



A few years ago Jeannette visited her friend Karin in Germany. Karin had gone back to take care of family members and invited Jeannette to come spend some time before Karin moved back to Minnesota. Jeannette had opportunity to share about the Lord, to which Karin was very receptive and also excited to discover there was a Bible app she could use to have the Scriptures read to her. When Karin returned to Minnesota she shared with Jeannette that she now was at peace about where she is going when she dies. Karin is walking through some difficult times and God is meeting her in significant ways. Please pray for her. This experience with Karin and other recent incidents have also encouraged us how God works intimately with each one of us. We recently had to give up both of our cars due to major repair issues. On a Monday we decided not to repair one vehicle but soon learned the second vehicle also had issues. We were at a loss of what to do as Neil was leaving for Zambia in a few days. Neil called the shop to let them know we would not be repairing the second vehicle. The owner of the shop, a brother in Christ, responded by telling Neil he believed God wanted him to exchange our car for the loaner car we were using. He said that this was the Father's gift to us and our car would be our gift to him, the owner. We both got tears as we recognized how perfectly God had taken care of this significant need. In July Neil left for Zambia to work with the Makoma on Matthew, and returned August 13. Jeannette continued to finalize Sarah's translation for the "C" language so that Neil can now focus on making these Scriptures available for the speakers of her language. Pray God will use these Scriptures to change hearts and bring many to himself. We would like to close with a verse used in a sermon at church that fits so beautifully with the testimonies in this letter of God's working. "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, ESV)

FAMILY MATTERS

PRAYER

Please pray for our neighbor, Craig, who has pulmonary fibrosis and will have a lung transplant in the future. (Brad & Chris Keller)

PRAISE

Thanks to all those who helped me consume the most abundant tomato harvest I have ever had. It was a great joy being able to share so much with so many. God bless! (Dave Peterson)

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. **Please note:** All classes resume today.

9 a.m.	Room
The Bridge	101
Faith Connections	102
Body Builders	103
@the.CORE (2 nd , 4 th /5 th Sundays)	201

10:15 a.m.	Room
The Point	JH Youth Center

10:45 a.m.	Room
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:

- OCC Fundraiser
- Women in the Word
- Growth Through Discovery
- Children'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 COMING AGAIN

REVELATION 1:1-8

PASTOR TODD OLSON

HIGHLIGHTS

SHORT-TERM MISSION REPORTS

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



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

BIBLICAL STUDY PROGRAM

Biblical Study Program to Turkey and Greece: If you are interested in the Journeys of Paul and Churches of Revelation study program scheduled for April 26-May 9, 2019 please contact Pastor Todd at tolson@firstefc.org or 612.756.3888. Deposit deadline is Sept. 15.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY TODAY

All elementary, youth, and adult Sunday morning programming begins!

OCC FUNDRAISER

Operation Christmas Child will be selling M&M's in the Lobby today Sept. 9 between services to help raise money toward the shipping cost of shoeboxes. One dollar per tube. Return the tube filled with quarters and receive a free tube in return.

TREATS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

We need a few people to bring treats on Sunday mornings once a month for our college ministry. There are about 20 students and treats can be home baked or store bought. Be creative—bring peanuts, donuts, bagels, yogurt and granola, fresh fruit etc. Contact Chris Keller (651.288.1063 or ckeller@firstefc.org) if you can help!

MOM'S DAY AWAY

Mom's Day Away is in need of toddler and infant room assistants on Wednesdays, from Sept. 5, 2018-May 15, 2019. Hours are 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Rate is \$10.25 per hour. If you are interested, contact Paige Lincoln (651.785.8220).

SUMMER SHORT-TERM TRIP REPORTS

TODAY, Sept. 9 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Activity Center

Join us for dessert and celebrate how God is moving in the world through short-term missions. Reports will be from those who went to China, Laos and London.

GRIEF SHARE

Mon., Sept. 10 | 10 a.m. | 202

A supportive and encouraging 13 week session for helping you through your grief journey. Cost of workbook is \$20. To register call Diane Johnson (651.777.0041) or Carolyn Schultz (651.777.0029).

GRACE GROUP

God Reigns Against Cancer's Efforts

Wed., Sept. 12 | 4:30 p.m.

Olive Garden, Maplewood

Women who have or have had cancer meet to share news, personal experiences, helpful information, encouragement and prayer. Caregivers are always welcome. If you have questions, contact Pat Plooster (651.777.3322) or Diane Johnson (651.777.0041).

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@firstefc.org) to begin the process of participation.

mini-Congregations (resume TODAY)

These adult classes are focused on training disciples through studying Scripture, fellowship and prayer. The age ranges listed are indicators of typical attendance, but **mini-Congregations** are open for anyone to attend!

FIRST HOUR 9 A.M.

The Bridge

20s & 30s

9 a.m., Room 101

Contact: Paul Rothermel and Luke Long

Faith Connections

9 a.m., Room 102

Studying Colossians and John

Contact: Jim & Nancy Zugschwert

Body Builders

All Ages

9 a.m., Room 103

Studying God in Relationships

Contact: Jon & Chris Gustafson

@the.CORE

30s to 50s

2nd/4th/5th Sundays

9 a.m., Room 201

Studying Acts

Contact: Tim & Suzanne Lindquist

SECOND HOUR 10:45

Bereans

50s-80s

10:45 a.m., Room 201

Studying the millennium

Contact: George & Jeanne Howse

Koinonia

50s-80s

10:45 a.m., Youth Center

Studying 2 Corinthians

Contact: Jim & Lee Winberg

Faithful Followers

70s+

10:45 a.m., Room 204

Studying Jeremiah

Contact: Harry & Louise Swanson

Disciplemakers

All Ages

10:45 a.m., Room 202

Studying Romans

Contact: Marty & Sandy Dennison

THIS WEEK AT FIRST FREE

Today, September 9

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 - YC

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. - Prayer Meeting - 202

6 p.m. - Short-Term Missions Report - AC

6 p.m. - Church Plant Training - YC

Monday, September 10

10 a.m. Grief Share - 202

6:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, September 11

9:15 a.m. - Women in the Word - YC

7 p.m. - Evening Women in the Word - 201

Wednesday, September 12

9 a.m. - Mom's Day Away - 212

4:30 p.m. - GRACE Group - Off Site

Thursday, September 13

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, September 15

8 a.m. - Men's Fellowship - 201

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

FH - Lower Fellowship Hall
YC - Youth Center
HG - Harvest Gardens

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday: 9:00 am-12:15 pm

Tuesday: 11:45 am-2:15 pm

Wednesday: 8:15 am-12:15 pm

6:30-8:15 p.m. (during mid-week programming)

Thursday: 8:15 am-2:15 pm

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 2, 2018

GENERAL GIVING*

Offering: \$29,497

Receipts: \$1,854,384**

Expenditures: \$1,850,378**

Net change: \$4,006

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Offering: \$60

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



Sun., Sept. 16 | 5:30 p.m. | Gym (meal)

6 p.m. | Youth Center (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.

RENOVATION IS UNDERWAY!



RESTROOM RENOVATION

PROJECT COST	THIS WEEK	TOTAL RAISED	REMAINING NEED
\$140,000	\$1996	\$119,753	\$20,247

MONTHLY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sat., Sept. 15 | 8-9:15 a.m. | Room 201
Desires of a Godly Man
Led by Pastor Jim

Men, join us and help make this fellowship a great monthly men's get-together! Teaching and discussion from God's Word on topics relating to men led by Pastor Jim or another pastor with donuts, bagels and coffee!

all church PICNIC & Movie Night

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.