



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

May 2020
Volume 59, Issue 5
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!
Zoom Worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
GRADUATES!**



Class of 2020...

Storm Baca

Riley Gustafson

Hayes Murphy

Lauren Belvel

Jacob Martin

Jaycob Norton

Caroline Burmahl

Bailey McKean

Natalya Schmidt

Matthew Eggen

Hannah Moreno

Join us for Zoom Worship on Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m., as we congratulate and bless our High School Class of 2020.

We would like to be able to honor other 2020 graduates (*trade school, college, graduate programs*) in our congregation. If you are graduating this spring, please send the details by May 7 to Mary Jo Brummet at mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org to be included in the June Chimes.

COVID-19 Update

The church office remains closed and all on-site worship and ministry activity is suspended as long as Illinois is under a shelter-in-place order. Staff members can be reached via e-mail (*see back cover*), and Pastors can be contacted for pastoral care or other needs via cell phone: Pastor Laura at (703) 505-8710 and Pastor Matt at (703) 505-9517.

Do Not Worry about Tomorrow

April 22, 2020

Dear friends in Christ:

I don't usually include the date on which I write a Pastor's article for The Chimes, but it seems like a necessary step to include that date today. As we have learned, our reality can change very much very quickly. For instance, on Thursday, March 12, the kids were still in school, our church building was still open for ministry, and I was preparing to preach and preside at three weekend worship services. Within 24 hours, everything changed. Now, weeks later, our school buildings sit empty, the dining rooms of our restaurants sit empty, and our church sanctuaries sit empty. Grocery stores and doctor's offices are filled with people donning a variety of homemade masks. And our homes have become fortresses where we "shelter in place" and practice social distancing. Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount not to worry because our heavenly Father will provide for us. "Therefore I tell you," Jesus says, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear... do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:25-34)

It would be easy for us in these days to be consumed by worry for what tomorrow will bring. How many of you, like me, have gotten into the habit of checking online each day for the latest numbers... how many cases in Illinois? How many deaths? Which counties are affected the worst? We check every day because we know that every day, it will change. And for a while yet to come, the virus will grow. With each tomorrow that comes, the numbers will increase. So how can we not worry?

A global pandemic and the worry it brings might be new to us, but we would be mistaken to think that the type of worry that we are experiencing was foreign to Jesus' contemporaries. Those who would have been listening to his words as he preached the Sermon on the Mount knew all about uncertainty. We may look at empty grocery store shelves and worry about running out of food; Jesus' followers lived with chronic hunger. We may wonder what will happen if our hospitals run out of ventilators; Jesus' followers lived in fear of the violence of Roman soldiers. The specific worry may be different, but the magnitude of worry is similarly significant. And just as Jesus said to his followers way back then, he says to us now, "Do not worry."

From the mouth of anyone else, these words sound ridiculous in our situation. But, from the lips of the One who is the source of life itself, these words are comforting and assuring. So, we will work together, each doing what we can, what we must, to stop the spread of this disease, to tend to the sick and dying, and to help those who are in need – in other words, sharing Christ's love with a hurting, worrying world.

Right now, "doing what we can" includes staying at home as much as we're able. It means worshipping from home, since we can't gather right now in our church building. We hope that the YouTube & Facebook videos, the Worship in the Home resource from the ELCA, and the Zoom worship experiences are helping provide you with meaningful worship in this time. But even if you don't have internet access or a computer at home, you can still read your Bible, sing God's praises, and pray.

—Continued on page 3

And, for the moments when you do worry, hear Jesus say to you: God loves you. God never lets you out of God's care. God is caring for our whole hurting world right now. God promises each of us abundant life – life that includes visits and hugs and gathering in community. That's the kind of life that Jesus is bringing. Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

—Pastor Laura

Weekend Worship

First Lutheran will host Zoom Worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.! After worship, the recording will be posted to the church Facebook page and YouTube channel. The link to join the Zoom worship will be e-mailed on Friday. If you do not currently receive Pastor Laura's e-mail announcements, please send your e-mail address to her at lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Do you need a mask?

A limited number of homemade masks are available to members and friends of First Lutheran. If you need one, contact Nancy Cassens at (309)507-1684 or jncassens@gmail.com. A member of Social Ministry can deliver the mask to 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 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*), Diane Anderson (*Kathy Nelson's friend*), Gary Daniels, Steve McNinch (*Jill Roselieb's friends' father*), Rudy Rexroth, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Roger Spittler (*Sherry Dickens' brother*), Sharon Stenzel, and Deanna Swanson.

Joys: On the births of Brynn Louise Rexroth, daughter of Craig & Michelle Rexroth; and Eleanor Claire Benedict, daughter of Erin & Nick Benedict, granddaughter of Rev. Michel & Karen Clark.

Thanksgiving: Catie Nelson gives thanks upon receiving the news that her Internship Site for the coming academic year will be First Lutheran Church in DeKalb, Illinois. Tony Schefsky is recovering well from back surgery. Thank you for your prayers!

Sorrows: On the deaths of Ted Larimer, member; George Storm, brother of Stan Storm and stepfather of Michelle Mustain; Joseph Buresh, father of Kelly (Tyler) Storm; Pastor Virgil Juliot, member; Lisa Olmsted, sister of Lynn Lindell; and Randy Anderson, grandfather of a First Lutheran Preschool student.

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

May 3, 2020

Easter 4/LSSI Good Shepherd Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10.

May 10, 2020

Easter 5/Happy Mother's Day

This weekend's texts include Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14.

May 17, 2020

Easter 6

This weekend's texts include Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22 and John 14:15-21.

May 24, 2020

Easter 7

This weekend's texts include Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 and John 17:1-11.

May 31, 2020

Day of Pentecost

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 and John 20:19-23.

ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement:

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly asked for the preparation of a social message on the church's role in civic engagement. A draft of the social message is prepared and ready for comments. Comments must be received by May 27. You can find the resources here by visiting <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government>.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends of Backpack Blessings,
Thank you for your faithful support of our students! Thank you also for your generous gift of \$2,102.17, received January 5, 2020.

As I write this, we are sending food to students through Geneseo and Colona Food Pantries and the School Unit Office — these bags were packed prior to the quarantine. We will have to postpone further packing until we are free and safe to do so.

*God bless you all and keep you safe!
Kathy McClimon, Geneseo Backpack*

Caring Conversations

Caring Conversations continues through the month of May, each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The group will meet via Zoom and the topic will be current spirituality and social issues. Contact Janet Larson at jslarson6931@gmail.com for the link to join the Zoom meeting.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will meet via Zoom on the Tuesdays in May (5, 12, 19, and 26) at 7:00 p.m. The topic is yet to be determined. For the link to join the meeting please e-mail Pastor Matt at mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org.

Music Camp

"In the Eye of the Storm"

Music Camp will be August 3-7 for all current 1st-5th 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 9. We welcome you to invite friends to join us as well! Registration forms are available online at www.firstgeneseo.org.



Thank You To All Who Have Continued Your Faithful Stewardship!

FIRST MINISTRIES

During this time, there are three ways to continue to give your offerings to support our mission. You can mail a check to the church using the addressed envelope included with your offering envelopes; you can use the "Give Online" link on our website, www.firstgeneseo.org, in the center column of the homepage; or you can sign up for automatic withdrawals through Vanco by filling out the form found on our website in the Resources tab (Filing Cabinet > Simply Giving Authorization PDF Form) and mailing it to the church or emailing it to our Financial Secretary, Deb Spence, at financials@firstgeneseo.org.

March Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

March actual	\$27,726
March budget	\$35,833
YTD actual	\$162,710
YTD budget	\$148,999

Net Income Over Expenses:

March actual	\$8,936 deficit
March budget	\$2,835 deficit
YTD actual	\$34,261 surplus
YTD budget	\$14,913 surplus

Thank You Notes!

Thank you to everyone at Faithtime! I received quite a nice surprise last week — a beautiful bag of Valentine cards and sweet treats! I am continually grateful for all your thoughts and prayers.

Fran Conrad

A belated *Thank You* to everyone for the nice Valentine bag. The Valentines were so pretty and all the candy and cookies were so good!

*Thanks again,
Jackie Nystrom*

Thank you to Pastors and members of First Lutheran for calls, cards, and concern for us at Woodridge. We appreciate all the prayers and concerns.

*Blessings,
Gladys Swanson*

A Note of Thanks

First Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for the onesie for Brooks and the gift card to Sweet Peas! It will come in very handy when mom doesn't have time to cook and dad is busy in the fields! I never imagined my maternity leave would be during a world pandemic, but I'm very thankful to be home with Breckyn & Brooks to keep us healthy and safe!

*Thanks again,
Matt, Whit, Breckyn & Brooks Carton*

Thank You!

First Lutheran Church —

Thank you for the onesie, book and gift card. It was so kind for you to think of us.

*Thanks again & God bless!
Kari Atherton & Cody Subr*

First Lutheran Family —

Thank you for thinking and praying for us as we welcomed Brynn into our family. The gifts were so thoughtful and much appreciated while we are following shelter-in-place guidelines.

*Thank you again!
Craig, Michelle, Calvin & Brynn Rexroth*



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:

Cabinet — Monday, May 11
Council — Monday, May 18

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MAY 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