



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHIMES**

March 2021  
Volume 60, Issue 3  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

*Sharing Christ's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

Worship livestreamed on Facebook

Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

# *A Story to Tell*

## LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

*Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, March 3

Midweek 2

“Jesus Meets My Needs”

*Mark 2:1-12*

Wednesday, March 17

Midweek 4

“God’s Kingdom Is Worth It”

*Mark 10:17-31*

Wednesday, March 10

Midweek 3

“Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me”

*Mark 8:27-36*

Wednesday, March 24

Midweek 5

“God’s Love Transforms Us”

*Mark 14:3-9*

## PALM SUNDAY ~ MARCH 27 & 28

*Saturday at 5:30 p.m. ~ Special Music & Passion Reading*

*Sunday at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. ~ Special Music & Passion Reading*

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS OPPORTUNITIES

*Stations of the Cross Exhibit* will be open during Holy Week,  
March 29—April 2, during office hours on Monday through Thursday  
and on Good Friday, 5-8 p.m.

*Children’s Interactive Stations of the Cross* ~ Families with young children are invited to participate in Interactive Stations of the Cross during Holy Week, March 29—April 2, during office hours on Monday through Thursday and on Good Friday, 5-8 p.m.

# 525,600 minutes . . . How do you measure a year in a life?

So begins the musical *Rent*, and while I usually belt out this tune annually on December 31 and January 1, it seems appropriate for the month of March 2021.

One year ago, this month, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. One year ago, this month, I got the automated phone call telling me that Geneseo schools would be suspending student attendance due to the public health concern – the last day of student attendance was March 16. One year ago, this month, our Council met and made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship and ministry.

Most of us had little to no idea, one year ago this month, what the next 12 months would bring. I thought that the adjustments we were making—mask wearing, staying home, social distancing – would last a few weeks, maybe a few months. I thought, surely by the end of summer, things will be back to “normal.”

But we’ve learned in the past year that “normal” is a relative term. We’ve learned to be flexible and creative. We’ve learned to be resilient. And we’ve also learned how to hold on to hope. We still long for the day when we can sing together, eat together, and worship side by side, no longer concerned about the distance between us.

Since the pandemic began, we have lost loved ones, welcomed new babies, and celebrated with graduating seniors and Confirmands. We have celebrated Easter via Zoom, and Christmas via Facebook Live. We’ve worshipped online and outdoors. We’ve opened the Sanctuary for in-person worship, suspended everything again, and now re-opened. We’ve cancelled and postponed and re-imagined annual traditions.

I can’t predict where the next 12 months will take us, where we will be in March 2022. I hope to be sitting next to you on a cold Wednesday eating a bowl of hot soup in the Fellowship Room! I hope to be singing some of the hymns out of the newly-released hymnal supplement *All Creation Sings*. I hope to be baking (and eating) bread together with our First Communion kids. I hope for these things fervently, but I can’t promise any of them.

What I can promise is that through all of the changes that have come over the past year, and through all of the changes that are yet to come in the year ahead, our God is at our side. God lovingly accompanies us through each change, each disappointment, and each adjustment. God assures us that God’s mercy endures forever, and that God’s love never ends. God reminds us, in surprising new ways, that because Jesus lives, we shall live also. Love will persist, and life will win. This is the promise that will sustain us, through the next 12 months, and then forever and ever.

—Pastor Laura

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### March 3, 2021

#### **Midweek 2, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's text is Mark 5:21-43.

### March 6 & 7, 2021

#### **Lent 3**

This weekend's texts include Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 2:13-22.

### March 10, 2021

#### **Midweek 3, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's text is Mark 8:27-36.

### March 13 & 14, 2021

#### **Lent 4**

This weekend's texts include Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21.

### March 17, 2021

#### **Midweek 4, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's text is Mark 10:17-31.

### March 20 & 21, 2021

#### **Lent 5**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:5-10 and John 12:20-33.

### March 24, 2021

#### **Midweek 5, Noon & 6:30 p.m.**

Today's text is Mark 14:3-9.

### March 27 & 28, 2021

#### **Palm Sunday**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11 and The Passion of Our Lord according to Mark.

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### **Drive-Thru Communion**

This month, Drive-Thru Communion will be Sunday, March 14 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the south parking lot. We plan to continue to offer this ministry on the second Sunday of each month until all COVID restrictions are lifted.

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**



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*Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:*

**World and Community:** For our leaders: President Joe Biden 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 Pr. Raymond Koh and family in Malaysia. 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:** For all who are fighting COVID-19, Betty Clark (*Pr. Michel Clark's mother*), Archer Frank (*Mel & Lila Becker's great grandson*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Rose Smith (*Kathy Nelson's friend's niece*), Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*), Melody Vermost (*Steve & Jodi Martin's neighbor*) and Tom Watkins (*Bob Groene's friend*).

**Joys:** On the birth of Archer Frank, son of Jared & Michelle Frank and great grandson of Mel & Lila Becker. Worship with friends and family.

**Thanksgiving:** Pastor Laura's father, Kim Johnson, is now home and continuing to recover from COVID and pneumonia and regaining strength. We give thanks for the road crews and utility crews who maintain our safety. For all the generous members who have and will donate winter coats and gloves for children. For safe travel for Abby Larson over the weekend. For the snow that blankets the ground preparing for next growing season.

**Sorrows:** On the death of Loretta Baze, member.

*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**

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Faithtime Kids

During the season of Lent, Faithtime will meet from 5:30-6:20 p.m. every Wednesday. Families are invited to then join us for our Midweek Lenten services at 6:30 p.m.

#### All children Grades K-6

**March 3** — *Jesus Feeds 5000*

Memory Verse: *Psalm 145:9*

**March 10** — *The Last Supper*

Memory Verse: *Psalm 118:24*

**March 17** — *Palm Sunday to Easter*

Memory Verse: *Matthew 121:9*

**March 24** — *Holy Week and Easter*

Memory Verse: *Matthew 28:6*

Faithtime Kids have been working hard on their Easter program that will be premiered at the Easter Vigil service on April 4.

### Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

During Lent, our Confirmation students are preparing weekly devotions based on the themes of our Midweek worship services. Each week, they find an image online inspired by the Bible story and theme, and then write a short reflection. During Holy Week, students are invited to participate in worship services and experience the Stations of the Cross.

### FLC Youth (9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders)

FLC Youth meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for *Prayer and Ping Pong*. Any high school youth is welcome to attend! Last month we began using the ACTS acrostic as a guide to prayer. (*Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication*) Each week we cover a letter of the acrostic and complete an interactive prayer station to help us understand how to pray in that way. It has been so wonderful having the youth back upstairs for fellowship!

### Thank You!

Thank you to all of those who donated to Souper Bowl of Caring! With your help, we were able to donate a large amount of food to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry.



### First Communion

Children currently in grades 3 and 4 are invited to First Communion Preparation on Sunday, March 21 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Room or Zoom. These children will be receiving their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 1. More details on that to come.

### Children and Family Outreach

*Did you know?* ... 20 families from our congregation have been reaching out to some of our elderly or shut-in members and sending cards, dropping off treats and doing other special activities for them. We know that many people have been isolated due to COVID so this is our way to stay connected and spread some kindness to those who need it!

Thank you to all those that participated in the "Kindness Challenge!" Great job spreading kindness!



## A Thank You and A Welcome

We wish to say “*thank you*” to Deb Spence for her service as our Financial Secretary, as she steps down from the position. We say “*welcome*” to Patsy Andress as our new Financial Secretary. We are grateful for Deb’s commitment and faithfulness, and for Patsy’s willingness to serve in this way. Our Financial Secretary helps the counters each week, records all receipts from offerings and special gifts, manages the envelope program and the online giving, and prepares periodic giving statements. You can contact Patsy by calling the church office or by e-mailing her at [financials@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:financials@firstgeneseo.org)

## Easter Egg Hunt Donations

We are asking for donations of snack sized Easter candy or small trinkets that we can package in eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m. A decorated Easter bin will be in the Fellowship Room during the month of March for any donations. Please drop off your donations by Sunday, March 28 so that youth can fill the eggs on Tuesday!

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### First Lutheran Scholarships

Are you planning on attending college this fall? The First Lutheran Scholarship Committee has applications available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room. *(Please note, there are separate forms for high school and college.)* All applications must be returned to the church office by April 6.

## Area Wide Cleaning Supply & Personal Care Collection To Benefit the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry!

Social Ministry and Outreach Ministry will be sponsoring an area wide cleaning supply and personal care collection for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to Noon in the south parking lot. Drive up & drop off!

Collection boxes will be set up for *cleaning supplies ... laundry detergent, oven cleaner, window cleaner, paper towels, garbage bags, bleach, disinfectant wipes, etc.* and *personal care items ... feminine products, hair products, diapers, soap, toothpastes, deodorant, razors, Kleenex, etc.*

In addition to the drive-up event, a collection box will also be located in the Fellowship Room beginning Saturday, March 27 if you would like to drop off items prior to the event.

# BLOOD DRIVE

First Lutheran Church

Thursday, March 4 3:00– 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Room

114 E Main Street, Geneseo, IL

**MASKS AND APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**

To schedule, please call Nancy Cassens  
at 309-507-1684 or email her at:

[incassens@gmail.com](mailto:incassens@gmail.com)

Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 01/7/21

Group Sponsor Code: 3872

**TOGETHER**  
*We're a Perfect Pair!*  
All donors will receive a voucher to  
redeem for socks or a gift card.  
**BLOODCENTER.ORG**

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Easter Garden

You're invited to help decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for Easter! Easter lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, or mums may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost is \$18 for any variety. These flowers may be ordered by completing the form located in the pew racks or by calling the church office at 944-3196. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Our deadline is Monday, March 22. Names will be recognized in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 4. You may take a plant of your choice home after the 10:30 a.m. Easter service.

### First Lutheran Preschool

All preschool classes will be preparing for Easter and welcoming in the spring season this month with crafts, songs and activities. The 3 year olds will focus on the color yellow and diamond shape and will have fun with the book "Roly-Poly Egg" by Kali Stileman. The 4 year old classes will continue to have a letter focus each week. They will have a game week where the focus is on following rules, taking turns and problem solving. They will also conduct experiments and complete projects involving the weather.

#### • No School ~ Spring Break

Monday, March 29 - Monday, April 5

School will resume on Tuesday, April 6

### Music Camp ~ Save the Date!

Music Camp will be July 26 - 29 for all current 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. 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 August 1. We welcome you to invite friends to join us as well!

### Council Highlights for February 15, 2021

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on February 15, 2021.

#### New Business

- Patsy Andress was appointed as Financial Secretary.

- Ministry team assignments were made for the year as follows:

Building & Property: Phil Wildermuth

Christian Education & Youth: Linda Sheley

Congregational Life: Mike Slaymaker

Finance: Mike Ficken, Gary Gesme, and  
Jacob Steffes

Outreach: Johanna Hager

Personnel Committee: Lance Camp

Social Ministry: Anne Calder

Spirituality & Wellness: Jill Laingen

Stewardship: Cathy Runty

Worship & Music: Kathy Heller

#### Old Business

- A recommendation for updates to our COVID procedures was received from the In-Person Worship Task Force and approved. Worshippers will now seat and dismiss themselves and receive Holy Communion in their seats.

#### January Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

January actual      \$58,577

January budget      \$55,667

YTD actual            \$58,577

YTD budget          \$55,667

Net Income Over Expenses:

January actual      \$9,064 surplus

January budget      \$617 deficit

YTD actual            \$9,064 surplus

YTD budget          \$617 deficit

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## First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book “Where the Crawdads Sing” and faith response to the author Delia Owens on Thursday, March 18 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. April’s book title is *“It’s Not All Downhill From Here: A Novel”* by Terry McMillan. Loretha Curry’s life is full. A little crowded sometimes, but full indeed. On the eve of her sixty-eighth birthday, she has a booming beauty-supply empire, a gaggle of lifelong friends, and a husband whose moves still surprise. True, she’s carrying a few more pounds than she should be, but Loretha is not one of those women who think her best days are behind her—and she’s determined to prove wrong her mother, her twin sister, and everyone else with that outdated view of aging wrong. It’s not all downhill from here. But when an unexpected loss turns her world upside down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength, resourcefulness, and determination to keep on thriving, pursue joy, heal old wounds, and chart new paths. With a little help from her friends, of course. Be sure to pick up a copy today and begin reading this hopeful and hilarious novel that women of all ages can relate to!

## A Note of Thanks!

My Family & Friends at First Lutheran  
All the cards - greetings and gifts I received from members of First Lutheran made an ordinary day (*Valentine’s Day*) into a big difference. I really enjoyed the ones made by the children. Thank you for your kindness.

*God Bless You,  
Gladys Swanson*

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## Thank You

Thank you, First Lutheran members, for the wonderful Valentines! They certainly brightened my day!

*Greta Nordstrom*

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Congregational Resourcing Event

Join other disciples from Northern Illinois for this annual synod-wide event which provides workshops on a wide variety of ministry topics. You will have over 30 workshop choices, offered over three workshop sessions on Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year, we gather on Zoom and the event is free. Registration is required and can be completed at <https://nisynod.org/annual-events/cre>

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *chunky soups, baked beans, canned potatoes, canned carrots, peanut butter, shampoo, conditioner, men’s deodorant, mouthwash and dish soap* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



*Did you know?* ... The Food Pantry is accepting food and personal care item donations on Mondays from 9:00-noon and 1-4 p.m. Donations may be placed in carts outside the building. We also have a red donation drop box in the vestibule at Fareway for your convenience. Our clothing room is closed until further notice, so we are not accepting clothing/household item donations at this time. Monetary donations may be mailed to: PO Box 324, Geneseo, IL 61254. You may also donate on our website. Go to [www.geneseofoodpantry.org](http://www.geneseofoodpantry.org) and click the “Donate” button.



**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**

Jodi Barnhart—*President*  
Gary Gesme—*Vice-President*  
Linda Sheley—*Secretary*  
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*

Anne Calder, Lance Camp,  
Johanna Hager, Kathy Heller,  
Jill Laingen, Cathy Runty,  
Mike Slaymaker, Jacob Steffes,  
Phil Wildermuth

**Meeting Schedule:**

Cabinet — Monday, March 8  
Ministries — Monday, March 8  
Council — Monday, March 15

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, MARCH 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

**Abbey Cathelyn**  
Monday-Wednesday

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



# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS 2021

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is an organization that began following World War II and continues until today, providing help to families and individuals around the world. LWR works with multiple agencies and provides Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and School Kits and Quilts to people displaced due to war, natural disaster etc. The Social Ministry team of First Lutheran Church will soon be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief kits and working with the Cover Girls. Unfortunately, the LWR warehouses in Maryland and Minnesota are nearly empty and they cannot keep up with the demand. Because of COVID-19, contributions of kits in 2020 were less than usual, and at the same time the need was greater. As we have done for decades, we will soon be collecting items and assembling these essential kits. All of these will be sent to an LWR warehouse along with the quilts that are assembled and sewn each year by our Cover Girls.

- Please check out the sample kits displayed on the table under the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room.

In **March and April** we will be collecting items for **Personal Care Kits**. These are especially important now to help protect vulnerable families from COVID-19. We are asking you to contribute:

**light-weight towels** (*must be no larger than 52 x 27, dark color recommended*)

**bath size bars of soap** (*4-5 oz. bars*)

**sturdy wide tooth combs**

**larger size metal nail clippers**

**Toothbrushes**

It is important that we stick to these specific guidelines in order that LWR retain its shipping rates and that kits are uniform. Please leave your contributions in the marked box outside the church office. Kits will then be assembled and boxed for shipping by our middle school and high school youth groups.

In **May and June** we will be collecting items for **Baby Care Kits**. These kits provide the things a mother needs to care for her baby as she hopes to, for both comfort and good health. Clothing should be for 6 month to 24 months; no new born sizes, please. We are asking you to contribute:

**lightweight cotton t-shirts** (*6 to 24 months*)

**long-sleeved or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers** (*without feet*)

**medium-weight cotton or flannel receiving blankets** (*no larger than 52" square*)

**cloth diapers** (*flat-fold preferred*)

**jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts** (*with a hood or matching cap*)

**socks** (*infant to 18 month sizes*)

**hand towels** (*dark color preferred*)

**bath size bars of soap** (*4-5 oz. bars*)

**large safety pins**

It is important that we stick to these specific guidelines in order that LWR retain its shipping rates and that kits are uniform. Please leave your contributions in the marked box outside the church office. Gently used clothing in good condition is certainly acceptable and often available at garage sales. Be on the look-out for good deals and sales on these items. Leave your contributions in the marked box outside the church office. Kits will be assembled and boxed for shipping by our middle school and high school youth groups.

In **August and September** we will be collecting items for **School Kits**. These kits provide the supplies that school-aged children need for school, and are often more than families can afford. We are asking you to contribute:

**70-sheet spiral notebooks** no loose paper

*Please Note: Each kit requires four of the 70-sheet notebooks.*

**30 cm rulers** (*most rulers have 30 cm and 12 inch markings*)

**small pencil sharpeners**

**blunt scissors**

**#2 unsharpened pencils**

**black or blue ballpoint pens** (*no gel ink*)

**Crayola crayons** (*16 or 24 count only*)

**2½ inch erasers**

Please notice the guidelines and place your contributions in the marked box outside the church office. Our Faithtime Kids will be assembling school kits in special backpacks for shipping.

The Cover Girls meet at church on Wednesday mornings to work on quilts for LWR. They also do a lot of cutting fabric and sewing in their homes. We can support their efforts year-round by donating fabric, thread, etc. Please contact Carol Hagberg or Carol Boyd if you would like to join the group or wish to contribute supplies.

*“For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever”*

*Psalm 9:18*

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!