



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

January 2021
Volume 60, Issue 1
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Worship livestreamed on Facebook
Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Official Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, January 24, 2021 ~ 9:30 a.m. on Zoom,
with an in-person option in the Fellowship Room**

Information about the Annual meeting and a ballot for elections will be mailed to each voting member the week of January 11. This mailing will include instructions for how to access the annual report, the options for attending the meeting on Zoom or in person, and an explanation of how ballots will be collected.

Congregational Meeting Agenda:

- I. Attendance and Establishment of a Quorum
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Explanation of making motions and voting on Zoom
- IV. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 2020
- V. Reports of the Pastors, Program Staff, Preschool
- VI. Reports of all Ministries, Committees, and Organizations
- VII. Adoption of Resolutions
 2020 Surplus Allocation
- VIII. Treasurer's Report and Reading of the 2021 Proposed Budget
- IX. Adoption of 2021 Budget
- X. Adoption of Constitutional Amendments
- XI. Report of the Nominating Committee
 Explanation of Balloting process



**Recess — Ballots will be collected at the church until 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. — Meeting resumes via Zoom**

- XII. Election results
- XIII. Closing Prayer

Please join the Church Council for a Congregation Forum on Sunday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. We will present a First Reading of the 2021 Budget and answer your questions about the Annual Report, so that we are prepared for the Annual Meeting on January 24. We will also practice making motions and voting on Zoom.

Normal Business, New Methods

Every year in January, we gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Usually, we pile into the Sanctuary and try to squeeze the meeting in between our two worship services. If the weather is bad, we may worry about getting a quorum so that we are able to conduct business. This year, everything is different.

We still have our normal business to conduct: Council and committee elections, a budget to pass, and constitutional amendments to consider. In addition, we have a resolution from the Finance Ministry regarding our surplus funds from 2020, in order to be ready for the year ahead.

The Congregational Council is planning a hybrid meeting, with in-person and Zoom options. We are encouraging people to choose the Zoom option for attendance if you are able to do so. The Fellowship Room will be open and have limited seating available for those who choose to attend in person.

The Zoom platform will allow us to have discussion and vote on most of the items on our agenda. The exception will be the election of Council members, which, according to our Constitution, requires a written ballot. We are working hard to prepare a mailing to each voting member in the congregation that will include a ballot for this election, along with instructions on when and where to return the ballot in order to cast your vote.

There are more details to share about the Annual Meeting than I have space for here. All of the details will be sent in January to the voting members of the congregation. What I want to share with you here is that, throughout the pandemic, through all the various phases – lockdowns, sheltering-in-place, restrictions, mitigations, and all of the efforts to slow the spread – FLC staff, volunteers, and Council members have been working hard to continue

our ministry. We long for the day when things will return to “normal,” and in the meantime, we look for creative new ways to share the good news of Christ’s love with all of you and with our wider community, and we also work to continue the day-to-day and week-to-week operations that keep our church running. Our Annual Meeting is one of those operational tasks that invites participation from every voting member of our congregation.

One of the new ministry opportunities in the month of January will be “drive-thru” Holy Communion. On January 10, we will set the table in the Sanctuary for our holy meal, and consecrate the bread and wine during our livestream worship. Then, after our livestream worship has ended, either Pastor Matt or myself will be available in the south parking lot, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., so that you can come and receive the sacrament. You will stay in your car and roll down your window, and a masked pastor will offer you bread and wine, as God offers you forgiveness and love.

The month of January in the church calendar sees the conclusion of the Christmas season and the first several weeks of Epiphany. We will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord on January 10. We will celebrate the Light that shines the darkness, as we continue to watch and wait and hope for signs of new life among us.

—Pastor Laura

January 3, 2021 — Christmas 2

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 25:1-9 and John 1:10-18.

January 10, 2021 — Baptism of our Lord

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11.

January 17, 2021 — Epiphany 1

This weekend's texts include 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-51.

January 24, 2021 — Epiphany 2

This weekend's texts include Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Mark 1:14-20.

January 31, 2021 — Epiphany 3

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28.

Drive-Thru Communion

Starting Sunday, January 10th, First Lutheran will offer a Drive-Thru Communion option the 2nd Sunday of every month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the south parking lot. If you are unable to make it to the church, please let the church office know and communion will be delivered to you!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Calling All the Baptized

Have you turned in your Baptism photos yet? If not send them to Morgan Sarber at worship@firstgeneseo.org by Monday, January 4!

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 Josh Francis, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, Jason Kinnard, Geoffrey Lindesmith, Jessica Ruggles, Brandon Sandoval, Brian Sandoval, 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 Meiyen 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. 6).

Health and Wellbeing: For all who are fighting COVID-19 including the residents and staff of Hillcrest Home, Mandy Baumgardner, Pastor Melva Graham England, Paul Hansen (*Margi Ficken's brother*), Bobby Schilling (*Karen Myhre's friend and other FLC members*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*), Naomi Terpening, and Cale Young (*Ryan Cathelyn's friend*).

Joys: On the births of Aniela Jane Nelson, daughter of Chris & Sarah Nelson, granddaughter of Marty & Judy Nelson, and great-granddaughter of Pat Reed; Harper Reign Martin, daughter of Dallas & Kayla Martin and granddaughter of Steve & Jodi Martin; Ryan Lea Camp, daughter of Katelyn & Lance Camp; and Sloane Alice Somers, daughter of Kelly & Trevor Somers and granddaughter of Mike & Margi Ficken.

Thanksgiving: For all the prayers for Michele _____, friend of Jodi Martin's, who is in remission for her cancer. What a Christmas miracle for her family! Kathy Nelson gives thanks for all the prayers during her recovery from a serious fall and fractured wrist. She is out of the cast, in a splint and her wrist is getting stronger. Both of Candace VanDer Schaaf's tumors were benign and her surgery was successful. Sherry Dickens thanks everyone for their prayers.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Dick & Diane Anderson, former members and friends of Kathy Nelson; and Velma Roberts, mother of Arlene Gesme.

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



Altar Flowers for 2021

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 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

February 7

April 11 & 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

June 6 & 27

July 4, 11, 18 & 25

August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

September 5, 12, 19 & 26

October 10, 17, 24 & 31

November 7, 14 & 21

If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please call the office at 944-3196 or email Morgan Sarber at worship@firstgeneseo.org.

First Lutheran Preschool

Preschool resumes Monday, January 4, 2021. Winter weather, ice and snow will be a focus for all classes in January. The 3-year-olds will participate in activities involving the color white and the triangle shape. They will go on a scavenger hunt in search of a gingerbread man and use snowmen to learn about size and ordering. The 4-year-olds will have indoor snow days, bringing the snow in for experiments and art. They will learn about owls, read the book "Owl Moon" and go owling.

- **No School** on Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr Day

Council Highlights for December 21, 2020

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on December 21, 2020. The metrics for Region 2 of Illinois were reviewed. As the metrics continue to improve, we are hopeful that some mitigations will be relaxed and certain in-person ministry opportunities can resume. This topic will be revisited in January.

Old Business

- Recommended proposed amendments to the Constitution, to be voted on by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021.
 - Set the agenda for the Annual Meeting.
 - Discussed the 2021 proposed budget.
- Approved a motion from Finance Ministry to recommend a resolution to the congregation at the Annual Meeting regarding our projected surplus for 2020.

New Business

- Approved two funding requests from Social Ministry: \$500 for Henry County Senior Citizens and \$750 for River Bend Food Bank.

- Approved an Investment Policy drafted and recommended by Finance Ministry, following the recommendation from the 2019 Audit.
- The Congregation Council will meet for a special Council Meeting on January 10, 2021, to approve a proposed 2021 budget.

November Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| November actual | \$33,657 |
| November budget | \$33,833 |
| YTD actual | \$429,053 |
| YTD budget | \$416,666 |

Net Income Over Expenses:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| November actual | \$1,870 deficit |
| November budget | \$3,707 deficit |
| YTD actual | \$28,659 surplus |
| YTD budget | \$14,238 deficit |

Faithtime Kids

We hope to return to Faithtime in January if mitigations are relaxed and we can gather again in groups. Information will be sent to parents once a decision has been made.

Thank You to everyone who drove through our *Birthday Party for Jesus* event and donated to the birthday kit project for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. With your donations, we were able to package about 40 kits!

Thank You!

I feel truly grateful for the wonderful support you have shown me over the last 4 years. From all the cards to the gift boxes you have truly brought me joy in hard times. My self and my fellow sailors especially looked forward to the Christmas box!

I am now exiting active duty and will be attending Southwestern College here in San Diego. I hope to get a Computer Science degree. I've loved the opportunity to be able to join the congregation again virtually during this quarantine period. Thank you for doing that!

Thank you and God bless,
Taylor McKean

Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

Confirmation Class continues to meet each Wednesday on Zoom. This month, we are beginning our unit on Lutheran Living. Here's our schedule:

January 6 — *Justification by Faith*

January 13 — *The Cross*

January 20 — *Law & Gospel*

January 27 — Fellowship Event!

FIRST MINISTRIES

2020 Jul Gott – Thank You!

This congregation is amazing! A big pat on the back goes to all of you! This has been a tough year for everyone and you all pulled through to help the Jul Gott charities! We all missed the Christmas cookies, the beautiful handcrafted items for auction and certainly the fellowship that Jul Gott brings every year but the love and support you have given is amazing. With the donations received to date and the Social Ministry donation of \$750, Jul Gott this year is able to donate over \$6,500 to Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry, Backpack Blessings and Lutheran World Hunger!!! We are making a difference! A special thank you to Deb Beyerlein for designing our Christmas card.

Bless you all and Happy New Year!
—*The Jul Gott Committee*

A Special Note of Thanks!

Social Ministry would like to thank our church family for their wonderful support of our projects throughout this past year. Even during a pandemic, when so many of us are sheltering at home, you have continued to reach out to help the others in our congregation and community in so many ways. From our online book fair to benefit the LSSI Prison Ministry, to our blood drives and most recently our Angel Tree, your participation has been wonderful. Also, because of your continued faithful donations with your church offerings, we were able to use our portion of benevolence funds to give Benevolence Grants to the following organizations in 2020: *Backpack Blessings, Braveheart, Churches United of the Quad Cities Area, First Lutheran Preschool, First Lutheran Secret Santa, Foster Hope, Geneseo Lunch Box Program Geneseo Marriage and Family Counseling, Henry County Seniors (Meals on Wheels), Henry County Sheriff's Office, Jul Gott, LSSI,LOMC, River Bend Foodbank and Sol's Legacy.*

Thank you for continuing to Share Christ's Love, even during the most difficult times. We pray for everyone's good health and safety and look forward to partnering with you in ministry in 2021. Thank you!



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:

Ministries — Monday, January 11
Cabinet — Monday, January 11
Council — Monday, January 18

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 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

Abbey Cathelyn
Monday-Wednesday

Sherry Dickens
Monday-Thursday, select hours