



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

July 2019
Volume 58, Issue 7
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!
Saturday 5:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m.

"To Mars and Beyond"

Join me and my friends for
"To Mars and Beyond" VBS!! It's sure to be
a Blast off of a good time! Our VBS is **July 7-11** from
5-8 p.m. and only cost \$10 per child with a family
maximum of \$30! Don't forget that friends
are welcome on our journey too!



A Word of Welcome

As of July 1, we welcome Morgan Sarber to the staff as Director of Worship & Music. Morgan has served as the Interim Director of Worship & Music since the beginning of 2019, and the Congregation Council was pleased to offer her the position. In this position, Morgan prepares for all of our weekend worship services and all special services; coordinates and works with numerous worship volunteers and the Worship & Music Ministry; directs the Sanctuary Choir, the Glory Ringers, and all of our praise teams; works with Faithtime children during the program year and offers other opportunities for children and youth to participate in worship life; maintains our music libraries, copyright licenses, and instruments; and is an integral member of our Program Staff. In the coming years, Morgan will be working on her piano skills and acquiring organ skills, with the goal of being able to accompany our worship services. In the meantime, Melinda Wildermuth will join our team as Staff Musician, providing accompaniment for Sunday services. We will continue to utilize other pianists in our area for Saturday evening accompaniment and special services.

First Lutheran Church gives thanks to God for the gifts that Morgan and Melinda bring to our community!

Growth

As I imagine many of you heard by now, we are going to have a baby in early December! We are so excited and so thankful to God for this blessing of new life to our family. We are also so thankful for all of you for your kind words and prayers throughout. We are expectant and hopeful, and also busy trying to prepare ourselves to receive this new child.

With our family growing in size, this has had me thinking about growth in general. Growth is almost always good and it is something to be thankful for. We prepare for growth always and are glad when it comes. We are thankful when the crops grow, even after a very difficult planting season. We are thankful for growth in families, growth in the economy, growth in investments, growth in numbers, growth in our gardens, growth in equality, love, and freedom... etc. Especially when the outcome to growth is good, we give thanks and praise to God.

Sometimes though, growth doesn't lead to anything good and it is hard to give God thanks and praise. It is hard to give thanks, when we continually see growth; in poverty, in disease, in addiction, in hate, in separation, in division, in income inequality, in racism, classism, and every other 'ism' we know. This growth is not good, simply because it doesn't lead to healing and wholeness for all. Ultimately growth like this leads to death. Growth, we know, can go either way. In addition, sometimes what we thought would lead to something good, does not end the way in which we hoped. In the midst of the complexity of growth, our duty and delight as proclaimers of healing and wholeness for all that we know in Jesus Christ, is to hope and work for growth in goodness and to give God thanks who is with us throughout, whatever may come down the road.

Ultimately, God is the one who leads us to life, and to the goodness that we know in God. God is the one who is luring us toward that which gives life, love, wholeness, and peace to all. That type of growth is present in God's kingdom here and now, but we only see it in part. We see it, when all are truly welcome around the table of God. We see it in part when all are loved and accepted as they are. We see it in part as we show each other forgiveness and mercy. We see it in part when we serve one another. We see it in part when we pray and worship together.

This type of growth takes time, but thankfully it has been already begun in Jesus Christ. We see this growth through faith, in all times, even when it's hard to give thanks and see anything good.

Here at FLC we are experiencing growth too. Almost every week Pr. Laura and I have been noticing we have had guests and visitors who have come here to worship with us and we believe this is very good. We hope you have noticed this too. Truth be told, I believe it is our collective work as disciples of Jesus Christ here to notice people who are here always, who are here every once in a while, and who are here for the first time. Our calling and your calling is to notice people with eyes of mercy, as we have been seen by God. Our calling is to see them, to hear them, to love them, and bear crosses with them, and in so doing, come face to face with ourselves, their wounds, our wounds, and with Jesus Christ risen.

May we all notice the growth God has planted right in our very midst and may we grow in discipleship, as we go outside of our comfort zones to embrace people wherever they might be on the journey. May we all notice each other *and* be a part of the growth of goodness that leads to life and love for all, Amen.

—Pastor Matt

July 6 & 7, 2019

Pentecost 4

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 66:1-9, Galatians 6:7-16 and Luke 10:1-11, 16-20.

July 13 & 14, 2019

Pentecost 5

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10, Colossians 1:1-14 and Luke 10:25-37.

July 20 & 21, 2019

Pentecost 6

This weekend's texts include Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28 and Luke 10:38-42.

July 27 & 28, 2019

Pentecost 7

This weekend's texts include Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-15 and Luke 11:1-13.

Women's Retreat!

Save the Date - November 22-23

The First Lutheran Church Women's Retreat will be at Benet House in Rock Island. This 24-hour retreat is designed for young women, working women, busy moms, and those in the "sandwich" generation (*simultaneously caring for young adult children and aging parents*) who are looking for a community of support and a place to experience joy as the busy holiday season kicks off. Registration forms are available at the Resource Center. See Pastor Laura, Betsy Brudos, Jill Laingen, or Janet Larson if you have questions!

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**

Hospitalization

Due to Federal guidelines, known as HIPAA, hospitals are no longer able to contact the church about the hospitalization of one of its members. If you or your loved one is taken to the hospital, be sure to contact the church office at 944-3196 so that Pastor Matt or Pastor Laura can call on you.

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, 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, especially Abby Larson and her colleagues, 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: Jeff Carius and Wesley Carius (*Beverly Carius' sons*), Kurt Horberg, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Nola Klemmer (*Diane Lowe's cousin*), Kem Martin (*Steve Martin's cousin*), Les Matson (*Steve & Jodi Martin's friend*), Rudy Rexroth, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), and Melody Vermost (*Steve & Jodi Martin's neighbor*).

Joys: For the safe arrival of twin great grandchildren of Marilyn & Virgil Juliot, born on June 11, 2019. For our staff and 8 confirmation students who are attending Faith Works Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center this week.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Dean Conrad, father of Sue Conrad; and Sue Peters, mother of John (Jackie) and grandmother of Josie and Lucy Peters.

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 Group will continue to meet on Sunday morning in Conference Room A, 10:15-11:00 a.m. Participant books for the summer quarter are available when you come to class or in the church office. The theme for the summer quarter is “*Living in Covenant*,” and during the month of July we will continue listening to Jesus’ words from the Sermon on the Mount, exploring how love and mercy transform our relationships. Here are the July lessons:

July 7 – Jesus Teaches about Fulfilling the Law (*Matthew 5:13-20*)

July 14 – Jesus Teaches Us to Love One Another (*Matthew 5:21-32*)

July 21 – We take a break to hear from Abby Larson about her year of service in Rwanda with Young Adults in Global Mission

July 28 – Jesus Teaches about Spiritual Discernment (*Matthew 7:1-6, 15-23*)

- Saturday Adult Small Group and classes for Children and Youth are on break until September.

Reception for Abby Larson

We will welcome Abby Larson back from her mission trip to Rwanda with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) during a reception before and after worship on Sunday, July 21. Abby will share her experiences teaching at the Rwanda Leadership School and her outreach ministry during the Christian Education time following the worship service. Refreshments will be served by the Spirituality/Wellness Ministry and her family.

Council Highlights for June 17, 2019

Action Items

- Building usage requests were approved for Girl Scout Troop 3035 and 1798 to meet here for the 2019-2020 program year.
- Funding requests were approved for a new roof on the garage at the rental property, and for repair of the west brick wall of the church.
- Funds were also approved for Catie Nelson for her third year at seminary.

Old Business

- The Council heard recommendations from the committee that interviewed candidates for the Director of Worship & Music position. After discussion, the Council agreed to extend an offer of employment to Morgan Sarber, and she accepted. The Council agreed to extend a contract to Melinda Wildermuth to continue to play organ and piano, and

Morgan Sarber will take over those responsibilities once she is able.

- New carpet will be installed in the next few months.

New Business

Council also approved up to 12 weeks of parental leave for Pastors Matt and Laura to use for the upcoming birth of their child.

Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

May actual	\$33,195
May budget	\$34,750
YTD actual	\$188,938
YTD budget	\$180,250

Net Income Over Expenses:

May actual	\$2,305 surplus
May budget	\$3,724 deficit
YTD actual	\$15,447 surplus
YTD budget	\$18,902 deficit

Project Respond

Another Child Foundation is asking for donations of new boots, shoes and socks for distribution in Romania for the October Mission trip. Items collected will be processed and packed in late July and shipped to Romania in August. There is still space on the October team if you are interested in being part of this amazing opportunity. Information can be found on the ACF website: anotherchildfoundation.org

There is a collection box located in the Fellowship Room for donated items. Final collection will be July 18th. The need is very great in the rural parts of Romania. I had the blessing of putting new shoes/boots on the feet of *hundreds* of children during my mission trip in 2018. Please take time to see the pictures of that distribution at the Project Respond kiosk. My prayer is that each child in need will have a new pair of shoes/boots for the next winter. You can be the answer to one child's prayer!

Churches United Meal

Come and help serve Churches United meal on Monday, July 29 at 6 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, East Moline! Call Nancy Cassens (309) 507-1684 or sign up at the Welcome Center. Desserts are needed too!

Coming Soon...

During the summer months, the carpet in the Fellowship Room, ground floor hallway, and Conference Room A will be replaced. The majority of the cost of this project is covered by an insurance settlement from an accident at FLC earlier in the year. The pastors and Council wish to say thank you to Mary Jo Brummet, Parish Administrator, for coordinating the project and to those who helped us select our new carpet.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *coffee, lemonade mix, pickles, taco seasoning, baking ingredients, insect repellent, razors, bleach, garbage bags and pull up training pants* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Another way to help!

We will be collecting donations of new school supplies during July and August. Our goal is to provide new school supplies to every child in need within School District 228. If you want to help us reach our goal, you may drop off donations at the Food Pantry anytime during normal business hours. A list of needed school supplies can be found on each school's website.

Music Camp

Music Camp will be July 22-25 for all current 2nd-6th graders. The theme this year is *Washed by the Water*. Mornings are spent at church in a variety of music activities, games, crafts, and snack. After lunch, we spend afternoons away from the church—bowling, swimming, etc. The children lead worship on Sunday, July 28. The cost for the week is \$85 and includes a t-shirt, craft supplies, lunch, transportation and admission into all afternoon activities. Pick up a registration form at the Resource Center. Scholarships are also available if needed. Friends are **very** welcome!



FIRST MINISTRIES



Summertime Fun at the Pool!

Come and soak up the sun at First Lutheran's Pool Party at the Geneseo Aquatic Center on Sunday, August 5. First Lutheran has reserved the Poolside Room from 3-5 p.m. and will provide sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages during that time. Pool hours are from noon-6 p.m. and families can use their pool passes or pay \$7 per person to enter the Aquatic Center and swim as much as you like! Kids under 2 years of age are free! See you there for sun, fun and fellowship!

Faithtime Volunteers!

We are looking for some volunteers who love working with kids and have a passion for sharing God's Word! Also, we are looking for drivers who are willing to pick up kids from school and bring them to FLC on Wednesday. If any of these interest you, contact Director of Family & Youth Ministry, Haylee Gustafson at youth@firstgeneseo.org or call the office!

Save the Dates!

- Wednesday, September 11 – (Grades K-6th)

Faithtime program year is coming around the corner! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 11. Faithtime enrolls K through 6th grade. Registration forms will be sent out in August. We have some exciting changes to Faithtime and we'll be sharing it next month!

- Wednesday, September 4 – (Grades 7th-12th)

Mark your calendars! Confirmation and High School program year will start Wednesday, September 4.

A Work of Thanks!

FLC Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for selecting me for a scholarship. Currently I'm going to Black Hawk with the hopes to start a program at Trinity College of Nursing next summer. Your gift will help me reach my goals.

Sincerely,
Maddie Fitzpatrick

A Note of Thanks!

Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. This will be used towards my tuition at Illinois College. I will be beginning my Junior year in the fall study the math education in hopes to become a middle or high school math teacher.

Thanks again,
Sydney Himmelman

Thank You!

Dear FLC,
I can't thank you enough. You became my church home, one of the first that accepted, affirmed, and supported my gender identity. You gave me a scholarship to continue chasing my dreams of becoming a high school math teacher. And gave me an amazing book as a graduation gift. Most importantly, you helped me regain my belief and faith in God, and our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

With Love,
Bek Hartman

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, July 10 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, July 17 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.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Items for Lutheran World Relief school kits will be collected in July and August. Following is a list of items that are needed to pack in cloth drawstring backpacks to send overseas.

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (*no loose-leaf paper*)
- rulers (*30 cm*)
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt scissors
- #2 unsharpened pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (*no gel ink*)
- Crayola crayons (*16 or 24 count*)
- 2 ½" erasers

Please Note ~ Each school kit requires four of the 70-sheet spiral notebooks. Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office. Thank you for giving a child the opportunity to go to school!

FIRST MINISTRIES

Work Day—Kitchen Cleaning!

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful kitchen to use. Come and lend a hand as we put a sparkling shine on our kitchen on Saturday morning, August 3 from 8 a.m. and noon. No sign up required...we'll see you in the kitchen! Donuts and coffee will be served!

What's Your Favorite Hymn?

For the month of August, we will be featuring favorite hymns from the congregation. If you would like your favorite hymn to be included please fill out the form below and drop it in the "drop box" by the office, or the offering plate by Sunday, July 28th!

Which service do you attend: _____

Favorite Hymns:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____





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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Melinda Wildermuth
Staff Musician

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,
Cheryl Saint Vincent, Patty Turner,
Taylor Wildermuth

Meeting Schedule:
Cabinet — No meeting in July
Ministries — No meeting in July
Council — No meeting in July

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, JULY 9**

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