



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHIMES**

*Sharing Christ's Love*

February 2019  
Volume 58, Issue 2  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

*Welcome Morgan Sarber,  
Interim Director of Worship & Music*

Morgan Sarber is finishing up her final year at Western Illinois University where she will graduate with a bachelor's in music business and a minor in marketing. She spent her Middle School and High School years as an active member of First Lutheran's congregation, involved in Praise Team, Bell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Youth Group, and as a Faithtime music helper. Morgan feels honored and blessed to have been asked to be interim Director of Worship & Music and is excited to both learn from and help the worship and music groups of this congregation! Please welcome Morgan to our staff! If you need to contact Morgan, please call the church office at 944-3196 or email Morgan at [worship@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:worship@firstgeneseo.org).



**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
*Let's Tackle Hunger!*

Over the weekend of February 2 & 3, bring food offerings (*canned and dry goods*) to First Lutheran and join the fun by "voting" for your favorite team in the Super Bowl! The pantry items will be collected in team-themed grocery carts for the *New England Patriots vs. Los Angeles Rams* in the Fellowship Room. As you shop for your own game-day celebration, pick up some food to share with the families in need in our community. The youth will also collect monetary offerings for ELCA World Hunger.

# *Gratitude*

As we have said at the annual meeting this year, we have had a difficult, but blessed 2018. Over the course of last year there was so much to be grateful for at First Lutheran; Noisy Offerings throughout the year for different ministries locally and globally, we went to Houston for the National Youth Gathering, we had a record year for giving to Lutheran World Hunger, a wonderful and generous Jul Gott, we had plentiful and fun fellowship activities, we had beautiful and inspiring worship, we changed worship times and began the new GIFT faith formation program, we welcomed new members, we presided over many Holy Baptisms, we confirmed youth, we led a few different educational opportunities, and we ended the year with a surplus and pledges are up significantly! Clearly, the Holy Spirit is at work in this congregation. Thanks be to God! As we begin another year, may we continue to be open to the Holy Spirit's work in and through our lives together.

As I think about this difficult, but blessed 2018 and this New Year we are already in, I am reminded of gratitude. And I'm not talking about a simple word of thanks here for a favor, or something said in passing. Gratitude is something a little different for it demands something from us. Gratitude is our response to God's abundance. It is a way of life, a way of being in the world. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word means, "*the state of being grateful*". Gratitude, and living gratefully, is a state of being, a way of living and a different way of life. Jesus called himself the way, truth, and life and as followers of Him, we are so thankful for His gifts, that we try and live this way, by the truth, in this life.

And gratitude informs all of life. Everything that we experience, whether it be joyous or painful, is imbued with this "*state of being grateful*". Everything. As followers of Christ, we are invited to see the goodness of God in all people and indeed in all experiences. As we experience all that life has to throw at us, as we are again overwhelmed with fear and with worry about uncertain futures, as we are sick or have become homebound, as we are grieving, as we are singing with joy, as we are celebrating, as we are weeping, as we are laughing, as we are playing, as we are resting, as we are worshipping, we are invited to be grateful for all of these experiences, even the tough ones. And this last year has had many tough experiences which we continue to grieve.

However, we continue to be grateful for all of it, because we trust in the goodness and love of God above all else. When trying and difficult times come to us, we know that we are supported through the entirety of life, for we have seen how far God is willing to go, to show us that in all of life, God is with and for us. God holds nothing back to show us all that the whole spectrum of our lives is worth everything to God. Let us be grateful, trusting in the Lord's goodness and love above all else, and let us continue into this New Year to show others this God-given abundant life. Amen.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Matt*

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**February 2 & 3, 2019**

**Epiphany 4/Souper Bowl Weekend**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and Luke 4:21-30.

**February 9 & 10, 2019**

**Epiphany 5**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11.

**February 16 & 17, 2019**

**Epiphany 6/Healing Service**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 and Luke 6:17-26.

**February 23 & 24, 2019**

**Epiphany 7**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 and Luke 6:27-38.

**A Note of Thanks!**

Thank you to everyone for the Christmas box I received! I appreciate everything, including the prayers.

—Griffin Fleming

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**

**New Member Weekend coming up!**

Are you interested in joining First Lutheran Church? We will receive new members in worship on the weekend of February 23 & 24. Please contact one of the Pastors by Monday, February 11 if you are interested.

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*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, Griffin Fleming, Josh Fleming, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, 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. 8).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Theresa \_\_\_\_\_ (*Joy Sherbeyn's friend*), Mike Bess (*Chris & Jodi Barnhart's friend*), Nicole DeKeyzer (*Marcia Green's friend*), Roberta Glazier, Kurt Horberg, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Roy Joe Klavine (*Maurie & Brenda Nelson and Glen & Janet Anderson's friend*), Myles Peterson (*Kathy Nelson's friend's grandson*), Rudy Rexroth, Mike Rowlands (*Jill Laingen's daughter Erika's father-in-law*), and Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*).

**Joys:** On the birth of Thomas John Brock, son of Gloria & Ryan Brock, grandson of Norm & Gail Hutchinson, great grandson of Gladys Hulting; and the birth of Pastor Virgil & Marilyn Juliot's 21<sup>st</sup> great-grandchild (a girl!) on January 2, 2019. Gift of Via de Cristo community.

**Thanksgiving:**

**Sorrows:**

*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



### GIFT (*Growing in Faith Together*)

Adult small groups continue this month on Saturdays at 4:15 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. It's not too late to register and join a group! We use the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies each week as we dig into God's word. Our schedule for February is:

February 2 & 3 — Renounce Everything for Christ (*Philippians 3:7-14*)

February 9 & 10 — Pondering God's Steadfast Love (*Psalms 48:1-3, 9-14*)

February 16 & 17 — Praising God's Mighty Works (*Psalms 66:1-9, 16-20*)

February 23 & 24 — Living with God's Loving Assurance (*Psalms 91:1-8, 11-16*)

Children and youth (*ages 3-high school*) continue to meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. We meet in our classrooms: Preschool – Zacchaeus' Tree House (next to the Nursery); Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Room 1; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades – Room 3; 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades – Room 5; 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades – Youth Room. Our schedule for February is:

February 3 — Affirming God's Call (*Jeremiah 1:4-10*)

February 10 — Called to Follow (*Luke 5:1-11*)

February 17 — Hearing and Responding (*Luke 6:17-26*)

February 24 — Challenging Expectations (*Luke 6:27-38*)

- **It's not to late to register for GIFT!** — Simply complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the church office.

### First Lutheran Preschool Registration

First Lutheran Preschool will begin enrolling for the 2019-20 school year starting March 4. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2019. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact the preschool at 944-4306.

### Calling All 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders!

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL is holding an overnight retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders, March 22 & 23. Activities include: Bible study, worship, games, campfire, team building, hiking, and the prayer labyrinth. Cost is \$65 per person and includes lodging, snack, 2 meals (*on Saturday*), and activities. Contact Haylee Gustafson ([youth@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:youth@firstgeneseo.org)) if your child is interested in going by February 20.

### Valentine Cheer for our Shut-in's

We will again be celebrating our First Lutheran shut-in's with a Valentine card collection! We would like to brighten their Valentine's Day and let them know how much they are loved and appreciated by their church family. Valentine gift bags will be available in the Fellowship Room through Sunday, February 10. The gift bags were decorated by the Faithtime students and are labeled with each shut-in's name. Please feel free to add a Valentine or treat for the shut-in of your choice. If you would like to remember all our shut-ins, we currently have twelve seniors on our shut-in list. Copies of a list of our shut-ins are available at the Valentine display. Thank you so much sharing Christ's love with our shut-in's on Valentine's Day!



- **Volunteers Needed**—We are in need of volunteers to help deliver our Valentine gift bags. If you would like to help deliver, you may pick up a gift bag anytime after church on Sunday, February 10 and deliver anytime by Valentine's Day.

## **First Lutheran Preschool**

All of our classes will be decorating our classroom with hearts for Valentines Day. We will design and make cards for our loved ones. The 3 year-olds will concentrate on the color pink and the heart shape. They will prepare for an indoor picnic and they will paint with beets. The 4 year-olds will learn about giving for the letter G, hibernating bears for the letter B and quails for the letter Q.

## **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, February 6 & 13 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

**Women's Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, February 20 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!**

Join Pastor Matt for another 'round' of *Theology on Tap!* We will gather at 7 p.m. at Geneseo Brewing Company for a Bible Study on First Corinthians on Tuesday evenings, February 5, 12, 19 & 26. All are welcome!

### **HHH Women's Health Series**

"Day Trips" is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, February 28 at The Cellar. The cost of lunch is \$8 per person, which is payable at the door. Reservations may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or by emailing [hhhfound@hammondhenry.com](mailto:hhhfound@hammondhenry.com).

## **February's Health Focus on Opioid Addiction & Support**

The Spirituality & Wellness Ministry wish you all a safe and healthy 2019. We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some help that is available for those who may be struggling with opioid addiction, or have loved ones who may be addicted and in need of assistance.

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association reported that in 2016 Illinois had 2,278 drug-related overdose deaths, with 80% of those deaths being opioid-related. This total is a 70% increase over the previous three years. The opioid crisis has manifested itself in the form of multiple public health problems. An analysis of the nature and extent of these problems provides evidence of the seriousness of the opioid crisis in Illinois, the widespread prevalence of these problems across our state, and the existence of populations and local areas with the most critical gaps in services.

To assist families or individuals struggling with opioid addiction, Robert Young Center, in conjunction with Unity Point Trinity Hospital, is offering free Naloxone kits and training for their use. These kits are available to reverse the effects of opiates in an overdose situation. The hope is to save lives by making these kits available to the public. For further information, please contact Charles Harris, Naloxone Educator at (309)788-4571, Ext. 211 to receive training and kits. This is part of an Illinois State Initiative to address the opioid crisis here.

If you are struggling with addiction, there are also local resources available in our community. The Good Shepherd Foundation of Henry County is available at 944-6205, or contact [Addicted.org](http://Addicted.org) at 1-800-304-2219 for additional resources in or near Geneseo, IL.

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## 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

### Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5 p.m. 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!

Here's a listing of our February meals:

February 6	Tacos
February 13	Chicken/Mashed Potatoes
February 20	Breakfast
February 27	Pulled Pork Sandwiches



### Youth Bells

Youth Bells is open to all 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders!! We will meet from 5:15-5:45 p.m. on 4 Wednesdays: February 6-27, and play for 6:30 Ash Wednesday worship on March 6. No experience needed—please join us!

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

Confirmation class continues to meet weekly as we complete our study of Lutheran Living. Please continue to pray for our 20 students and 5 volunteer mentors as we dive into some significant and weighty themes. The students' observations and questions always keep our discussions and activities lively! Our February schedule includes the following exciting topics:

February 6 — *Bondage of the Will*

February 20 — *The Devil*

February 13 — *Two Kingdoms*

February 27 — *Doubt*

- **Save the Date! ~ Lock-In**

Confirmation youth are invited to come to the Annual Lock-In on Friday, March 8 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday! It will be a fun-filled night as we will eat pizza, play lots of games and have a Bible study. Bring a friend! It is a night you do not want to miss! More information coming soon!

### Ignite Youth Conference

Sr. High youth are welcome to sign up to go to Ignite Youth Conference in Des Moines, IA, March 15-16. Ignite is focused on teaching youth to be leaders in Christ and coming together to worship. Youth will get a chance to listen to speakers, go to breakout groups and meet other youth from all around the Midwest. There will also be late night games on Friday and an Improv group on Saturday! Cost is \$80 for the conference and overnight stay on Friday. Contact Haylee Gustafson ([youth@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:youth@firstgeneseo.org)) if you are interested by February 13.

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## Adult Education Opportunities during Faithtime!

- **First Book Club** — Join us for discussion on the content of the book *“The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane”* and faith response to the author Lisa See on Wednesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

## FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES

March’s book title is *Restart* by Gordon Korman. An accident offers a middle school boy the chance to start over with a clean slate in the book *“Restart.”* Students at GMS selected the novel as the 2019 On the Same Page book. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, On the Same Page encourages students and community members to read a specially selected book. In the novel, Chase, a middle school student, falls off a roof and ends up with amnesia. Chase doesn’t remember anything about home or school and isn’t sure why everybody thinks this a wonderful opportunity for him to start with a clean slate. What did he do in his past that would make it better for him to forget the old Chase and start over? Hurry and pick up a copy today at the GMS or at the Resource Center.

- **Caring Conversations** will conclude the Beth Moore video series this month. The group will meet on Wednesday, February 6 & 13 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Classroom 5.

### Do you enjoy cooking?

Lent is just around the corner, (*Ash Wednesday is March 6*). We are in need of volunteer cooks that will make a soup for noon and evening suppers. These begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Holy Week. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you can make a soup for any of the available dates. Any questions, please contact Jenn Johnson at 945-8364.

### First Friends

Come enjoy Valentines with a lot of Sweethearts! First Friends will meet on Thursday, February 14 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. We’ll enjoy a pasta lunch followed by a program on Abraham Lincoln by Marilyn Juliot and Lendol Calder. Cost of the meal is \$5. Hurry and sign up at the Welcome Center. Invite a friend!

### Youth Auction and Bake Sale

Youth Auction and bake sale to follow Jazz service on Sunday, March 3! The youth will be having a live auction during the potluck at 11:30 a.m. Proceeds will go to Senior High Missions like the National Youth Gathering of 2021 in Minneapolis and future mission trips. Sr. High will also be having bake sale for Potluck addition to the live auction! Our auction will be a success with your help so mark your calendars and be the highest bidder! If you would like to offer a live auction item, fill out an auction form at the Welcome Center and turn it into the office by Sunday, February 27. Any questions, please contact Haylee Gustafson.

### Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *tomato paste, tuna helper, vegetable oil, mayonnaise, syrup, dish soap, Kleenex, fabric softener, laundry soap and lotion* to share with those in our community.

Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Did you know?**

Food Pantry clients can shop for clothing and household items once per week. Available in the clothing room are clothes, accessories, sheets, blankets, towels, kitchen items, small appliances, decorations, toys, books, music, movies, games, and puzzles. Our clients would appreciate any of these items you can donate.



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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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,  
Peter Johnson, Cheryl Saint Vincent,  
Patty Turner, Taylor Wildermuth

**Meeting Schedule:**  
Cabinet — Monday, February 11  
Ministries — Monday, February 11  
Council — Monday, February 18

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**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