



Now post-Ph.D., I am in full-time consultancy with GlobalFingerprints (GF) teams at twelve international sites in the service of vulnerable children and at-risk families. As I've worked with our Global Partners through the years, the familiar refrain regardless of geography: a call for staff training and children's seminars to deal with adversity's fall-out. Post-trauma "soul care" encompasses the practical support of adults and children, replacing unhealthy responses to trauma to a growing resilience to handle life's waves of pressure and disruption. This involves learning new emotional and practical skills combined with the nitty gritty issues of ensuring personal safety (both in the form of people and spaces), all of which provide layers of protection from further harm. I desire to bring practical help and good hope founded on God's Word to our GF partners. To fill this gap in our service, mid-June I began a credentialing journey to become a trauma healing facilitator through the outstanding joint program of the American Bible Society (ABS) and Wycliffe Bible Translators in Dallas. The summer has sped by, but not without a special trip to Kenya with Kids Around the World—this time for both Phil and me! This village event featured a California team that took advantage of KATW's full spectrum of services—playground installation, nutritious meals, and a kids' club! It was a joy to be back in the "Heartland" together for meaningful work with local and international friends. This fall I will move into a period of field apprenticeship. I will be mentored by a wonderful couple who have poured themselves for decades into the French speaking people of Central Africa. My fall practicum under their leadership will be a workshop for adults in a Cameroonian congregation. Lord willing, in late November, I will pursue a similar training for our Zambian GF staff working among abandoned youth/street children. My training will spiral through a mix of classroom learning, practical and paper testing, and site visits with coaching. As you would imagine, this work is not without costs. Personally, I already know the emotional and spiritual weight that this undertaking will bring. That is the price of service to the world's hurting places. Yet, what a privilege to equip adults and children with strength and strategies, calling out their God-given buoyant capacities masked under the surface of chaos. Above all, I covet your prayers for wisdom, proficiency, and sensitivity to learn and apply these healing principles in desperate places, replacing sorrow for joy.

**FAMILY MATTERS**

**FAMILY NEWS**

We extend our sympathy to Leann LaBarre and family in the home going of her brother, Arlan Zimmerman, of Athens, GA, on Sept. 3, 2018. A memorial service was held on Sept. 8.

We extend our sympathy to Jeannie Kirkpatrick and family in the home going of her mother, Laverne Hamilton, of Loveland, CO, on Sept. 6, 2018. A memorial service is planned for Sept. 30 in Colorado.

We extend our sympathy to Joanne Stewart and family in the home going of her brother, Jim Sahlstrom, on Sept. 10, 2018. A memorial service is planned for Sept. 23 in Milaca.



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
Faith Connections	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	YCA

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

**INFORMATION TABLES**

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

- Operation Christmas Child
- Widows & Widowers
- Small Groups
- Children's Ministry
- Men's Ministry

**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.

# 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***

**HE IS THE LIVING ONE**

REVELATION 1:9-20

PASTOR TODD OLSON

**HIGHLIGHTS**

ELDER NOMINATIONS DUE TODAY

ENCOUNTER: WORSHIP & PRAYER

ALL CHURCH PICNIC & MOVIE



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 Newcomers 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.



**FIRST EVANGELICAL  
FREE CHURCH**

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

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

For those of you who are allergic to wheat, a gluten-free option is available at the Welcome Center today for communion.

## OCC SUPPORTERS

The OCC collection box will be out the third Sunday of every month. Items needed: pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners.

## OCC FUNDRAISER

Wed., Sept. 26 | 5-7 p.m.

10% of all sales will be donated to First Free for Operation Christmas Child by Culver's on White Bear Ave.

## WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

Thu., Sept. 27 | 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Lower Fellowship Hall

Come hear Kirsten King inform us about the challenges facing youth today, how we can pray for them, how you can become a prayer partner with one of the youth in our youth group and hear a testimony from a widow who has had a youth prayer partner that has lasted for many years. We will also help to get soap, wash cloths, paper and rubber bands ready for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing party. More soap is needed and if you have a stapler that you could bring, that would help. We will have a light lunch at church starting at noon. Sign up at the table in the Lobby.

## PARENT/CHILD DEDICATIONS

Sun., Sept. 30

Parents, if you are interested in dedicating you and your child, contact Ann Fenderson (651.288.1064 or [afenderson@firststfc.org](mailto:afenderson@firststfc.org)) to begin the process of participation.

## WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

Thu., Oct. 4 | 10:15 a.m.

We will meet at church and stop for lunch at the Drive-In Restaurant in Taylor Falls (\$8-15 for lunch). An 80 minute river boat cruise on the St. Croix River to see the fall colors will follow lunch (\$16 for cruise). Sign up at the table in the Lobby.

## MEN'S MINISTRY EVENT

Sat., Oct. 6 | 10 a.m.-Noon

Men's ministry has arranged for men to enjoy trap shooting at the Metro Gun Club, 10601 Naples St in NE Blaine. Cost is \$10. Men should bring their own ammo and shot gun. If you do not have a shotgun there will be some for you to use. Sign up in the Lobby or contact Brian Finley at 651.357.0793 or [amybrianfinley@gmail.com](mailto:amybrianfinley@gmail.com).

## FALL FLING RETREAT AT CAMP SHAMINEAU

Fall Fling is a chance to get away and hear from God, fellowship with your youth group friends and worship God together! Enjoy favorite activities like the climbing wall, paintball, crafts and a flag football tournament.

### Junior High

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 12-14

Meet at First Free. Leave Fri. 3:30 p.m. Return Sun. 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$125. To sign up fill out a registration form and sign up on the Youth Wall by Oct. 3.

### Senior High

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 19-21

Meet at First Free. Leave Fri. 3:30 p.m. Return Sun. 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$150. To sign up fill out a registration form and sign up on the Youth Wall by Oct. 7.

## ELDER CORNER

Members of First Free should have received a letter regarding the nomination of Elders for 2019. Please be in prayer for wisdom as members consider those qualified to serve in the role of Elder. Also, please pray for the men who are called to this position. Nomination cards are due TODAY.

-In Christ, the First Free Elder Board



TODAY | 5:30 p.m. | Gym (meal)  
6 p.m. | Youth Center B (worship)

We invite the church family to Encounter: A Night of Worship & Prayer. Childcare provided through Grade 5. Coffee and a light meal will be served.



Sun., Sept. 23 | 4:30 p.m. picnic | 6-8 p.m. movie | Harvest Campus

Come and enjoy fellowship at the all-church picnic at our Harvest Campus! Bring a dish to share for the potluck. We'll have fun outdoor activities, time of worship and testimonies, followed by a movie night. Contact Abby Beard at 651.285.5754 or [joeabby531@gmail.com](mailto:joeabby531@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Sundays, Sept. 30, 7, 14  
9 a.m. | Room 107

This three part 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@firststfc.org](mailto:lwhorton@firststfc.org)) to let us know if you plan to attend.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST FREE

### Today, September 16

8:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Prayer - 202  
9 a.m. - Blended Worship - WC  
Nursery, Preschool, Sunday School (K-12),  
Adult mini-Congregations  
10:15 a.m. - The Point - YCA  
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  
5 p.m. - No Prayer Meeting Today  
5:30 p.m. - Encounter Worship & Prayer - YCB  
6 p.m. - Church Plant Training - AC

### Monday, September 17

10 a.m. Grief Share - 202  
6:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball - Gym

### Tuesday, September 18

9:15 a.m. - Women in the Word - YCB  
7 p.m. - Evening Women in the Word - 201

### Wednesday, September 19

9 a.m. - Mom's Day Away - 212  
9:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study - 204  
10 a.m. - Women's Study of Job - 201  
6:30 p.m. - Expedition, Nursery-Gr. 6 - AC  
Junior High Gr. 7-8 - Gym  
Women's Study of Job - 107  
Men's Growth through Discovery - FH  
Women's Growth through Discovery - 201  
Worship Choir Rehearsal - WC  
8 p.m. - Senior High, Gr. 9-12 - Gym

### Thursday, September 20

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

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

FH - Lower Fellowship Hall  
YC - Youth Center (A, B)  
HG - Harvest Gardens

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

### Air Force

Nathan Persons

### Air Force National Guard

Roger Hall, Jr.  
Taylor Nielsen

### Air Force Reserves

Dale Buetow

### Army

Sean Brownlee  
Kyle Fenstermacher  
Jonathan Laansma

### Army National Guard

Andrew Beach  
Matthew Longendyke

### Marines

Paul Addington  
Peter Gillen

### Navy

Jarrod Schad

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

### GENERAL GIVING\*

Offering: \$ 36,112  
Receipts: \$1,854,384\*\*  
Expenditures: \$1,850,378\*\*  
Net change: \$4,006

### SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Offering: \$830  
Receipts: \$117,746\*\*  
Expenditures: \$120,252\*\*  
Net change: (\$2,506)

\* Average weekly need is \$35,403 to meet our 2017/18 budget  
\*\* For the period 7/1/17-6/30/18

## RENOVATION IS UNDERWAY!

		RESTROOM RENOVATION			
PROJECT COST	THIS WEEK	TOTAL RAISED	REMAINING NEED		
\$140,000	\$2,342	\$122,095	\$17,905		

The restroom renovation will get underway in the coming weeks. We will provide you a week or two notice prior to beginning because construction will result in temporary closure of our main restrooms. We are grateful for the tremendous support received so far. We now have just \$17,905 left to raise and we will have the project cost completely covered. If you haven't contributed as yet we'd very much appreciate your doing so in the next couple weeks.

Operation Christmas Child  
Sun., Sept. 30  
6 p.m.  
Worship Center

Join us for an evening of music featuring pianist Joshua Tompkins and several of First Free's own talented musicians. Take this chance to learn more about how the OCC shoebox distribution process brings hope to the forgotten. Admission is free, but a love offering will be taken to cover the costs of shipping the shoeboxes.