resides in Rockford, Illinois. First Lutheran Church is one of the 161 parishes that make up the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. His staff includes First Lutheran Church member, Rev. Kurt Nordby. This article is written by Bishop Wollersheim. As this article spiritually spoke to me, I now share it with you.

John the Baptist is a major character in the Gospel lessons. This is very unusual. Why would John the Baptist have such a prominent place?

In Matthew 11, Jesus says of John the Baptist that no man born of woman is greater than John. What makes John so great?

Was John the Baptist great because he was so popular? With a message like: "you brood of vipers" one doesn't tend to win too many popularity contests. As you may recall, John's life was ended when his head was chopped off by a displeased hearer of John's message.

Was John great because he was successful and wealthy? It seems that he lived a pretty simple life, locusts, honey, and a camel coat. He resided out in the wilderness.

Was John great because he was a gifted orator? He didn't seem to be too creative in his speechmaking, relying mostly on quotes from the Old Testament.

Was John great because he was powerful? He denied being powerful by saying that he was unworthy of even touching the Messiah's sandals.

So what made John the Baptist so great? The answer I believe is found in the first chapter of St. John beginning with verse 35: "The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked and said, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard John say this and they followed Jesus."

John's greatness was found in the fact that he pointed to Jesus. He knew that it wasn't about him. Rather it was about "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world-Jesus."

So it is for us today. The mission of the church is to point to Jesus. It is not about you or about me. It is not about a church family or an institution. It is about pointing to Jesus, who came and comes to save the world.

—Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim
Bishop, Northern Illinois Synod

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

February 6 & 7, 2010

Epiphany 5/Global Mission

In this weekend's texts, the Lord asks "Whom shall I send, who will go for us?" As we reflect on this question, we are reminded that all people of faith are called through baptism to go and serve. This journey takes some across the seas, while others serve in their own backyards. This weekend in worship, First Lutheran Church welcomes Ms. Sue Edison-Swift, Assistant Director Global Mission Support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Texts include Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11.

February 13 & 14, 2010

Transfiguration of Our Lord/Jazz Service

On the mountain top, the glory of the Lord shined and glowed before Peter, James and

John. We experience the glory of Jesus in Word and Sacrament. He comes to us so that we might be "transformed into the same image." This weekend in worship we jazz up our liturgies with the sounds of brass. On Saturday night, we'll enjoy the music of Jim Cassens and on Sunday we'll enjoy the music of River City Six. This weekend's texts include Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 and Luke 9:28-36.

CPR Training for Ushers

CPR training will be provided for ushers on Saturday, February 27 from 9 a.m. until noon in Conference Room A. Ushers may sign up at the Welcome Center. There is no cost for the class. For questions or more information, please contact John Verworn at 441-6585.

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**



Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For our leaders: President Barack Obama and Governor Pat Quinn.

For regions suffering with violence: Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. For those soldiers in harms way: Jeffery Halligan, Jonathon Hunter, Jeff Libby, Joshua Rowold and Matt Tallman.

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Mark Hansen and Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Paul Metili and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. Vijayakumar, Bishop of the Arcot Lutheran Synod, India and the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in Haiti. For missionaries who share the Gospel around the world, especially Katie Blobaum. For Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: Helen Aldridge, Bob & Vi Anderson, Doug Anderson, Rodger Barnhart, Jo Ann Bengtson, Norris Bennett, Robert Bennett, Patty Bird, Sarah Bognanno, Jan Bolm, Ryan Brandemeyer, Jackie Burns, Ava Burmah, Mike Byers, Mary Lou Chrisop, Erma Cikanek, Richard Collins, Dean & Doris Conrad, Jeff Dahl, Mary Ann Daniels, Scott Davis, Sharon DeJaeger, Katelyn DeRycke, Betty Drefchinski, Ester Dunham, Judy Enos, Bonnie Falkenstien, Fred Falkenstein, Angie Fewell, Steve Fleming, Marlene Franklin, Andy Fratzke, Hope Fuller, Roy Gentry, Rob Gilmore, Ida Goldsmith, Ed Goodall, Lois Gradert, Loretta Grassel, Zilpha Grooms, Nancy Gustafson, Steve Hawk, Chris Henry, Hilary Holcomb, Sharon Hulick, Samuel Jenkins, Colleen Johnson, Elna Johnson, Jody Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Sherry Kavanaugh, Laura Keser, Julia Klemmer, Kevin Klemmer, Chuck Landon, Larry Larson, Gail LaVinn, Katie Lawless, Andrew Lawrence, Sally Leffelman, Bev Lewis, Mena Lindell, Larry Lowery, Pam Martens, Delores Mason, Kathy Mayerle, Holly McDonald, John McDowell, Pastor Barbara Melaas-Swanson, Ken Montgomery, Ron Myers, Eric Myhre, Tracy Newnam, Mary Ortega, Sy Perkins, Ruth Ann Phillips, Henry Porter, Lois Puls, Bob Pyevich, Tammy Quade, Bonnie Rapp, Jessie Rayns, Jeff Renihan, Linda Rice, Morgan Rhinehart, Austin Ross, Curt & Betty Satterlee, Barb Schroeder, Barb Sierra, Roger & Mary Spittler, Cary Stach, Mark Stader, Linda Steimle, Bill Stenzel, Basil & Ethel Stewart, Julie Stradt, Emily Sund, Fran Swanson, Mildred Swanson, Henry Lee Switzer, Lynn Teerlinck, Helen Terpening, Nancy Tieken, Charlotte Vandemark, Madison VanLeovee, Claudia VanOpdorp, Mitzi Ware and Eldon Zimmerman.

Joys: Anne Bergren, Kenneth Carlson and Elsa Copper are improved.

Sorrows: On the death of Larry Swanson, member and Linda Ole.

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Sue Wolf in the church office at 944-3196 or by e-mail prayers@firstgeneseo.org. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor Arthur at home at 309-944-2034.

**FIRST
PRAYER**

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool



First Lutheran Preschool

During the month of February, we will be emphasizing loving, sharing and helping others. Activities will include stringing Valentine necklaces, singing songs, painting, cutting, and gluing lots of Valentine hearts. Each one of our four classes will be involved with special preparations for Valentine parties by making decorations, placements and cards. During *Chapel Time*, Pastor Arthur and Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship & Music will visit, sing, pray, and share a special message about love. All classes will have a Valentine's Day Party where we will exchange cards with our classmates. Our annual Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the last week of February. Visit our website at www.firstgeneseo.org/preschool to learn more about our Preschool and how we share Christ's love with one another.

Singers needed for Palm Sunday Musical Drama!

Singers high school age and older are invited to participate in "*For Such a One as This*", a musical drama to be presented Palm Sunday, March 28, at both the 8:30 & 10 a.m. services. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings, February 24 through March 24 from 6-6:45 p.m. Children's activities/nursery care will be provided during this time. For more information contact Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship and Music at 944-3196 (mwildermuth@firstgeneseo.org).

C.O.O.L. Sunday School

February Focus

"The Good Samaritan"

Through the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us to love God and other people. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we show God's love to other people, whether they live close to us or far away.

Rotation	February 7	February 14
Kindergarten	Storytelling	Science
1-2 Grade	Science	Cooking
3-4 Grade	Cooking	Games
5-6 Grade	Games	Storytelling

Kindergarten through grade 6 go directly to their Sunday school rooms by 10 a.m., using the staircase at the south end of the Fellowship Room. The C.O.O.L. Aides will greet the children as they arrive.

All 3- and 4-year olds go directly to their single-based classroom in our Zaccheus' Tree House at 10 a.m.

A Special Note of Thanks—

"We are so thankful for all the support Anne received after her tonsillectomy. The encouraging cards, wonderful meals and all the prayers were a blessing for our family. Thank you everyone for your support!"

—Pr. Arthur and Anne Bergren

First Lutheran Preschool Registration

First Lutheran Preschool will soon be registering children for the 2010-11 school year. Early registration is offered to all First Lutheran families during the month of February. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2010. If you are interested in having your child attend, please call the preschool at 944-4306.

First Book Club

Join Sandy Bishop for discussion on the content of the book *Water for Elephants* and faith response to the author Sara Gruen on Wednesday, February 10 from 6-7 p.m. in Zaccheus' Tree House.

- March's book title will be *The Last Lecturer* written by Randy Pausch. *The Last Lecture* is a memoir, a celebration of life, and a testament to the power of childhood dreams. But it is also, perhaps most of all, a book of lessons. The book is filled with all the ideas and observations that Randy Pausch wanted to share with his three young children. "These are the things I won't get the chance to tell them over the next twenty years," he said. "I'm trying to put myself in a bottle that will one day wash up on the beach for them." Purchase your copy and begin reading this national bestseller today!

Thank You—

Thank you Social Ministry for the wonderful fruit basket. I am very thankful for your kindness.

*God bless,
Francis Goreth*

Pastor's Class

Every Wednesday, a pastor's class is offered from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in Conference Room A. Currently, Pr. Arthur is teaching a six part course on *The Reformation* with special focus on 600ad to 1600ad. Here's the remaining schedule for February:

February 3 *New Faces of the Church and The Book of Concord*

February 10 *The Lasting Impact*

The Pastor's Class will break for Lent. Please join us for worship at Noon and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent.

Bible Babes

Are you a woman in your 20's and 30's? Are you looking to meet some new people and be connected with other women of our church? Please join us for an informal Bible Study on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. The group will meet for 6 weeks starting Sunday, February 21 and we will be discussing "*Jesus Confronts Today's Controversies*" by Mark Ashton. (*The cost is \$7.*) If you are interested in coming but can't attend all 6 weeks, don't worry—come when you can! The first week we will meet at Tracie Douglas' home at 5774 Poppy Garden Rd, Colona. For more information, please contact Sara Reed at 309-502-9486 (SaraReed@wellsfargo.com). Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to join us. Hope to see you there!

Opening Your Bible

Over the course of Lent, Pr. Arthur will be teaching a six part class on Opening Your Bible. This experience is designed to help everyone better understand how our Christian tradition understands scripture. Special emphasis is placed upon how each person can personally open their Bible to deepen their faith. Each week one session of the class will be taught but offered twice a week on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. and Sunday morning at 11:15 a.m. in Conference Room A. At the end of the class, each participant will have the tools to better enjoy the Bible and even to lead a Bible Study. Each participant will be given a set of Pr. Arthur's teaching notes for every class. If you always wanted to know how to better understand scripture, this is the opportunity for you! (*Child care provided.*) Here's an outline of the February classes:

- **Session 1**—Opening Your Bible: *How Lutherans Approach the Bible*
Thursday, February 18 at 7 p.m. or Sunday, February 21 at 11:15 a.m.
- **Session 2**—Opening Your Bible: *How to Read Scripture with a Spiritual Focus*
Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m. or Sunday, February 28 at 11:15 a.m.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting—Come and enjoy a morning of quilting with the “Cover Girls” on Wednesday, February 10 at 9 a.m.

Women's Circles—First Lutheran offers three women's circles that meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship. All women are cordially invited to attend any of the circles.

Rebecca Circle will meet on February 17 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Room.

Elizabeth Circle will meet on February 17 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room A.

Hannah Circle will meet on February 25 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

Men's Lenten Breakfast

Geneseo Ministerial Association is hosting the Men's Lenten Breakfast. All men are invited to come and enjoy the delicious breakfast, fellowship and a brief program. The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. each week at the following churches:

February 20	St. Malachy
February 27	First Congregational & Holy Trinity at First Congregational
March 6	Lorraine United Methodist
March 13	First United Methodist
March 20	Grace United Methodist
March 27	Evangelical Free

First Friends: Senior Luncheon

Belly up to the potato bar and load your spud with any of these yummy toppings which include chili, cheese, broccoli, onions, bacon bits, butter and sour cream! There will also be additional salad bar items – pickled beets, cottage cheese, applesauce, peaches, jello and pasta salad. Save some room for dessert - a variety of pies! The cost of the meal is \$8. Then join your First Friends for a few hands of cards. Save the date, February 11 at noon, invite a guest and plan for this delightful afternoon of food and fellowship! Hurry and sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

First Health and Wellness

Health Tip: Simple steps to aging well – eating right, remaining active and staying positive are essential.

- **Fuel up wisely**—Accentuate the positive by focusing on what you should eat instead of what you shouldn't eat. By consuming more fruits, vegetables, healthy fats (*i.e. olive oil*), and lean proteins, your hunger will be satisfied and you'll naturally want to make better choices.

- **Bolster brain health**—Exercising and eating healthy helps the brain as much as the rest of the body. Reading, doing puzzles, and learning a new skill (*music, languages*) all are beneficial because they require the brain cells to “fire.”

- **Adjust your outlook**—Maintaining a positive attitude is necessary for successful aging. It gives us the resolve to implement changes that'll be beneficial.
- **Stay fit**—Exercise smarter: Do low-impact workouts, such as walking, and strength-train to maintain muscle tone, metabolism and bone density.

Blood Pressure: Our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures in the Fellowship Room after the service on February 13 and between services on February 14.

—Joan Holt, RN, PN
Director of Care Ministries

DID YOU KNOW?

—First Lutheran Church has collected over \$4,250 for the ELCA Disaster Relief for Haiti. Thank you for *Sharing Christ's Love* with Haiti!

The Message

I was reading the Gospel of Matthew, the third chapter, from *"The Message"* the other day and it got to me.

John dressed in a camel hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

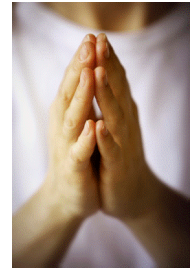
When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: 'Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snake skins is going to make a difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin!

When I first read this I thought I would not want to be a Pharisee or a Sadducee! They held the people to a very high standard, but did not live up to that standard themselves. But then I can see the problems of others much easier than I can see my problems.

In conversation lately I have finally realized that in the Bible God convicts, not condemns. There is hope for all of us, because God is saying you are not going to be condemned as long as you believe, He is saying don't worry. Jesus died for our sin. Learn from my Word. Take your Baptism seriously. Believe in the Son, Jesus Christ. *"The Message"* goes on: I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama-compared to him I'm a mere stagehand-will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out.

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. To me this means the more we believe and learn from God's word and put it into practice the better our lives will be!

—Jim Larson,
Spirituality Team



First Lutheran Preschool Scholarship Fund

The First Lutheran Preschool Scholarship Fund was started by Juanita Terpening in memory of her husband, Wesley. Over the past several years, we have been able to give financial assistance to many of our students. This year we have helped two students who would not have been able to remain in preschool without our help. One student's family continues to experience financial problems because of many medical bills. This child will need financial help for the rest of this year. Any funds donated to our scholarship fund will help this child and others who are experiencing financial difficulties during these hard economic times. We thank everyone for your continued support.

Farewell Party For Heather

Join us on Sunday, February 14 as we honor Heather Monson for her years of service on the staff of First Lutheran. Heather's last day as Director of Family & Youth Ministries is February 16, so come and wish her well and thank her for a job well done at this special celebration. The party begins at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Room with refreshments and a special program. A basket will be available for cards of appreciation. See you then!



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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Krause, Jim Larson, Randy Mullin, Jim
Murray, Mike Pries, Linda Storm, Jim Turner

FIRST LOOK . . .

Preschool Classes M-F 9:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

February 1

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop Mtg.
7:00 p.m. VDC Secretariat

February 2

5:00 a.m. HC Polling Place
6:30 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout
6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Cabinet
7:00 p.m. VDC Men

February 3

3:30-8:15 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
8:15 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

February 4

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting

February 6

8:00 a.m. HC Youth Services
Bureau Program
10:00 a.m. Transitional Planning
Mtg.-Youth & Parents
5:30 p.m. Informal Worship
6:30 p.m. Global Mission Video
Presentation

February 7

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Cinnamon Roll Sunday
9:30 a.m. Global Mission Video
Presentation

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School P3-6 Grade
11:00 a.m. Faith Reborn

February 8

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop Mtg.

7:00 p.m. Ministries

February 9

6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. VDC Men

February 10

9:00 a.m. Cover Girls Quilting
3:30-8:15 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
6:00 p.m. First Book Club
8:15 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

February 11

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting
12:00 p.m. First Friends: Senior Luncheon

February 13

5:30 p.m. Informal/Jazz Worship
6:15 p.m. Blood Pressure Check

February 14

8:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
9:30 a.m. Fellowship/BP Checks
10:00 a.m. Jazz Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School P3-6
Grade
11:00 a.m. Farewell Reception for
Heather Monson

February 15

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop Mtg.
7:00 p.m. Council

Wednesday Faithtime Schedule

3:30 p.m. Gathering & Snack
(Grades 1-6)
4:00 p.m. Faithtime Troupe
(Grades 1-3)
Celebration Choir
Youth Room Open
4:30 p.m. Sonshine Choir
Faithtime Troup
(Grades 4-6)
5:00 p.m. Psalm 150
5:00-6:15 p.m. Dinner Served
5:45 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 p.m. Senior High Ministry
6:30 p.m. Pastor's Class
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

**Next CHIMES deadline:
Tuesday, February 2**