



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

August 2020
Volume 59, Issue 8
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 premiered on Facebook &

YouTube Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Back to School Blessings

The weekend of August 8 & 9 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. This time of blessing will be a part of all weekend worship opportunities, including online worship.



Coming in September!



Faithtime is an evening of “*Sharing Christ's Love*” through fellowship, music and education. Faithtime Kids (*grades K-6*) will be gearing up in September! An exciting year is in store for those who attend. See pages 4 & 5 for more information.

Patience

Judging by the title of this newsletter article, you could probably easily guess that this will be about patience, and our lack thereof. You're right. We struggle with being patient. I struggle with being patient. Period. I know very few people who weren't climbing the walls during the quarantine either to get out and have a little freedom unburdened by four walls, or just to simply see again people they love. I am in that boat. I have realized in the midst of all of this, that I don't have the patience of a saint. I thought that being a pastor for almost ten years has taught me a little bit more about patience, because in the church everything moves a little slower, it takes time to build relationships, and to do ministry, and to craft a sermon, and we have to wait for God to act, but I digress. Most of the time, I still find myself often impatient with myself or others. Are you in that boat too?

Thankfully, there are a bunch of Bible verses that stress often the need for patience. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant." (*1 Corinthians 13:4*) "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (*Romans 12:12*) "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." (*Ephesians 4:2*) "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." (*Lamentations 3:25-27*). I could keep going on showing different verses about bearing patience, and thankfully it does help to know that this has always been a struggle for people of faith, but being patient is still a lot of work and it is

something I have had to bear. There is a duty to sit and be patient. Often enough though, I am finding out that after being forced to be a little more patient during this pandemic, that this duty surprisingly enough, turns into a delight.

Scripture takes its time to remind us, to take our time, for in God's time, we wait. The time we have been given is a gift from God. I believe with all of my heart that it takes eyes of faith to see that this time we are living in, is still a gift. We are called in this time to trust that there has been so much time before us, times that have been as difficult as this, and there will be so much time after us, as we bear patience together for God to act. We wait together for there to be healing. We wait together for an end to division. We wait together for there is nothing better to do right now. We wait together, for in all times, it is God's time, of which we see only a sliver.

As we return to worship inside the church building this August after four months of a pandemic and still very much in the middle of one, may we again be reminded to be patient. Please be patient, when things are not the way you remember them for worship. It will be very different and we are grieving this loss too. Please be patient with others who may express other opinions from the ones you hold. Please be patient with those who are making decisions and are leading, for its difficult leading in this time. Please be patient when things might change yet again. Please bear patience with yourself and with others, for in doing so, we bear one another in love as we have first been supported and strengthened in love for all time, Amen.

—Pastor Matt

August 1 & 2, 2020

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 8 & 9, 2020

Pentecost 10

This weekend's texts 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15 and Matthew 14:22-33.

August 15 & 16, 2020

Pentecost 11

This weekend's texts Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 and Matthew 15:10-28.

August 22 & 23, 2020

Pentecost 12

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

August 29 & 30, 2020

Pentecost 13

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28.

**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 health care workers. For all who work for peace and justice. For those serving our country in the military, especially Raul Falcon, Josh Francis, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, Geoffrey Lindesmith, 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 Meiyani 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. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: For all who are fighting COVID-19, Michele _____ (*Jodi Martin's friend*), AJ & Kali Brudos (*Dan & Betsy Brudos' son and daughter-in-law*), Marcia Green, Matt Peterson, (*Kathy Nelson's friend's son*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Deanna Swanson, and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: On the births of Madelyn Lea McLaughlin, daughter of Tyler & Stefanie McLaughlin and granddaughter of Rene & Suzi Sandoval; and Hattie James Hughes, daughter of Bethany & Austin Hughes, granddaughter of Matt & Leslie Storm and great-granddaughter of Stan & Linda Storm; and Brooks Christopher Brieser, son of Hannah Sheley and Wyatt Brieser, grandson of Rich & Linda Sheley.

Thanksgiving: Griffin Fleming, son of Michelle Fleming and grandson of Mike & Ethel Pries has been honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corp. Thank you for the many prayers for him. It is very much appreciated!

Sorrows: On the deaths of Don Anderson, member; Robert "Bob" Reade, father of Erin Murphy; Myrna R. Johnson, former member; and William "Bill" Rutherford, member.

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



Free milk

Please come to Save A Lot from 6 to 7 p.m. every Thursday night this summer to get a free gallon of milk! Eli Palmer coordinates this program, funded by donors from the community and Save A Lot.

First Lutheran Preschool *Substitute Teachers Needed*

First Lutheran Preschool is looking for additional substitute teachers. If you are interested please contact Misty Slaymaker at (309) 714-2838 or email preschool@firstgeneseo.org.

Faithtime Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help Faithtime be successful. We are currently in need of:

- 4 volunteers to assist in grade level classrooms (K-1, 2-3, 4, 5-6) No preparation required
- 2 volunteers to lead "Motion" time which would consist of art or creative drama. Lessons and supplies would be provided for you

Please contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministries (youth@firstgeneseo.org) if you would like to volunteer!

Council Highlights for July 13 & 20, 2020

The Church Council met in a Special Meeting on July 13, 2020 to address the current worship format. It was agreed that live worship services will be offered indoors starting on August 1, 2020, within the guidelines recommended and approved through the On Site Worship Task Force. Worship services will continue to be available online for those who prefer not to attend in person. The regular meeting of the Church Council was held on July 20, 2020. Ministries will continue to meet as they are able, and are welcome to use the church facilities beginning August 1. Building & Property Ministry is collecting bids for sealing the south parking lot.

Old Business

- Work continues on the transfer of finances to Charles Schwab.

New Business

- A \$500 request for funds from the Faith Formation Fund was approved to purchase an iPad to be used for worship and other church activities.
- The Preschool has made plans to resume classes in the fall, and will be allowed to use the space as needed after August 1.
- Plans are in the works for Faithtime to resume in the fall.

June Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

June actual	\$23,084
June budget	\$32,833
YTD actual	\$259,060
YTD budget	\$251,498

Net Income Over Expenses:

June actual	\$6,464 deficit
June budget	\$4,838 deficit
YTD actual	\$36,806 surplus
YTD budget	\$5,698 surplus

FLC Youth (*Grades 9-12*)

FLC Youth will meet the first and third Sunday of the month to do either a service project or fellowship/devotion. A complete list of activities for the first part of the year will be sent out soon. Our first gathering will be on Sunday, September 13 for “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday. Details TBD.

Did You Know?

A brand new stained glass window adorns our Fellowship Room! The new window was given in loving memory of Wendy Thompson by her family. It features Jesus welcoming the little children (*Matthew 19:13-15*). We will bless the window at a later date, when we are able to gather.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Glory Ringers

The Glory Ringers bell choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 10, from 7- 8:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will wear masks and properly social distance—and we are looking for 2 more youth or adult ringers! Contact Morgan Sarber (worship@firstgeneseo.org) if you are interested in ringing!



BLOOD DRIVE

All donors will receive a voucher for a \$10 gift card!

First Lutheran Church
Sponsored by Social Ministry

Tuesday, August 25
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Room
114 E Main Street

Appointments are necessary and can be made by checking the MVRBC website or calling or texting Nancy Cassens at (309) 507-1684.

Please eat before donation. Must have photo ID to donate.

TROOPER TRACY Blood Donor/Advocate

WWW.BLOODCENTER.ORG

Wednesday Night FAITHTIME at FIRST!

Faithtime Registration is Open! Faithtime begins Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for children in grades K-6. A letter and registration link were sent via email to all our families of children in grades K-6. If you did not receive an email and are interested in joining Faithtime, please contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministries (youth@firstgeneseo.org). Registration deadline is Sunday, August 30.

Faithtime will once again be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. These kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Supplies can be dropped off on the table underneath the “*Come and See*” bulletin board. We will be collecting the following items:

70 sheet-wide or college ruled spiral notebooks, 16 or 24 count crayons, rulers, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, pencil sharpener, 2 ½” eraser, safety scissors, black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel please)

Volunteers will assemble school kits and distribute accordingly.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Lutheran World Relief *School Kits*

Items for Lutheran World Relief school kits will be collected in 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

Thank You!

“*Thank you*” to those of you who came to our “*Drive-thru Beach Bash!*” We had so much fun seeing everyone! We have missed you all so much and look forward to seeing you in the fall!



A Special Note of Thanks!

First Lutheran Preschool would like to offer a special *Thank You* to those Thrivent members who have directed their monies to our program through Thrivent Financial’s Choice Program. We appreciate these donations to our preschool where we provide enriching classes in a safe and nurturing environment. The children are reminded of God’s love for them as they grow socially, intellectually and emotionally. Your donations are used to continue to enhance our program.

First Book Club

Book Club plans are in development and will be announced in the September Chimes. The book for September will be *The Dollmaker of Krakow* by R.M. Romero, since Book Club didn’t get to meet in April. *In the land of dolls, there is magic. In the land of humans, there is war. Everywhere there is pain. But together there is hope.* Karolina is a living doll whose king and queen have been overthrown. But when a strange wind spirits her away from the Land of the Dolls, she finds herself in Kraków, Poland, in the company of the Dollmaker, a man with an unusual power and a marked past. The Dollmaker has learned to keep to himself, but Karolina’s courageous and compassionate manner lead him to smile and to even befriend a violin-playing father and his daughter—that is, once the Dollmaker gets over the shock of realizing a doll is speaking to him. But their newfound happiness is dashed when Nazi soldiers descend upon Poland. Karolina and the Dollmaker quickly realize that their Jewish friends are in grave danger, and they are determined to help save them, no matter what the risks. Hurry and pick up a copy today of this astonishing debut novel that will have a lasting impact on everyone who reads it!

- A complete listing of the 2020-21 book titles and authors is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room in September.

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

Did you know... The Food Pantry is open to take food and clothing donations on Mondays only from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–4 p.m. There will be carts outside for you to place your donations in. They will continue to distribute food on Tuesdays from 9–11:30 a.m. They will remain closed all other hours.

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *instant oatmeal, canned meats, egg noodles, toothpaste and paper towels* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

We would like to thank you for the many monetary donations that have been made over the past few months. We live in a wonderful community that really comes together for our neighbors in need. We are passing along the gratitude shown over and over from those whose lives you've touched.

Words of Thanks

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, flowers, and expressions of sympathy on the death of my brother Don Anderson. He was a special brother.

Gladys Swanson

Thank You!

Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thanks for the uber gift card you gave me.
That was very kind of you to do that.

Your friend,
Jacob Martin

Thank You

Dear First Lutheran,
Thank you for your gifts and for your support. I will keep you all in mind while pursuing my future.

Sincerely,
Bailey McKean

A Note of Thanks!

Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the graduation card and uber gift card! I really appreciate it and plan to put it to good use. I'm looking forward to being able to go to church services in person again. I've had a great time as a member of FLC over the past 12 years. Thanks again for all the support!

Sincerely,
Lauren Belvel :)

Thank You!

Thank you for helping me continue my pursuit for a career as a High School Mathematics teacher. I hope to enrich the lives of others and help kids reach their potential, not only in math but also in life. The world we live in today is scary, but we can continue to view the world with hope for the future, and the future lies in children. Church has been a fundamental part of my life since I was a young kid. The best part about growing up in the church is a sense of community and a deep understanding of the importance of compassion. I hope to live my life with compassion for my fellow man. Thank you for your ongoing support, compassion, and encouragement as I continue my education.

God Bless,
Bek Hartman



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cathy Runty—*President*
Johanna Hager—*Vice-President*
Jodi Barnhart—*Secretary*
Gary Gesme—*Treasurer*

Anne Calder, Lance Camp,
Kathy Heller, Jill Laingen,
Cheryl Saint Vincent, Linda Sheley,
Mike Slaymaker, Patty Turner

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, August 10
Ministries — Monday, August 10
Council — Monday, August 17

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6**

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-Thursday

Sherry Dickens
Monday-Thursday, select hours