



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# CHIMES

*Sharing Christ's Love*

April 2018

Volume 57, 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.

*“We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand.”*

*Jane M. Campbell  
1817-1878*



*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 all three worship services on April 28 & 29.*

**FIRST NOTES:**

- Safeguarding God’s Children Workshop on Saturday, April 7 at 9 a.m.
- First Friends Luncheon on Thursday, April 12 at 11:30 a.m.
- Property & Grounds Work Day on Saturday, April 14 at 8 a.m.
- Will and Estate Planning Workshop on Sunday, April 22 at 11 a.m.

# *Resurrection*

I write this newsletter article in the middle of the season of Lent, so it is hard for me to put myself into the season of Easter during this time. Simply because, I can't physically and spiritually do that. Also because, Lent is such a busy time in the church's life and ministry and that's where I am now. However, I know I need to hear that resurrection is coming and is here, even now, during the season of Lent.

I think it really doesn't matter what time of year it is, or what time in the church year it is, because we need to hear that resurrection is coming and is here in all seasons of life and ministry. Sometimes the cares of this world are too much and we need some hope, joy and the new life that resurrection brings. We often forget that resurrection is coming, when we are stuck in the same old patterns and habits, that are not leading to new life. We need some inspiration to step out of ourselves and look toward where God is right now. Because whatever comes at us, or wherever we find ourselves, we are invited to remember the promise of Easter that out of the hardest and most difficult of times, will come new life. Indeed this is the promise of this season, and the promise of all seasons of life.

I know that the long season of Lent and the final week of Holy Week is almost over and we can again be filled with the joy and hope of the Easter season. But, let us not get ahead of ourselves. We sometimes have a tendency to do that when we are patiently waiting for something to get here. We sometimes forget to live in the moment and take in what God has to show us right here and now. So even as I write this during the season of Lent and you are reading this during the season of Easter, I invite you to take in the sights, the sounds, the emotions, the times of

joy and even the times of suffering, because God is calling us to live in the present. Let us remember that whatever season of life we find ourselves in, God is inviting us to experience the joy, hope, and promise that Jesus is bringing to us every single day.

In and through our Baptisms we die and rise every day. We practice resurrection every single day. We give thanks that we can look at our pasts, remember them, learn from them, and then move forward, all because of God's grace. There is no need to dwell on what cannot be relived or worry about what will come. God is instead offering us a new way forward out of old habits and old patterns of life that are not opening us up to move forward toward the new life God is inviting us to live right now.

As we wait for new life, as we long for the hope and promise of the Easter season, may we remember that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has opened a new way for us to live, one that is not burdened by the past, but one that embraces the now, and God's future whatever it might be. Amen.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Matt*

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April 1, 2018

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

Today's texts include Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Mark 16:1-8

April 7 & 8, 2018

**Easter 2**

This weekend's texts include Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2 and John 20:19-31.

April 14 & 15, 2018

**Easter 3**

This weekend's texts include Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48.

April 21 & 22, 2018

**Easter 4/LSSI Good Shepherd Weekend**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. We will be taking a special offering this weekend for LSSI (Lutheran Social Services of Illinois). This weekend's texts include Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18.

April 28 & 29, 2018

**Easter 5/Rogation Weekend**

This weekend's texts include Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8.

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**

**Worship Assistants**

If you are not currently serving as a Communion Assistant, Lector, Greeter, or Nursery Attendant, and would like to help in one of these ways, please contact Linda Schmidt ([lschmidt@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:lschmidt@firstgeneseo.org)). With the change in our staff, we will be doing some things a bit differently, and this is a great time to help with our worship services.

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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 all who work for peace and justice. For those serving our country in the military, especially Raul Falcon, Griffin Fleming, Josh Fleming, Jakob Gradert, Connor Luxmore, 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. For missionaries who share the Gospel around the world. For Catherine Nelson, seminary student. For Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 10).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Loretta Baze, Jean Carlson, Judy DeBoever, Sherry Dickens, Brady Jess, Barb Jones, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Evelyn Kline, Linda Schmidt, Peggy Schram, Jay Sears and Gene Stees.

**Joys:** On the birth of Clara Grace Henshaw, daughter of Brian & Stefanie Henshaw and granddaughter of Steve & Jan Weber. Baptisms of Jacob Kelly Martin, son of Steve & Jodi Martin and the late Laura Hopkins and Breckyn Elise Carton, daughter of Mathew & Whitney Carton.

**Thanksgiving:** Pastor & Marilyn Juliot wish to say "thank you" to the congregation for all of the cards and warm greetings last weekend.

**Sorrows:** On the death of Lorrin Buechler, member and Ruth Selander, mother of Shari Storm.

*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. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor Matt at 703-505-9517.*

**FIRST  
PRAYER**

## FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Music and Movement returns!

These classes are for 2 ½ - 4 year old children, with a parent or grandparent. Classes will be on Tuesday mornings, April 3- May 8, from 11:00-11:30 a.m. All are welcome—invite a friend or neighbor to join us!

### First Friends

*Happy Spring!* First Friends will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 12. Glen Anderson will present a short program “*All about birds*”. Come, bring a friend (or stranger) and enjoy some food and fellowship. Cost of the meal is only \$5!

### 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 1 – *No Children’s Church (Easter Sunday)*

April 8 – *Early Believer’s Share*

April 15 – *No Children’s Church (Musical)*

April 22 – *The Good Shepherd*

April 29 – *Let us Love One Another*

### Music Camp

*Filled With the Spirit* is the theme of our Music Camp for current 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Music Camp will be August 13-17, from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 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 19. Registration forms and brochures are available at the Welcome Center, as well as our website. Talk to Linda Schmidt for more information.



### Safeguarding God’s Children

On Saturday, April 7, the Northern Illinois Synod will host this workshop at First. The Pastors strongly encourage all who work with children or youth in the congregation to attend, if you did not attend a workshop last year. Others are invited to attend as well. Please sign up at the Welcome Center, and indicate if you will need childcare. The workshop is 9 a.m. – noon.

### Thank You

What a nice surprise! The box was great. All the kind wishes from so many First Lutheran friends!! The Valentines are nice and the chocolate’s were great!

*Love, Ida Goldsmith*

### Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you for the book, *A Time To Grieve*, sent by First Lutheran Church as we mourn Royce’s death. It is appreciated and being shared with Susan and Judith.

*Blessings, Sharon Stenzel*

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## Outreach Ministry's Volunteer Recognition

*Many members of this congregation give of their time, talents and treasure help people, projects and organizations outside the walls of First Lutheran. We notice and want them to know that their efforts are appreciated. Each month we will recognize a FLC individual or group of individuals that are doing "God's Work" in our community and beyond.*

**Austin Ross** is this month's recipient of the Outreach Ministry's Volunteer Recognition. Since birth, Austin has experienced multiple medical problems and hospital stays as doctors worked to correct serious issues with his throat, lungs, stomach and ears. He calls himself a "medical marathoner". This high school senior recently celebrated earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His service project involved getting volunteers to power-wash, scrape and paint the Annawan Food Pantry. Austin scheduled work shifts, and with help from Annawan's Kiwanis and Annawan-Alba Women's Club, he provided food and drinks for all involved. Austin's mom, Kristy Ross has tirelessly supported Austin's desire to become an Eagle Scout as has his sister, Kellyanne. We recognize Austin's perseverance, his service for the Food Pantry and his achievement!

**FIRST  
MINISTRIES**



**AUSTIN ROSS**

## Celebrating Earth Day

Sunday, April 22, is Earth Day, the day we celebrate and recognize our responsibility as "Stewards of God's Creation." *Genesis 1:28* "And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

### Property & Grounds Work Day

Saturday, April 14 ~ 8 a.m. to Noon

Come one, come all! Bring your rakes, gloves, and helping hands to clean up debris, spread mulch and wash windows. Come bright and early and stay for as long as you are able. Refreshments will be provided!

## April Ministry Moment

According to chair, Maury Nelson, the purpose of the Property & Grounds Ministry is to "Take Care of God's House." Hal Gustafson and Dirk Wildemuth take on many of the responsibilities for maintaining and repairing the church's interior structure, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, as well as appliances and furnishings. Maury, along with Jim & Nancy Cassens and other volunteers, "Take Care of God's Gardens," which includes trimming trees and bushes, planting and weeding the gardens, and mowing the lawn. Over the past few years, Carol Boyd has "Served with Gladness" by planting many of the beautiful plants and flowers that bloom throughout the seasons. Once a year, in mid-April, the church sponsors a Spring Clean-up Day on a Saturday and invites volunteers to help clean-up debris, put down mulch, and wash windows. A volunteer team will also be needed sometime this summer to paint some of the interior hallways and staircases. This month we recognize and thank all who serve in our Property & Grounds ministry!

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# FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

## Children's Ministry: Faithtime

### All children Grades K-6

3:15-3:45 p.m.	Check In, Snack, Opening Activities in Fellowship Room
3:45-5:20 p.m.	Message, Music, Motion & Games Rotation
5:20-5:30 p.m.	Closing in Sanctuary
5:30 p.m.	Check Out in Sanctuary

**End of the year Carnival!!** As the Faithtime year draws to a close, we invite our Faithtime Friends to a fun filled Wednesday on April 25! We will have a brunch of games set up and prizes to win! This is a day they don't want to miss!

### • Volunteers for Carnival

In order for this event to be a success, we need volunteers to help with games and supervise the carnival. If you are interested, sign up at the Welcome Center or email Haylee Gustafson at [youth@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:youth@firstgeneseo.org).



## Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is continuously served from 5 p.m. through 6:15 p.m. each week. during Faithtime. 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 4 Tacos

April 11 Chicken/Mashed Potatoes

April 18 LaRoma's Pizza

April 25 Hot Dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is a *free* meal!

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

In April, we will wrap up our Wednesday evening classes and our overview of the New Testament. Students are looking forward to a week at Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, June 10-14. Here's the April schedule:

April 4— *Acts*

April 18 — *Revelation*

April 11 — *Galatians*

April 25 — End of the Year Celebration!

**End of the Year Celebration!!** We will be celebrating the end of the year with a bang! Bring a friend and be sure to wear clothes you don't care to get messy in! This will be a night filled with fun and games!

## Senior High Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders)

Come and join us as we continue watching Disney movies and discussing how the bible is reflected in the movies!

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## First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *"The Language of Flowers"* and faith response to the author Vanessa Diffenbaugh on Wednesday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place. Everyone is welcome!

- May's book title is *Cry No More* by Linda Howard. Fueled by an obsession to fill the void in other people's lives, Milla Edge finds lost children—all the while trying to outrun the brutal emotions stemming from a tragedy in her past. Traveling to a small village in Mexico on a reliable tip, Milla begins to uncover the dire fate of countless children who have disappeared in the labyrinth of a sinister baby-smuggling ring. The key to nailing down the organization may rest with an elusive one-eyed man. As Milla's search for him intensifies, the mission becomes more treacherous. For the ring is part of something far larger and more dangerous, reaching the highest echelons of power. Racing into peril, Milla suddenly finds herself the hunted—in the crosshairs of an invisible, lethal assassin who aims to silence her *permanently*. Hurry and pick up a copy today and begin reading this outstanding romantic thriller!

## A Technicolor Promise

*A Technicolor Promise*—the story of Noah, the ark, and God's love will be presented by our Faithtime children at both services on Sunday, April 15. The children have been working hard on this and hope YOU will be with us at worship that morning!

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Will and Estate Planning Workshop

First will offer a free Will and Estate Planning Workshop on Sunday, April 22 at 11 a.m. in Conference Room A, following Sunday worship. The presenter is Trista Foster, Vice President and Trust Officer at American Bank and Trust Company. An expert in estate planning, probate and trust administration, Trista will outline the basics of wills and estate planning tools and help you understand how having a plan in place benefits you and your loved ones. *Seating is limited* and reservations are requested to the church office. Refreshments will be provided by our Stewardship Team!

## Community Choir and Children's Choir

The Community Choir of Geneseo will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. The theme this year is *"Illinois-celebrating the bicentennial"*. 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 6 through Thursday, July 5 in the HS band room. The performance is Wednesday, July 11 at 7 p.m. in the Geneseo High School concert hall. 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 11.

Students entering 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to sing in the Children's Choir. They will rehearse July 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and will perform with the Community Choir on July 11. Registration forms are available on the Geneseo elementary and middle school choir instructor's websites or contact Pam Edwards. The deadline to register is May 14.

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

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### First Lutheran Preschool

During the month of April the 3 year-olds will be learning about the color blue and the shape of an oval. They will be talking about their families, themselves and their senses. The 4-5 year old classes will be learning about the weather, doing experiments. "April showers bring May flowers" will be the theme of a bulletin board display the children will design and craft. They will be planting seeds.

### Women's Health Series

"What can I help you with?" – Social Work is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, April 26 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).

### Social Statement on Women & Justice: Share Your Response

Last summer, the Adult Education class completed a study called "Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement." The draft of the Social Statement is now ready for review by members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You can find a hard copy at the Resource Center or download a digital copy at [www.elca.org/womenandjustice](http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice). At the end of the draft, there is a form you can fill out and return to the committee. Comments must be received by September 30, 2018.

### Council Highlights for March 19, 2018

#### Old Business

- Discussed the Personnel Handbook and referred a few questions back to the Personnel Committee.
- Discussed the Ministry Celebrations of Sherry Dickens and Pastor Lynn Bergren and Pastor Virgil Juliot.

#### New Business

- Discussed options for summer worship times and decided unanimously to keep the Sunday 8:30 Traditional and 10:00 Contemporary times rather than 1 worship service.
- Discussed going back to a Sunday School format later in 2018 or early 2019. The staff will work with Children's Church teachers and look at formats and curriculum in the coming months. This would not affect Faithtime.

#### Action Item

Approved Mission Endowment's request of \$500 for Dominican Republic mission work.

#### Social Ministry Benevolence Requests

Gave approval to Social Ministry as a part of its Benevolence Policy, granting \$600 to Geneseo Kiwanis to assist with the Spring Chicken Feast to defer costs of this event to allow more profit to go to eliminate Maternal Neonatal Tetanus; and \$500 to Royal Family Kids Camp to serve abused and neglected children in Henry County, primarily in the foster care system. This gives the children a week of positive memories in a Christian camp environment.

#### Financial Report

##### General Fund Offering:

February actual	\$32,528
February budget	\$33,367
YTD actual	\$90,950
YTD budget	\$88,733

##### Net Income Over Expenses:

February actual	\$6,301 deficit
February budget	\$5,684 deficit
YTD actual	\$1,499 surplus
YTD budget	\$2,708 deficit

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## 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 4 & 11 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

**Women's Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, April 18 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.

### Dress for Success

Do you have extra business attire to share with someone just starting her career? Dress for Success and Social Ministry will be collecting gently used business attire including accessories on May 5 & 6. For more information call Marla Johnson at 309-236-1668. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

### Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *sugar, canned chili, baked beans, ketchup, jelly, dish soap, tissues, garbage bags, freezer bags and mouthwash* 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, capris, shorts, 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. We are happy to accept fresh eggs, dairy and meat as well!

## 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

### Response from Souper Bowl Sunday

Thanks to the congregation and children for their generous support of the Atkinson, Geneseo Food Pantry and Lutheran World Hunger on Souper Bowl Sunday. I don't know what the final tally was for the food pantry, but I'm sure the food items collected will be put to good use. The congregation contributed \$1,333 to Lutheran World Hunger which was an outstanding response. It's rather obvious that the problem hasn't diminish over the years as projected by hunger officials. So, it's essential that we continue to support this ministry and make a difference in the lives of those we touch. Once again, thank you for your display of generosity and keep the people affected by hunger in your prayers.

*Yours in Christ, Gary Daniels  
First Lutheran contact for World Hunger*



**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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Cathy Runty—*Vice-President*  
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Rollin Setterdahl—*Treasurer*

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Nancy Cassens, Gary Daniels,  
Dawn Ebarb, Scott Fitzpatrick,  
Johanna Hager, Peter Johnson,  
Taylor Wildermuth

**Meeting Schedule:**

Cabinet — Monday, April 9  
Ministries — Monday, April 9  
Council — Monday, April 23

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

Wednesday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday  
Office Closed  
Closed for Lunch ~ Noon-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,**  
*Parish Administrator*  
Monday-Thursday

**Haylee Gustafson,** *Director of Youth & Family Ministry*  
Monday-Thursday