



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHIMES**

July 2020  
Volume 59, Issue 7  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

*Sharing Christ's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Worship premiered on Facebook &  
YouTube Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
Outdoor Worship each weekend



**Outdoor  
Worship  
Service**

**Join us for Outdoor Worship in the South Parking Lot!**

**June 28, 2020 ~ *Service of the Word***  
*Sunday - 9:30 a.m.*

**July 5, 2020 ~ *Service of the Word***  
*Sunday - 9:30 a.m.*

**July 11 & 12, 2020 ~ *Holy Communion***  
*Saturday - 5:30 p.m. & Sunday - 9:30 a.m.*

**July 18 & 19, 2020 ~ *Holy Communion***  
*Saturday - 5:30 p.m. & Sunday - 9:30 a.m.*

**July 25 & 26, 2020 ~ *Holy Communion***  
*Saturday - 5:30 p.m. & Sunday - 9:30 a.m.*

*(For complete details see pages 2 & 3)*

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**A LETTER  
FROM  
PASTOR  
LAURA &  
PASTOR  
MATT**



# **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Sharing Christ's Love*

June 18, 2020

Dear members and friends of First Lutheran,

We miss you. We miss seeing you at church, talking with you, and worshipping next to you. We are ready to find ways to be together again, although we know we must proceed cautiously, with an abundance of care for the most vulnerable among us. Since returning to the office on June 1 (*and actually well before then*), we have been imagining what worship will be like when we return. We've talked through just about every scenario you can imagine. We've read the recommendations from the CDC, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern Illinois Synod. We've talked with our colleagues in Henry County and across the nation about how to do this well. We've prayed for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we make decisions. And, now we've discerned, together with staff members, worship leaders, and the Congregation Council, how to move forward.

As we resume on-site worship on the church campus, we realize that many people will still worship from home. We encourage you to continue worshipping from home if you are in a high-risk category (*over the age of 65 or have underlying health conditions*). We will continue to make worship available each weekend on Facebook and YouTube so that you can worship from home. You can still let us know with a comment or an e-mail that you are worshipping with us from home, and we will record your attendance.

We want to do everything we can to keep each other safe and healthy, and so we have some guidelines in place for when we gather. Here's what you can expect if you choose to return to outdoor worship on-site this coming month:

- **Worship Space** – All outdoor worship services will be in the south parking lot. You are welcome to park in the Main Street parking lot, at the Central Bank Administration Center parking lot, or on the streets surrounding the church. Worshippers will bring their own chairs to use for worship. Each household will find an open parking stall to set up their chairs. We will maintain physical distance while we worship.
- **Cancellation due to weather** – If we are not able to worship due to weather, we will announce the cancellation at least 1 hour prior to the worship start time via text, e-mail, and Facebook. (*Please make sure we have your cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses up to date in the church office. Contact Mary Jo at [mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org) with updates.*) In the event of cancellation, pre-recorded Worship will still be available each weekend on Facebook and YouTube.
- **Masks** – When we are outdoors, masks are optional. Please have your mask with you, and if you need to enter the church building for any reason (*i.e. to use the restroom*), please wear your mask. If you forget your mask at home, the church will provide you with one.
- **Restrooms** – The first-floor restrooms will be open and surfaces (*door handles, stall locks, toilet seats, flushers, faucets, etc....*) will be wiped down between services.
- **Hymnals and offering plates** – We are eliminating the need to share physical resources and pass communal items. We will not be distributing hymnals for use during worship, but you are welcome to “*check out*” a hymnal and take it home for your own devotional use during these weeks. Instead of passing offering plates, you may drop your offering in the drop box available during worship, or you can continue to contribute online, set up automated giving, or mail your offering to the church.

—Continued at the top of page 3

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## FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

• **Communion** – Our first two weekends, we will have a Service of the Word. Beginning July 11 & 12, we will offer Holy Communion during outdoor worship. Individual cups of juice with a wafer sealed on top will be distributed at the beginning of worship. When it's time, we will all commune together. If you're not planning on joining us for outdoor worship, but would still like to receive communion, please contact us.

So many details! It will be necessary for all of us to remain flexible. While we are doing our best to anticipate how worship will happen, we know that we cannot plan for every possibility. Our plans may change as needed after we worship together and see how things go. Our plans may also change as new scientific research becomes available about how the virus spreads, and as recommendations from the state and from our churchwide leaders change. The council, staff, and the re-opening worship task force continue to work toward opening the sanctuary for worship soon. There will be more details about worship indoors soon.

Through these weeks of new ways of worshipping together, I invite you to let your spirit feel all the feels. Pastor Laura already plans on crying some happy tears when she sees folks gathered for outdoor worship, and then crying some sad tears because we still can't shake hands and hug each other. Please, reach out to us. Tell us what parts of worship you find most meaningful and where you are struggling. Ask questions. Give us feedback. And, as always, we ask for you to hold us, along with the entire staff and lay leadership of the congregation, in prayer, asking God to preserve our well-being, strengthen our faith, and guide our next steps.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Laura & Pastor Matt*

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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 health care workers. 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, Geoffrey Lindesmith, 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 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, Michele \_\_\_\_\_ (*Jodi Martin's friend*), Ron Alhorn, Diane & Dick Anderson (*Kathy Nelson's friends*), Don Anderson, Candy Joseph (*Dolores Riekema's daughter and Deb Spence's sister*), Gary & Karen Jess-Jungen (*Kathy Nelson's friends*), Candy McMahon (*Barb Burghgrave's friend*), Steve Morgan, Judy Nelson, Dianne Peterson, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), and Deanna Swanson.

**Joys:** On the birth of Chesney Louis Storm, son of Tyler & Kelly Storm, grandson of Brad & Shari Storm and great-grandson of Stan & Linda Storm.

**Thanksgiving:**

**Sorrows:** On the deaths of Jerre Caturano, member and Joel Vandemore, friend of First Lutheran Church.

*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.*

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## FIRST PRAYER

# FIRST MINISTRIES

## July 5, 2020 – Pentecost 5

Today's texts include Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

## July 11 & 12, 2020 – Pentecost 6

Today's texts include Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:9-13; Romans 8:1-11 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

## July 18 & 19, 2020 – Pentecost 7

Today's texts include Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

## July 25 & 26, 2020 – Pentecost 8

Today's texts include 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

## Memorial Service

During this time of quarantine we as a congregation have lost several of our members, without a proper way to mourn. On **Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** we would like to come together as a church to mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This will be a drive-in service so that all may attend. You can park at the church and tune your radio in to listen to the service (*frequency will be announced later*). We will have special music, prayers, readings, and a time of remembrance for those members who have died in the past months: *Marla Johnson, Ted Larimer, Pastor Virgil Juliot, Sharon Stenzel, Rudy Rexroth and Jerre Caturano.*

## Council Highlights for June 15, 2020

Church Council met via Zoom. Catie Nelson will be presiding at worship on Sunday, July 5, and is available for pastoral emergencies from June 29-July 6 while the pastors are on vacation.

### Old Business

- Finance Ministry continues to work on the Payment Protection Program paperwork to keep up to date with deadlines and qualifications.
- Electronic worship will continue to be offered via Facebook and You Tube. Equipment in the sanctuary is being upgraded, and we hope to be able to live stream worship in the near future.

### New Business

- A task force was put together to discuss reopening procedures for the church as COVID 19 restrictions begin to relax. The task force met on June 10, and made recommendations to Council. The Council has decided to make outdoor worship available in addition to electronic worship,

beginning June 28 and continuing through the month of July. This will give us time to make thoughtful decisions about indoor worship.

- Funding requests were approved from Mission Endowment for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) for \$750 for additional cleaning equipment, and from Social Ministry for The Lunch Box Program for \$500 to assist with providing lunches to local children over the summer.

### May Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

May actual	\$43,543
May budget	\$32,833
YTD actual	\$235,976
YTD budget	\$278,667

Net Income Over Expenses:

May actual	\$9,838 surplus
May budget	\$4,265 deficit
YTD actual	\$43,270 surplus
YTD budget	\$10,535 surplus

## **Thank You to Jenn Johnson, our Programs Meal Coordinator!**

If you've joined us for a Faithtime Dinner anytime in the past four years, you have enjoyed the fruits of the labor of Jennifer Johnson, our Programs Meal Coordinator. Jenn accepted the position in the fall of 2016 and since then has coordinated over a hundred meals. In addition to planning the menu, shopping, coordinating the meal teams, and managing the budget for Faithtime Dinners, Jenn also coordinates the snack for our Faithtime Kids, coordinates dinners for the children during Vacation Bible School week each summer, and keeps our kitchen stocked and functional. We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to gather again in the Fellowship Room for a meal, but we do not know when that day will be. For now, Jenn's position is "on hold" and we say "*thank you*" to her for her ministry over the past years. When we are ready to begin planning for Faithtime Dinner to resume, we will welcome Jenn to our staff again.

## **Wednesday Night FAITHTIME at FIRST!**

It is our hope here at First Lutheran to resume Faithtime in the fall. We are not certain what the logistics will be or when our start date is, but I, along with Pastors Matt and Laura, and a congregational task force are in the beginning stages of planning.

The goal of the Faithtime Music & Arts Program is to provide Christian education and foster a love for worship and a desire to use musical and artistic gifts for the glory of God. The Faithtime program is built on 3 "*M*'s: *Message, Music, and Motion*. I am actively seeking volunteers for this wonderful program. A volunteer Google sign-up sheet will be emailed to you soon where you can easily sign up for a variety of jobs, or you can contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministries if you are ready to jump in! It takes a village to run this ministry and we need faithful servants like you to keep it going! Please prayerfully consider the following volunteer opportunities:

- Drivers to pick children up from school and transport them to church from 3:00-3:20 p.m.
- Table Talk volunteers to lead children in small group fellowship during snack time from 3:20-3:40 p.m.
- Lead a grade level classroom during "*Message*" time and transition children between activities from 3:20-5:30 p.m.
- Assist a grade level classroom from 3:20-5:30 p.m.
- Lead "*Motion*" time from 3:20-5:30 p.m. - lead children in art, drama, service projects, cooking etc.
- Assist "*Motion*" time from 3:20-5:30 p.m.
- Be "on call" as a substitute lead or assistant teacher or driver.

\*All curriculum is provided through Sparkhouse Digital

\*Faithtime typically runs from after Labor Day until the end of April

"Together we can do great things" —*Mother Teresa*

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### FLC Youth

#### *Fellowship at the Lake ~ July 12!*

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited for an afternoon of outdoor fun on Sunday, July 12, from 3-7 p.m. at Cathelyn Lake in Atkinson. There will be opportunities for fishing, swimming, hiking and other outdoor activities. Youth can refer to the Facebook event on the First Lutheran page for complete details.

### Drive-thru Beach Bash!

Children and their families are invited to our “*Drive-thru Beach Bash*” on *Wednesday, June 24 from 6-8 p.m.* in the south parking lot! This is an opportunity to get out of the house and say hello to some First Lutheran staff! Children will receive a special treat. Also, Confirmation students are encouraged to come at this time and collect their workbooks and other items. Contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministries for more information.

### Farewell to Mary Williamsen

We congratulate Mary Williamsen on her retirement from First Lutheran Preschool! Many have been blessed by the care and kindness Mary has shown to the children and families of First Lutheran Preschool. She shared her passion for learning and love of literature with the children she taught over the past 14 years. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement and thank her for her many years of educating and nurturing children of our community. Please congratulate Mary if you see her! You are welcome to send a note of congratulations to her or to the preschool at 114 E Main Street.

### Music Camp

Due to the uncertainty of what August will bring for us we will be canceling Music Camp for the summer of 2020. That being said, once schools open back up we will be offering some day long music camps on weekends, and holiday’s that will be announced in September!

### Did You Know...? ~ You Shop. Amazon gives.

Experience feel-good shopping!! Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and they’ll donate to your favorite charitable organization, at **no cost to you**. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organizations including Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Simply set up the account, and begin making purchases through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) rather than [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and a portion of your purchases goes quarterly to your charity of choice. This is a great opportunity since so many people are ordering online right now!



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## COVID-19 Update

The church office and church building are open during regular hours, Monday through Thursday. Staff is in the office during those hours to answer the phone and to receive visitors. We encourage all visitors to the church to call ahead, to ensure that your visit is at a time that we can safely receive you. The south exterior doors closest to the offices are unlocked during office hours and we ask everyone to enter and exit from those doors. There is a "sign-in" sheet by that entrance, and each person who enters and exits is asked to sign in. All persons in the building are required to wear a face mask (*covering worn over the nose and mouth*). We ask everyone to follow social distancing guidelines.

**Please Note:** Members are always welcome to visit the church during office hours to spend time in the sanctuary in silence and prayer.

## Words of Thanks

First Lutheran,

I can't thank you enough for selecting me for this scholarship! The money will help greatly with tuition for my occupational therapy degree at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Sincerely,  
*Hannah Himmelman*

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First Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. The money will be used towards my math education degree at Illinois College. I really appreciate being selected.

Sincerely,  
*Sydney Himmelman*

## A Note of Thanks!

We want to thank our First Lutheran family for your tremendous support of church's recent blood drive and LSSI Storybook Project Virtual Book Fair. Even though our virtual book fair has ended, LSSI Storybook Project will continue to receive a portion of the profits for a full year, if we continue to purchase books and items from our Scholastic accounts. In this way, we will be able to continue to support this important ministry of LSSI. Your kindness and generosity has been a real blessing. Thank you for *Sharing Christ's Love* with so many during such a difficult time for our country.

*Social Ministry*

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### A Note of Appreciation

Dear Friends of Geneseo Backpack Blessings,  
We thank you for your donation of \$340.00! We are grateful for your support and financial help.

We have been blessed to keep food bags going through this summer. We now need to re assess how we proceed with regulations and schedule changes. Keep us in prayer!

God bless you!  
*Kathy McClimon,*  
*Geneseo Backpack Blessings*

## Thank You!

Thank you members of First Lutheran Church for the graduation card and uber eats card. I really appreciate all that the church has done for me and I will definitely put that card to use.

Thank you,  
*Hayes Murphy*



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**STAFF DIRECTORY**

**Rev. Laura Kamprath**  
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

**Rev. Matt Kamprath**  
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**Morgan Sarber**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
worship@firstgeneseo.org

**Mary Jo Brummet**  
*Parish Administrator*  
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**Abbey Cathelyn**  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*  
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**Sherry Dickens**  
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**Charlene Daniels**  
*Custodian*  
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

**Melinda Wildermuth**  
*Staff Musician*

**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, July 13  
Ministries — Monday, July 13  
Council — Monday, July 20

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, JULY 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-Thursday

**Sherry Dickens**  
Monday-Thursday, select hours