



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

February 2020
Volume 59, Issue 2
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

Celebrate Mardi Gras at First!



Transfiguration Weekend

February 22 & 23, 2020

The "River City Six" returns to raise the roof with their toe-tapping, hand-clapping Dixieland Jazz music on Sunday.

Weekend Schedule

Saturday Informal Worship at 5:30 p.m.

One Service Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Congregational Potluck & Youth Bake Sale — 11:00 a.m.

Youth Live Auction — 11:30 a.m.

This year we will enjoy a Congregational Potluck, Bake Sale, and Silent Auction in addition to our Live Auction. Proceeds will benefit Youth Ministry, including a mission trip this coming summer and the National Youth Gathering in 2021!

Ash Wednesday ~ February 26, 2020

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Services at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 26, the church around the world celebrates Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of preparation for Holy Week. This year, our Lenten theme is "At the Name of Jesus". Two Lenten fellowship opportunities will also be offered each week. Everyone is invited to join us for a Soup & Salad Lunch following the Noon service or for the Faithtime Dinner from 5-6:15 p.m. First Lutheran's Lent & Holy Week Brochure detailing all opportunities will be mailed under separate cover.

Come and See!

During worship throughout the last part of January, in the season of Epiphany, the gospel readings have moved from Jesus' Baptism in the river Jordan to him calling the first disciples to come and see. The question is; come and see exactly what? The disciples had no idea what would follow, as they followed Jesus from town to town. The disciples had no idea what Jesus would do when they got there. They didn't know what would happen to Jesus, or to themselves, as they followed. The disciples didn't know where the Holy Spirit would be leading them to continue doing ministry in his name. What they would come to see is what Jesus is all about in his life and his death. Jesus is about love, compassion, forgiveness, welcome, peace, salvation, and healing to and all. They would come to see what his mission was and continues to be, to reach into people's everyday lives and offer grace. What they would come to see is how they were a part of that mission too. I wonder where we have come to see ourselves in this mission of God to heal the world.

About a decade ago, there was a campaign here at First Lutheran to do outreach into our communities. At the time, you all adopted Jesus' own words from the gospel of John to "Come and See" (*John 1:39*). We would like to re-introduce this campaign again because we think and feel there is something to see here at FLC. We see you all as part of the mission of Christ. Pr. Laura and I feel that the Holy Spirit has been working here, and we want to explore how we can let others know and feel it here too. Much like Jesus' invitation to Andrew and Simon Peter to come and see, we are called to invite others to come and see what Jesus is about and how this community of faith follows in faithful service.

How do we follow in faithful service? Where do we see ourselves in the mission of Christ? As we look at ourselves what do we see? I hope over the course of our lives together that this vision will become clearer as we continue following Jesus into a new decade and beyond.

Here are some invitations we might extend as we follow Jesus into the future:

Come and See how we welcome others. Like Jesus, we strive to welcome all. All.

Come and See how we worship God. This church works to praise God in a variety of ways through a variety of people.

Come and See how we follow Jesus. This church reaches out and gives generously locally and globally. This church provides hospitality and grace. This church dwells in God's Word and is always looking to see where God is leading us next.

Come and See how we are called by Jesus. This church makes disciples who follow Jesus' example of love and grace. We continue learning about God's grace by studying scripture and serving our neighbors in need.

Come and See how we grow in and through faith in Jesus. This church is growing as we welcome new disciples into our church family.

At some point in your life you accepted the invitation to come and see. Maybe now is a good opportunity to share that invitation with someone else. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt Kamprath

February 1 & 2, 2020

Presentation of Our Lord

This weekend's texts include Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18 and Luke 2:22-40.

February 8 & 9, 2020

Epiphany 5

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20.

February 15 & 16, 2020

Epiphany 6

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Matthew 5:21-37.

February 22 & 23, 2020

Transfiguration of Our Lord

One Service Sunday with River City Six

at 9:30 a.m. (Prelude music at 9:15 a.m.)

This weekend's texts include Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9.

February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Today's text include Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Lent 1

This weekend's texts include Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11.

**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, Griffin Fleming, Josh Francis, 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. 10).

Health and Wellbeing: Michele _____ (*Jodi Martin's friend*), Janet Anderson, Carol Breczinski (*Gladys Hulting's daughter*), Harley Hepner (*Darla Anderson's cousin*), Pastor Virgil Juliot, Candy McMahon (*Barb Burghgrave's friend*), Rudy Rexroth, and Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*).

Joys:

Thanksgiving: On the baptism of Chambers Tyler Storm, son of Tyler & Kelly Storm.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Gloria Johnson, mother of Peter Johnson; and Lucille McCune, aunt of Michelle Mustain, Oliver, Celia and Edmund Anderson.

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 Groups continue on Saturdays at 4:15 p.m. in Grace Place and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room A and Grace Place. This quarter's theme is "Honoring God." Our schedule for February is:

February 1 & 2 — **Single-Minded** (*Matthew 4:1-11*)

February 8 & 9 — **Piety That Honor's God** (*Matthew 6:1-8*)

February 15 & 16 — **The Prayer of Jesus** (*Matthew 6:9-15*)

February 22 (*Saturday only*) — **Perseverance in Prayer** (*Luke 11:5-13*)

Classes for **Children and Youth** (*ages 3 – high school*) meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Ages 3 through 5th grade meet in the Sanctuary for an opening before going to their classrooms. 6th–12th grades meet in the Youth Room. We will continue with Unit 4, "Holy Ground". Here's our February schedule:

February 2 – **Blessed Be** (*Matthew 5:1-12*)

February 9 – **Daring Discipleship** (*Matthew 5:13-20*)

February 16 – **Making Choices** (*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*)

February 23 – **No GIFT**

Adults and Children can register at any point in the year for GIFT. Registration forms are available at the Resource Center.

First Lutheran Preschool Registration

First Lutheran Preschool will begin enrolling for the 2020-21 school year in March. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2020. If you are interested in more information, would like a tour or would like to get on the registration list, please contact the preschool at 944-4306.

First Friends "Valentine" Luncheon

Come and celebrate Valentine's Day with a room full of sweethearts! We will have a pasta lunch with a special Valentine dessert on Thursday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come, bring a friend or two and enjoy fellowship and food. Cost is \$5 and reservations are requested. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

Valentine Cheer for our Shut-in's

Show the love to our shut-in's by leaving a Valentine card, message or small treat or gift in the Valentine bags in the Fellowship Room. The gift bags were decorated by the Faithtime students and are labeled with each shut-in's name. Bags will be collected and delivered around February 9.

If you would like to remember all our shut-ins, we currently have fifteen seniors on our shut-in list. Copies of the list are available at the display in the Fellowship Room. It doesn't need to be much...just show them we care!

- **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 9 and deliver it by Valentine's Day.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Let's Tackle Hunger!

Over the weekend of February 1 & 2, 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 *San Francisco 49ers or Kansas City Chiefs* 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.

Music Camp

In the Eye of the Storm is the theme of our Music Camp for current 1st-5th graders. Music Camp will be August 3-7, from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to invite friends! The Music Camp children will lead a worship service on Sunday, August 9.



Save the date ... August 3-7, 2020

Registration forms and brochures will be available in March. If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Sarber, Director of Worship & Music (worship@firstgeneseo.org).

Men's Lenten Breakfast

Geneseo Ministerial Association is hosting the Men's Lenten Breakfast. All men are invited to come and enjoy the delicious breakfast, fellowship and a brief program. The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. each week at the following churches:

February 29	St. Malachy Parish
March 7	Grace United Methodist Church
March 14	First United Methodist Church
March 21	Geneseo Evangelical Free Church
March 28	First Presbyterian Church
April 4	First Lutheran Church

FIRST MINISTRIES



**We Welcome Abbey Cathelyn as
Director of Youth & Family Ministry!**

Synod Assembly 2020

Each year, the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod gather to worship together and conduct the business of our church. Each congregation sends their rostered leaders (*pastors and deacons*) and several lay voting members to the assembly. The number of lay voting members sent by each congregation is determined by the congregation's size. Our congregation is able to register up to five lay voting members for this year's Assembly. We are looking for folks who are able to attend the Assembly and participate as voting members. We need voting members of all genders and a variety of ages. The only requirement is that you are a confirmed member of the congregation.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the church, please contact Pastor Matt or Pastor Laura. This year's Synod Assembly will be held at Augustana College on June 19 & 20.

FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES



Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

The month of February is all about Love! Our theme is *"Playlist: God is Love."* All throughout the Bible, the writers of Scripture remind us that God is love. From the creation of the world to God's relentless pursuit of us, God has shown time and again that love is most important. Even though we've all sinned, God loved us enough to make a way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. The Gospels are full of moments where Jesus prioritized love above all else, especially when He summed up the greatest commandment with: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus made this real when He showed us how much God loves us by sacrificing His life for our sins.

All children Grades K-6

3:15-3:40 p.m. Check In, Snack in Fellowship Room

3:40-4:05 p.m. Large Group Opening

4:05-5:25 p.m. Message, Music & Motion Rotations

5:25-5:30 p.m. Closing in Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Check Out in Sanctuary

Reminder: Faithtime Kids will not meet on Wednesday, February 26 but all are invited to attend worship for Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5 p.m. through 6 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 our January meals:

February 5	Tacos
February 12	Chicken/Mashed Potatoes
February 19	LaRoma's Pizza
February 26	Lenten Soup/Potato Bar

Confirmation (*7th & 8th graders*)

In February, we will continue learning about the New Testament, studying the early church in Acts and digging into some of Paul's letters. On Ash Wednesday, the Confirmation Class will present a dramatic interpretation of the Gospel reading at the 6:30 p.m. worship service. Here's our February schedule:

February 5 — *Acts*

February 12 — *Romans*

February 19 — *1st & 2nd Corinthians*

February 26 — Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group (9th & 12th graders)

Come and join us for Youth Group each Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. In February, we will finish *“The Chase”* and then begin a new series, *“Save the Date.”* Dating—or the desire to date—is a big part of virtually every student’s life. And whether they realize it or not, the way students date today can impact their relationships down the road. In this series, we look for biblical wisdom regarding some of the most important things they can do today—whether they’re currently dating someone or not—that can make their lives and relationships better in the future.

Reminder: High School Youth will not meet on Wednesday, February 26 but all are invited to attend worship for Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Youth Auction and Bake Sale

Youth Auction and bake sale to follow Jazz service on Sunday, February 23! The youth will be having a live auction during the potluck at 11:30 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Youth Ministry, including a mission trip this coming summer and the National Youth Gathering in 2021! Sr. High will also be hosting a bake sale in 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 16.

Adult Education Opportunities during Faithtime!

- **First Book Club** — Join us for discussion on the content of the book *“The Sweetness of Forgetting”* and faith response to the author Kristin Harmel on Wednesday, February 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

March’s book title is *Mayday* by Karen Harrington. This book is also the GMS 2020 “On the Same Page” community-wide read. Wayne Kovok lives in a world of After. After his uncle in the army was killed overseas. After Wayne and his mother survived a plane crash while coming back from the funeral. After he lost his voice.

Wayne has always used his love of facts to communicate (*“Did you know more people die each year from shaking a vending machine than from shark attacks?”*). Without his voice, how will he wow the prettiest girl in school? How will he stand up to his drill-sergeant grandfather? And how will he share his hopes with his deadbeat dad? It’s not until Wayne loses his voice completely that he realizes how much he doesn’t say. Hurry and pick up a copy today (*GMS or the Resource Center*) and begin reading this powerful coming-of-age story about the importance of finding your voice!

- **Adult Small Group - “A Glimpse at the Spirit of Islam”**

Before September 11, 2001 most Americans knew little about Islam. In the aftermath, many people were compelled to ask questions about this religion and its followers. On three Wednesday evenings in February (*the 5th, 12th and 19th*) we will view a video, learn about and discuss Islamic practices, history and core beliefs and note the differences and similarities with Christianity. We will learn the difference between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. And we will, hopefully, move beyond stereotypes and toward loving our Muslim neighbors in a Christ-like way. Join the discussion in Grace Place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, February 5, 12 and 19. All are welcome!

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

All of our preschool classes will help to decorate our classroom for Valentine's Day. We will also exchange Valentine cards. A heart and pink will be the shape and color of the month for the 3 year-olds. We will talk about showing love and kindness to others as we make valentines to share with the homebound people within our church family. We will also experiment with beets and color paint. We will have a Pajama Day! The 4 year-olds will make volcanos for the letter V and make a class quilt for the letter Q. We will learn about bears and hibernation.

- **No School** on Monday, February 17 in honor of Presidents' Day.

Congregational Resourcing Event

The 2020 CRE will be Saturday, March 14 at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta.

- Keynote speaker: *ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*

In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker and NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, other workshops feature topics including:

Congregational Leadership
Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality
Faith Formation & Growth
Social Justice
Spirituality/Wellness
Stewardship,
Worship
Youth/Family/Children

Bring everyone from your congregation to attend different workshops. Then get together and learn from each other! Find out more about the workshops and presenters at cre.nisynond.org or pick up a packet at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room.

Council Highlights from January 20, 2020

A electric vote was taken on December 31 to hire Abbey Cathelyn for the position of Director of Youth & Family Ministry; with a start date of February 1, 2020.

Action Items

- Council approved an \$800 funding request for Sol's Legacy Ministries.
- Council accepted the bid from On Guard Security regarding the fire doors on the way up to the Sanctuary. The bid is for \$664.70, and will be taken from the Building Fund. Work will be scheduled in the near future.

New Business

- Two discussions were held about Memorial Money - the family of Bill Zanton will be contacted about future use of the money given in his name; the Mullin family is in the process of donating a stain glass window in the Fellowship Room in honor of their daughter, Wendy Thompson.

- Jodi Barnhart and Mary Jo Brummet have been asked to head a committee to plan the future use of the vacant lot to the south of the church.

Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

December actual	\$64,039
December budget	\$65,750
YTD actual	\$452,597
YTD budget	\$455,500

Net Income Over Expenses:

December actual	\$26,733 surplus
December budget	\$26,283 surplus
YTD actual	\$35,043 surplus
YTD budget	\$440.00 surplus

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

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, February 19 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.

HHH Women's Health Series

"Arthritis & Joint Injections" is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, February 27 at The Cellar. The cost of lunch is \$9 per person, which is payable at the door. Please register by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or by emailing hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *syrup, tomato paste, tuna helper, vegetable oil, mayonnaise, dish soap, Kleenex, fabric softener, laundry soap and garbage bags* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Please Note: If the Geneseo schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Food Pantry is also closed. The Food Pantry will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of President's Day. Our business hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday — 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Friday — 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thank You

To our First Lutheran family,
Many thanks to those who have sent cards and paid visits while I have been at HHH Extended Care. Special thanks to the church family for the cheerful Christmas tree and delicious fruit plate.

Very grateful to you all,
Bill Rutherford

Thank You

Many thanks to staff and church members for the lovely Christmas tree, the fruit basket, and cards and visits during my stay at Allure nursing home. Our church family is a blessing to me and Marilyn.

Pastor Virgil Juliot

FIRST

MINISTRIES

A Note of Thanks!

Thank you to all who help make this Advent and Christmas Season special; all the worship assistants, musicians, Altar Guild, Confirmation families, and the Worship & Music Ministry! You are truly a blessing to me, and this congregation.

—*Morgan Sarber*
Director of Worship & Music



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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COUNCIL

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, February 10
Ministries — Monday, February 10
Council — Monday, February 17

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

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