



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

December 2018
Volume 57, Issue 12
www.firstgeneseo.org

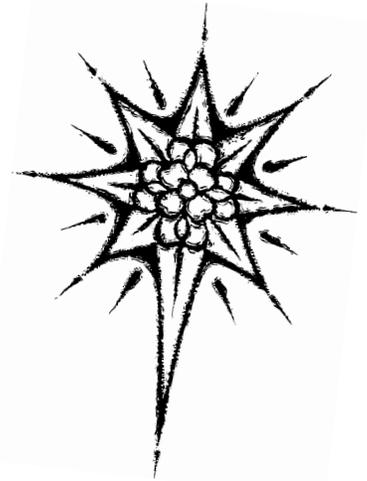
Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

*Come and Rejoice
at the Birth of our Savior*



One Service Weekend
Sunday, December 23 at 9-10:30 a.m.

Breakfast in Bethlehem

Please join us on Sunday, December 23 from 9-10:30 a.m. for a hot breakfast and to celebrate the birth of our Savior through dramatic readings, music, and by meeting some of the people that were witnesses to that first Christmas morning.

Christmas Eve, December 24

5, 7 & 10 p.m. — *Candlelight, Carols & Communion*

5 p.m. Family service with a Children's Message; traditional carols will be sung and Glory Ringers will lead worship.

7 p.m. Family service with a Children's Message; praise team will lead worship.

10 p.m. Worship led by Sanctuary Choir, brass and organ.

Christmas Day, December 25

10 a.m. — *Carols & Communion*

10 a.m. A joyful and simple Communion service. First Lutheran again hosts a free Community Dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

One Service Weekend

Saturday, December 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

GIFT - Growing in Faith

We are moving closer and closer to the launch of our new faith formation program GIFT on January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in between worship services. Along with all the plans for Advent and Christmas, we are busy planning for the roll-out of this new program. We are very excited for it and are hoping that, along with Faithtime on Wednesdays, this program will be another opportunity for people of all ages (*preschool to adult*) to explore God's word in both a large and small group format.

Pr. Laura and I are hoping and praying that as we study scripture together, enjoy fellowship, and talk with one another, the Holy Spirit will be at work encouraging us as we dream and envision where God is leading us as a whole.

We look to begin planning and visioning for the next ten years here at FLC, but first we believe that studying scripture is key to beginning this process.

As we begin this process of visioning, we need your help to make this program a success. I know this is only December, and there is a lot to do as Christmas approaches, but maybe being a part of this program can be your New Year's resolution.

- Maybe you have always wanted to read the Bible; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you have wanted to meet new people within this congregation; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you are looking for educational opportunities for your child or yourself; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you want to see where God is in your life; come to GIFT.

- Maybe you want to deepen your faith life; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you want to lead a small group or teach a class for 6-8 weeks; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you don't know what this is all about; come to GIFT.
- Maybe you want to create a time for your whole family to grow in faith together; come to GIFT.

We hope that you resolve to be a part of the life that God is calling you toward and we believe this faith formation program will help us all to see God active and alive not only in our lives, but in this congregation as a whole. You will be receiving in the mail a registration form for your whole family. We ask that you consider participating as a member and/or as a leader of a small group.

What we are preparing for this Advent and Christmas season is for the Gift of all gifts, Jesus the Christ. May we prepare for him to be born anew in our lives, in the world, and in our community of faith.

*In Christ,
Pastor Matt*

December 1 & 2, 2018

Advent 1

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-36.

December 8 & 9, 2018

Advent 2

This weekend's texts include Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 3:1-6.

December 15 & 16, 2018

Advent 3

This weekend's texts include Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:7-18.

December 23, 2018

One Service Weekend/Breakfast in Bethlehem — 9-10:30 a.m.

Please Note: No Informal Worship on Saturday

December 24, 2018

Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve Candlelight, Carols & Communion at 5, 7 and 10 p.m.

Texts include Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14 and Luke 2:1-20.

December 25, 2018

Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day Carols & Communion at 10 a.m.

This day's texts include Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 and John 1:1-14.

December 29, 2018

One Service Weekend/Christmas Lessons & Carols at 5:30 p.m.

Please Note: No Traditional or Contemporary Worship on Sunday

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**



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, Brian Hanshaw (*Jan & Steve Weber's son-in-law*), Connor Luxmore, Taylor McKean, Jessica Ruggles, Christopher Schwake, 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, especially Abby Larson, Young Adults in Global Mission. 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. 10).

Health and Wellbeing: Deb _____ (*Diana Baca's friend*), Judy DeBoever, Becky Gernant (*Maurie & Brenda Nelson's friend*), Kurt Horberg, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Rudy Rexroth, Linda Schmidt, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Deloras Sterling and Wendy Thompson (*Linda Mullin's daughter*).

Joys: Baptism of Evelyn Rose Kline, daughter of Ian & Valerie Kline.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the death of Karen Taber, sister of Barb Burghgrave.

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

Christmas Poinsettia Garden

Poinsettias for our Christmas Garden may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. This year's plants will be large 4-5 bloom plants which will cost \$18.00. Order and payment are due by Sunday, December 9.

Altar Flowers for 2019!

Altar flowers can be donated in honor or memory of a loved one, special occasion, or simply for the glory of God. The cost of two arrangements is \$45. If you would like to purchase altar flowers in 2019, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Angel Tree

Our Christmas tradition continues here at First with the support of an "Angel Tree" which will provide Christmas gifts for a local family from the Geneseo/Atkinson Food Pantry and those in need in the Geneseo area.

Social Ministry invites you to select an angel of your choice, purchase the gift, wrap it in a gift bag and place it under the Angel Tree by *Sunday, December 9*. (Please be sure to attach your angel to the wrapped gift, so we can get it to the appropriate recipient.)

Thank you for helping celebrate our Savior's birth with those in need. Through the years, our church has touched the lives of so many in our community with our Angel Tree and the gifts are greatly appreciated.

Parents Day Out



Saturday, December 15

10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

First Lutheran Church

Drop off your children, ages 0-13, for games, crafts, lunch, and a movie, while you spend time shopping, wrapping, cleaning, baking, or just relaxing!

Sign up at the Welcome Center or
RSVP to the church office by December 12
309-944-3196 or lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Cost is \$15 per child, maximum \$50 per family
All proceeds will benefit the Osupuko Parish in Tanzania

Jul Gott Benefit

First Lutheran's annual "Jul Gott" on Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Room. A variety of Christmas goodies will be available, Silent Auction Craft Show, Gingerbread House Contest, plus a cooking demonstration by Chef Stephanie Godke from 10-11 a.m. Proceeds will be divided equally among Backpack Blessings, Geneseo/Atkinson Food Panty and Lutheran World Hunger.

Breakfast In Bethlehem

On Sunday morning, December 23 from 9:00-10:30 a.m., you are invited to *Breakfast in Bethlehem*. Join us in the Fellowship Room as we celebrate the birth of Christ through, food, fun, fellowship, dramatic readings & music, worship & communion.

9:00 a.m. – Arrive for seating, fellowship, photo opportunities, craft projects and fun activities for kids.

9:30 a.m. – Breakfast (\$4.00 for adults & children 12+, \$2.00 for children under 12).

10:00 a.m. – Worship by experiencing dramatic reenactments of our Savior's birth, music, & Holy Communion.

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.

This month we recognize the serving hearts of Mike & Marlee Steiner. Mike and Marlee prefer not to lead programs and projects. They would rather be available to help whenever there is a need at church as well as with family members, friends and neighbors. Together they serve as hosts with the Funeral Ministry team. Together they assist with First Friends Luncheons. For six years they volunteered at Royal Kids Camp, a Christian caring program for abandoned, abused and neglected children. Marlee currently helps with Faithtime and is a weekly volunteer at the Colona food Pantry. Thank you, Mike and Marlee, for sharing your love, time and talents with so many!

FIRST MINISTRIES



**MIKE & MARLEE
STEINER**

Community Christmas Dinner

Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:9-10

First Lutheran will host a free Christmas dinner for the community on Christmas Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Deliveries will be available for those who are homebound. Volunteers and monetary donations are needed for this annual ministry. Volunteers can sign up at the Welcome Center to cook and set-up tables on Sunday, December 23 as well as to serve and deliver meals on Christmas Day. Contact Janet Larson at 507-2997 for delivery information.

Joy!

First Lutheran Women's Retreat

January 4. 5:00 p.m.

January 5. 4:00 p.m.

*Benet House ~ St. Mary's Monastery, Rock Island
God has called us to take time to refresh and refocus
Begin a new year with new perspectives for busy
mothers and working women.*

Reserve before 12/2/18:

Single Room \$70 Double \$62

Late registration:

Single \$80 Double \$72

3 meals, bedding and towels included

Registration forms are available at the display in the Fellowship Room. For more information, contact Pastor Laura lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org or Betsy

Brudos bdbrudos@gmail.com.

Ministry Focus: *Worship & Music*

Throughout December our congregation's worship and music ministry shines brightly to our eyes, rings clearly to our ears and lifts our hearts as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But before every worship service come many, many rehearsals, planning sessions, coordination of volunteers and many prayers for inspiration! Through all this effort we encounter worship that is enlightening, meaningful, spiritual and celebratory. Our Stewardship Team invites you to take time this December to thank all who share their gifts to make our weekly worship experiences so full of joy and life. And whether or not you know the song—sing BOLDLY! It's music to God's ears.

FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry: Faithtime *(Wednesdays Afterschool)*

All children Grades K-6

3:15-3:45 p.m.	Check In, Snack, Opening Activities in Fellowship Room
3:45-5:25 p.m.	Message, Music, Motion & Games Rotation
5:25-5:30 p.m.	Closing in Sanctuary
5:30 p.m.	Check Out in Sanctuary

Please Note: *No Faithtime on Wednesday, December 26 and January 2, 2019.*

Faithtime Christmas Party!

Faithtime will be having a Christmas Party on December 19. Have your children dress in their most festive outfit! We will be playing fun holiday games, watching a Christmas movie and shopping the Christmas Market! It is a fun day they don't want to miss!



Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. 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 December meals:

December 5	Pasta Bar
December 12	Tacos
December 19	Chicken/Mashed Potatoes
December 26	No Faithtime/No Meal

Confirmation *(7th & 8th graders)*

Our 20 students have completed their overview of the Small Catechism and will spend the next few months applying what they have learned. December brings the following lessons from our "Lutheran Living" unit:

December 5 — <i>Service Project</i>	December 19 — <i>Saint & Sinner (and Christmas Party!)</i>
December 12 — <i>Law & Gospel</i>	December 26 — <i>No Class (Christmas Break)</i>

Sr. High Youth Group *(9th-12th graders)*

This month at Youth Group we will be exploring the topic of Sin and how it translates from the bible to modern day. There will be fun games and goodies every week! Join us in the Youth Room at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays!

Please Note: *No Youth Group on December 26 and January 2, 2019.*

• Youth Group Ugly Christmas Sweater Party!

Take a break from end of the year studying and projects! Come to the Youth Group Christmas Party and wear an ugly Christmas sweater, December 19 at 6-8 p.m. in the Youth Room. There will be a hot cocoa bar and yummy treats. We will be playing festive games and watch a Christmas movie. Get into the holiday spirit and don't forget to bring a friend!



Adult Education Opportunities during Faithtime!

• **Mission Stories** — Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go on a Mission trip overseas? Come and learn about it! At 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in December in the Sanctuary, presenters will share about their experiences this past year:

December 5 Romania – Janet Larson, with Another Child Foundation

December 12 India – Pastor Reed Pedersen, with the Northern Illinois Synod

December 19 Haiti – Michelle Plasschaert and Hannah Stebly, with Grace United Methodist Church

• **First Book Club** — Join us for discussion on the content of the book “*Wonder*” and faith response to the author R. J. Palacio on Wednesday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

January’s book title is *Before We Were Yours* written by Lisa Wingate. Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family’s Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children’s Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility’s cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Hurry and pick up a copy today!

• **Caring Conversations** will begin again on Wednesday, January 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Classroom 5. This six week session will be a video series with Beth Moore. “Over the 6 sessions this study helps foster a sojourner and adventurer mentality reminding women that they are wired to ask questions and yearn for a deeper relationship with God.” Lifeway Publishers. A study journal is available for \$15 and can be ordered through Janet Larson or the church office. Informational poster is located in the Fellowship Room.

FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES



Christmas Program

“Room for Christmas”

Faithtime Children are presenting a Christmas Program: *Room for Christmas* on Sunday, December 16 at 10 a.m.

- **Parents**—please note there is one super important extra rehearsal: *Saturday, December 15 from 9-10 a.m.*



Christmas Walk Pasta Dinner

Saturday, December 8 ~ 4 to 7 p.m.

The youth of First Lutheran will again be hosting a Pasta Dinner for everyone in the community to enjoy! Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread and homemade desserts will be served in the Fellowship Room from 4-7 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children age 10 and under.

Tickets can be purchased the weekend of December 1 & 2 in the Fellowship Room after the Saturday service and in-between services on Sunday. All proceeds will benefit Youth Ministry. *We are still in need of volunteers and donations for desserts.* Work shifts are from 2:30-5 or

FIRST MINISTRIES



First, We Give Of Ourselves: “Giving in Gratitude”

The Stewardship Ministry team thanks the congregation for 2019 commitments received! As of November 19, we have received 106 commitments, totaling \$316,342. If you haven't turned in your 2019 commitment yet, it's not too late! Drop it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

First Lutheran Preschool

All of our classes will be preparing for Christmas programs, learning songs and finger plays. The 3 year-old's will be learning about the color green and the star shape. The 4 year-old's, for the letter K, will be painting with Kool Aid and they will be decorating our class Christmas tree. They will be making presents for their families. They will also be learning about Christmas traditions from around the world.

- **Christmas Break**—No school from December 22—January 6. Classes resume on Monday, January 7.

First Friends

First Friends will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m. for our Christmas Celebration. Menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes and a special holiday dessert! Cost for the meal is \$5. Musical entertainment will follow lunch. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

Council Highlights from November 19, 2018

Action Items

Council approved a Faith Formation request; two Social Ministry Benevolence requests: \$1,000 for Braveheart Children's Advocacy and \$600 for Jul Gott; as well as a Mission Endowment request for \$1,500 for debt reduction to the Capital Campaign.

The Larger Church-ELCA

Gary Daniels reported that the World Hunger amount given by First Lutheran on World Hunger Weekend (*almost \$1900*) was the highest for our congregation ever.

New Business

Preliminary budget numbers for 2019 were discussed with better figures available at the December meeting.

Old Business

The rental house was discussed and Council voted to give the occupants 60 days from December 1st to vacate. The home is in major disrepair. The congregation will be given a recommendation as to the home's future at the annual meeting in January.

Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

October actual	\$32,855
October budget	\$32,767
YTD actual	\$345,651
YTD budget	\$356,267

Net Income Over Expenses:

October actual	\$849 deficit
October budget	\$3,019 deficit
YTD actual	\$22,499 deficit
YTD budget	\$21,018 deficit

Thank You

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's (ELCA) World Hunger Program and Mikka McCracken, director of Planning, thanks for your outstanding and record breaking response to hunger in October. The money collected was \$1,728.00, \$400.00 more than the previous record which dates back to 1999, when we started having speakers for hunger weekend. The money collected will answer a few of the prayers of the 900,000,000 who pray for bread daily. Thank you for sharing your God given gifts with our brothers and sisters in Christ whose daily prayers -- will be answered as a result of your response.

*Yours in Christ
Gary Daniels, hunger contact*

A Note of Thanks!

The family of Evelyn Kline would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and support during the year and a half of her treatments. As of October, 2018, her scans have shown no new cancer, and she is a bright, active toddler with energy to spare!

*Praise God for all His blessings.
Ian, Valerie, Penny and Evelyn Kline*

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *flour, sugar, tortillas, tuna, oatmeal, toilet paper, laundry soap, freezer bags, razors and shaving cream* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

• Another way to help!

Now that the weather is cold, warmer clothing like coats, hats, mittens, and snow pants in kids' sizes up through adult sizes are needed. We are especially in need of children's snow pants and men's jackets.

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, December 5 & 12 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study group will meet Wednesday, December 19 at 9 a.m. at Maple Leaf Restaurant, 111 S Center Street. Please call Carol Boyd at 944-2413 for reservation.

Envelope Mailings

Starting January, we will mail offering envelopes to your home every other month instead of monthly. This change will result in a good savings on the service, which is good stewardship of our gifts! Please let the church office know if you are not currently receiving envelopes to your address and we will get you taken care of!

HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Men's Topic: "Vacation Venues for Seniors"

The Men's Morning Health Program will be held on Wednesday, December 5 from 7 to 8 a.m. in the first-floor Conference Room, Hammond-Henry Hospital. There is no cost for the program. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room. Reservations may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or by emailing hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.



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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*On behalf of the Pastors,
President, Council and Staff
of First Lutheran Church
we wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a blessed New Year!*

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Laura Kamprath
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Linda Schmidt, Deacon
Director of Worship & Music
lschmidt@firstgeneseo.org

Mary Jo Brummet
Parish Administrator
mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

Haylee Gustafson
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
youth@firstgeneseo.org

Jennifer Johnson
Programs Meal Coordinator

Jim Luikart
Parish Accountant
jluikart@firstgeneseo.org

Charlene Daniels
Custodian
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

COUNCIL

Ray Bergles—*President*
Cathy Runty—*Vice-President*
Brian Hofer—*Secretary*
Rollin Setterdahl—*Treasurer*

Jodi Barnhart, Roger Bengtson,
Nancy Cassens, Gary Daniels,
Dawn Ebarb, Scott Fitzpatrick,
Johanna Hager, Peter Johnson,
Taylor Wildermuth

Meeting Schedule:

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

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

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