

**MONSON**  
**JORDAN & AUBREY**  
**EVERETTE**  
**JAMESON**



**THE SEED COMPANY**

Jordan has trained in the use of Paratext—the software used by basically every Bible translation institution in the world today. As the project in São Tomé moves from a Bible storytelling and recording phase to the written phase, he'll need to know this software inside and out—and well enough to train the teams in São Tomé to use it. Our two language teams in São Tomé have finalized their first round of 40 stories and a few weeks ago, our team went to work on final recordings for them. These stories have already revolutionized the way the Bible is shared on the island. The finished stories are already played on the radio. Half the pastors on the island are involved in some way in the translation project, or their close relatives are, so they're all using the stories in their preaching. The translators are really impressive. They have worked to commit every story to heart. At the drop of a hat, they can perform any of the 40 stories. With these stories, they go to the villages and markets and into the most rural hinterlands of the island. When they perform these stories, the people flock. The people hear and are spellbound, asking questions about this God who created, who is powerful, and who died and rose again for them. They cry, they laugh. They smile. We forget how much of a surprise every story in the Bible is. Thanks so much for your prayers and investment in this ministry!

**FAMILY MATTERS**

Pray for Jack Thompson who will have an angiogram and possible stent placement on Jan. 9 at United Hospital. (Beth Thompson)

Pray for my nephew Jason who is married and has four children. Jason has a physical problem involving his ability to walk and the doctors do not know what is wrong. Jason serves in the military in Guam. (Linda Alwell)

Pray my father is delivered from his depression and will stop driving. Pray for my mother and my sister's mental and physical health. (Lorena Pvente)

Pray that my friend can get through all she is going through and can find all the money she needs. (Molly Woodbury)

**FAMILY NEWS**

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Jean Thompson and Judy Farinella and families in the home going of their mother, Lorraine Thompson, on Dec. 28, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to Claudia Nelson and family in the home going of her husband Norm on Dec. 31, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to Jan Pitman and family in the home going of his wife Sally on Dec. 31, 2017.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Jane Moore, who went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 3, 2018.

Hank Griffith from New Harmony retired as of Dec. 29. He is going to continue to volunteer in ministry into his retirement and sees Pastor George as his model in that. Hank expressed appreciation to First Free for the support we have given New Harmony and specifically Sandy Dennison, Janis College, Ron Johnson, and the Ryders. His replacement is Doug Conrad, son of former missionaries Stan and Joyce Conrad. (Nathan Greenwalt)

Please let the pastoral staff know when you are admitted to a **HOSPITAL** by calling 651.777.5180.

**FIRST FREE SUNDAY MORNINGS**

(Unless otherwise noted in *This Week at First Free*)

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Blended - 9 a.m.  
 Contemporary - 10:45 a.m.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Great attention is given to provide the best possible care for our infants through Pre-K. Silent paging, security IDs, and a separate nursing mothers' room help to make a safe and secure environment for your little ones.

Birth-Age 5 - 9 & 10:45 a.m.

**ELEMENTARY/YOUTH**

Sunday School Grades K-12 - 9 a.m.  
 Kids Choir Grades 3-6 - 10:15 a.m.  
 Chapel Time/Kids Choir Grades K-2 - 10:45 a.m.

**PRAYER MEETINGS**

The First Free family is invited to join together in prayer. God hears our prayers! Some pray silently, others pray out loud. Everyone is welcome!  
 Sundays: 8:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. - Room 202  
 (Times subject to change; see *This Week at First Free*.)

**SERMON RECORDINGS**

Recordings of this morning's message (and any prior Sunday's message) can be found on our website, or a CD may be ordered by emailing Tara Larsen (tlarsen@firstefc.org).

**ADULTS**

Mini-Congregations are our Sunday morning adult Bible study and fellowship groups. Get to know a group of people more intimately as we encourage one another to be fully devoted followers of Christ.

<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>
The Bridge	101
CrossTrainers	102
Body Builders	103
@the.CORE (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)	201

<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>
The Point Gathering	JH Youth Center

<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Room</b>
Bereans	201
Disciplemakers	202
Faithful Followers	204
Koinonia	HS Youth Center

**INFORMATION TABLES**

For more information on the following ministries, visit the table(s) in the lobby:

- Widow & Widowers (FMSC)
- Ladies Night Out

**PRAYER NETWORK** for urgent requests  
 Paige Lincoln (651.785.8220)  
 Carol Jaehnert (651.776.9859)

**PRAYER, PRAISE OR FAMILY HAPPENING**  
 Submit by filling out a gold communication card. Drop it in the offering plate, the box at the Welcome Center, turn it in to the church office, or email lwhorton@firstefc.org.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE**  
 Must be in writing or email to ckeller@firstefc.org by noon on Tuesday.

**BUILDING USAGE**  
 All building use must be reserved through the church office by completing a Reservation Request form. Forms can be found on our website or picked up in the church office.



**FIRST EVANGELICAL  
 FREE CHURCH**

2696 HAZELWOOD STREET  
 MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109  
 P 651.777.5180 WWW.FIRSTEFC.ORG

# Welcome

FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH SERVICES | 9 & 10:45 A.M.

*We exist to glorify **GOD** by making and maturing disciples of **JESUS CHRIST** to minister to the world with the Gospel by the **HOLY SPIRIT***

**GOD AS...MAKER**

ISAIAH 45  
 PASTOR TODD OLSON

**HIGHLIGHTS**

NEWCOMERS LUNCH

MEMBERSHIP CLASS



If this is your first time at First Free, you are our guest, and we extend a warm **WELCOME** to you! Be sure to pick up a Welcome Gift at our Welcome Center and plan to join us at a Newcomer's Lunch, offered monthly.



Join us for **COFFEE &** fellowship in the Lobby between services.



**HEARING** Assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.



Please silence all **MOBILE DEVICES** during the service.

## UPDATED DIRECTORIES

We are in the process of updating our database so that we can run a new Church Directory. Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or email on the sign-in registry on Sunday mornings, or contact the church office. Thank you!

## NEWCOMERS LUNCH

TODAY | 12:30 p.m.  
Lower Fellowship Hall

Come meet our Pastors and hear about our Church over lunch. If you are new to First Free, are interested in learning more and getting connected, join us! Pastor Todd, along with some of our staff, will share about the mission and vision of First Free and how you fit into it.

## PRESCHOOL PLAYTIME

Wednesdays | 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Activity Center

Need an outlet for your kids' energy during these cold winter months? Spend time connecting with other parents while your little ones stretch their legs. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Questions contact Beth Olson (763.331.4115).

## WOMEN'S MENTORING GROUPS STARTING SOON

Do you have a desire to learn from someone who has "been there"? Our Titus 2 Ministry offers individual and group mentoring opportunities to younger women ages 18-40 by older women of our church. We have mentors waiting to encourage you in your faith! New pairings will begin in January. Contact Jeannine Brown at 651.238.4983 or Tara Larsen at 651.238.6760 with any questions or to sign up.

## WIDOW & WIDOWERS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Fri., Jan. 19 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join the W&W group to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. Following a brief orientation we will work for approximately 1 1/4 hour and then gather to learn more about the organization, pray over the boxes that were filled and then we will stop for a light lunch before returning to church. There are jobs for those who need to sit. Sign up at the table between services or contact Rose Wald at rwrosewald@gmail.com.

## ELDER PRAYER FOCUS

### FOR JANUARY

Please join the Elders as they pray for:

- The future of church planting
- The lost and revival
- Grateful praise for generous, general fund giving!

## MARRIAGE CLASS

Wednesdays beginning Jan. 10  
6:30 p.m. | Room 101

Mike and Debbie Anderson will teach an 8-week class on marriage entitled "Christian Marriage: One + One = One." This class is for engaged couples, younger couples, troubled marriages, marriages that are doing fine but would like a refresher—all are welcome! Topics included are biblical foundations, roles of husband and wife, communication, finances, decision-making, and more. Each session will include time for questions and answers. Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 14, 28, March 14, 28, April 11 and 25. NURSERY WILL BE AVAILABLE. Questions? Contact Mike at 651.324.3259 (call or text) or mike10and@gmail.com.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

Thur., Jan. 25 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Please join us in the Activity Center for a night of food, fellowship and fun as we escape the winter temperatures with our tropical themed Ladies Night! It will be a night filled with fun treats and laughter as Kirsten King MC's our evening! This will be a great opportunity to mingle with friends and make new ones. Registration begins today in the Lobby. Contact Paige Garcia at pbgarcia2634@gmail.com or 651.492.2554 for more information.

## JOIN OUR WELCOME TEAM

Are you looking for a place to serve?  
Men or women can join  
the Welcome Team!

Please consider how you can be a part of the warm welcome people feel as they visit our fellowship for the first time or as a member! We'd love to have you join us as Greeters and Welcome Desk Attendants! Please contact Shirley Kulzer (612.738.8129) for more information or to volunteer.

## SUMMER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

Serve this summer in Chengdu China! ReachGlobal is looking for college-age students to serve from June 18 to July 25 on an APEX team. The team will use Bible stories to teach English to local minority children. Contact Gib Coleman (gcoleman@first-efc.org) or Brett Rosso (halforange@gmail.com) for more details.

## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

All on staff at First Free are so grateful for the generous monetary gift given by the First Free Church Family! It truly is a joy to serve the Lord in our work. We love and appreciate you!

## MISSIONARY CARE CONFERENCE

MCTwo is hosting a missionary care conference Fri., Feb. 23 in the evening and all day Sat., Feb. 24 at Berean Baptist in Burnsville, MN. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Gib Coleman (Chairman of Global Impact Team) at 651.245.9597.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Sat., Jan. 13  
9 a.m.- Noon | Room 204

This class is for people who are new, interested, or intending to join the church at First Free. Membership Matters covers the belief of the church and the importance of the office of church membership. Contact Lorri Whorton (651.777.5180 or lwhorton@firstefc.org) to let us know if you plan to attend.

## THANK YOU NOTES FROM OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

**Gary & Judy Anderson** – Thank you so much for the very kind and generous Christmas gift. We so much appreciate your partnership in ministry as well as your love and prayers. We pray that First Free will be blessed in the coming year as you continue to minister to the body of Christ and support outreach around the globe.

**Josh & Rose Barta** – What an incredible gift to have your faithful praying and giving behind us in our Gospel work. We could not be on campus reaching students with Christ's Gospel without your critical support. There are students at the University of Minnesota who right now are searching spiritually and we believe ready for someone to share with them. Thank you for the Christmas gift; we plan to use the funds towards family camping in 2018. May Christ's grace overflow to you all this Christmas season and beyond.

**Gary & Christine Persons** – Thank you so much for your most generous gift. We are so thankful for the love and support you have shown us over the years. May you all be filled with joy as you praise and glorify God for his remarkable gift of Jesus our Savior!

**Lynnette Christiansen** – Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. I am blessed by your generosity and the tangible reminder of your love and care. It has been a busy semester with settling in to a new city, getting to know new teammates and students, teaching new classes, etc. His grace has been sufficient and carried me through all the transitions. I give my last three final exams today and then am looking forward to a slower paced season to rest and regroup. Thank you again for your support and prayers. It means a lot to know my church family is remembering and lifting up the Father's work here. I hope that each of you has had a special and meaningful celebration of his birth and pray that you would know his blessings in the New Year!

**Mike and Amanda Keller** – We are so very thankful for the Christmas gift given by our First Free family this year. In a season of ups and downs, your generosity and care mean so much to our family, and we are blessed to worship beside you in this most joyful of Christmas seasons. The birth of the Son at Christmas is our hope the whole year through!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST FREE

### Today, Jan. 7

8:30 a.m. – Sunday Morning Prayer – 202  
9 a.m. – Blended Worship – WC  
Nursery, Preschool, Sunday School (K-6),  
Adult mini-Congregations  
10:15 a.m. – Kids' Choir (3-6)  
10:45 a.m. – Contemporary Worship – WC  
Nursery, Preschool, Chapel Time/Kids' Choir (K-2),  
Adult mini-Congregations  
12:30 Newcomers Lunch – FH  
5 p.m. – Prayer Meeting – 202

### Monday, Jan. 8

6:30 p.m. – Men's Basketball – Gym

### Tuesday, Jan. 9

9:30 a.m. – Women In The Word – YC  
7:00 p.m. – Evening Women In The Word – 201

### Wednesday, Jan. 10

9:45 a.m. – Senior Adult Bible Study – 204  
6:30 p.m. – Expedition, Nursery-Gr. 6 – AC  
Junior High Gr. 7-8 – Gym  
Women's Study of John – 106  
Men's Growth through Discovery – FH  
Women's Growth through Discovery – 201  
Worship Choir Rehearsal – WC  
8 p.m. – High School Gr. 9-12 – Gym

### Thursday, Jan. 11

7:30 a.m. – Men's Prayer Meeting – 202  
9 a.m. – Mom's Day Away – 212  
6:30 p.m. – Men's Basketball – Gym

### Saturday, Jan. 13

8 a.m. – Men's Bible Study – 202  
9 a.m. – Membership Matters – 204

AC - Activity Center  
PO - Pastor Todd's Office  
WC - Worship Center  
YC - Youth Center

FH - lower Fellowship Hall  
RR - Reception Room  
HG - Harvest Gardens

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

**Air Force**  
Nathan Persons

**Air Force National Guard**  
Roger Hall, Jr.  
Taylor Juvland

**Air Force Reserves**  
Dale Buetow

**Army**  
Sean Brownlee  
Kyle Fenstermacher

**Army National Guard**  
Andrew Beach  
Matthew Longendyke

**Marines**  
Paul Addington  
Peter Gillen

**Navy**  
Jarrod Schad

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

DEC. 31, 2017

### GENERAL GIVING\*

Offering: \$89,521  
Receipts: \$708,812\*\*  
Expenditures: \$749,591\*\*  
Net change: (\$40,779)

### SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Offering: \$410  
Receipts: \$46,075\*\*  
Expenditures: \$20,922\*\*  
Net change: \$25,153

\* Average weekly need is \$35,403 to meet our 2017/18 budget

\*\* For the period 7/1/17-11/31/17



## UPDATE: GENERAL FUND GOAL

We are excited to share that we have met the financial goal for calendar year-end giving! You may recall that we have been praying that giving to the General Fund would exceed \$300,000 between Thanksgiving and December 31. The Lord answered those prayers with General Fund giving totaling \$352,390. Thanks to everyone who participated in the challenge and, most importantly, praise the Lord for his provision!

In Christ,  
Caleb Hardacre, Treasurer

