



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHIMES**

*Sharing Christ's Love*

April 2017  
Volume 56, Issue 4  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

### **PALM SUNDAY — APRIL 8 & 9**

*Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary*

*Sunday at 8:30 a.m. ~ Glory Ringers*

*10 a.m. ~ Faithtime grades K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and Faith Reborn*

*Easter Egg Hunt & Meal at 11:15 a.m.*

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY — APRIL 13**

*Noon Worship & Meal*

*5 p.m. First Communion Family Meal*

*6:30 p.m. Worship ~ Faithtime grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Stripping of the Altar*

### **GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 14**

*Noon and 6:30 p.m. Worship*

### **EASTER VIGIL — APRIL 15**

*6:30 p.m. Worship ~ We gather with our youth*

*for a first celebration of Easter that*

*revisits stories from Genesis to John.*

### **EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 16**

*8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ Sanctuary Choir, Brass and Organ*

*10 a.m. Contemporary Worship ~ Joyful Hearts*

## *From Pastor Laura...*

It's Monday as I write, which means I'm preparing for Tuesday. Tuesday is one of my days off. One of the simultaneous delights and challenges of our new calls to First Lutheran is our family's new weekly routine. As three-quarter time pastors, Matt and I each get one extra day each week to just be Mom or Dad. One extra day to spend time with our daughter – which is great. Most of the time.

Tuesdays can be long days for me. “Mom?” “Mom.” “Mom!” gets pretty grating after hearing it several dozen times. But, on the other hand, I love hearing it.

And it's a day to run errands, clean the house, go shopping. But with someone tagging along who always wants to “help” – help push the cart, help wash the dishes, help make dinner, help balance the checkbook – things sometimes take twice as long as they might take without the help. If I'm lucky, I get a chance to sit down and rest a little on my “day off.”

Such is the life of a parent. And, to be honest, even before Anna was born, I knew that parenting was going to be both a joy and a challenge. But I never expected it to be this *exhausting*. I find that, particularly on my days off, I spend so much time parenting that I don't have much time left for anything else – including spiritual disciplines.

Lent is a time of the year to renew spiritual disciplines – prayer, fasting, reading scripture. But when my day starts with “Mom?” and ends with “Mom!” and in between is more of the same, where do I find time for God?

I'm blessed to get to think about God and write about God and talk about God and read about God throughout my work week. It's when I'm working that my spirituality is fed,

that my own faith is nurtured. It's when I'm working that I find time to pray and read scripture. But, if it weren't for the peculiar nature of my job, I sometimes wonder, would I find the time for spiritual practices?

I picked up a book a while back whose title intrigued me: *In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*, by Bonnie J. Miller McLemore. As a parent and a theologian, she suggests that parenting itself is a spiritual practice. Our job as parents of young children and our spirituality need not be separated into little compartments. Raising children is itself an act of faith.

She describes the acts of pondering (*as Mary did in Luke 2:19 and 2:51*), taking kids seriously, caring for ourselves as caregivers, teaching our children about justice, playing, reading out loud, and letting go as spiritual practices. In other words, the things we do every day as parents can feed and nurture our own spiritualities.

It is my hope, after I find time to finish the book and do some pondering of my own, that we can gather a group of FLC parents together to reflect on this idea. How can we be faithful in our vocation as parents, and, simultaneously, grow in faith and love toward God? Can we find ways to see parenting an integral part of our faith journeys, rather than a stumbling block?

- *Parents of Young Children: Look for more information in coming months about a discussion group.*

—Pastor Laura

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April 1 & 2, 2017

**Lent 5/Marked Living Part 6: Finance & Stewardship and Property & Grounds Ministries**  
This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11 and John 11:1-45.

April 5, 2017

**Midweek 5, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's focus is Holy Baptism with Pastor Randy Swanson.

April 8 & 9, 2017

**Passion of our Lord/Palm Sunday**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 26:1—27:66.

April 13, 2017

**Maundy Thursday, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's texts include Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

April 14, 2017

**Good Friday, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's texts include Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22 and John 18:1—19:42.

April 15, 2017

**Easter Vigil, 6:30 p.m.**

We gather to remember the mystery of faith. A mystery that teaches us that from death, comes life.

April 16, 2017

**The Resurrection of our Lord**

Today's texts include Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 28:1-10.

April 22 & 23, 2017

**Easter 2**

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31.

April 29 & 30, 2017

**Easter 3/Rogation Weekend**

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35.

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**



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*Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:*

**World and Community:** For our leaders: President Donald J. Trump and Governor Bruce Rauner. For our country as we strive to be “one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.” For those serving and working in harm’s way: Raul Falcon, Josh Fleming, Jakob Gradert, Taylor McKean, Jessica Ruggles, Christopher Schwake, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

**Church:** For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Jeff Clements. For our partners in ministry: Pastor A. Michael Stephin and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. Raja Socrates, 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 Catherine Nelson 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. 10).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Rick Brown, Max Buffington, Brian, Heather, Ava & Baby Conrad, Lynn Dauphin, Judy DeBoever, Kathy DeJaeger, Kevin DeJaeger, Mary Devine, Paul Hansen, Jill Hartel, Liz Holm, Sandy Miller, Deb Morris, Doris Murray, Scott Pittenger, Sammy, Linsay & Rose, Cindy Scheckel, Trevor Schefsky, Connie Sellers, Linda Schmidt, Larry Skiles, Michelle Springer and Marilyn Worple.

**Joys:** Birth of Jackson Shawn to Chelsea & Cal Hart, grandson of Michelle Fleming, great-grandson of Mike & Ethel Pries. David Deuth is at home recovering after a successful stem cell transplant at Mayo Clinic.

**Thanksgiving:** For the leadership of our congregation and for the season of Lent in which we reexamine and renew our faith.

**Sorrows:** On the death of Rodger Barnhart, father of Chris Barnhart; Joyce Ryan, mother of Charlene Daniels; Lela Roselieb, grandmother of Shawn Roselieb; and Doris Tieken, member.

*If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact the church office at 944-3196 or by e-mail [prayer@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:prayer@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.*

**FIRST  
PRAYER**

## FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



### Marked Living: “Caretakers of the Promise”

As Lent comes to a close and Holy Week and Easter arrive, our stewardship focus **Marked Living**: “Caretakers of the Promise” also comes to a close. April 1 & 2 will be our final weekend for highlighting the ministries of FLC, as we hear from Finance & Stewardship and Property & Grounds Ministries.

Throughout the season, our hope is that you have learned something new about the ministry happening at FLC, that you have found a new way to connect and serve, and that you have a renewed sense of your calling to serve God’s church. Each of us bears the mark of the cross on our brow—a mark that’s been there since the moment of our baptism. That mark serves as a perpetual reminder to God of God’s promises and a perpetual

reminder to us of our task to be caretakers of all God has given us.

The cards and box will remain in the Fellowship Room throughout the month of April, so that you may continue to prayerfully discern how God is calling you to serve. You can return any of the cards at any time. We invite you especially to take home (*and then return!*) cards from weekends when you were absent from worship, so that you can see what opportunities are available with those Ministries.

We (*Pastors Matt & Laura*) want to say “*Thank you*” to the staff and lay leaders who have made this stewardship focus possible – especially those who have delivered Temple Talks!

### Maundy Thursday Noon Meal

During Holy Week, come and enjoy a delicious meal in the Fellowship Room following the noon service on Maundy Thursday, April 13. The main entrée is Ham Balls with scalloped potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, dinner roll and strawberry shortcake for dessert. To assist with planning, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

### First Communion Family Meal

First Communion participants and their families are invited to enjoy a meal together to celebrate their First Communion before worship on Maundy Thursday, April 13.

**5 p.m.** — Family meal in Fellowship Room  
**6:30 p.m.** — Worship Service in Sanctuary



### Easter Egg Hunt and More!

*Hop on over for a morning filled with fun!*

Come and join us on Palm Sunday, April 9 for our Egg-stravaganza! A photo area will be set up in the Fellowship Room for all children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under to have their picture taken with a special Easter background.

*Please Note: Photos can be picked up in the Fellowship Room on Easter Sunday!*

An Easter Egg Hunt will begin promptly at 11:15 a.m. All children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under are invited to grab a basket (*or bring their own from home*) and collect eggs! Everyone will receive a special surprise!

After worship, the entire congregation is welcome to come and enjoy a light meal featuring sloppy joe sandwiches, chips and a cupcake! No sign up is necessary and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

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## Grace Notes from Linda Schmidt, Deacon

### Did you Know?

The 3 First Lutheran Preschool classes will be invited to sing a couple of songs at our 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 23. We look forward to having our young friends and their families at worship!

### Rogation Weekend

With the upcoming planting season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of farmers, the growth of crops, and a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring soil from their fields to be blessed during the worship services on April 29 & 30.

### Music Camp

Celebrating God's Creation is the theme of our Music Camp for current 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Music Camp will be August 7-11, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. This is a great event to invite friends to—or grandparents, invite your grandchildren to stay with you for the week: days with us, and afternoons/evenings with you! The Music Camp children will lead a festive worship service on Sunday, August 13. Registration forms and brochures are available at the Welcome Center. Talk to Linda Schmidt for more information.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Reformation 500

Reformation 500/Renewal Team continues to meet and plan events and activities for the balance of the year.

First Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL

### Reformation 500



### Bowling/Pizza Party!

*Wednesday, May 3 ~ Lee's Lanes*

We will have a First Lutheran Bowling/Pizza Party on Wednesday, May 3 from 6-7:30 p.m. Please join us! Meet at Lee's Lanes at 6 p.m.; we will order pizza when we see how many people are there. Talk to Pastor Matt if you have questions.

### Children's Church

Children's Church is offered year-round on Sunday mornings from 10 to 10:45 a.m. for children ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The children will learn to share Christ's love through the vision of worship. Here's the schedule for Children's Church:

**10:00-10:15 a.m.** – *Welcome, Announcements, Song, Scripture and Children's Message in sanctuary*

**10:15-10:45 a.m.** – *Theme related Games and Activities in classroom setting*

**10:45 a.m.** – *Children return to worship in sanctuary*

Following is a list of the scriptures the children will be learning this month:

**April 2** – *Jesus Raises Lazarus*

**April 23** – *Thomas Answers Jesus*

**April 9** – *Matthew's Holy Week*

**April 30** – *Road to Emmaus*

**April 16** – **No Children's Church**

You may register at anytime. Forms are available online at [www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org).

# FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

## Children's Ministry: *Faithtime Schedule for April 5, 19 & 26*

### All children Grades K-6

3:15-3:45 p.m. Check In, Snack, Table Talk in Fellowship Room

3:45-5:20 p.m. Message, Music & Motion Rotation

5:20-5:30 p.m. Closing in Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Check Out in Sanctuary

The Faithtime program year will wrap up on Wednesday, April 26 with a fun afternoon of games and fellowship. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, children and parents!

*A Note of Appreciation!* ~ Thank you to all Faithtime families for having your children participate in the musical at both services on March 5!

*Did You Know?* ~ In March, Faithtime children made Easter cards and gifts for our shut-ins. They also participated in *Chores for Change* during the month of March. The children each offered to complete chores above and beyond their normal chores to earn change to donate to Kids Against Hunger. On Wednesday, April 19 during our Faithtime afternoon, children will be packaging 3500-4000 (*will have actual number*) meals to help hungry children locally and around the world when we host a Kids Against Hunger packaging event.



## Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5 p.m. through 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$2 per child ages 3 through 11, \$4 for ages 12 through adult, or \$15 per family. Everyone is invited to make Faithtime your mealtime! Following is a listing of our April meals:

April 5	Lenten Soup/Salad Bar
April 12	<b>No Meal</b>
April 19	Breakfast ( <i>Final Meal</i> )

## Confirmation (*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders*)

On Wednesday, April 5 we will go to our weekly Lenten service together followed by small group discussion on the sermon topic "*Holy Baptism*". Here's the April schedule:

**April 5** — *Worship & Sermon Reflection*

**April 12** — **No Confirmation**/*Holy Week*

**April 19** — *Saved by Grace through Faith*

**April 26** — *End of year celebration!*

## First Lutheran Scholarships

Are you planning on attending college this fall? The First Lutheran Scholarship Committee has applications available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room. (*Please note, there are separate forms for high school and college.*) All applications must be returned to the church office by Friday, April 28.

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## First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book "Ordinary Grace" and faith response to the author William Kent Krueger on Wednesday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

• May's book title is *A Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. *A beautiful scarf, passed down through the generations, connects two women who learn that the weight of the world is made bearable by the love we give away...* September 1911. On Ellis Island in New York Harbor, nurse Clara Wood cannot face returning to Manhattan, where the man she loved fell to his death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Then, while caring for a fevered immigrant whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries and finds herself caught in a dilemma that compels her to confront the truth about the assumptions she's made. Will what she learns devastate her or free her?

September 2011. On Manhattan's Upper West Side, widow Taryn Michaels has convinced herself that she is living fully, working in a charming specialty fabric store and raising her daughter alone. Then a long-lost photograph appears in a national magazine, and she is forced to relive the terrible day her husband died in the collapse of the World Trade Towers the same day a stranger reached out and saved her. Will a chance reconnection and a century-old scarf open Taryn's eyes to the larger forces at work in her life? Hurry and pick up a copy today and begin reading this touching and inspirational novel!

## FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

## Property & Grounds Work Day

Saturday, April 8 ~ 8 a.m. to Noon

Come one, come all! Bring your rakes, gloves, and helping hands to spread mulch and spruce up our grounds for Easter! Come bright and early and stay for as long as you are able. Refreshments will be provided!

	<p><b>Save the Date!</b></p> <p><b>VBS</b></p> <p><b>July 9-13, 2017</b></p> <p><b>5-8 p.m.</b></p> <p>Registration forms available online</p>
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## Community Choir and Children's Choir

The Community Choir of Geneseo will be celebrating their ninth anniversary this summer. The theme this year is "Eat, Drink and Be Merry"! The choir, which includes students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older adults, will rehearse Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 7 through Wednesday, July 5 at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. The performance is Wednesday, July 12 at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Gym. If you are interested in singing, please call 944-6641 or email ([singplay53@gmail.com](mailto:singplay53@gmail.com)) Pam Edwards, the director, by May 12.

Students entering 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to sing in the Children's Choir. They will rehearse July 6, 7, 10, 11 & 12 and will perform with the Community Choir on July 12. Registration forms are available on the Geneseo elementary and middle school choir instructors' websites or contact Pam Edwards. The deadline is May 8.

More information is available on the Community Choir of Geneseo's FB page.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Men's Lenten Breakfast

Geneseo Ministerial Association is hosting the Men's Lenten Breakfast. All men are invited to come at 7 a.m. and enjoy the delicious breakfast, fellowship and a brief program each week at the following churches:

April 1 Grace United Methodist Church

April 8 First United Methodist Church

### First Lutheran Preschool

During April the 3 year-old class will focus on the color blue and the oval shape and will continue talking about Easter. They will also begin learning about their 5 senses. The 4 year-old classes will be celebrating Spring by planting seeds and making a mural entitled "April Showers Bring May Flowers". We will be basing art work and projects on some of our favorite books such as *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. They will also be busy exploring the numbers 1-5 and learning with the letters E, K and R.

- Spring Break will be April 8-17. Preschool will resume on Tuesday, April 18. Enjoy your break!

### The Council Wants Your Input

We are considering adjusting Christmas Eve worship times. We would like to offer two very similar worship services at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m., both with familiar carols and a Children's Sermon. One of our praise teams would also offer special music at 6:00 p.m. The 10:00 p.m. service would still feature organ, choir, and brass. If you have feedback about the proposed schedule, please talk with a Council member before our next Council meeting on Monday, April 10.

### Women's Health Series

"Can You Hear Me Now?" Tinnitus & Hearing Loss is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, April 27 at The Cellar. The cost of lunch is \$8 per person, which is payable at the door. Reservations may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email [hfhfound@hammondhenry.com](mailto:hfhfound@hammondhenry.com).

## Council Highlights for March 20, 2017

### Action Items

- Discussion held and revisions approved to the Building Usage and Solicitation Policies.
- Approved continuing education for Deacon Linda Schmidt to attend ACLM conference and Pastor Laura Kamprath to attend an executive skills conference.
- Approved Summer Worship schedule:

#### Saturday

5:30 p.m. Worship

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m. — Fellowship

9:15 a.m. — Worship/Children's Church

10:30 a.m. — Adult Education

(Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend)

### New Business

- Internal Audit is in process of the Church and Preschool Finances.

### Financial Report

#### General Fund Offering:

February actual \$29,025

February budget \$34,693

YTD actual \$69,952

YTD budget \$68,427

#### Net Income Over Expenses:

February actual \$8,158 deficit

February budget \$7,700 deficit

YTD actual \$14,322 deficit

YTD budget \$27,992 deficit

## Women's Ministry

### Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" on a variety of projects including tying quilts made of donated fabrics and assembling several care kits for Lutheran World Relief. You are welcome to come any time you can help on Wednesday, April 5 & 12 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

**Women's Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at 9 a.m. at the home of Greta Nordstrom, 511 Richmond Hill Drive, Geneseo. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "Gather" for our study guide. All women are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible Study.

### Save the Date!

New Member Classes

Wednesday ~ May 10, 17 & 24 at 7 p.m.

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *taco shells, rice, canned chili, cereal, sugar, shampoo, dish soap, toilet paper, adult pain relievers and hand sanitizer* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

### Other opportunities to help!

- With warmer weather approaching, the food pantry is in need of light jackets, shorts, capris, toddler size clothing and towels.
- If you are planting a garden this year, please consider planting a row for the Geneseo Food Pantry. Our clients love having fresh produce to choose from, and some try vegetables they've never eaten before if available.

## Lutheran World Relief

First Women's Ministry is still collecting items for Lutheran World Relief "*Personal Care Kits*" through the end of April. During the next few weeks, please clip the "*Personal Care needs*" list and donate what you can in the basket located by the church office. These ordinary items become extraordinary when they are assembled into kits and shared as gifts of love and comfort.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### List of LWR Personal Care Kit Items

- Light-weight bath-size towel (*maximum 52" x 27"*), dark color recommended
- *Please Note:* It is important that these towels are light-weight for line drying.
- Bath-size bars (*4 to 5 oz.*) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- Sturdy comb (*wide tooth*)
- Metal nail clippers
- Toothbrush

### A Special Note of Thanks!

First Lutheran Family,  
Thank you very much for the outpouring of love you have shown all of us. We appreciate it all so much. The laying of hands sending prayer for Trevor was an amazing way to start our journey. The gift with the verse that means so much to Trevor, we have hanging in his hospital room. The staff loves it also, everyone comments on it. Feels like we are *Sharing Christ's Love* right here from his hospital room. You all are a blessing to our family and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you would like to send mail to Trevor our address here is:

Ronald McDonald House  
350 Erkenbrecher Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45229  
% Schefsky Room 23

*In Gods Love,  
Tony, Lori, Zach & Trevor*



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**COUNCIL**

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Nancy Cassens, Johanna Hager,  
Brian Hofer, Peter Johnson,  
Cathy Runty, Beth Unrath,  
Taylor Wildermuth

**Meeting Schedule:**

Cabinet — Monday, April 3  
Ministries — Monday, April 3  
Council — Monday, April 10

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

Misty Slaymaker, *Director*  
Mary Williamsen, Margi Ficken  
*preschool@firstgeneseo.org*

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday-Tuesday-Thursday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
*Please Note: Office will be closed  
on Monday, April 17*  
**Wednesday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**STAFF SCHEDULE**

**Rev. Laura Kamprath**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
**Rev. Matt Kamprath**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
**Linda Schmidt, Deacon**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
Monday-Thursday  
**Mary Jo Brummet, Director of  
Communications & Operations**  
Monday-Thursday  
**Misty Slaymaker**  
*Director of Faithtime*  
Wednesday Morning