



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

March 2017
Volume 56, Issue 3
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

With Awe and Love: *A Midweek Service Based on Luther's Small Catechism*



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Marked Living Part 1: *Worship & Music Ministry*
Pastor Matt Kamprath

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:45 p.m. ~ Vegetable Beef/Potato-Ham
Faithtime Dinner—5-6:15 p.m. ~ Chicken Veggie/Chili with Potato Bar

Wednesday, March 8

Midweek 1 ~ The Lord's Prayer
Pastor Laura Kamprath

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:30 p.m.
Chicken Tortilla/Green Bean Soup
Faithtime Dinner—5-6:15 p.m.

Minestrone with Ground Beef/Potato Soup
Sandwich Bar

Wednesday, March 22

Midweek 3 ~ Holy Communion
Pastor Matt Kamprath

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:30 p.m.
Hamburger Vegetable/Chicken Tortellini
Faithtime Dinner—5-6:15 p.m.

Vegetable Beef/Chili
Potato Bar

Wednesday, March 15

Midweek 2 ~ The Apostles' Creed
Pastor Mike Lawyer, Orion

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:30 p.m.
Chicken Vegetable/Cream of Spinach
Faithtime Dinner—5-6:15 p.m.

Creamy Potato/Chicken Corn Soup
Salad Bar

Wednesday, March 29

Midweek 4 ~ The Ten Commandments
Pastor Wayne Melaas-Swanson

Soup & Salad Luncheon—12:30 p.m.
Chicken Noodle/Cheesy Bacon Potato
Faithtime Dinner—5-6:15 p.m.

Lasagna Soup/Cheese Soup
Sandwich Bar



Marked Living: *“Caretakers of the Promise”*

Last month, Pastor Laura reminded us that in Baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit and that we are set apart to do God’s work in the world. Part of that work to which we are all called is to be good stewards, or in other words, to take care of the promise.

On Ash Wednesday we will be rolling out our Lenten Stewardship Program, *Marked Living: “Caretakers of the Promise.”* The program will continue on each of the Sundays of Lent. The program is twofold; each weekend we will focus on the different ministries in the congregation where we can live out our baptismal callings, and how stewardship encompasses the whole of our Christian lives.

Traditionally, stewardship has been relegated to one aspect of Christian living, namely to finances or our financial giving. Now while that is a part of stewardship, it really does limit the scope of what stewardship is and can be. You will hear this a lot over the course of the program, but stewardship is everything! From how we take care of ourselves, our time, our abilities, God’s creation, each other, and our financial gifts, stewardship really does involve the whole of our lives. God has given each one of us a holy responsibility to take care of God’s gifts, which are not earned, but given out of God’s goodness. And God is a generous giver; Jesus Christ is a gift, life is a gift, our bodies are a gift, God’s grace is a gift, time is a gift, money is a gift, Creation is a gift, our abilities are a gift, and other people are gifts too! Our response to this reality is one of utter thankfulness, praise, and joy. By knowing

and experiencing God as the Giver of all good, this gives us the freedom to share these gifts with God and each other trusting that our gifts are in God’s good hands.

To be a good steward, to take care of God’s gifts and share them, means that one is living in trust and gratitude. Now while we do not do this perfectly, we are called by God to make a generous effort. Why? Because taking care of and sharing our gifts is our duty, and it is at the very same time a deep joy experienced in the act of making an offering. Generosity is not something that comes natural to us, but it is something that is learned in practice. Indeed, the very act of stewardship can become a spiritual discipline. Dr. Mark Allen Powell, professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, writes in his book “Giving to God”, that “Those who give of their earthly treasure experience the spiritual reward of hearts increasingly drawn into the wondrous love of God”. Ask anyone who regularly gives of their time, ability, and treasure, and they will reply that this is not a burden, but a real joy. Indeed, God is even drawing them (and us all) to deeper generosity and trust.

We are all invited this Lent to trust deeply in God’s promise, that by grace we have been saved. Our lives can reflect this truth in what we say, and what we do for the glory of God. May we grow to be people who are generous, for that is who God made us to be.

—Pastor Matt

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's focus is Marked Living Part 1: *Worship & Music Ministry*. Text include Joel 2:1-2, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

March 4 & 5, 2017

Lent 1/Marked Living Part 2:

Christian Education & Youth Ministry

This weekend's texts include Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11

March 8, 2017

Midweek 1, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's focus is The Lord's Prayer with Pastor Laura Kamprath.

March 11 & 12, 2017

Lent 2/Marked Living Part 3:

Spirituality and Wellness Ministry

This weekend's texts include Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and John 3:1-17.

March 15, 2017

Midweek 2, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's focus is The Apostles' Creed with Pastor Mike Lawyer.

March 18 & 19, 2017

Lent 3/Marked Living Part 4:

Congregational Life and Evangelism

This weekend's texts include Exodus 17: 1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-42.

March 22, 2017

Midweek 3, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's focus is Holy Communion with Pastor Matt Kamprath.

March 25 & 26, 2017

Lent 4/Marked Living Part 5:

Social Ministry

This weekend's texts include 1 Samuel 1 6:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41.

March 29, 2017

Midweek 4, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's focus is The Ten Commandments with Pastor Wayne Melaas-Swanson.

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 affected by recent tornados and flooding. 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, Bishop 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: Rodger Barnhart, Chris Bennet, Rick Brown, Max Buffington, Jean Carlson, Lynn Dauphin, Judy DeBoever, Kevin DeJaeger, Mary Devine, Sienna Dudley, Joey Eaker, Jill Hartel, Tim Janey, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Sandy Miller, Deb Morris, Scott Pittenger, Cindy Scheckel, Trevor Schefsky, Ken Schnowske, Peggy Schram, Connie Sellers, Linda Schmidt, Larry Skiles, Michelle Springer, Linda Storm, Doris Tieken, Steve Weber, Marilyn Worple, Jane Yesinowski and Sandra Zanfes.

Joys:

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the death of John Conrad, brother of Wayne Conrad and uncle of Sue Conrad; Ruth Larson, member; Dawn Corrinne, member; Vernis Gesme, mother of Gary Gesme; Henry E. "Duke" Farber, uncle of Lenny Farber; and Dr. Lee Burswold, father of Anne Calder.

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact the church office at 944-3196 or by e-mail 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



Musical – March 5!

Big news—the Faithtime children are presenting the musical “*The Tale of the Three Trees*” at both services on Sunday, March 5. Please join them as they tell this deeply moving story—perfect for the First Sunday in Lent. It is based on an American folk tale, and captures the message of Jesus in a way that is both fresh and timeless. The children have been working very hard on this, and we would love for YOU to be here to support them.

Music & Movement

Linda Schmidt, Director of Worship & Music, will again be offering this class for all children who are 2 ½-4 years old. The classes will be on Tuesday mornings, from 10:45-11:15. The 6 week class will begin March 14, and end April 25 (*No Class April 11*). The class is open to all—invite friends. Each child needs to have a parent or grandparent attend with them. Cost for the 6 weeks is \$25. Registration forms are available on our website and at the Welcome Center. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Men’s Lenten Breakfast

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

March 4	St. Malachy Parish
March 11	First Lutheran Church
March 18	First Presbyterian Church
March 25	Geneseo Evangelical Free Church
April 1	Grace United Methodist Church
April 8	First United Methodist Church

Music Camp

Music Camp will be August 7-11 for all current 1st-5th graders. Save the date! Mornings are spent at church in a variety of music activities, games, crafts, and snack. After lunch, we spend afternoons away from the church—bowling, swimming, etc. Look for a brochure with more information later this month!

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 2nd 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:

March 5 – No Children’s Church

March 19 – *Woman at the Well*

March 12 – *Jesus and Nicodemus*

March 26 – *Samuel Anoints David*

You may register at anytime. Forms are available online at www.firstgeneseo.org.

Reformation 500



Forward in God's Grace

1517 - 2017

Reformation 500 Bookstore

Plan now to visit the Reformation Bookstore that is open every weekend through Sunday, March 12. Augsburg-Fortress is providing us with many books at half-price and with free shipping. Samples of these books will be available to view and orders will be taken for delivery by mid-March.

All books are rated as easy, moderate or challenging. "Easy" is described as accessible, a good place to begin. "Moderate" books are still accessible but may be longer and include some footnotes or annotations. "Challenging" are Luther's treatises with introductions and annotations. In this Reformation 500 year we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the reformation and the reasons for it, about Luther and his transformational idea of justification by faith alone, and about who Lutherans are, what they teach, where they come from and where they are today. Also included are books that discuss and encourage Catholics and Lutherans to continue their journey together toward unity. This is a great opportunity for you to add to your library of important writings.

Lenten Devotional

A Lenten Devotional entitled "40 Day Journey with Martin Luther" is now available to share with your family. This wonderful keepsake devotional is especially appropriate in this Reformation 500 year. Purchase yours today in the Fellowship Room for \$6.

Theology on Tap!

During the season of Lent, Pastor Matt will be hosting an opportunity for learning, beer, and fellowship called *Theology on Tap*. Beginning on Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. (*and every Tuesday in Lent*) we will meet at Geneseo Brewing Company for conversation and learning. Join us each week or when you are able. Since this is the 500th year of the Reformation, we will explore the theology of Martin Luther. If you are planning to attend, please let Pastor Matt know via email mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org, or call the church office 944-3196.

Did You Know?

On Sunday, February 19, the Reformation 500 team was busy. Along with hearing from Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon during the children's sermon, and watching and discussing the Luther Movie at Central Theater, we also introduced 'the door' into our faith life here at First Lutheran. 500 years ago Luther nailed the 95 theses to the Wittenburg, Germany church door to inform the public of reforms that were desperately needed. In honor of that bold act, we have constructed our own door here at First. Like Luther, we are called to renew and reform the church in bold and courageous new ways and we are asking for you to prayerfully consider adding your ideas for renewal for this congregation. The door will be available this entire anniversary year for everyone to write down (*on post-it notes*) ideas for renewal and 'nail' them to the door. Many thanks to Chris Barnhart for creating and constructing the door.



FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry: Faithtime

No Faithtime — March 1

Faithtime schedule for March 8, 15, 22 & 29

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

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 March meals:

March 1	Lenten Soup/Potato Bar
March 8	Lenten Soup/Sandwich Bar
March 15	Lenten Soup/Salad Bar
March 22	Lenten Soup/Potato Bar
March 29	Lenten Soup/Sandwich Bar



Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

During Lent we will gather in Conference Room A at 6:15 p.m. before going to the Lenten worship service together. This will give the youth an opportunity to get some worship reports in and give us a chance to hear from area Pastors. We will have a different Pastor each week and their sermons will be based on Luther's Small Catechism. After worship we will gather in our small groups and discuss the sermon and how that relates to our everyday lives. Following is the March schedule:

March 1 — Ash Wednesday/No Confirmation

March 8, 15, 22 & 29 — Worship & Sermon Reflection

High School Youth

High School Youth will not meet during the season of Lent, but are encouraged to come and learn about Martin Luther's Small Catechism during our Wednesday evening worship. We will resume exploring world religions in a series called *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* on April 19 from 6-6:45 p.m. All high school youth are welcomed to attend!

Lenten Lock-In

Our Lenten Lock-In will be held from March 17-18 from 7 p.m. (*Friday*) to 7 a.m. (*Saturday*). All confirmation students and high school youth, grades 7-12, are welcome to attend. This will be a time to gather for worship, learn about our faith, have lots of fun, and get to know one another. Please let Pastor Matt know via email mkamparth@firstgeneseo.org, or sign up at the Welcome Center, if you plan to attend. Also, please bring a snack to share, and your friends! A signed Health/Permission Slip will be required.

(Forms are available at the Welcome Center or on the website)

First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Paper Cowboy* and faith response to the author Kristin Levine on Wednesday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

- April's book title is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum, a preacher's son, it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder. Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. Hurry up and pick up a copy today and begin reading this New York times bestseller!

FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

With Awe and Love: A Midweek Service **Based on Luther's Small Catechism**

Each Wednesday during the season of Lent, one of the pastors of the Andover Cluster congregations will lead us in worship and share a reflection on one part of the Small Catechism. We invite you to pick up a copy of the Small Catechism (*1 per household*) at the Welcome Center and bring it with you to worship each week. By studying the Small Catechism together, we will grow closer to God as we gain fluency in God's word and the basics of our faith.

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton encourages everyone to take a fresh look at the Small Catechism Series in *Making Christ Known* at: <http://nisynod.org/small-catechism-series-in-making-christ-known/>

First Communion Class

At First Lutheran Church, we invite and encourage any child with parental permission to receive Holy Communion if they have attended an instruction class. We are inviting you and your child to participate in our First Communion Ministry which includes the following three parts:

Class 1: Saturday, April 1 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Conference Room A

Class 2: Saturday, April 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Room

First Communion: Maundy Thursday, April 13

5-6:30 p.m. – Family meal in the Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. – Worship Service in Sanctuary

Pastors Laura and Matt will be teaching the classes. We request that at least one parent attend both classes with their child. A supervised nursery will be available per request for younger siblings during these classes. Please know that any members of your family, including Godparents/Baptismal sponsors, are invited to participate in the classes, join us for a family dinner and worship. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196. We look forward to our time together!

FIRST MINISTRIES



Easter Garden

You're invited to help decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for Easter. Easter lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips or mums may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost is \$17.50 for any variety. These flowers may be ordered by completing the form located in the pew racks or by calling the office at 944-3196. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Our deadline is April 2. Names will be recognized in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 16. You may take a plant of your choice home after the 10 a.m. Easter Service.

First Lutheran Preschool

Our classes this month will all be focusing on Spring with activities, songs and crafts and celebrating St Patrick's Day by making shamrocks and green paper chains. The 3 year-olds will have yellow as their March color. They will talk about their families and bring pictures from home. They will plant seeds and make seed necklaces and the diamond shape will be the special shape of the month. The 4-5 year olds will focus on Easter and dinosaurs. They will bring games from home to share with their classmates. Also for the letter W they will eat watermelon as well as make an watermelon art project.

First Lutheran Preschool Registration

First Lutheran Preschool will begin enrolling for the 2017-18 school year starting in March. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2017. If you have a child you would like to enroll, please call the preschool at 944-4306.

Easter Cards

Please feel free to sign and add your personal greeting to the Easter cards for our military. The cards will be located on a table in the Fellowship Room the second week in March.

Council Highlights for February 20, 2017

Officers Elected for 2017

President: Roger Bengtson
Vice President: Ray Bergles
Secretary: Dawn Ebarb
Treasurer: Rollin Setterdahl
Financial Secretary: Lynn Lindell

Action Item

- Approved using up to \$6,000 for the many different activities of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Funds will be used from Unrestricted Memorial Funds.

New Business

- Reported Finance Committee is in the process of refinancing options of our Capital Campaign debt.
- Discussion held on church building usage and fees.
- Reviewed Ministry Committee assignments for Council members.

Social Ministry Benevolence Requests—

Gave approval to Social Ministry as a part of its Benevolence Policy, granting \$1,000 to Rebuilding Together to be used for home repairs to low income homeowner's and wheelchair ramps and \$1,500 to LSSI for programming and to support children in care by improving visitation rooms.

Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

January actual	\$40,927
January budget	\$33,734
YTD actual	\$40,927
YTD budget	\$33,734

Net Income Over Expenses:

January actual	\$6,164 deficit
January budget	\$20,292 deficit
YTD actual	\$6,164 deficit
YTD budget	\$20,292 deficit

LWR Personal Care Kits

First Women's Ministry is collecting items for Lutheran World Relief "*Personal Care Kits*" starting in March and continuing through the end of April. Here's a list of the items needed for the kits:

- 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

When LWR distributes these kits it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world. Please consider sharing God's grace and love by providing that simple comfort. Donations may be dropped off in the basket by the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

- *Our goal this year is 25 kits!*

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, March 1 & 8 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, March 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. 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.

Children's Book Fair

Please visit the Fellowship Room over the weekends of March 11-12 and 18-19 to view Easter books for children that will be available for purchase for up to half off the regular purchase price. Books will be delivered before Easter.



Everybunny loves a good book!

Thank You

I am grateful to our members for your cards, phone calls, and prayers while recently hospitalized. You are good, caring people. Thanks.

Pastor Virgil Juliot

A Note of Thanks

Thank you Pastors Matt & Laura for your visits, calls from church members, cards and especially for the Valentine Gift Bag!

Gladys Swanson

Thanks A Bunch!

Thank you to the children for the wonderful Valentine Gift Bag. I really enjoyed all the cards and treats!

Gary Johnson

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *jelly, rice, pizza crust mix, beef broth, ketchup, pain relievers, allergy medicine, paper towels, dish soap and all-purpose cleaners* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Another way to help!**

With spring right around the corner we will be accepting donations of lighter coats and jackets. We are also in need of baby and toddler clothing, kitchen and household items, sheets and towels.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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COUNCIL

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Ray Bergles—*Vice-President*
Dawn Ebarb—*Secretary*
Rollin Setterdahl—*Treasurer*
Darla Anderson, Jodi Barnhart,
Nancy Cassens, Johanna Hager,
Brian Hofer, Peter Johnson,
Cathy Runty, Beth Unrath,
Taylor Wildermuth

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, March 13
Ministries — Monday, March 13
Council — Monday, March 20

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, MARCH 7**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
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