

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

February 15, 2010
Volume 49, Issue 4
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.

Return To The Lord

Ash Wednesday ~ February 17
Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Services at Noon & 7 p.m.

Two Lenten fellowship opportunities are offered every Wednesday. Everyone is invited to join us in the Fellowship Room for our Lenten Soup & Salad Luncheon following the Noon service or for the Faithtime Dinner from 5-6:30 p.m.

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Half-hour services at Noon & 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24

RETURN TO THE LORD: STUDY
Matthew 7:24-29

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:30 p.m.

Chicken Noodle/Creamy Tomato

Faithtime Dinner—5-6:30 p.m.

Vegetable Beef/Creamy Tomato

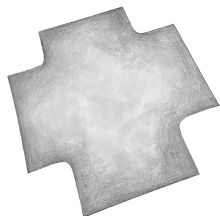
FIRST NOTES:

—Men's Lenten Breakfast on Saturday, February 20 at 7 a.m. at St. Malachy.

—C.O.O.L. Event at the QC Sports Center in Davenport on Saturday, February 27 from 2:15 to 4 p.m.

—CPR Training for Ushers on Saturday, February 27 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Lent 2010



Every last person of faith experiences the wilderness. That place, that experience, that time when we feel as if God has abandoned us. When such days come, it's easy for us to give up on our faith, turn inward and remove ourselves from our relationships with God and one another. I know I've experience such times in my life. Times when my soul felt empty and faith life adrift.

But there is a way for us to connect to God in the wilderness. The prophet Joel thousands of years ago proclaimed these words "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." But how can we reconnect to the Lord? How can we experience God's presence?

The answers are found in our faith practices of the Church. In study, service, worship, giving, and prayer, we experience the very presence of God. And the deeper we grow in these faith practices, the more we realize that God has been with us, by our side, all along.

Our Lenten journey begins on February 17 on Ash Wednesday with services at Noon and 7 p.m. At these services, God's people will receive the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Every Wednesday thereafter, a 30 minute service will be held. My five-part sermon series will explore how God meets us in these faith practices. Our liturgy will be a service of scripture, reflection, prayer, silence, candlelight and simple song as we gather around the cross.

Each time we gather for worship, a time of fellowship will be offered. After the Noon services and before the 7 p.m. services, a simple meal of soup, bread and salad will be offered. For more information, please reference our Lenten Brochure or log on to www.firstgeneseo.org.

In addition to worship and fellowship, I am offering a 6-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 Bibles to deepen their faith. Each participant will be given a set of my teaching notes for every class. Rest assured that no one will be put on the spot and you don't need a theological degree to attend. If you always wanted to know how to better understand and engage scripture, this is the opportunity for you!

In an effort to meet the needs of complicated schedules, this class will be offered twice a week. It will be taught on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Child care will be offered and the experienced is geared for 45 minutes. Here's the line up for Opening Your Bible:

How Lutherans Approach the Bible

February 18 or 21

How to Read Scripture with a Spiritual Focus

February 25 or 28

How to Read Scripture with a Historical Focus

March 4 or 7

How to Read Scripture with a Literary Focus

March 11 or 14

How to Read Scripture with a Lutheran Focus

March 18 or 21

How to Put It All Together

March 25 or 28

Sooner or later, we'll find ourselves in the wilderness. It's part of the human experience. But as we return to the Lord this Lent, we'll all come to see that God has been there all along – been there for us in study, service, worship, giving, and prayer.

—Pr. Arthur

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13

February 17, 2010

Lent Midweek 1, Noon and 7 p.m.

In this closing image of Jesus' sermon on the mount, Jesus speaks of those who study his word. The image invokes foundations. One man builds his house on sand, while the other man builds his house on rock. When the storms come, one house remains. As we return to the Lord in study, we discover Jesus has been there all along. Wednesday's text is Matthew 7:24-29.

February 20 & 21, 2010

1 Lent

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who saves us from ourselves; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage as Jesus knew and shared as witnessed in his temptations in the wilderness. This weekend's text include Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13 and Luke 4:1-13.

February 24, 2010

Lent Midweek 2, Noon and 7 p.m.

In the parable of the Last Judgment, Jesus speaks of the one difference between the sheep and the goats. The one difference is how they treated the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick or the imprisoned. We learn that we meet Jesus in the faces of those who have the most need within the life of the world. As we return to the Lord in service, we'll discover that Jesus has been there all along. Wednesday's text is Matthew 25:31-46.

February 27 & 28, 2010

2 Lent

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord." This weekend's texts include Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1 and Luke 13:31-35.

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**



The
Edwards
River Ministry
Congregations
Cordially invite you to the

Ordination & Installation
for
Christopher Heller
Sunday
February 28, 2010
2:00pm

Bethany Lutheran Church
380 West 3rd Avenue
Woodhull, Illinois

With a reception to follow

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 MINISTRIES



Circa '21

First Lutheran's Grace Burmahl, Ava Monson and Taylor McKean will be performing with the Circa '21 Children's Choir on Sunday, March 14. Men in Mission have reserved 20 tickets. The cost per ticket is \$40 for adults and \$26 for students 18 & under. Sign up at the Welcome Center to reserve your seats! Reservations must be made by Sunday, February 28. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran. For more information, contact Jim Unrath at 441-5643 (jbunrath@geneseo.net).

Sunday Evening — March 14, 2010

Doors	Buffet	Preshow	Show
3:45	4:00	5:15	5:45

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).

FIRST PRAYER

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: Jeff Libby, Gretchen Radke, 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, Gene Belvel, Jo Ann Bengtson, Norris Bennett, Robert Bennett, Patty Bird, Sarah Bognanno, Jan Bolm, Ryan Brandemeyer, Ava Burmahl, Jackie Burns, Mike Byers, Mary Lou Chrisop, Erma Cikanek, Richard Collins, Jeff Dahl, Mary Ann Daniels, Scott Davis, Drew Delp-Conrad, Katelyn DeRycke, Betty Drefchinski, Ester Dunham, Judy Enos, Bonnie Falkenstien, Fred Falkenstein, Angie Fewell, Steve Fleming, Marlene Franklin, Andy Fratzke, Anke Fronz, 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, Bev Lewis, Mena Lindell, Wilma Lindstrom, Larry Lowery, Pam Martens, Kathy Mayerle, Holly McDonald, John McDowell, Pastor Barbara Melaas-Swanson, Ken Montgomery, Ron Myers, Eric Myhre, Tracy Newnam, Jenna Noel, 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, 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: Dean & Doris Conrad, Sharon DeJaeger, Delores Mason and Sally Leffelman are improved.

Sorrows: On the death of Genevieve Bray, grandmother of Lori (Tony) Schefsky; Curt Satterlee, grandfather of Dawn (Troy) Ebarb; and Alice Mae Wenzel, mother of Pastor Janet Lepp, St. James Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving: Jeffery Halligan and Jonathon Hunter are home safely from Iraq.

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.

Opening Your Bible

During 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. (*Child care provided.*) Each participant will receive 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! 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.

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). Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to join us. Hope to see you there!

First Book Club

March's book title is *The Last Lecturer* written by Randy Pausch. When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave—"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"—wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (*because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"*). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living. Purchase your copy and begin reading this national bestseller today! Join Liz Dragolovich, who will lead the book discussion, on Wednesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. in Zaccheus' Tree House.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois— On Site Insights

Intouch Adult Day Services opened its doors on September 2, 1980 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline with 6 participants. The mission was to improve the life for local seniors who did not want or need nursing home care. The goal was and continues to be to enable each participant to improve his/her function spiritually, physically and emotionally along with providing relief for family member caregivers who provide 24 hour care. The program has expanded and now has over 20,000 square feet of space, providing day care to 214 participants.

We invite you to visit Intouch Adult Day Center, 4011 Avenue of the Cities in Moline, on Wednesday, February 24 from 1-2:30 p.m. to learn more about the services they provide to those in need and tour the facility.

If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact Kathy Nelson at 944-6211.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Women's Ministry

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

Rebecca Circle will not meet in February.

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

- **Leadership Gathering for the West Conference** will be on Saturday, March 13 at the Christian Friendliness Center, 3928 12th Ave, Moline. A program will be given by Mark Drake, Executive Director of the Center. Coffee and rolls will be served. A tour the facilities followed by workshops for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Missions will also be offered. Registration deadline is March 1. Sign up and get your registration form at the Welcome Center.
- **Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA Retreats**—Information about this year's NIS Retreats "*Prayer...Conversation with God*" and scholarship applications are available at the Resource Center. *Please note*—the registration deadline is March 7 for the one-day retreat and March 20 for the two-day retreat.

If you have questions about any of these opportunities, please contact Beth Unrath at 441-5643 or the church office.

First Health and Wellness

Health Tip: Attitude plays an important role in emotional well-being, which in turn plays a great part in physical health. The body functions at its best when a person, who is the body, exhibits attitudes of hope, love, faith and gratitude.

Women's Health Program: "*New Surgical Procedures*" is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, February 25 at The Cellar. The cost of lunch is \$8 and you may register by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9121.

Men in Mission

All men are invited to come and enjoy a delicious dinner on Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Bring your hearty appetites and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

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

First Friends: Senior Luncheon

There will be no First Friends: Senior Luncheons during the months of March and April. Every Wednesday during Lent you are invited to attend the worship service at noon followed by a Soup & Salad luncheon in the Fellowship Room. We will gather again on Thursday, May 13 for our annual "Birthday Celebration!"

DID YOU KNOW?

—On Souper Bowl Weekend 126 lbs. of food was collected and donated to the Geneseo Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support!

Diabetes Support Group: "Helping Hands" will meet on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room at First. Karri Herberg of the Sleep Disorder Clinic at Hammond Hospital will speak on "*Sleep Apnea*." The organization is open to anyone who is directly or indirectly affected by diabetes. For more information, contact Gary or Mary Anne Daniels at 944-2404 or visit the website at www.helpinghandsingeneo.org.

—Joan Holt, RN, PN
Director of Care Ministries

First Lutheran Youth

During Lent, the Confirmation and Senior High Ministry will continue to meet at the following times:

Confirmation Students (7-8th graders)

Large group lesson led by Janet Larson from 6-6:25 p.m. in Conference Room A and small group discussion with mentors from 6:30-7 p.m.

Sr. High Youth Ministry (9-12th graders) will meet with Pastor Arthur from 6-7 p.m. in the Youth Room. Here's the Lenten schedule:

February 17 — *Understanding Change*

The goal of this forum is to address the transition in our program from both an emotional and theological point of view.

The next five classes will explore First Lutheran Church's Lenten theme of meeting Jesus in Study, Service, Worship, Giving and Prayer by using a major motion picture and scripture.

February 24 — *Apollo 13 & Study*

March 3 — *United 93 & Service*

March 10 — *Revenge of the Sith & Worship*

March 17 — *Superman & Giving*

March 24 — *Cinderella Man & Prayer*

After class, both groups will attend the Lenten Worship Service at 7 p.m.

Food Pantry collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting jelly, peanut butter, crackers, hamburger helper, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, pancake mix, syrup, snacks, bathroom tissue, kleenex, hand/body lotions, Chapstick, shaving cream, razors, dishwashing detergent, and generic cold remedies for children and adults to share with those in need in our community. Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office.

- Clients are reminded that tax preparation is available at no charge at the Geneseo Public Library.

Kid's Event

Lace up your skates and get ready to play! All children 3-yrs. old through grade 6 and their friends are invited to join us for an afternoon of ice skating on Saturday, February 27 from 2:15 to 4 p.m. at the QC Sports Center in Davenport. Children ages 3-yrs. old through kindergarten need to have an adult with them to join in the fun! The cost of this event is \$5 per person and includes admission, skate rental, Maggie Moo cupcake and hot cocoa, too! Hurry and sign up at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Schefsky, Director of Children's Ministries at 944-2583 (lschefsky@firstgeneseo.org).

FIRST MINISTRIES



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 21	February 28
Kindergarten	Cooking	Games
1-2 Grade	Games	Storytelling
3-4 Grade	Storytelling	Science
5-6 Grade	Science	Cooking

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.

All Daughter's Tea

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) is hosting a spring tea on Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Save the date!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dawn Collins, Joni Conrad, Karen Daniel,
Tim Holmstrom, Jerry Klavohn, Debbie
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 16

10:00 a.m. Project Linus
6:30 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout Mtg.
6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. VDC Men
7:30 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

February 17—Ash Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Circle
12:00 p.m. Worship: Ashes & Communion
12:45 p.m. Soup & Salad Luncheon
3:30-8:30 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
7:00 p.m. Worship: Ashes & Communion
8:00 p.m. After Prom Meeting

February 18

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Men in Mission
7:00 p.m. Opening Your Bible—
Session 1

February 19

7:00 p.m. GPAC Trivia Night

February 20

5:30 p.m. Informal Worship

February 21

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School P3-6 Gr.
11:00 a.m. Faith Reborn
11:00 a.m. Private Baptism
Celebration
11:15 a.m. Opening Your Bible—
Session 1

6:00 p.m. Bible Babes

February 22

8:00 a.m. PS Conferences
10:00 a.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop Mtg.
7:00 p.m. Community MAPPING Project

February 23

11:30 p.m. PS Conferences
6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Helping Hands Diabetic Group
7:00 p.m. VDC Men
7:30 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

February 24

8:00 a.m. PS Conferences
12:00 p.m. Worship: Midweek 1
12:30 p.m. Soup & Salad Luncheon
3:30-8:30 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
7:00 p.m. Worship: Midweek 1

February 25

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Hannah Circle
7:00 p.m. Opening Your Bible—Session 2

February 26

11:30 p.m. PS Conferences

February 27

8:30 a.m. CPR Training for
Ushers
2:15 p.m. Kid's Event at the QC
Sports Ctr.

5:30 p.m. Informal Worship

February 28

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Contemporary
Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School P3-6 Gr.
11:00 a.m. Lifelines Prayer
11:15 a.m. Opening Your Bible—
Session 2

Faithtime Schedule During Lent

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. Sunshine Choir
Faithtime Troup
(Grades 4-6)
5:00 p.m. Psalm 150
5:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner Served
5:45 p.m. Children Celebrating Lent
Confirmation
6:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Cantata
Rehearsal—*Not Ash Wed.*
Senior High Ministry
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir—*Not
Ash Wed.*

**Next CHIMES deadline:
Tuesday, February 16**