



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

August 2017

Volume 56, Issue 8

www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Coming in September!



Faithtime is an evening of “*Sharing Christ’s Love*” through fellowship, food, music & arts, and education for all ages. All members and guests of First Lutheran Church are welcome to participate in any of *Faithtime’s* activities!

Faithtime will be gearing up in September! An exciting year is in store for those who attend. A *Faithtime* Brochure highlighting the complete schedule and opportunities will be coming soon!

Meet Haylee Gustafson

Haylee has been a lifetime member at First Lutheran Church. She has spent a great deal of her childhood being involved in the church; from Sunday school, puppet ministry, confirmation, youth group, and attending two National Youth Gatherings in New Orleans. After High School, she attended Monmouth College where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre with an emphasis on Art Management and Children’s Theatre in 2016. Since then, Haylee has been serving as an AmeriCorps member at Davenport Junior Theatre. Haylee is excited to be on staff at FLC as Director of Youth & Family Ministry and give back to the programs that helped mold her into the person she is today. She hopes to honor Dick and Sara Carlson’s memories with continuing their work in Puppet Ministry and directing children’s plays. Most of all, she wants to create an environment for the kids to grow in their faith, be creative and have fun!

A Rallying Spirit

The summer season at churches around the country, churches usually go into a little sabbatical, a mini-hibernation. And there is nothing wrong with this, it just seems to happen. First Lutheran is no different. People usually go on vacation, the meetings are fewer, and it seems things kind of slow down. Again, that is Ok. However, this summer has been different. It has been busy. Not only has there been seemingly an endless amount of work that needs to be done at church, but my family also received tough news this summer. We learned that my brother Aaron's cancer is not getting better through treatment. Now, don't get me wrong, we are of course hopeful for him. We are hopeful for healing and restoration to some kind of normal, but we also know (*as many know who have cancer, or have had it, or know or love someone who has it*), that this is no picnic. It has been hard during these summer months, as I have been participating in VBS and Adult Sunday School, to get in any kind of upbeat sort of mood. At least, I haven't been able to get myself there. Thankfully, by the grace of God, something has dragged me along.

I feel that at FLC there is a certain atmosphere that is hard to grasp. Amidst all of the preparation and all of the work that goes into a successful program year and all that follows it, there is something that is tough to put your finger on, but is surely here at work behind the scenes. I believe that it is the Holy Spirit at work in this congregation through you. The often misunderstood, and elusive Person of the Trinity, is alive and certainly involved in the life of the faithful, however, most of the time we think we are the ones who bring the Spirit.

We think we are the ones who have to gather the energy, and pull ourselves up, but what I have learned however, is it seems as if the Spirit is the One who takes a hold of us. The Spirit is the One who surrounds us with peace, with comfort, with strength, with trust, and prays for us when we do not know what to say. The Spirit is the One whom Jesus gave us as pure gift, and who is the One who gives all gifts. The Spirit is the One who is working through us, through others, through goodness and mercy, through love and peace. The Spirit is the One, who is sometimes just dragging us along, helping us to make peace with the difficult and the downright grim. The Spirit is the One we have been given and are invited to release unto others. The Spirit helps us with our spirit.

May we continue to invite the Spirit into our lives and into our mission together. May we continue to invite all of God's children, all peoples to the mercy and peace of God. As we soon will move into the program year, into Confirmation, into Faithtime, into choir practice, and rehearsals, and into the many fellowship and service/mission activities that we do, may the Holy Spirit rally in and through us. Amen.

—Pastors Matt

August 5 & 6, 2017

Pentecost 9

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21.

August 12 & 13, 2017

Pentecost 10

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:1-8, 24-31; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15 and Matthew 14:22-33.

August 19 & 20, 2017

Pentecost 11

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 55:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 and Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28.

August 26 & 27, 2017

Pentecost 12

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8 and Matthew 16:13-20.

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**

Adult Education Opportunity

Come and join us on Sunday morning for Adult Education (*confirmation age and up*) from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room A. The topics for the four weeks in August will be as following:

- **August 6** — *Young Adults in Global Mission* (Catie Nelson)
- **August 13** — *Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue* (Pastor Matt)
- **August 20** — *Luther and Vocation* (Pastor Laura)
- **August 27** — *A Historic Overview of the Reformation* (Pastor Lynn Bergren)

Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For our leaders: President Donald J. Trump and Governor Bruce Rauner. For those serving and working in harm's way: 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 and the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in Haiti. For missionaries who share the Gospel around the world, especially Abby Larson, 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: Alwood family, Janet Anderson, Connie, Jim Bowton, Rick Brown, Max Buffington, Judy DeBoever, Mary Devine, Jacob Dobbels, Brantly Francis, Ida Goldsmith, Jill Hartel, Laura Hopkins, Tim Janey, Marla Johnson, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Aaron Kamprath, Evelyn Kline, Sandy Miller, Deb Morris, Scott Pittenger, Bob Pyevich, Cindy Scheckel, Trevor Schefsky, Connie Sellers, Linda Schmidt, Larry Skiles and Marilyn Worple.

Joys: Andrew Guhl has been released from the hospital and is doing well. Doctors are calling his recovery "miraculous". Sherry thanks all for their prayers.

Thanksgiving: For God's presence in all the world and for those tending the children. For being in a supportive community that extends a helping hand to "the least of these" and for the visitors who have been worshipping with us.

Sorrows: On the death of Broc Melton, former member; David Pries, brother of Mike Pries; Bennett Vincent, friend of Jodi & Steve Martin; Richard Moss, son of Julie Elden and grandson of John & Joan Elden; Vincent Hannah, friend of Maurice Nelson and Dirk Wildemuth; and Ronald Larson, former member of FLC, cousin of Jim Larson, and son of Wesley & Helen (Nordling) Larson.

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



Grace Notes from Linda Schmidt, Deacon

I recently attended the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, in Minneapolis. The conference was fabulous, including: a hymn festival with the National Lutheran Choir, sharing Evening Prayer with the monks at St. Johns Abbey in Collegetown, and helpful/practical workshops.

One presentation noted that in 25 years, the “nones”—those with no church affiliation will outnumber Christians in America. The mission field is here! Two of the top reasons the “nones” dismiss church is views toward sexuality, and also lack of care for creation. In this rapidly changing world, this conference both challenged and affirmed the 400 attendees.

Music Camp

Please pray for our 21 Music campers who will be *Celebrating God’s Creation* August 7-11. They will share their gifts during the 9:15 service on August 13.



Music & Movie Night!

All preschool children plus a parent or grandparent are reminded of our Music & Movement Night on Wednesday, August 9 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. There is no fee...just join us as we make music together, watch Veggie Tales, and have a snack. All are welcome!

Men’s Chorus

All men and high school boys are invited to sing with our Men’s Chorus August 26-27. There are 3 rehearsals—please join us at least 2 of the 3:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Monday, August 21 | 6:15-7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, August 23 | 7-7:45 p.m. |
| Saturday, August 26 | 4:30-5 p.m. |

Glory Ringers

Glory Ringers resumes rehearsals on August 24 (yay!). We could use 1 or 2 ringers or substitutes—please talk to me if you are interested. The bells rehearse Thursdays from 7-8:15 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir

I strongly encourage you to consider joining Sanctuary Choir this fall. We will be preparing some exciting music as we look to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The group will also be doing some new music in Advent/Christmas. Our rehearsal are Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m., beginning August 30. Open to all adults and high school youth.

Praise Teams

We have had several new folks join one of our 3 praise teams in the past months...if this is something your are interested in, please talk with me.

Children’s Church

Children’s Church is offered on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10 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 this summer:

9:15-9:30 a.m. — *Welcome, Announcements, Song, Scripture and Children’s Message in sanctuary*

9:30-10 a.m. — *Theme related Games and Activities in classroom setting*

10 a.m. — *Children return to worship in sanctuary*

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

August 6 – *Feeding the Five Thousand*

August 13 – *Jesus Walks on Water*

August 20 – *The Canaanite Woman’s Faith*

August 27 – *Many Members, Many Gifts*

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

Reformation 500



Reformation T-shirts!

First Lutheran Reformation 500 T-shirt or Sweatshirt can be ordered. Youth T-shirts are \$10, Adult T-shirts are \$12, and Adult Crew Sweatshirts are \$20. (*2X cost an additional \$2 and 3X cost an additional \$3*) Be sure to check out the display of samples in the Fellowship Room and order for your family today!

FIRST MINISTRIES

Theology on Tap!

Join Pastor Matt for another 'round' of *Theology on Tap!* We will be exploring primarily the book of Acts of the Apostles. Together we will explore this awesome account of the Holy Spirit's action in the apostles' lives beginning on Tuesday, August 8 at 7 p.m. at Geneseo Brewing Company and going until our final session on September 12. Please RSVP to Pastor Matt at mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org, or simply show up. Friends are welcome to attend.

Save the Dates!

Reformation Fair ~ Sunday, October 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday, October 29 is Reformation Sunday

Luther Advent Reflections

Seeking contributors by October 1



As part of the Reformation 500 celebration, First Lutheran is publishing an Advent Devotional book, inspired by 24 quotes from Martin Luther. For the book, we are asking our members to take a quote (*or two*) from a list the committee has selected and write a half-page reflection. This year we are focusing on how we, as Lutherans, can "*Move Forward in God's Grace*". In other words, we ask that you reflect through the words of Martin Luther on how God's Grace can inspire us as individuals, families, or a Christian community to become better reflections of what God wants for us.

We encourage our members to participate even if they feel they aren't an expert writer. Often sharing everyday experiences and telling simple stories about what inspires us to try to be better Christians are much more meaningful than scholarly articles. You would be surprised how easy it is to fill an 8 ½ x 5 ½ page with 300 to 400 words. If you are inspired to write more, we can print it on a second page. At the end of the page, please include a short prayer.

In late July, each of the Luther quotes will be numbered and printed on a separate sheet and made available at the Welcome Center. Please take one of more sheets and place your name, phone number, and email address next to the number of the quote you have chosen. You are welcome to write directly on that form, or copy it and submit it to the church office as an email attachment. All submissions should be returned to the church office or emailed by October 1, 2017. The devotional will be made available for all families and friends of First Lutheran Church in November so families will be able to begin using it by December 1.

FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

Faithtime Orientation

Families of K-6th graders are invited to attend Orientation on Wednesday, August 30 in the Sanctuary. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. to learn about the exciting things that will be happening this program year! This is a great way to meet teachers and leaders, find out about volunteer opportunities and ask questions. Registration will be sent out soon!

Confirmation Orientation

Confirmation Orientation for 7th & 8th grade students will be Wednesday, August 30 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will do acolyte training and talk about the structure and expectations of the Confirmation Program. This year, we will be using a new curriculum called “Colaborate.” As in past years, the program will still include learning about the Bible and about Luther’s Small Catechism, and also include service and fellowship opportunities.

- Parents, please turn in your student’s registration form to the church office by August 23. Contact Haylee Gustafson or Pastor Laura if you have any questions.

Volunteers Needed

Faithtime is in search of volunteers who can be drivers, teachers, substitutes, and snack time assistants. Also, we are looking for a creative group of people who are willing to take part in the arts and crafts section for the fall session. If you want to volunteer, or have any questions, please email Haylee Gustafson, Director of Youth & Family Ministry at youth@firstgeneseo.org or call the church office.

High School Overnight Camping

All current and incoming high school youth are invited to an overnight camping event at Giant Goose in Atkinson on Friday, August 18 at 6 p.m. (*meet at church*) and will last until 10 a.m. the next day. Along with campfire snacks, fellowship and devotions, there will be an opportunity to fish or learn how to fish with instruction from “expert” anglers in our congregation. All high school youth are welcome plus 1 friend per youth. Hurry and sign up at the Welcome Center.

First Book Club

First Book Club will resume this fall on Wednesday, September 13. Our first book title is *The Glass Castle* written by Jeannette Walls. *The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette’s brilliant and charismatic father captured his children’s imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn’t want the responsibility of raising a family. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family...so hurry and pick up a copy today!

- A complete listing of the 2017-18 book titles and authors is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room.

“God’s work, Our Hands” Sunday

Social Ministry is hosting a special service project for the entire congregation this coming fall season. On Sunday, September 10 (*following 10 a.m. worship*) we join congregations all over the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for “*God’s Work, Our Hands*” Sunday. We will be cleaning up a section of Highway 6 in between Geneseo and Atkinson and also inviting families with young children to clean-up a park or playground in town. This is a church-wide service event open to all. After our clean-up we will gather back at First for lunch and fellowship. We will be providing “*God’s Work, Our Hands*” t-shirts as well as work gloves. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many t-shirts to order. Come and join us as we take care (*steward*) God’s creation and minister to our community!

FIRST MINISTRIES



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Work Day—Kitchen Cleaning!

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful kitchen to use. Please come and lend a hand as we put a sparkling shine on our kitchen! We also plan to clean the windows too! Come and join us on Saturday morning, August 5 anytime between 8 a.m. and noon. Donuts and coffee will be served!

Parent Group

Over the summer months, Pastor Laura has been using the resource “*In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice*” to led a group of parents of children ages 0-18. The schedule will conclude with the lesson “*Take, Read: From Seuss to Scripture*” on Saturday morning, August 5 at 10:30 a.m. in Grace Place. See you there!

Electronic Chimes

In September, we are going to do a test run of emailing the Chimes newsletter. Everyone who has an email address will receive a hard copy at the beginning of September and the electronic copy later in the month. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter electronically, reply to the email or contact the church office. If you do not have an email address on file with the church, please contact the office. We are working hard to reduce cost in the office and be good stewards of God’s creation.

Men’s Church Softball Schedule

Everyone is invited to come and cheer on the First Lutheran team to victory in the Season Ending Double Elimination Tournament August 7-10. The complete tournament schedule will be posted at www.geneseochurchsoftball.wordpress.com as well as rainouts. Go First!

FIRST MINISTRIES



LWR School Kits

First Women's Ministry is still collecting items for Lutheran World Relief "School Kits" through the end of August. During the next few weeks, please clip the "School Kit needs" list and donate what you can in the basket located by the church office. School kits are packed in cloth drawstring backpacks and sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Thank you for giving a child the opportunity to go to school. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future!

List of LWR School Kit Items

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (*no loose-leaf paper*)
- Please Note:** Each school kit requires four of the 70-sheet notebooks.
- rulers (*30 cm*)
 - pencil sharpeners
 - blunt scissors
 - #2 unsharpened pencils
 - black or blue ballpoint pens (*no gel ink*)
 - Crayola crayons (*16 or 24 count*)
 - 2 ½" erasers

Drop Box

Have you ever used the Fellowship Room and wondered what to do with the key when you were done? Have you ever brought your offering to church and left it in the office? Have you ever had something to drop off in the office but when you got there the office was closed? If so, we have a solution for you! Please feel free to use the box attached to the wall outside the church office for these purpose. Thank you!

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, August 2 & 9 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, August 16 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.

Hospitalization

Due to Federal guidelines, known as HIPAA, hospitals are no longer able to contact the church about the hospitalization of one of its members. If you or your loved one is taken to the hospital, be sure to contact the church office at 944-3196.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *pie filling, cereal, microwave popcorn, mandarin oranges, pickles, pain relievers, garbage bags, freezer bags, Q-tips and lotion* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Another way to help! As the school year begins and fall approaches, our clients will be in need of lightweight jackets, long sleeve shirts and jeans as the weather cools off. We are also in need of newborn baby clothing and men's small size clothing. A large number of families and individuals use the items donated by the community to reduce the cost of clothing for their children.

A Note of Thanks!

Thank you, First Lutheran for supporting my participation in the *diakonia* program which is sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod. I will begin my final year in September and new students will join our group. Classes meet on Tuesday evenings at Salem Lutheran Church in Moline during the school year with a break following each class. This is a two-year program.

During the 2016-2017 school year the following classes were presented:

1. *Introduction to the New Testament taught by Pr. Killinger*
2. *Church History: The First 400 Years taught by Pr. Killinger*
3. *Practical Ministry I: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church taught by Pr. Richard Clark*
4. *Lutheran Creeds and Confessions taught by Pr. Stacie Fidler*
5. *Practical Ministry II: Visitation taught by Pr. Stacie Fidler*
6. *The Daily Life of the Christian taught by Pastor Randy Willers.*

During the 2017-2018 school year the following classes will be presented:

1. *Introduction to the Old Testament*
2. *Lutheran Faith in the American Context*
3. *Christian Doctrine*
4. *Christian Worship*
5. *Themes & Issues in Christian Ethics*
6. *Practical Ministry III: Communicating the Gospel*

What an incredible journey this has been! I am changed! I read the Bible so differently now. I hear Christ's call to *share the good news* and to *love one another* and to *welcome all* at a deeper level. I believe that the challenges we face in our churches can and will prompt us to reflect and recommit, to have important conversations in our families and in our congregations, to listen and to learn about needs unmet in our communities, and to then challenge ourselves and each other to Share Christ's Love more consistently, more effectively and more joyously! We must be *mission driven* and our mission is to live our lives in such a way that others will be drawn to what we have been given by Jesus Christ, drawn to be a part of a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, and drawn to God whom we seek to glorify.

I invite each of you to consider participation in the *diakonia* program. It is a commitment of time and resources but so worth it. First Lutheran members Steve Hawk and Randy Mullin have already completed the program. You may contact any of us with questions. We would be happy to offer encouragement and any assistance we can provide.

Thank you again for your support.

In Christ, Sherry Dickens

Thank You!

I want to say "*thank you*" to all the "*Maker Fun Factory*" volunteers! Without all of our 35 volunteers, we could not have enjoyed five great nights. We had 71 children enjoy an incredible Bible-learning experience. They got to see, hear, touch, and even taste the stories. When asking a group of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, the imagination station and the team building games were among their favorite. For the preschoolers, the music was the best part. Not just the music time, they listened to and sang the songs many times in the classroom and had their own dance party! Our mission project was to collect new and gently used blankets for families in Romina. We collected 55 blankets! Thanks again to all the volunteers for helping and thank you for allowing your children to attend VBS!

Jenn Johnson



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, August 14
Council — Monday, August 14
Ministries — Monday, August 21

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8**

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
Haylee Gustafson, Director of
Youth & Family Ministry
Monday, Wednesday, Friday