



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# CHIMES

*Sharing Christ's Love*

June 2018  
Volume 57, Issue 6  
www.firstgeneseo.org

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

## Partners in Mission

Last month, we kicked off a new program called *Partners in Mission*. Each weekend throughout the summer months, we will lift up the ministry of an organization that we work with as we are *Sharing Christ's Love* in our community and in our world.

In June, we will learn more about and support these ministries:

June 2 & 3 ~ *Young Adults in Global Mission*

June 9 & 10 ~ *Rebuilding Together*

June 16 & 17 ~ *Lutheran World Relief*

June 23 & 24 ~ *Lutheran Disaster Response*

June 30 & July 1 ~ *Osupuko Parish, Tanzania*

Bring your coins to church each weekend for the noisy offering to support our Partners in Mission!

## Shipwrecked - *Rescued by Jesus*



July 29-August 2 ~ 5 to 8 p.m.



*Come sail away...* Join us for this fun, interactive week, where kids will venture to an uncharted island where they will learn the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play team work-building games, and make and devour yummy treats! Everyone is invited to join us July 29-August 2 from 5-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per child with a family maximum of \$30. Fill out the enclosed registration form and return it along with your registration fee to the church office or it can be dropped in the drop box by the office or the offering plate. For more information, please contact VBS director, Morgan Sarber at (309) 714-2732 ([sarbermorgan@gmail.com](mailto:sarbermorgan@gmail.com)) or Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Haylee Gustafson.

# *PRAYground*

I have two primary callings in life. One is to be a pastor in God's church. Specifically, I have been called to this church (*the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*) and this congregation (*First Lutheran Church, Geneseo*). The other calling is to my family – to be a good child, sibling, spouse, and parent. Because my job is also my church home, and because my work family is also my faith family, my responsibilities in these two areas of my life often overlap with one another. I have found that to be the case ALL THE TIME this spring.

It's particularly my work as your pastor with Christian Education and children's faith formation and my work as a mother to a 5-year-old that so often intersect. I get to practice being a childhood faith formation expert every day in my own home, and I get to watch how children's faith grows as I watch Anna and her friends at First Lutheran grow.

This summer, we are experiencing some changes at First Lutheran with our children's ministry programs. Our Children's Church program, which has been in place teaching children ages 3-8 every Sunday for many years, has concluded this past month. Dozens of teachers and youth helpers have made this program possible, and for that, as a parent, I say "Thank You." Anna comes home from Children's Church each week able to tell me about the Bible story. How awesome!

We are in the process of dreaming and planning and discerning what our children's ministry on Sundays might look like in the future. A team of parents and other church leaders will be meeting over the summer months to talk about and pray about our next steps as a congregation. Our hope is to begin a Sunday morning education program that reaches children and youth of all ages and allows for faith formation for parents and other adults. In addition to our planning team, the congregation Council will be involved in the

visioning and planning process. Our hope is that we can implement a Sunday morning Christian education component that will complement well our Wednesday Christian education activities. Faithtime, Confirmation, and high school youth group will return in September as expected.

In the meantime, we will introduce the PRAYground, beginning June 3. The overflow area of the sanctuary will be transformed into a family-friendly space for families with young children. There will be space for babies to crawl, toddlers to play, and children to draw. Each Sunday, Pastor Matt or I will introduce a new activity during the Children's Message time that relates to the lessons for the day. We hope that this space encourages families with young children to attend worship and to participate in all aspects of the liturgy. Children learn how to worship by being present in worship. They will learn the songs and prayers as they hear them repeated week after week. They will learn the stories as they act them out and hear them told. They will experience a welcome in God's family when they see that there is a place just for them at church. (My own daughter has witnessed some of the preparations we have been making for the PRAYground and she can't wait for it!)

The PRAYground is something new for us here at First Lutheran (although many | other congregations have something similar), so we will make adjustments as needed along the way. The plan is to have the space available through the summer months and then evaluate its effectiveness. Our congregation is already very supportive of families who are seeking to raise their children faithfully and we are working on continuing in this tradition as we move into the future.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Laura*

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## June 2 & 3, 2018

### **Pentecost 2**

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Psalm 81:1-10, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 and Mark 2:23—3:6.

## June 9 & 10, 2018

### **Pentecost 3**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 and Mark 3:20-35.

## June 16 & 17, 2018

### **Pentecost 4/Happy Father's Day**

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 and Mark 4:26-34.

## June 23 & 24, 2018

### **Pentecost 5**

This weekend's texts include Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and Mark 4:35-41.

## **Scholarship Spotlight**

Congratulations to the following two applicants who will receive a scholarship for the 2018-19 school year.

*Allison Yager*

*Jennifer Yager*

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Scholarship Committee,

*Mandy Baumgardener, Mark Luciani,*

*Haylee Gustafson & Pastor Matt*

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**



### **Ringers needed!**

We have 3 spots open in Glory Ringers, beginning next fall. Are YOU interested? The group rehearses on Thursday nights from 7:00-8:15 p.m., and plays for 8:30 worship the first Sunday of the month. Music reading is not a prerequisite. Please talk with Linda Schmidt if you want more information.

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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 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, Connor Luxmore, Taylor McKean, Jessica Ruggles, Christopher Schwake, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

**Church:** For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Jeff Clements. For our partners in ministry: Pastor A. Michael Stephin 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. 8).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Glen R. Anderson, Lila Becker, Marilyn Blank, Mike Chavez, Judy DeBoever, Sherry Dickens, Evelyn Kline, Peggy Schram, Edna Schuetts, Jay Sears and Gene Stees.

**Joys:** Baptism of Lilly Christine Unrath, daughter of Chris & Kathleen Unrath and granddaughter of Jim & Beth Unrath. Pastor Virgil Juliot is improved.

**Thanksgiving:**

**Sorrows:** On the death of Lucille Nolan, grandmother of Laura Pearson; Rudy B. Holmstrom, brother of Roy Holmstrom; and ELCA missionary Ms. Carol Stubbs.

*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.*

## **FIRST PRAYER**

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## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Adult Education resumes on Sunday, June 3

Back by popular demand! Pastors will lead an Adult Education class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. during the summer months. For the month of June, Pastor Matt will lead a Bible Study on the book of Ephesians. Come and learn more about this letter, which explores the immeasurable height and depth, length and breadth of God's love for us and for the entire creation. Bring your Bible and a cup of coffee and join us in Conference Room A.

### Caring Conversation - Study of book: *Courage for the Unknown*

Caring Conversation Group beginning Wednesday, June 6 through June 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Sunday School Room 5. Purchase your copy of *Courage for the Unknown Season* by Jan Silvious. Come and join in fellowship and conversation about the unknowns whether it's loss of a love one, job, or broken relationship. In the midst of unknown seasons we all need the courage to get through and the hope to find our way home. Contact Jan Larson at 309-507-2997 ([jlars6931@gmail.com](mailto:jlars6931@gmail.com)).

### Blast off for Books!

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston, host city for the Gathering. Our First Lutheran youth participating in the Youth Gathering continue to welcome your donations of books through Sunday, June 10!

- You can pick up a flyer at the display with the list of accepted books. Or you can check out the ELCA Youth Gathering's Book Wish List on Amazon.

### First Friends Luncheon

First Friends will meet on Thursday, June 14 at 11:30 a.m. for an 'indoor' summer picnic! Come and enjoy hamburgers & sides. Cost of lunch is \$5. No ants or mosquitos are invited but YOU are. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the foods and fellowship of summer. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

### Ways to Remember First Lutheran Church in your Will

About ten First Lutheran families attended the Will and Estate Planning Workshop on Sunday, April 22. The seminar was led by Trista Foster, Vice President and Trust Officer at American Bank and Trust Company. She outlined the benefits of having a will and other estate plans in place. As part of her presentation, she discussed a number of different options for remembering your church or other nonprofit organizations in your will and estate planning. These include the following:

- Declaring a specified dollar amount in your will.
- Declaring a specified percentage of your estate in your will.
- Making the church or other organization an equal beneficiary to your estate, along with your children or other beneficiaries.
- Making the church or other organization a beneficiary of your IRA, stock, or other tangible item.
- Purchasing life insurance and making the church or other organization a beneficiary.

For additional information on how to set up your will or estate to benefit the church, please contact one of the pastors.

## Outreach Ministry's Volunteer Recognition

Many members of this congregation give of their time, talents and treasure help people, projects and organizations outside the walls of First Lutheran. We notice and want them to know that their efforts are appreciated. Each month we will recognize a FLC individual or group of individuals that are doing "God's Work" in our community and beyond.

What started in 1981 by three women as a idea to honor their deceased veteran husbands with a display of 50 flags in the city park, The Geneseo aisle of Flags has grown to almost 800 flags flown every Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. Our Volunteer(s) Recognition of the Month goes to ... **Bob & Judy DeBoever, Rodger & Stephanie Rickman and Maurie & Brenda Nelson** who have continued the tradition by serving as the coordinators of this wonderful Geneseo tradition. This group supervises a large group of community volunteers who raise the flags at 7 a.m. and take them down at 2 p.m. on the designated holidays. They manage the care and storage of the flags and coordinate the installation of new flags each year. Our hats off to these great volunteers who make their First Lutheran family proud!

## FIRST MINISTRIES



**BOB & JUDY  
DEBOEVER**

**RODGER & STEPHANIE  
RICKMAN**

**MAURIE & BRENDA  
NELSON**

## Confirmation Summer Camp

On June 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> the Confirmation class will be going to LOMC (*Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Camp*) in Oregon, IL. We look forward to spending the week with great team building experiences, canoeing, mission work, bible study, and meeting fellow Christians from the Andover cluster. LOMC is a place that really connects the Word and love of God to our teens. We will leave the church parking lot at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 10 and return around 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 14. Pastor Laura and Haylee Gustafson will be with your youth for the duration of the time.

### Preschool Summer Fun!

Families with children ages 3-5 are invited to join us for a morning of (*free*) fun at the Splash Pad in Geneseo. Parents (*or grandparents*), please plan to stay with your child. We gather on Wednesday, June 20 from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. We will break mid-morning for a snack and remembrance of baptism.

## National Youth Gathering

All the planning and fundraising is over! We are heading to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering! Thank you to all who has donated and helped us get to this point in our journey. We are excited to be serving and sharing the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Houston! We are thrilled to have a great group of High School youth and adult leaders going to Houston:

*Erik Bergren*

*Hayes Murphy*

*Pastor Matt*

*Hayden Curcuru*

*Anslee Plasschaert*

*Haylee Gustafson*

*Taylor DeSplinter*

*Emma Slaymaker*

*Margi Ficken*

*Logan Fitzpatrick*

*Hannah Stebly*

*Maddie Fitzpatrick*

*Andrew Schmidt*

Join us on Sunday, June 24 at the 10 a.m. service as we will be having a sendoff service for the Youth Gathering group. Keep them in your prayers for safe travels!

# FIRST MINISTRIES

## Council Highlights for May 21, 2018

### Old Business

Conversation about Sunday School is ongoing. A team has gathered to brainstorm possibilities, and any interested parties should contact Pastor Laura.

### New Business

- Approved appointment of Heather DeBrock to Personnel Committee. She will fill a term that expires in March 2019.
- Approved continuing education request for Pastors Matt & Laura, as well as Deacon Linda Schmidt.
- Approved \$500 scholarships to Jennifer Yager and Allison Yager.
- Approved extension of Jennifer Johnson's contract for Faithtime (*Peter Johnson excused himself from the meeting*).

### Action Item

- Approved updated Benevolence Policy.

### Financial Report

#### General Fund Offering:

April actual	\$38,458
April budget	\$35,067
YTD actual	\$161,952
YTD budget	\$159,667

#### Net Income Over Expenses:

April actual	\$3,614 surplus
April budget	\$2,493 deficit
YTD actual	\$2,080 surplus
YTD budget	\$6,778 deficit

## Birdies for Charity



First Lutheran has a generous history of supporting and encouraging our youth in attending LOMC for both the fall weekend retreat and the weeklong summer camp with the Andover cluster. We also take mission trips with our high school youth as well as going to the ELCA National Youth Gatherings. We have so many opportunities for our youth and need to be proactive in our fundraising efforts.

*Here's how it works...* we will be asking for pledges until July 8<sup>th</sup> for Birdies for Charity. Simply fill out a pledge card that is available at the display located at the north end of the Fellowship Room with your contact information and pledge amount. Pledges need to be at least one penny per birdie OR can be a one-time flat donation. Once you fill the form out, please put the part of the form with your information on it in the offering plate or church office.

*After the tournament...* you will be invoiced based on the number of birdies recorded. For example, if you pledge \$0.01 per birdie and 2,000 birdies are recorded, you will be billed for \$20. If you donated a flat fee you will be invoiced for exactly that amount. First Lutheran Church will receive 100% of your donation. Best of all, the tournament then takes its annual profits and adds a second "bonus" check of 5-10% to each organization. So, for every \$1.00 pledged and collected, the charity receives between \$1.05 - \$1.10. Tough to find a better deal than that!

You will also be able to guess the birdies and win a two-year lease on a 2018 Lexus NX or other contest prizes!

## **LWR Baby Care Kits**

Baby Care Kit items are still being collected through the end of June. Here are the items included in each kit:

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts
- 2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (*without feet*)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel (*up to 52" square*)
- 4 cloth diapers (*flat fold preferred*)
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel (*dark color recommended*)
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars (*8 to 9 oz.*) of "gentle" soap (*in original wrapping*)
- 2 large safety pins

Clothing between 6 and 24 months and may be "gently used and in good condition."

Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office.

## **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, June 6 & 13 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

**Women's Bible Study** will be held on Wednesday, June 18 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.

### **Thank You First Lutheran**

It is with utmost appreciation, the family of Rudy Holmstrom, would like to thank Pastor Matt for his message and comfort to all of us. We also want to thank First Lutheran's Funeral Ministry Team for the wonderful meal they provided our family and friends. We cannot thank you all enough.

*God bless,  
Roy, Sandi, and Bette Holmstrom*

## **Food Pantry Collection**

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *sugar, mandarin oranges, peanut butter, salad dressing, baked beans, mouthwash, Kleenex, razor blades, pain relievers and bleach* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

### **Another way to help!**

Please consider donating a new or used fan to the Food Pantry. Most of our clients do not have air conditioning and they appreciate receiving fans to keep them cool. We are also accepting donations of summer clothing, household items, accessories, sheets, blankets, towels, kitchen items, small appliances, toys, books, videos, CDs, games and puzzles.

### **A Note of Thanks!**

My sincere thank you to all for your cards, gifts and kind words as I concluded my ministry as parish secretary at First Lutheran. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve this congregation and each of you.

Thank you also for your encouraging words, prayers, meals and offers of help at the time of my surgery and during treatment. It is so good to be a part of such a generous and caring faith community!

*In Christ,  
Sherry Dickens*



**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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**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, June 11  
Council — Monday, June 18

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12**

**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

**Linda Schmidt, Deacon**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
Monday-Thursday

**Mary Jo Brummet,**  
*Parish Administrator*

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