



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHIMES**

April 2021  
Volume 60, Issue 4  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

*Sharing Christ's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship livestreamed on Facebook

Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

# HOLY WEEK AT FIRST

## MAUNDY THURSDAY — APRIL 1

*Noon Worship*

*6:30 p.m. Worship ~ Glory Ringers & Piano*

*Stripping of the Altar*

*6:30 p.m. Livestream Worship*

## GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 2

*5:00 to 8:00 p.m. ~ Children's Interactive Stations of the Cross*

*Stations of the Cross*

*Video Premiere at 6:30 p.m.*

## EASTER VIGIL — APRIL 3

*6:30 p.m. Worship ~ We gather to celebrate the light of Christ  
through song, prayer, and word.*

*Special music includes classical guitar and we will premiere  
a special pre-recorded Children's Program.*

*6:30 p.m. Livestream Worship*

## EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 4

*6:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Worship ~ Simple service of the Word*

*8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship ~ Special Music*

*8:15 a.m. Livestream Worship*

*10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship ~ Special Music*

*Easter Egg Hunt — 9:30 a.m.*

*Families with children ages 2 -10 are invited to gather eggs on Easter morning!*

*BYOB (Bring Your Own Basket)*

# Stuff

As I write this newsletter article, 14 youth from the congregation are ready to take their first communion. Last year, many couldn't partake because of the lockdown, but we are at a different place this year. I am excited to get back to some familiarity of our communion practice around the table, and I am excited for them. I think the main reason that I am excited is because they are really excited. They come with their curiosity and wonder and we delight in trying to explain the mystery of Holy Communion, as best as we can. For after all, it is a mysterious gift, but a gift nonetheless. A gift that keeps on giving as we become what we eat. How that all works is a mystery, but a reality in which we live.

In the curriculum that we use (*Fed & Forgiven*) there is this great video that has been used to help explain communion to children in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. In this short video people present on what a sacrament is. They go on to say that a sacrament is holy, it is a gift of mercy and forgiveness, it is grace, it points us to God, and it is a mystery.

There is one in particular presentation that I really like, and it is from Nadia Bolz Weber, who says that 'sacraments are made from stuff'. This 'stuff' that we use in worship (*water, wine, and bread*) form us into who God wants us to be. The water cleanses us from sin, once and for all, and also every single day. The wine and bread strengthen us from the inside out to be ministers of the gospel and feed us with presence day after day. And both sacraments (*Holy Baptism and Holy Communion*) are gifts of tangible stuff from God. We do not earn them, but are given them anyway as a gift that we can't repay. This is a gift we can hold on to when things are tough.

In the sacraments, we take on Jesus, and Jesus works in us, sometimes whether we want him to or not. Sacraments have a way of doing that. Even though the sacraments are made from 'stuff', they in part, contain God, even though God is not fully contained in them. This stuff is holy, set apart by God to remind us of God's promises, contained within stuff, and to remember that the stuff God has made is holy.

Jesus, in his life, death, and resurrection has taken on the 'stuff' we are. He has taken on the bad parts, the broken parts, the working parts, the idle parts, and the good parts and he has made this 'stuff' God's very own again. Jesus has redeemed us, and has brought us back to God where we have come from and where we all will return. Through the 'stuff' of sacraments (*Holy Baptism & Holy Communion*) God is reconciling the world and it is a gift, given for you.

God values you. God values the stuff we are made of. God values the stuff everyone is made of. God values the stuff of the world in which we live. For God loves the stuff we are, and God loves us so much that He gifted us with His Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not die, but live life fully here and in the world to come. This Easter let us remember and give thanks for all of this stuff, all of the sacraments, all of the love, all of the mercy, all of the grace, all of the mystery, that has been given for you is a gift for you, Amen.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Matt*

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### April 1, 2021

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

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

### April 3, 2021

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

Today's texts include Ezekiel 36:24-28, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Zephaniah 3:14-20 and John 20:1-18.

### April 4, 2021

#### **Easter Sunday**

Today's texts include Isaiah 25:6-9, Acts 10:34-43 and Mark 16:1-8.

### April 10 & 11, 2021

#### **Easter 2**

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

### April 17 & 18, 2021

#### **Easter 3**

This weekend's texts include Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-28.

### April 24 & 25, 2021

#### **Easter 4**

This weekend's texts include Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18.

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## **Drive-Thru Communion**

This month, Drive-Thru Communion will be Sunday, April 11 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the south parking lot. We plan to continue to offer this ministry on the second Sunday of each month until all COVID restrictions are lifted.

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**



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

**World and Community:** For our leaders: President Joe Biden and Governor J.B.Pritzker.

For health care workers. For all who work for peace and justice. For those serving our country in the military, especially Josh Francis, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, Jason Kinnard, Geoffrey Lindesmith, Jessica Ruggles, Brandon Sandoval, Brian Sandoval, Christopher Unrath, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

**Church:** For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Jeff Clements. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Daniel Meiyen 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 Pr. Raymond Koh and family in Malaysia. 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. 8).

**Health and Wellbeing:** For all who are fighting COVID-19, Lonnie Anderson (*Kathy Heller's brother*), Mandy Baumgardner, Janet Larson, Nick Moss (*John & Joan Elden's grandson*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*), and Paul Terpening.

**Joys:**

**Thanksgiving:** For our local hospital and caring staff.

**Sorrows:** On the death of Rev. Dr. Lemburis Justo from ARUSHA diocese.

*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 MINISTRIES



## Faithtime Kids

Faithtime goes back to being held from 6-7 p.m. Our last day of Faithtime will be April 28.

### All children Grades K-6

April 7 — *Doubting Thomas*

Memory Verse: *John 20:29*

April 14 — *Men Healed*

Memory Verse: *John 14:1*

April 21 — *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

Memory Verse: *Psalms 56:3*

April 28 — *Fruit of the Spirit*

Memory Verse: *Galatians 5:22*

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

Confirmation students resume Wednesday classes this month, as we complete our “*Lutheran Living*” unit. Here’s our schedule for April:

April 7 — *The Neighbor*

April 21 — *The Devil*

April 14 — *The Word*

April 28 — *Doubt*

## FLC Youth (9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders)

FLC Youth meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for *Prayer and Ping Pong*. Any high school youth is welcome to attend!

### • Senior Recognition

Senior recognition is right around the corner! If your child is a senior, please have them fill out the senior information sheet that was sent to them and return it to Abbey Cathelyn by April 18. Senior recognition will be at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 16.

### • Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for graduating seniors and college students are due April 6 to the church office. Copies of both high school and college applications are located at the Resource Center. (*High school graduates received a copy of the application and guidelines in the mail.*)

## Vacation Bible School ~ “Knights of North Castle”



### Save the Date!

What: VBS 2021

“Knights of North Castle”

When: June 6-10

5:00-7:30 p.m. (*Dinner included*)

Who: Children entering pre-k—6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Registration open to First Lutheran families first.

Check your email for the registration link!

Questions? ~ Contact Abbey Cathelyn,  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
([youth@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:youth@firstgeneseo.org))

### If you have, please donate...

As we begin planning VBS, another great way to help is to donate supplies. These are some items we will need:

- *Fake Christmas Trees (All Sizes)* - we will return!
- *Bags of Polyfill (to create snow scenes)*
- *Large refrigerator boxes*
- *Foam insulation board*
- *Medieval décor*
- *Snowflake décor*
- *Fairy lights*

If you have any of these items, please drop them off to Abbey Cathelyn at the church office by May 1.

**First Communion**

Children in grades 3 & 4 will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at the noon and 6:30 service.

Congratulations to these children:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Lucas Fuelling</i>  | <i>Miles Curcuru</i>    |
| <i>Xander Lopez</i>    | <i>Kane Fuelling</i>    |
| <i>Gabe Minnaert</i>   | <i>Emma Hofer</i>       |
| <i>Matthew Mullins</i> | <i>Madison Kuethe</i>   |
| <i>Duncan Reed</i>     | <i>Kellen Minder</i>    |
| <i>Zania Sefton</i>    | <i>Annie Reed</i>       |
|                        | <i>Violet Runty</i>     |
|                        | <i>Martez Sefton</i>    |
|                        | <i>Benjamin Simosky</i> |

**LWR Personal Care Kits**

Thanks to all who have donated items for the “*Personal Care Kits!*” We will be collecting items for through April and then assembling the kits for shipment in the fall. Currently we have a great supply of toothbrushes and bars of soap. *What we need are the 27 x 52 lightweight towels, sturdy combs and nail clippers.* Our goal is to prepare 100 Personal Care Kits this year, more than usual because the need is so great. Check out the display in the Fellowship Room and the chart which shows our progress!

**Save the Date!**  
**Human Trafficking & Slavery Program**  
 Social Ministry is sponsoring a program on Human Trafficking & Slavery on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Presenters will be Officer Mike Chavez of the Geneseo Police Department and Johanna Hager who works for Braveheart and is a key figure in interviewing the survivors of this horrific crime. The public is invited.

**Food Pantry Collection**

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *peanut butter, pickles, pudding, single serve oatmeal, tuna helper, household cleaners, paper towels, shampoo and dish detergent* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



*Did you know?* ... Beginning April 5, the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00-noon and 1:00-4:00, and Fridays from 9:00-noon. Clothing and household item donations will be accepted after April 5. The clothing room will be open for shopping on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays beginning April 5. Food is distributed every Tuesday from 9:00-11:30.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Music Camp

All current 1st-5th graders are invited to Music Camp the week of July 26 – 29! This year's theme is *"In the Eye of the Storm."* 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. The children lead worship on August 1. Friends are always welcome!

### A Note of Thanks

Dear Members of First Lutheran & Preschool  
Thank you so much for the shower of Valentine's Day cards. You really brightened the day for Fran & me. We appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers in keeping us as a part of the church family.

—Fran & Wayne Conrad

### First Lutheran Preschool

It is Spring! We are excited to start spending more time outside this month. The 3-year-old class will continue the journey through colors and shapes with a focus on blue and the oval. They will continue to learn about their senses. They'll also plant seeds in a bag and place them in our window so we can observe their growth. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about what they can do to care for the environment. They will also complete their weather unit and share their families with each other through photos.

- School will resume on Tuesday, April 6!

### Council Highlights for March 15, 2021

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on March 15, 2021.

#### New Business

- Easter services will be offered at 6 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with a maximum capacity of 110. Sign-up is required. Rail communion and sack communion will also be available beginning Maundy Thursday.
- Steve Hawk and Johanna Hager were elected to be a voting members at the 2021 Synod Assembly, which will be held via Zoom June 11-12, 2021. Additional voting member seats are available. Contact Pastor Laura Kamprath if interested.
- The Church's insurance policy review was tabled until next month.
- The weekend of May 22 will be a One Service Weekend for Pentecost with the River City 6. Service will be held in the City Park with a catered sack lunch to follow.
- Funding requests were approved: \$1,000 – LOMC, \$500 – Geneseo Marriage & Family Counseling Service, \$1,000 – Another Child

Foundation, and \$500 – Navigators/iEDGE Puerto Rico through Social Ministry and Mission Endowment.

- Council will be meeting in a hybrid format next month.

#### Old Business

- Reviewed the current COVID-19 data for Henry County, church doors are all open and no sign-in sheets are required for the building any longer.

#### February Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

February actual	\$26,804
February budget	\$33,167
YTD actual	\$85,381
YTD budget	\$88,834

Net Income Over Expenses:

February actual	\$9,030 deficit
February budget	\$7,393 deficit
YTD actual	\$34 surplus
YTD budget	\$8,010 deficit

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## First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *“It’s Not All Downhill From Here: A Novel”* and faith response to the author Terry McMillan on Thursday, April 15 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. May’s book title is *“Fire Proof”* by Eric Wilson. Inside burning buildings, Captain Caleb Holt lives by the firefighter’s adage: *Never leave your Partner*. Yet at home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. Growing up, his wife Catherine always dreamed of marrying a loving, brave firefighter . . . just like her father. Now, after seven years of marriage, she wonders when she stopped being “good enough.” Countless arguments and anger have them wanting to move on to something with more sparks. As they prepare for divorce, Caleb’s father challenges him to commit to a 40-day experiment: *“The Love Dare.”* Wondering if it’s even worth the effort, Caleb reluctantly agrees, not realizing how it will change his world forever. Surprised by what he discovers about the meaning of love, Caleb begins to see his wife and marriage as worth fighting for. But is it too late? His job is to rescue others. Now Captain Holt must face his toughest job ever . . . rescuing his wife’s heart. Hurry and pick up a copy today and begin reading this amazing novel where Christianity works through every sentence and leaks through every page!

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### The Outreach Ministry wants YOU!

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.*  
—1 Peter 4:10

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill some of these key positions. All of these are task oriented and do not require meetings or direct supervision. If any of these areas pique your interest, please reach out to brainstorm with us. These can be shared positions, family units or individuals. They will all fall under the Outreach Ministry but once ‘trained’ and organized the coordinators will be free to plan & implement on their own schedule. Outreach Ministry will assist with recruiting and maintaining a list of working volunteers for individual projects as needed.

- 1) *Special Events Coordinator* ... plan special event opportunities, ie Music Fest float or parade entry, Christmas Walk window, etc.
- 2) *Social Media Facilitator* ... work with church staff to photograph special events & activities and post to social media to encourage members and community members to ‘Come & See’ what’s happening at FLC!
- 3) *Greeter & Fellowship Opportunity Coordinators* ... Schedule weekly greeters & Fellowship volunteers. Assist with special fellowship opportunities if needed.
- 4) *Community Garden Coordinators* ... Plan, plant, maintain and harvest the church garden.
- 5) *Veteran and Active Military Liaisons* ... Work with Social Ministry to annually honor congregational veterans and coordinate outreach to current active military personnel.

Please email [bdbrudos@gmail.com](mailto:bdbrudos@gmail.com) or call Betsy at 945-5496 to discuss where your hands and heart can be of service to First Lutheran Church.



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

114 E. Main Street  
Geneseo, Il 61254-1566  
309-944-3196  
www.firstgeneseo.org  
e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**Rev. Laura Kamprath**  
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

**Rev. Matt Kamprath**  
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

**Morgan Sarber**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
worship@firstgeneseo.org

**Mary Jo Brummet**  
*Parish Administrator*  
mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

**Abbey Cathelyn**  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*  
youth@firstgeneseo.org

**Sherry Dickens**  
*Receptionist*  
receptionist@firstgeneseo.org

**Jim Luikart**  
*Parish Accountant*  
jluikart@firstgeneseo.org

**Charlene Daniels**  
*Custodian*  
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

**Melinda Wildermuth**  
*Staff Musician*

**COUNCIL**

Jodi Barnhart—*President*  
Gary Gesme—*Vice-President*  
Linda Sheley—*Secretary*  
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*

Anne Calder, Lance Camp,  
Johanna Hager, Kathy Heller,  
Jill Laingen, Cathy Runty,  
Mike Slaymaker, Jacob Steffes,  
Phil Wildermuth

**Meeting Schedule:**

Cabinet — Monday, April 12  
Ministries — Monday, April 12  
Council — Monday, April 19

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
THURSDAY, APRIL 8**

**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

**Morgan Sarber**  
Monday-Thursday

**Mary Jo Brummet**  
Monday-Thursday

**Abbey Cathelyn**  
Monday-Wednesday

**Sherry Dickens**  
Monday-Thursday, select hours