



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

January 2019
Volume 58, Issue 1
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

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

New Weekend Schedule 2019

Saturdays: GIFT (*Growing in Faith Together*) Adult Small Group at 4:15 p.m.
Informal Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays: **Traditional Worship** at 8:15 a.m.
GIFT (*Growing in Faith Together*) for Children, Youth, and Adults at 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Official Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019 ~ 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join the Church Council for a Congregation Forum Sunday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will present a First Reading of the 2019 Budget and answer your questions about the Annual Report, so that we are prepared for the Annual Meeting on January 27.

Congregational Meeting Agenda:

Opening Prayer

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 2018

Reports of the Pastors, Program Staff, Preschool

Reports of all Ministries and Organizations

Report of the Church Council

Reading of the 2019 Proposed Budget

Adoption of the Budget

Elections

Recommendation of the Congregation Council regarding property at 522 S State Street

Adoptions of Resolutions

Closing Prayer

Easter Hope in our Advent World

Dear people of God,

As you read this, we will be in the season of Christmas (*and later Epiphany*), but as I write this, it is Advent yet – a season of waiting and longing.

I'm ready, dear people, as I'm sure you must be, to celebrate Christmas. I'm ready to celebrate the birth of the baby, God with us. I'm ready to celebrate with joy and wonder, alongside the angels and shepherds. I'm ready to worship the King, bringing my gifts of time, talent, and treasure (*since I'm fresh out of gold, frankincense, and myrrh*).

But in this Christmas season, when we rejoice that Love lives among us, I long to hear the good news of Easter. It's the hope of the resurrection and the promise of new life that will sustain me this season.

Dear people, there is so much happening in the life of the congregation right now that I want to share with you!

- As we figure out how to move forward without our colleague Linda leading our music programming and planning worship for us, we are excited to welcome Morgan Sarber to the FLC staff as our Interim Director of Worship and Music. While we take the necessary time to do a thorough search to fill the position, Morgan will join our staff. She will work with the choirs and praise teams, lead the music component of Faithtime, and plan weekly and special worship services. Melinda Wildermuth and Kathy Heller will continue to provide accompaniment for weekend worship services.

- On January 5 & 6, our new weekend faith formation programming begins. GIFT (*Growing in Faith Together*) will include opportunities for children ages 3 through high school and adults. Check out page 4 for more details about GIFT!

- Our new weekend schedule also begins this month:

GIFT (*Adult Small Groups*):

Saturdays at 4:15 p.m.

Informal Worship: Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Worship: Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

GIFT: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

- On a personal note, Matt and Anna and I are delighted to share the news with the congregation that we have received our license to be a foster family! We spent much of 2018 completing classes, filling out paperwork, and preparing our home. We hope to welcome a child into our home when the need arises. We ask that you hold us in prayer as our family takes this journey!

Signs of new life are emerging, even in this cold winter season. Thanks be to God!

—Pastor Laura

January 5 & 6, 2019

Epiphany of Our Lord

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12.

January 12 & 13, 2019

Baptism of Our Lord

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

January 19 & 20, 2019

Epiphany 2

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11.

January 26 & 27, 2019

Epiphany 3

This weekend's texts include Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and Luke 4:14-21.

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. The following dates are open for flower donations.

January 13, 20 & 27

February 3, 10, 17 & 24

April 28

May 5, 12, 19 & 26

June 2, 23 & 30

July 14, 21 & 28

August 4

September 1, 15, 22 & 29

October 13, 20 & 27

November 3, 10, 17 & 24

December 29

If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

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. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: Terri _____ (*Kathy Nelson's friend*), Marilyn & Louie Blank (*Sue Conrad's aunt and uncle*), Stephen & Sherri Anderson Craggs (*Kathy Nelson's friends*), Brett Ellinor (*Leanne Alhorn's nephew*), Jim Hohenboken, Kurt Horberg, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Judy Nelson, Roger Peterson, Rudy Rexroth and Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*).

Joys: Gift of community in good times and bad.

Thanksgiving: For all who came and supported the Youth Ministry at the Pasta Dinner! For the children and everyone who gave us the lovely Christmas program.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Robert Cassens, father of Jim Cassens; Deacon Linda Schmidt, Director of Worship & Music; Wendy Thompson, daughter of Linda Mullin; and Judy DeBoever, 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

GIFT (*Growing in Faith*)

Adult small groups will meet on Saturdays at 4:15 p.m. in Grace Place and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will begin on the weekend of January 5 & 6 with our new curriculum, Augsburg Adult Bible Studies. This is a year-round Bible study that is released quarterly and is based on a six-year cycle as found in the International Uniform Lesson Series (*National Council of Churches*). Written by an array of accomplished theologians, this series provides terrific insights into scripture through questions, prayer, suggested memorization, and daily readings.

Each session:

- Explores the meaning of the text for the original writer and audience, and for today
- Includes a list of related texts for daily Bible reading
- Provides extensive background on each text and recommendations for leading the sessions

First Lutheran will provide Participant Books and Leader Guides.

Our schedule for January is:

January 5 & 6 — Hold Fast to God's Love (*2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 and 2 John 4-11*)

January 12 & 13 — Submit to God in Love (*James 4:1-10*)

January 19 (Saturday only) — Submit to God in Christ (*Philippians 1:12-21*)

January 26 (Saturday only) — Devote All to Christ (*Philippians 2:1-11*)

Please Note: GIFT adult groups will not meet on Sundays, January 20 & 27, so that all can attend the Congregation Forum and the Annual Meeting.

Children and youth (*ages 3-high school*) will meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. We will gather in the Fellowship Room on January 6 for our first lesson. We will use the curriculum *Whole People of God*, which is lectionary-based.

Our schedule for January is:

January 6 — Rejoice! Your Light Has Come (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

January 13 — "You Are My Beloved Child" (*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*)

January 20 — Revealing God's Glory (*John 2:1-11*)

January 27 — The Spirit of God Is Upon Me (*Luke 4:14-21*)

2018 JUL GOTT – Thank You!

Wow... from the gazillion cookies, awesome baked goods, wonderful baskets, spectacular handmade craft items to the cash donations or bidding on auction items! **JUST A BIG WOW and THANKS!** Also *thanks* for supporting our new initiatives, the cooking demonstration had over 50 people attend from the entire community, We had gingerbread houses from 3 different churches! *Jul Gott* is changing lives, it is bringing people into our church and seeing the giving nature of so many, and seeing the many talents of our congregation. Because of all of you it was another successful year where we raised over \$5300 (*last year over \$3500*) which will be split between World Hunger, Backpack Blessings and the Atkinson Geneseo food Pantry.

We needed every one of you to make this year a success. Thank you also to the committee who helped make this happen, Linda Storm, Cindy Groene, Kate Reed, Crystal Ficken, and Kathy Heller! In addition a big thanks to the businesses in this community that continue to support all of us B & B Lawn Equipment, Happy Joes, The Geneseo Movie Theatre, Dairy Queen and McDonalds!

—Diane Converse

First Lutheran Preschool

Preschool classes will resume after Christmas break on Monday, January 7, 2019. The 3 year-olds will learn about the color white and triangles. They will have an indoor snow day and make snowmen. They will also make gingerbread cookies. The 4 year-olds will be doing winter activities such as painting on snow. For the letter Q they will learn about quails and for the letter O they will learn about owls, reading the book Owl Moon.

- *No School on Monday, January 21 ~ Martin Luther King Day*

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, January 2 & 9 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, January 16 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.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Women's Health Series

"Acupuncture" is the topic of the noon luncheon on Thursday, January 24 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 hfhfound@hammondhenry.com.

Council Highlights from December 10 & 17, 2018

Council met on December 10 & 17. Rental property was discussed with several options looked at. One option was agreed upon to recommend to the Congregation at the annual meeting, though all options will be discussed. Council also...

- discussed options for finding a Director of Worship & Music plus the plans for the interim.
- Darla Anderson provided a report of the Nominating Committee.
- agreed to continue providing seminary tuition support this spring for Catie Nelson from the Memorial Mission Fund.
- firmed up work on the budget, including agreeing to increase our benevolence percentage over last year. Pledges are up and the Council is very grateful for the congregation's support.

Action Items

- Approved two Social Ministry Benevolence requests: \$250 to Geneseo Marriage and Family Counseling; and \$250 for Secret Santa.
- Council voted to give gifts to Kathy Heller, Mike Eckwall, and Melinda Wildermuth to show our appreciation for their work the past 6+ weeks.
- Council voted unanimously to give a gift to the Schmidt family in honor of Linda.

Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

November actual	\$39,483
November budget	\$34,267
YTD actual	\$385,134
YTD budget	\$390,534

Net Income Over Expenses:

November actual	\$2,661 surplus
November budget	\$3,212 deficit
YTD actual	\$19,839 deficit
YTD budget	\$24,230 deficit

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: Faithtime resumes January 9th!

• **Thank You** to all who donated to the
Faithtime Christmas Market. The kids had
a lot of fun shopping for their loved ones!

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!

Following is a listing of our January meals:

January 2	No Faithtime/No Meal
January 9	LaRoma's Pizza
January 16	Pulled Pork Sandwiches
January 23	Breakfast
January 30	Pasta Bar



Faithtime Youth Band

All 6th-8th graders welcome!

We will rehearse three Wednesdays from 5:15-5:45 p.m. on
January 16, 23 & 30. The band will play Sunday, February 3
for worship. Mike Eckwall will lead the band.

Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

Our class has begun our study of Lutheran Living. We have restructured our schedule and
allowed the students to choose the lesson topics they most want to learn about:

January 2 — No Class/Christmas Break

January 9 — *Saint and Sinner*

January 16 — *Freedom of a Christian*

January 23 — *The Word*

January 30 — WINGO

(Wings + Bingo with High School Youth)

Senior High Youth Group (9th-12th graders)

New Year, new bible study! We will be exploring a study through the theme of Mission and
what God calls us to do. Come and join us will have fun games and treats each Wednesday!

WINGO Night!

Confirmation and High School Youth are invited to Wingo Night on January 30 at 6 p.m.!
We will be playing Bingo and enjoy eating some wings. There will be prizes of all sorts! We
will be meeting in Conference room A. Bring a friend! You don't want to miss out on this
fun night!

Adult Education Opportunities during Faithtime!

- **First Book Club** — Join us for discussion on the content of the book “*Before We Were Yours*” and faith response to the author Lisa Wingate on Wednesday, January 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Grace Place.

February’s book title is *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* written by Lisa See. It tells the story of a girl named Li-Yan, who lives with her family in a remote mountain village in China, where daily life and the economy still revolve around the seasons and the tea trade. The lives of Li-Yan’s family are upended when a stranger arrives one day in a jeep, the first automobile the people of the village have ever seen. This opens the village to the larger world, and Li-Yan in particular begins to explore the possibility of a world beyond what she knows. When she has a child out of wedlock, she’s forced to make a choice that will define both her life and the life of her daughter. Pick up a copy today and begin reading this novel that explores the relationship between mothers and daughters, and what it means to truly belong.

- **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.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone at First Lutheran who purchased gifts for the children in the Foster Care Program at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Your generosity is heart warming and made Christmas special for these children bringing smiles to their faces as they opened your beautiful gifts.

God’s Blessings throughout the New Year,
—Kathy Nelson

First Friends

First Friends will gather on Thursday, January 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come Welcome in the New Year with a warm meal, jovial conversation and a few surprises. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you can join us!

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *taco shells, refried beans, salsa, vegetable oil, hot chocolate mix, garbage bags, paper plates, laundry soap, toilet paper and freezer bags* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Another way to help!**

Donations of warm winter clothing are appreciated this time of year. We are currently in need of towels and sheets. If you have any of these items that are gently used and no longer needed, the Food Pantry would welcome your donation.



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

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 91
Geneseo, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Cancellation Policy

With snow flying once again, please remember that First Lutheran Church follows the Geneseo School District 228 weather cancellations. If the school district cancels classes or events, First Lutheran cancels its programming as well.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Laura Kamprath
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Morgan Sarber
Interim Director of Worship & Music

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, January 14
Ministries — Monday, January 14
Council — Monday, January 21

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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
Interim Director of Worship & Music
Monday-Thursday

Mary Jo Brummet,
Parish Administrator
Monday-Thursday

Haylee Gustafson, *Director of Youth & Family Ministry*
Monday-Thursday