



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

August 2019
Volume 58, Issue 8
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!
Saturday 5:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Back to School Blessings

The weekend of August 10 & 11 will be a chance for First Lutheran to offer Back to School Blessings for our students, teachers, and all who are gearing up for a new school year. Children and students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a blessing and receive a tag for their backpack! There will also be a blessing for teachers and those who work in the schools.



Coming in September!



Faithtime is an afternoon and evening of “*Sharing Christ's Love*” through fellowship, music, education, and a meal 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!

Some Holy Time

About a year ago, Linda Schmidt and I were working with a small team of women in the congregation to organize a women's retreat. Linda had brought the idea to me, as a way to help the women in our congregation connect with one another and connect with God. 24 hours away (*not far – in the Quad Cities*), for some time alone with God, and some time spent with other faithful women. We originally planned the retreat for January 2019, thinking that after the holiday season and at the beginning of a new calendar year, many women would welcome an opportunity to take some time to renew their faith.

Sadly, the January retreat never happened. We cancelled it, even though we did have a few women registered, because it was so soon after Linda's death, and it was really Linda's vision coming to fruition. The rest of the team did not feel emotionally equipped to carry it out at that point. But we planned to reschedule and regroup, and we've done that.

The FLC Women's Retreat is set to take place on Friday, November 22 through Saturday, November 23. We will gather at 5 p.m. on Friday and begin with supper, and plan to conclude at about 4 p.m. on Saturday. We will meet at Benet House Retreat Center at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island. St. Mary is home to a group of Benedictine sisters, and part of their ministry is hosting groups and providing spiritual programs at the retreat center. We will stay overnight on campus at Benet House; participants can choose a single room or choose a roommate and a double room. I fully plan to be there, although I will be 38 ½ weeks pregnant by then. (*Of course, baby may have other plans.*)

The theme of the retreat will be "Joy" – finding it, holding onto it, sharing it with others, and embracing it as a gift from God.

Friday evening will be a time of fellowship, games, snacks, and sharing. On Saturday, our retreat leader Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann will lead us in Bible Study and other retreat activities. There will also be time for a walk, a nap, reading, or whatever else may bring you joy.

Our target age for this retreat is fairly wide – we hope to gather as a group of young women (*those who are just beginning careers or discerning other major life decisions as young adults*), busy mothers (*of babies through teenagers*), and those in the "sandwich" generation (*those simultaneously caring for young adult children and aging parents*). The weekend we have chosen is intentional – right before Thanksgiving, when the holiday season gets going at full speed.

If you're a woman of FLC, I pray that you will consider attending. If you're not a woman of FLC, or if you're a woman who is not able to attend, please consider encouraging others to attend. Husbands – this would be a great gift for your wife! Registration forms are available at the Resource Center and online. If the registration cost is a financial burden for someone who wishes to attend, please let me know, as we can find a way to make it happen.

We hope that this is just the beginning of a series of spiritual retreats offered by the congregation. Matt and Anna and I are already looking forward to Family Camp next summer at LOMC, and our goal is to have enough families join us next year that we can fill a whole lodge with FLC people! It is good for us to be together, not only in worship and ministry each week, but also in times that we have set aside for spiritual renewal. The word "holy" simply means "set aside for a divine purpose." If we set aside the time, God will make it holy.

—Pastor Laura

August 3 & 4, 2019

Pentecost 8

This weekend's texts include Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21.

August 10 & 11, 2019

Pentecost 9

This weekend's texts include Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40.

August 17 & 18, 2019

Pentecost 10

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2 and Luke 12:49-56.

August 24 & 25, 2019

Pentecost 11

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29 and Luke 13:10-17.

Worship & Music Opportunities

I would like to personally invite everyone to come share their talents this year!

- **Sanctuary Choir** (*high school and adult singers*) resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, August 28 at 7 p.m.
- **Glory Ringers** will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 12—and we need 2 more youth or adult ringers!
- **Praise Teams** Are you interested in singing or playing (*guitar, bass and drums*) on a praise team? We would love for you to join us!

Please contact Morgan Sarber, Director of Worship & Music if you have any questions or would like to share your gifts and talents!

We are always happy to welcome more ushers/altar guild/greeters/lectors/nursery volunteers/communion servers. Any gift of your time or talents is appreciated greatly!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For our leaders: President Donald J. Trump and Governor J.B. Pritzker. For all who work for peace and justice. For those serving our country in the military, especially Raul Falcon, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, Taylor McKean, Jessica Ruggles, 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 Meyan 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 Another Child Foundation. 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: Kate _____ (*Karen Myhre's friend*), Dave Ahlstrand, Glen Anderson, Carol Breczinski (*Gladys Hulting's daughter and Gail Hutchinson's sister*), Bob DeBoever, Kurt Horberg, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Joyce Maher (*Sherry Dickens' friend*), Rudy Rexroth and Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*).

Joys: For the 79 children and 32 volunteers who made our voyage "To Mars and Beyond!" a great week of Vacation Bible School, as we learned about faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness, and hope through Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving: Our prayers have been answered! Bob DeBoever's surgery went well. Thank you for all the prayers.

Sorrows: On the death of Pastor Richard Housman, retired.

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

FIRST PRAYER

FIRST MINISTRIES



GIFT (*Growing in Faith Together*)

Adult Small Group will continue to meet on Sunday morning in Conference Room A, 10:15–11:00 a.m. Participant books for the summer quarter are available when you come to class or in the church office. The theme for the summer quarter is “Living in Covenant,” and during the month of August we will explore covenants among friends and family and the uniqueness of the marriage covenant. Here are the August lessons:

August 4 – A Covenant between Friends (*1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7*)

August 11 – A Mother-Daughter Covenant (*Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18*)

August 18 – A Covenant to Marry (*Ruth 3:1-6, 8-12, 16-18*)

August 25 – Marriage: A Covenant of Mutual Love (*Ephesians 5:21-33*)

- Saturday Adult Small Group and classes for Children and Youth are on break until September 7 & 8.

Summertime Fun at the Pool!

Come and soak up the sun at First Lutheran’s Pool Party at the Geneseo Aquatic Center on Sunday, August 4. First Lutheran has reserved the Poolside Room from 3-5 p.m. and will provide sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages during that time. Pool hours are from noon-6 p.m. and families can use their pool passes or pay \$7 per person to enter the Aquatic Center and swim as much as you like! Kids under 2 years of age are free! Everyone is welcome—see you there for sun, fun and fellowship!



Share In The Joy: Capital Campaign for 2020-2021 needs your help

In 2006, First Lutheran Church added much needed space at the cost of \$2.6 million dollars. We have been blessed to use this space for various programs. In December of this year we will have a remaining building debt of around \$168,000 with a maturity date of April 2022. As previously communicated, our two-year goal for 2020-2021 is \$168,000 to finish paying off our debt by December 2021. Any gifts above \$168,000 will go into the Building Fund.

As of today, First Lutheran Church has received pledges and cash gifts from 19 members and families for a total of \$72,070. We would to thank all those who have made a pledge. If you have not done so, we invite and encourage you to participate in this Campaign. We need your help to reach our goal so that we can all share in the joy of being debt-free!

Please prayerfully consider joining your fellow members in making a pledge. A gift or pledge of any amount will make a difference. Please pick up a pledge card at the Welcome Center or church office. You can return the pledge card to the church office or place it in the offering plate during worship. We are asking for pledges to be returned by the weekend of August 17 & 18. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

—Stewardship Ministry Team

Faithtime Kids Programming (Grades K-6th)

Faithtime Kids is coming quicker than we know it on September 11! Registration is open, get a form on our website or at the Welcome Center! There is a registration fee of \$10 to help with certain activities and service projects that the children will participate in the program. Each Wednesday, Kindergartners through 6th graders will begin with an opening that includes a fun Bible story video. After that, they will be participating in Bible learning, music, games and service projects! This year, we are excited to be using a new curriculum called Orange. Each month will have a theme to go along with the Bible stories. Check out next month's Chimes to see what our first theme is!

- *Parents of Faithtime!* — We have made a Facebook group, Faithtime at FLC where you will find pictures, reminders and all things Faithtime. Ask join today!
- *Volunteers Needed* — Faithtime is in search of volunteers who can be drivers to help pick up kids from schools, snack time assistants when the kids come in, leaders to help guide kids to each session and help with Bible time, and substitutes. If you want to volunteer, or have questions, please email Haylee Gustafson at youth@firstgeneseo.org.

Confirmation Camp at LOMC



Sidney Spindell, Imogene Green, Carleigh Norton, Haylee Gustafson, Connor Minnert, Ryley Rowold, Caleb Hartman, Ethan Ernst, Jacob Hartman

Did You Know?

In June, we had 8 of our confirmation youth go to LOMC Camp in Oregon, IL. They explored the theme Salt and Light: *You are the SALT of the Earth. You are the LIGHT of the World.* They had a chance to go canoeing, hiking, and ziplining. It was a fun experience for all of them!

Youth Kick-off

Confirmation and High School youth are invited to come to the Youth Kick-Off at the Gustafson Farm on Sunday, August 18 from 4-7 p.m. There will be swimming, games, a zipline, a bonfire and lots of food! They are welcome to bring a friend! RSVP to Haylee Gustafson, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, if you are coming! It's going to be a blast!

Youth Group

Youth group is starting up again on September 4! Grades 9th-12th are welcome to join us in the Youth Room on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. Each month will have a theme to go with the Bible study! We will play games, do service projects and learn more about God's Word! Come and join in the fun of Wednesdays and find out what is the theme for September!

FIRST MINISTRIES



Thank You!

Dear members of First Lutheran Church, Thank you for your hospitality for our cyclists. Thank you for host families providing space and meals for our people. Thank you for the wonderful breakfast and sharing yourself in our Bible study. Thank you for your generosity for ELCA World Hunger and Cycle to Synod!

In Christ, *Cycle to Synod*

Grace Hoening
Pastor Jamie Gallagher
Thanks Don Giffman
Carol Erickson
Herde Geddes
Ryann Conway
Amy Hoening
Pastor Max Vaupe
Elijah Hoening

Thank You

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive this scholarship. It will help greatly with my tuition at Concordia University Wisconsin. I'm very excited to begin my education to become an occupational therapist.

With Love,
Hannah Himmelman

Thank You

Thank you to all of the volunteers that donated both items and their time to help VBS run smoothly! Without you we wouldn't have been able to put on this incredible week for these 79 kids! Your dedication to this program means the world to us!

Thank you to everyone that helped make Music Camp a success! Some of the highlights from the week were making African maori sticks, playing paint twister, and enjoying our afternoon outings to the pool, HHH Extended Care and mini golf.

—*Morgan Sarber & Jen Johnson*

First Book Club

First Book Club will resume this fall on Wednesday, September 11. Our first book title is *1984* written by George Orwell. In *1984*, London is a grim city in the totalitarian state of Oceania where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston Smith is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be. *1984* is a profound, terrifying, and wholly fascinating book...so hurry and pick up a copy today!

- A complete listing of the 2019-20 book titles and authors is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room.

A Note of Thanks

Dear First Lutheran Church,
 Thank you to everyone for your kind contributions and support; I am tremendously grateful for the help given to me by the church I grew up in. This scholarship will go a long way in providing some relief in my academic studies at Bradley University. I'm pursuing a degree in English and am grateful to continue my education here while thinking fondly of those back home. Once again, I appreciate the support First Lutheran has shown to its college students and young adults entering the world. Thank you!

—*Carly Luciani*

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 join us on Wednesday, August 7 & 14 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, August 21 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.

Theology On Tap!

Come and join Pastor Matt for another 'round' of Theology on Tap at Geneseo Brewing Company in downtown Geneseo at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays! Together we will explore *The Letters of John* during the month of September and in November we will do a Bible study on Ezekiel. Everyone is welcome!

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *frosting, muffin mix, chocolate chips, salsa, coffee, freezer bags, denture cleaner, denture adhesive, bleach and garbage bags* 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. We are especially in need of towels, washcloths, sheet sets, and baby/toddler clothing. A large number of families and individuals use the items donated by the community to reduce the cost of clothing for their children.

LWR School Kits

Items for Lutheran World Relief school kits are still being collected 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!

FIRST MINISTRIES



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

Congregation Garden

If you have not yet explored our Congregational Garden, this is a perfect time to do so! You will find it south of the back parking lot and east of the small garage. We are already harvesting produce! We have tomatoes (*slicer, roma's and cherry tomatoes*), green beans, and zucchini. Peppers are getting close. Sweet corn will be available soon. The Outreach Ministry will be harvesting and produce will be made available in the Fellowship Room on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. Donations will be accepted but are not required. No chemical insecticides or herbicides have been applied to the garden. We hope you enjoy the fresh produce.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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COUNCIL

Cathy Runty—*President*
Scott Fitzpatrick—*Vice-President*
Brian Hofer—*Secretary*
Gary Gesme—*Treasurer*

Jodi Barnhart, Roger Bengtson,
Ray Bergles, Nancy Cassens,
Gary Daniels, Johanna Hager,
Cheryl Saint Vincent, Patty Turner,
Taylor Wildermuth

Meeting Schedule:
Cabinet — Monday, August 12
Ministries — Monday, August 12
Council — Monday, August 19

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 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

Sherry Dickens
Monday-Thursday, select hours

Haylee Gustafson
Monday-Thursday