

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

September 1, 2010
Volume 49, Issue 17
www.firstgeneseo.org

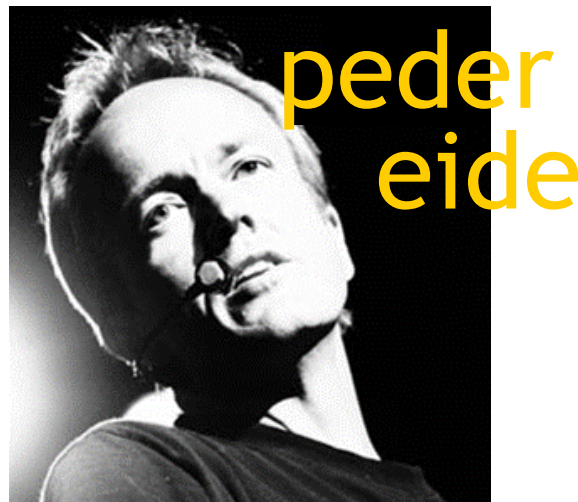
WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

Join us for a special weekend!

September 11 & 12, 2010



Come celebrate the music of Peder Eide as he shares an exciting faith-filled concert on Saturday evening and leads us in inspirational worship at both services on Sunday.

A delicious picnic meal featuring pork chop sandwich or hot dog, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, carrots, chips, fresh fruit, ice cream, cupcakes and drink will be served in the Fellowship Room beginning at 11:15 a.m. The cost of the meal will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 & under. Tickets can be purchased at the church office or after worship this weekend.

Saturday, Sept. 11

FREE Concert at 7 p.m.

in the Geneseo City Park

Concession Stand

(proceeds benefit youth ministries)

Sunday, Sept. 12

Leading Worship at 8:30 & 10 a.m.

Congregational Meal at 11:15 a.m.



Come Belong!

Back in the summer of 1978, my family moved to Swedona, Illinois. I was 11 years old and starting the 6th grade. Up to that point, I had lived in Rockford, Illinois and Springfield, Ohio.

To say this move was a culture clash is an understatement. I was a city boy in a country town. Truth be told, I was lost. I didn't understand my new environment. I didn't know how to make new friends. I didn't fit in...*at all!*

I remember walking out of my father's first church in June of 1978. I was feeling sorry for myself. I remember feeling angry at my family for bringing me to this spot in Mercer County and believing that I would never make any friends.

It was then that someone called out to me. "Hey, kid, come over here."

A group of peers from Swedona Lutheran Church were in a tree. I walked over and they invited me to climb up and join them. In the tree were Mike, Teresa, Doug and Lisa. We talked and joked around. I remember thinking these kids weren't much different from me. I remember this moment as if it were yesterday.

In word and deed, they were doing the work of evangelism. The first step is invitation. Mike, Teresa, Lisa and Doug invited me to come and join them. They made room for me. The second step is hospitality. They made me believe that I belonged. I knew there was a place for me.

As we live evangelism at First Lutheran Church, we need to take these two steps seriously. First, we need to invite those who don't have a church home to come and join us. Without an invitation, they have no reason to join us. With an invitation, they know they can come anytime.

But the work of evangelism cannot stop there. The second step is equally as important as the first. Second, we need to make our guests know they are welcome.

As they experience the warmth of friendship and community, they will believe that they belong here.

Come. Belong. These two words are at the center of our fall outreach campaign. At First Lutheran Church, we want our community to know that they are always invited to join us and that there is always a place for them in our parish.

The first step of our fall evangelism campaign is all about invitation. First Lutheran Church will invite everyone in our community who do not have a church home to come to First. We will use a direct mail campaign, door hangers and signage to make this invitation to our community. My thanks to Mary Jo Brummet, Dick Carlson, Jim Unrath and the entire Evangelism Committee for their hard work. This step of the evangelism campaign will unfold in the first weeks of September.

The second step of our fall evangelism campaign is all about hospitality. This is where you come in. If you see a face you do not know, reach out and make them feel welcome. Chances are they are feeling just like I did all those years ago in the summer of 1978 in Swedona, Illinois. Your welcome will let them know that they belong here at First Lutheran Church.

Come. Belong. These words are more than a slogan for our evangelism campaign. These words remind us of how God treats us and how we are to treat others.

—Pr. Arthur

*"You belong to Christ, and
Christ belongs to God."
Corinthians 3:23*

September 4 & 5, 2010

15 Pentecost

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own. This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 30:15–20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1:1–21 and Luke 14:25–33.

September 11 & 12, 2010

16 Pentecost

Peder Eide Leading Worship, Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God. This weekend's texts include Exodus 32:7–14, Psalm 51:1–10, 1 Timothy 1:12–17 and Luke 15:1–10.

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: Christopher Ayers, James Bent, Brian Fink, Jeff Libby and Joshua Rowold.

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 and Randy & Carol Stubbs and family. For Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: Bob & Vi Anderson, Doug Anderson, Gene Belvel, Jo Ann Bengtson, Norris Bennett, Pr. Denver Bitner, Sarah Bognanno, Elwyn Borkgren, Mike Bowen, Ryan Brandemeyer, Karis Breeden, Kari Bridgewater, Michael & Karyn Brown, Jackie Burns, Christopher Cassens, Erma Cikanek, Richard Collins, Quinn Collins, Jeff Dahl, Mary Ann Daniels, Katelyn DeRycke, Lori Dodge, Betty Drefchinski, Charles Drummond, Kim Ehlinger, Aaron Elmendorf, Judy Enos, John Fair, Bonnie Falkenstien, Fred Falkenstein, Ruth Floto, Marlene Franklin, Lee Fulton, Roy Gentry, Bill George, Rob Gilmore, Vicky Goff, Ida Goldsmith, Ed Goodall, Loretta Grassel, Carolyn Griffin, Leslie Hamilton, Kirsten Haneberg, James Harwood, Arliss Heist, Christina Henry, David Howe, Sharon Hulick, Dee Johns, Colleen Johnson, Elna Johnson, Virgil H. Johnson, Laura Keser, Kevin Klemmer, Elise Lambert, Chuck Landon, Larry Larson, Gail LaVinn, Katie Lawless, Bev Lewis, Larry Lowery, Bill Lundy, Pam Martens, Jim Mason, Kathy Mayerle, Holly McDonald, John McDowell, Sarah McFeggan, Pastor Barbara Melaas-Swanson, Pam Minnaert, Voy Mitchell, Christina Nelson, Danielle & Samantha Noe, Jenna Noel, Nancy Noord, Vicki Orsi, Mary Ortega, Lois Puls, Bob Pyevich, Tammy Quade, Jessie Rayns, Jeff Renihan, Linda Rice, Mary Ann Rodems, Austin Ross, Andrew Roth, Ruth Ruda, Betty Satterlee, Maudie Short, Barb Sierra, Norma Smith, Luke Snodgrass, Cary Stach, Mark Stader, Linda Steimle, Bill Stenzel, Basil & Ethel Stewart, Fran Swanson, Mildred Swanson, Juanita Terpening, Nicky Tesson, Dolores TwoBears, Charlotte Vandemark, Mitzi Ware, Jim Weisser, Mike Winter and Eldon Zimmerman.

Joys: Birth of the 8th great grandchild of Pastor & Marilyn Juliot to John & Allison Knollman. Dick Anderson, Dawn Collins, Susan Corcoran, Madison Dolieslager and Glenna Palmer are improved.

Sorrows: On the death of Everett Miller, father of Bryan Miller.

Thanksgiving: Matt Tallman is safely back in the USA.

FIRST PRAYER

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 MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool



First Lutheran Preschool

First Lutheran Preschool begins another fun-filled year of learning on Wednesday, September 1! The first day of school for each class will be an orientation session for parents and children. We look forward to meeting all of our new friends!

During September, the 3 year-olds will get to know the color red and the shape of a circle with lots of fun activities and songs. The 4 year-olds will be looking at the letters A, B, C, D and will do activities such as making butterflies and airplane puppets which we will fly while singing our airplane song! The 4-5 year olds will learn about the letter N and will talk about things that are noisy and make bird nests.

Another Child Foundation “Thank You” Luncheon

The Larson Family invites the congregation to attend a casual luncheon on Sunday, September 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room to hear about our recent mission trip to Romania. Another Child Foundation founders, Tim & Theresa Oloffson, and Buckner Romania Director, Dacian Moldovan, will be presenting an update on their shared ministry with Romanian children and families. We will serve pulled pork sandwiches, salad and desserts from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In addition, we would like to take this time to thank our First Lutheran family and friends for all of the support over the past year which enabled us to share Christ’s love with the children. The strength and encouragement given to us by our family of faith has been such a blessing.

—Jim, Janet, Abby,
Luke & Ian Larson

Council Highlights for August 16, 2010

Financial Report—

General Fund Offering:

July actual	\$29,549
July budget	\$29,556
YTD actual	\$235,324
YTD budget	\$242,532

Net Income Over Expenses:

July actual	\$6,043 deficit
July budget	\$12,064 deficit
YTD actual	\$41,740 deficit
YTD budget	\$38,203 deficit

July operated with a smaller deficit than was budget because we had fewer expenses, mostly salaries. We still have a significant deficit for the 7 months of the year. Giving is \$8,000 less than budget for this year and less than last year’s actual as well. Expenses are being maintained under budget but that is being impacted by staff transition. As we gear up for the new program year we will spend closer to budget for the year.

Social Ministry Benevolence Request—

The Council approved a \$500 request to the Freedom House. This organization maintains a shelter for abused women and children. A request to assist Bethany and Lesli Storm with their travel costs to Haiti. This mission trip allowed First Lutheran to “Share Christ’s Love” in an area still recovering from earthquake.

Treasurer Appointment—

Council appointed Tom Baumgardner as Treasurer. Our governance policies require that the Treasurer be a member of the congregation. Because we have a non-member Parish Accountant this becomes a separate position. We are fortunate to have Tom who is willing to take on this additional responsibility. We also want to thank Doris Murray for her service. We were blessed to have Doris as our Treasurer and wish her well in her renewed retirement.

Faithtime Opportunities

- **Pastor's Class**—Every Wednesday, a pastor's class is offered from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in Conference Room A. During the month of September, Pr. Arthur will begin teaching a four-part series that will examine the lives of four people of faith from the New Testament. In this series, we will explore their biography and witness.

Here's the schedule for September:

September 1 People of Faith: *Peter*

September 8 People of Faith: *Mary the mother of our Lord*

September 15 People of Faith: *Onesimus*

September 23 People of Faith: *Lydia*

- **First Book Club**—Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* and faith response to the author David Wroblewski on Wednesday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Sunday School Room 5—*Temple Tales* on the second floor.

Sunday School News

Our Rotational Sunday School schedule begins on Sunday, September 19! All children ages 3 through grade 6 are welcome.

- 3- and 4-year olds go directly to their single-based classroom in our Zaccheus' Tree House at 10 a.m.
- 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 children will be greeted as they arrive.

Registration forms will be available at the registration table in the Fellowship Room on Sunday, September 19. If you have any questions, contact Lori Schefsky, Director of Children's & Faithtime Ministries at 944-3196 (lschefsky@firstgeneseo.org).

FIRST MINISTRIES

C.O.O.L.



Lutheran World Relief—Soap

Soap is the final item that will be collected this year for the shipment overseas. Soap should be new bars (4-5 oz.) in its original wrapping. They can be left in the basket outside the church office through Lutheran World Relief Weekend, October 25 & 26. Thank you for your ongoing support!

First Lutheran Youth—F.L.Y. with us!

Confirmation (7-8th graders)—Janet Larson will be teaching the large group lessons during the month of September. Together we will learn about the Ten Commandments.

- **September 1** — *First Commandment*

In our first week we will learn that when the First commandment is fulfilled, the keeping of others will follow.

- **September 8** — *Second Commandment*

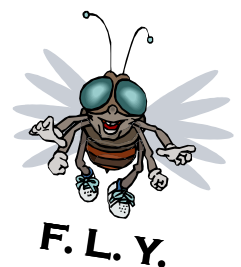
We will take a look at how taking God's name in vain is all about identity theft, because sinners have a way of using God's name in ways it wasn't intended.

We will meet at the north end of the Fellowship Room at 5:30 p.m. for games. We look forward to seeing you!

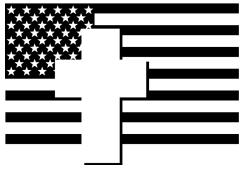
Senior High Youth Ministry Start Up!

The Youth Room is open every Wednesday at 4 p.m. for grades 9-12 to hang out, play games and socialize in a supervised environment.

Come join Pr. Arthur, Tim Oloffson and John Puls up in the Youth Room on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. Together, we will be offering a learning event on the Values of Leadership which will explore the following values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. Through Bible Study, conversation and special guests, together we'll grow in our capacity to be leaders in life. Be sure to include Senior High Youth Ministry as a part of your weekly schedule. Friends are always welcome!



FIRST MINISTRIES



“One Nation under God”

Thank you to everyone for their support, encouragement, and donations to the Veteran’s Flagpole/Memorial Garden. Your response has been overwhelming and very much appreciated! As of the date of this publication, we are only \$1,000 away from full funding on this project. As such, we will continue to gratefully accept all donations.

We are currently compiling a list of all First Lutheran Veterans (*past and present*). If you or a loved one is/was a Veteran or you know of a Veteran from our congregation, please send the information to Bob & Judy DeBoever, 12302 N 2100 Ave., Geneseo or email rdb1965@geneseo.net. Thank you again for being a part of this wonderful tribute to our Veterans!

—*Veteran’s Flagpole/Memorial
Garden Committee*

Nursery Helpers Needed!

If you love babies and small children, your help is needed in the nursery during worship services. A supervised nursery is currently available during Sunday morning worship services. Beginning Saturday, October 2 a supervised nursery will also be available during Saturday evening worship services. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the faith life of our young families. If you are interested in volunteering to provide supervision during any of the worship services, please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact our new volunteer nursery coordinator, Mandy Baumgardner at 944-8787 (catzmeow111@yahoo.com).

First Friends: Senior Luncheon

The First Friends group of adults age 50 and over will gather on September 9 at noon in the Fellowship Room for a tasty meal and a special program on Fall Prevention presented by Russell Byrne, a physical therapist from Trinity Medical Center. He will discuss risk factors for falls, evaluation tests to screen for falls and therapies to help prevent falls. We will enjoy a meal of assorted sandwiches, bacon ranch potato salad, vegetable tray, fresh fruit, cookies and ice cream for \$8. Invite a friend to join you for this afternoon of food, fellowship and learning. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the office at 944-3196.

First Health and Wellness

Health Tip: *Preventing Falls*

Trips and falls pose a danger to young children and the elderly. In fact, falls are the leading cause of accidental death among people older than 65. Falls may be caused by faulty balance, poor vision, illness, medications and other factors. The best self-care is to develop a plan that reduces risk and prevents injury in the first place. (*Mayo Clinic Guide to Self-Care*)

Blood Pressure: Our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures in the Fellowship Room after the service on September 11 and between services on September 12.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

The next Healing Service will be Saturday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. First Lutheran invites you to gather as a community to pray for the healing of body, mind, heart and spirit—for ourselves and for those we love. The service will include a time to come forward for laying on of hands and anointing with oil, if desired, remembrance of baptism, individual prayer, meditation and communion.

—*Joan Holt, RN, PN
Director of Care Ministries*

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting—Come and enjoy a morning of quilting with the “Cover Girls” on Wednesday, September 8 at 9 a.m.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)—Salad Luncheon will be on September 8 at Noon in the Fellowship Room. After the luncheon, there will be a short business meeting.

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.

Elizabeth Circle will meet on September 15 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room A at First.

Rebecca Circle will meet on September 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Room at First.

Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA 22nd Annual Convention—Saturday, September 18 at First Lutheran Church, 324 North 3rd Street, DeKalb, IL. This year's theme is “*Act Boldly—Seek and Support Equal Justice.*” If you plan to attend, contact Beth Unrath at 441-5643 or the church office.

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS (*Mothers of Preschoolers*) is a place to find friendship, community, resources and support for you as a woman and mother so you're not alone. It is a non-denominational faith-based organization designed to help equip women to be the best mothers possible. For more information, stop by the Resource Center and pick up a flyer!

Freedom House

Freedom House offers safe shelter, counseling, and referral to victims of domestic violence and assault. This past year they have aided nearly 700 women, men and children from Henry County through their crisis interventions services. Because of problems with funding from the state, they are facing financial difficulty.

They have launched the “*Give \$Five to Stay Alive*” campaign. Their hope is that all their supporters will donate \$5 and spread the word about this campaign to all their family and friends. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to Freedom House, 440 Elm Place, Princeton, IL 61356. For more information visit www.freedomhouseillinois.com.

A Special Note of Thanks!

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to our preschool. We will be using these funds to buy our supplies; markers, crayons, paint, glue and construction paper. Your support enables us to continue to offer our quality program to the children of our church and community.

First Lutheran Preschool,
—*Ruthann Carton, Margi Ficken
and Mary Williamsen*

FIRST MINISTRIES



A Note of Thanks!

Even though the work room is not quite finished the church wants to send a big **thank you** to all those that helped with the new cabinets. Thanks to all the office personnel in the planning. Dean Olson for the loading & transportation. Gary Markham, Dick Mong & Stan Storm for the unloading. Dennis Lindell, Alan Lindell & Mike Pries for the installation and Elsie Stees for cleaning up after.

Peace,
—*Mike Pries*

And One More Note!

The staff and I are so appreciative of the new work room. We are grateful to our benefactor and workers who made this possible. Thank you so much!

In Christ,
—*Pr. Arthur*



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

114 E. Main Street
Geneseo, IL 61254-1566
309-944-3196
www.firstgeneseo.org
e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Bergren
Pastor—abergren@firstgeneseo.org
Rev. Virgil Juliot
Visitation Pastor—vjuliot@firstgeneseo.org
Rev. Lynn Bergren
Worship Pastor—lbergren@firstgeneseo.org
Melinda Wildermuth
Director of Worship & Music
mwildermuth@firstgeneseo.org
Mary Jo Brummet
Director of Communication & Fellowship Ministries—mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org
Lori Schefsky
Director of Children's & Faithtime Ministries
lschefsky@firstgeneseo.org
Tim Oloffson
Director of Sr. High & Adult Ministries
toloffson@firstgeneseo.org
Joan Holt, RN, PN
Director of Care Ministries: Senior Health & Parish Nursing—jholt@firstgeneseo.org
Sue Wolf & Lynn Lindell
Parish Secretaries—first@firstgeneseo.org
Jim Luikart
Parish Accountant—jluikart@firstgeneseo.org
Charlene Daniels
Custodian—cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org
Church Council ~ Dan Brudos—president, Karen Daniel—vice president, Dawn Ebarb—secretary, Tom Baumgardner, Dick Carlson, Joni Conrad, Tim Holmstrom, Jerry Klavohn, Debbie Krause, Jim Larson, Randy Mullin, Jim Murray, Bill Nelson, Maurice Nelson, Mike Pries, Linda Storm, Jim Turner

FIRST LOOK . . .

Preschool Classes M-F 9:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
September 1, 2010

9:00 a.m. Preschool Orientation
12:30 p.m. Preschool Orientation
3:15-8:15 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
6:15 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting
8:15 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal
September 2, 2010

9:00 a.m. Preschool Orientation
9:30 a.m. Program Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting
12:30 p.m. Preschool Orientation
7:00 p.m. Flagpole/Memorial Garden Committee Mtg.
September 4, 2010

5:30 p.m. Informal Worship
September 5, 2010
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Cinnamon Roll Sunday
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:15 a.m. Faith Reborn Rehearsal
11:30 a.m. Another Child Foundation Luncheon
September 6, 2010—Labor Day
Office Closed
September 7, 2010

6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 8976
6:30 p.m. Glory Ringers Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. VDC Men
September 8, 2010
12:00 p.m. WELCA Salad Luncheon
9:00 a.m. Cover Girls Quilting
3:15-8:15 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
5:30 p.m. First Book Club

6:15 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
8:15 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal
September 9, 2010
9:30 a.m. Program Staff Meeting
11:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting
12:00 p.m. First Friends: Senior Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Men in Mission Board Meeting
September 11, 2010—Rally Weekend/Peder Eide
5:30 p.m. Informal Worship
6:15 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
7:00 p.m. Peder Eide Concert in City Park
September 12, 2010—Rally Weekend/Peder Eide
8:30 a.m. Worship—Peder Eide
9:30 a.m. Fellowship/BP Checks
10:00 a.m. Worship—Peder Eide
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meal/Peder Eide

Wednesday Faithtime Schedule

3:15 p.m. Check In, Snacks, Games & Bible Lesson (Grades 1-6)
4:00 p.m. Faithtime Troupe (Grades 1-3)
Celebration Choir
Youth Room Open
4:30 p.m. Sonshine Choir
Faithtime Troupe (Grades 4-6)
5:00 p.m. Faithtime Check Out (Grades 1-6)
5:00 p.m. Psalm 150
5:00-6:15 p.m. Dinner Served
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 p.m. Senior High Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Education
7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

September 13, 2010
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Music Therapy Class
7:00 p.m. Ministries
7:00 p.m. VDC Secretariat
September 14, 2010
6:30 p.m. Glory Ringers Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. PEO Meeting
7:00 p.m. VDC Men
September 15, 2010
9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Circle
9:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle
3:15-8:15 p.m. Faithtime Schedule
6:15 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
8:15 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal