



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

May 2021
Volume 60, Issue 5
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.



Class of 2021...

<i>Natalie Baumgardner</i>	<i>Hayden Curcuru</i>	<i>Emma Slaymaker</i>
<i>Erik Bergren</i>	<i>Taylor DeSplinter</i>	<i>Hannah Stebly</i>
<i>Sofia Calderon</i>	<i>Logan Fitzpartick</i>	

Join us in celebrating our High School Seniors! On Sunday, May 16 we will have a special fellowship for our seniors from 9:15-10:15 a.m. During the 10:30 a.m. service, the seniors will be recognized. This is a wonderful time in our seniors' lives, so let's take this great opportunity to show them how much their church family loves and prays for them and their future!

Pentecost Worship & Picnic in the Park!

We celebrate Pentecost on **May 23** ... Pentecost is the fiftieth day of Easter, and we celebrate the Spirit through and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. This year we will be celebrating Pentecost in the Geneseo City Park at **10:30 a.m.** with special music from Jazz Band **River City 6!** And will follow up the service with a picnic and fellowship.

One Service Weekend ~ Sunday, May 23

8:15 a.m. — Pre-recorded Worship on Facebook and YouTube

10:30 a.m. — Worship in the Park with River City 6!

11:30 a.m. — Picnic Lunch & Fellowship

Sack lunch includes a sandwich (*ham or turkey*), chips, cookie and water!

(A free will offering will be taken for the sack lunch)

FIRST NOTES:

—The Art of Marriage Small Group 6-week series begins May 1 at 7 p.m.

—Cinnamon Roll Sunday on May 2!

—Human Trafficking & Slavery Awareness Class on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

—Vacation Bible School is coming June 6-10!

Back to Normal

Almost every weekend, I receive these two comments:

“I’m so glad things are getting back to normal.”

“I can’t wait until everything is back to normal.”

We are making progress toward “normal.” We are sharing communion together in a way that feels more “normal.” We are singing together again, at least a little bit. We are lifting restrictions as we’re able to do so safely.

And yet, we’re not fully there. There are still steps we take each time we gather in order to protect each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. In my mind, everything won’t be back to normal until we’re able to shed the masks, share the peace with a handshake or a hug, and sing “Alleluia” with no holding back!

But for now, for a little while longer at least, we continue to wear the masks, out of love for our neighbors.

Each weekend, we are delighted to see more familiar faces, joining us for in-person worship again after a long time away. It is a joy that I will never again take for granted – the ability to gather physically with other members of the Body of Christ for prayer, praise, hearing the Word, and receiving the Holy Meal. You may not be able to see the smile under my mask when you walk in and take your seat in worship, but I promise you, it’s there.

As we continue to make strides toward “normal,” we realize that our new normal will look different. Our body will look different –

members of our congregation have died, and we miss their presence among us. We have made the commitment to continue livestreaming worship each weekend into the future, because we know that it is another way we can reach people with God’s Word. But those who join us via the livestream are not able to join us at the Lord’s Table for Holy Communion. As one of your pastors, I can assure you that there is no greater joy than being able to look into your eyes as I offer you the bread and the words of promise, “The body of Christ, given for you.” And so I encourage you, when it’s safe for you to do so, to come and join us in person for worship. And when you’re unable to be here in person, for any reason (*including because you overslept or because you didn’t have any clean socks!*), join us on Facebook or on YouTube. Our worshipping body is more complete when you are a part of it.

We will have an opportunity to gather outdoors for worship in the park on May 23 for a Pentecost celebration! We will have pre-recorded worship available on Facebook and YouTube that morning at 8:15 a.m. for those who are unable to join us in person. Then we gather for **one worship service** at the band shell in City Park at 10:30 a.m., with special music to celebrate the special day! After worship, you are invited to join us for a picnic lunch. A Pentecost Picnic in the Park will be something new for us – and we are hoping it is so successful that we decide to make it a part of our “new normal!”

—Pastor Laura

Receptionist Position Open

The pastors, staff, Council, and Personnel Committee will soon begin the search for a new Receptionist. Look for more information to be shared in the coming weeks about this position, including how to submit an application. We encourage those in the congregation to share news of the opening widely in the community, and encourage those interested to apply!

May 1 & 2, 2021

Easter 5/Rogation Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8.

May 7 & 8, 2021

Easter 6

Happy Mother's Day

This weekend's texts include Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17.

May 15 & 16, 2021

Easter 7

This weekend's text include Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, 1 John 5:9-13 and John 17:6-19.

May 23, 2021

Day of Pentecost

Worship in the Park — May 23 - 10:30 a.m.

This weekend's text include Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27 and John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

May 29 & 30, 2021

The Holy Trinity

This weekend's text include Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17 and John 3:1-17.

Rogation Weekend

With the upcoming planting season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of farmers, the growth of crops, and a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring soil from their fields to be blessed during all 3 worship services over the weekend of May 1 & 2.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Drive-Thru Communion

This month, Drive-Thru Communion will be Sunday, May 9 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.

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, Tom _____ (*Jim Larson's friend*), John Anderson (*Cindy & Bob Groene's friend*), Lonnie Anderson (*Kathy Heller's brother*), Mandy Baumgardner, Steve Craig (*Kim Sefton's friend*), Mary Anne Daniels, Kevin Freeze (*Jami Haser's neighbor*), Roger Martin (*Jerry & Karen Myhre's friend*), Michelle Mustain, Judy Nelson, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Keith Simmons, Angie Smalley (*Charlene Daniels' friend's daughter*), Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*), Wade Webster (*Marcia Green's friend's grandson*), Phyllis Wilson (*Marcia Green's sister*), and Lois Yesinowski (*Nancy Cassens' sister*).

Joys: On the birth of Wren Margaret Ficken, daughter of Michael & Crystal Ficken and granddaughter of Diane & Brian Converse and Margi & Mike Ficken. On the baptism of Caroline Mae Olson, daughter of Devin & Megan Olson.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the death of Fran Conrad, member.

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

Little Lambs Nursery

The nursery has undergone a major transformation! With money given in memory of Dick & Sara Carlson, we were able to paint and buy all new furniture and toys. The nursery is now officially reopened for infants and toddlers (birth-age 2). Ages 3-7 can utilize the Prayground located in the overflow of the Sanctuary. At this point, we do not have nursery attendants so you must accompany your child to the nursery.

Geneseo Music Fest Parade!

The Outreach Ministry is planning a float for the June 20 Geneseo Music Fest parade. We need people (*strollers, kids, youth, adults*) to walk with the float to hand out fliers and candy. If you would like to walk we would like to order T-shirts for everyone to wear. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or email Betsy Brudos at bdbrudos@gmail.com with your name and T-shirt size. We need commitments no later than June 1st! Thanks!

Music Camp

In the Eye of the Storm is the theme of our Music Camp which will be held July 26–29 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 1. We welcome you to invite friends to join us as well! Registration forms and brochures are available at the Welcome Center or on our website at www.firstgeneseo.org. Please feel free to contact Morgan Sarber, Director of Worship & Music, for more information.



Save the Date!

First Friends will be returning on June 10!
More details & sign up opportunities in the June Chimes.

Vacation Bible School ~ “Knights of North Castle”



When: June 6-10

Time: Pre-k 5:00-7:15 p.m.

K-6 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Who: Children entering pre-k—6th grade
(*Dinner will be served to children and helpers*)

Registration was sent electronically to First Lutheran members in April.
Registration is open only to First Lutheran Church members and their families.

Registration for VBS is due May 16.

We need some items donated for VBS!

- Fake Christmas trees - all sizes - we will return! Please put your name on them.
- Bags of Polyfill (*to create snow scenes*)
- Large refrigerator boxes
- Foam insulation board
- Medieval décor
- Snowflake décor
- Fairy lights

If you have these items, please drop them off to Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministry at the church office by May 11.

Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. A “Baby Care Kit” from LWR provides the things a mother needs to care for her baby the way she hopes to — soft blankets to give warmth and comfort, soap to keep germs away. Lack of something to dress her baby in often keeps a mother isolated from her community, but the clothes in a Baby Care Kit welcome both mother and baby out into the world. Baby Care Kits will be our emphasis for the months of May and 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 (*No newborn clothing, please*) and may be “gently” used and in good condition.” Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Thank you, Sherry!

We say “*Thank You*” to Sherry Dickens, as she has concluded her ministry on staff as our Receptionist. We will miss her presence in the church office. We are grateful for the gifts she shared with our congregation in her staff position. She will continue to lead the Social Ministry team and be active in the life of the congregation, and we are blessed by her ministry.

The Art of Marriage Small Group

The Spirituality & Wellness Ministry of FLC is offering a small group event: *The Art of Marriage*. This six-week series is from May 1—June 5 at 7 p.m. in Grace Place and is designed for *engaged and married couples of all ages and stages* of marriage. Each session will focus on one area of strengthening marriage relationships. This is a resource from Family Life which is a well respected resource for faith based parenting and marriage resources.

Topics include:

- Love Happens: *God’s Purpose and Plan*
- Love Fades: *Overcoming Isolation*
- Love Dances: *Fulfilling Our Responsibilities*
- Love Interrupted: *Communication and Conflict*
- Love Sizzles: *Experiencing Real Intimacy*
- Love Always: *Leaving a Lasting Legacy*

The sessions are 60 minutes and include a video presentation and small group discussions. Couples are encouraged to complete homework assignments between weekly sessions. Workbooks are available in the church office for a donation of \$10 (*one per couple*). Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Janet Larson at jslarson6931@gmail.com.

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

We are grateful for a safe and happy year of preschool! Our last day of preschool will be Friday, May 28.

The 3-year-old class will continue to learn about planting and growing. They will paint with flowers and make flower petal suncatchers. They will also be planting mini gourd seeds on the playground in preparation for fall harvest. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about the mail and the process of letter writing. They will draw maps that they will use when we take a walk to the post office to mail our letters. They'll create their own adventures while reading *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson and will complete our journey through the alphabet.

Human Trafficking - Henry County

What We Can Do About It

Did you know that from January 1 to December 31, 2017 there were 193 identified cases of human trafficking in Illinois reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Of those 193 cases, there were a total of 552 trafficked persons and survivors involved. Children, women and men are innocent victims every single day in every community across our state and nation---even in Henry County and Geneseo. Our location along I-80 makes us a likely stop for Human Traffickers. *What can you do to help?* Learn what Human Trafficking is, what to watch for and who to contact for help at a *"Human Trafficking & Slavery Awareness Class"* held on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Retired Officer Mike Chavez of the Geneseo Police Department and Johanna Hager, a licensed therapist trained in trauma-informed care will share how we can all serve to protect those in need of our help.

Council Highlights for April 19, 2021

New Business

- Approved Music & Arts Fund request for Pentecost.
- Approved the contract to bring Jennifer Johnson back on staff to provide meals for VBS and Faithtime for June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.
- Thank you, Sherry Dickens for your service to the Church. The Receptionist position is open and Personnel Committee will be conducting the search for her replacement.
- A background check policy is being developed for all volunteers and staff who work with children and teens in the Church.
- Approved summer worship schedule, May 29-September 5: Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.
- The bid from Glass Blast was approved to repair 11 windows in the Sanctuary.
- Voting members for Synod Assembly will be Steve Hawk, Johanna Hager, Catie Nelson and Erik Bergren.

Old Business

- Approved resuming fellowship and meals, effective immediately and strongly encourage mask wearing when not consuming food or drink. Seating restrictions will be removed the first week of May for Worship.
- An insurance review was completed and our coverage will change to reflect a more accurate view of the Church's assets. Thank you to Dan Brudos, Mary Jo Brummet, and the Finance Ministry for all the time and research to make this happen.

March Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

March actual	\$39,486
March budget	\$35,667
YTD actual	\$124,867
YTD budget	\$124,501

Net Income Over Expenses:

March actual	\$2,747 surplus
March budget	\$4,467 deficit
YTD actual	\$2,781 surplus
YTD budget	\$12,477 deficit

Looking Ahead

Faithtime will resume in September. This is a wonderful opportunity we are able to offer and we can't do it without help from you! We hope to return to our after-school schedule. With that being said, we will need some committed volunteers to help us with the following duties:

- **Drivers** to pick up children from school and bring them to Faithtime
- **"Table Talk" volunteers** to sit with children at the beginning of Faithtime and lead conversations.
- **Grade level leaders** to prepare Bible lesson for the week and supervise children.
- **Assistants** for all rotations
- **Games Leader**
- **Motions Leader** (*art, drama etc*)

All volunteers are **required** to have a background check that is provided by the church and attend an orientation meeting prior to the start of Faithtime to go over policies and procedures. Youth age 14 and above are welcome and encouraged to assist at Faithtime as well. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this wonderful opportunity! Contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family, at 944-3196 or youth@firstgeneseo.org

**FIRST
MINISTRIES**



A Note of Thanks

Thank you for the meal, gifts, cards and phone calls at Easter time. I was happy for "Hi's & Smiles" on Holy Thursday evening. I was there to share my Great Grandsons Kane and Lucas First Communion.

—Gladys Swanson

Thank You!

Thank you First Lutheran for the prayers, blessings and contacts for Lila and our great-grand son Archer Frank. Lila is nearing a year at Allure, still able to recognize family but confined to wheel chair. Archer is home after over 2 months and is doing well and is now over 5 pounds.

—Mel Becker

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *mayonnaise, tortillas, canned mushrooms, pork and beans, baked beans, liquid toilet cleaner, garbage bags, freezer bags, and denture care items* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



Another opportunity ... If you are planting a garden this year, please consider planting a row for the hungry. Our clients appreciate having fresh fruits and vegetables to choose from during the summer months. They are also grateful for any fresh eggs, meat and dairy products donated by our community!

Thank You!

We are grateful to First Lutheran Church for organizing a cleaning supplies and personal care items collection for the Food Pantry. Many volunteers and donors made this collection a success, and we offer a big thanks to all of you!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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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, May 10
Ministries — Monday, May 10
Council — Monday, May 17

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, MAY 11**

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