



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

November 2020
Volume 59, Issue 11
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.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25

Please come and join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. This is a wonderful time for the people of First to come together in one service and praise God for our many blessings and it will also be live streamed! Music will be a mixture of pre-recorded music from the youth bells and piano music. We will celebrate First Communion with several of the children in our congregation.



Our pie fellowship has a new twist this year!! Individual pieces of pie including pumpkin, apple and pecan will be available for you to pick up and enjoy at home! *A Drive By for a Piece of Pie* will be offered from 3-5 p.m. in the church parking lot ... just pull up and we'll hand you a piece of pie! We will also have individual pieces of pie available in the Fellowship Room for you to take home following the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Advent 2020

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace – the names of the four candles lit during Advent. But do these words mean anything to us and to the world today? Join us each Tuesday in Advent for a short Zoom service from 6:30-6:55 p.m. followed by a small group discussion at 7:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, December 1, for an Advent Series, “*I Wonder as I Wander*” based around the devotional, “Advent Reflections: I Wonder as I Wander.”

FIRST NOTES:

—Dance Party with Jesus on Friday, November 20 from 6-7:30 p.m.

—Caring Conversations via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m.

—Altar Flower sign up for 2021 is underway!

—Christmas Poinsettia deadline is December 6.

Planning to be Generous

It's budget time, in the life of the congregation and in our family life at home. In our personal life, Matt and I are taking stock of where we are, looking at our goals for the year to see where we have fallen short and where we are meeting them, and making decisions about next year. How much will we set aside for health care and daycare FSAs? How much will we try to save? What big purchases will we need to make in 2021?

Our staff and ministry teams at FLC are doing much of the same work. 2020 was a strange year, in every way imaginable, and our balance sheets reflect that. Much of the money budgeted for program ministries in 2020 went unspent or was reallocated for other needs that have arisen. Our giving has remained strong, which I think reflects the faith we have as a congregation that God is working through this community of believers to share Christ's love. Subsequently, our benevolence to the larger church and to local organizations has also remained strong.

In so many ways, we know that it is hard to predict what a new year may bring. That truth is evident to us now more than ever. Even so, we make a plan, so that we can be good stewards of the gifts we receive from God. And then when something unexpected happens, we adjust our plan.

As your family does the work of assessing your financial situation, looking ahead to a new year, and making a plan for the future, how do you decide how much to give to the church? Do you practice first-fruits giving, where you decide to take a certain amount each month to give as an offering? Do you look at what you have given in the past and try to find a way to increase in generosity in the coming year? Do you consider some of the special funds of the

congregation, like the Building Fund or the Mission Endowment Fund, as places where additional gifts might be needed? Do you contribute to ministries partnered with First Lutheran, like World Hunger, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, or ELCA Disaster Response? Is benevolence to various Geneseo and Henry County charitable organizations part of your budget each year?

Matt and I have chosen to practice percentage giving, where a percent of our income becomes our offering to the congregation. Our goal is to increase the percentage each year, usually an increase of 0.5%. It seems like a small increase, but it reminds us to continually be growing in generosity.

We invite you to join us in growing in generosity this year. You could choose to grow by a specific percentage or a specific dollar amount. You could choose to grow by making a special gift during two months of the year (*maybe choose the birth months of two people who have guided you in your faith*). You could choose to make a gift to some of our partner organizations or to a special fund at FLC. You could choose to enroll in recurring automatic giving, so that your offering is received consistently, even when unexpected things happen in your life. You could choose to include First Lutheran Church in your estate plans, so that your generosity will continue to impact this community into the future. However you choose, you will be blessed in your generosity and you will bless others with your gift.

—Continues on page 3

We will receive commitment cards on the weekend of November 14 & 15. We invite you bring your card to worship, mail it to the church, or e-mail the information to our financial secretary, Deb Spence, at financials@firstgeneseo.org. Our goal this year is to receive commitments for 2021 from 130 individuals and families, which would be about a 10% increase from this year.

We know that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also (*Luke 12:34*). As we give generously to the church, our hearts will encounter God's heart.

—*Pastor Laura*

October 31 & November 1, 2020

All Saints Weekend

This weekend's texts include Revelation 7:9-17 and Matthew 5:1-12.

November 7 & 8, 2020

Pentecost 23

This weekend's texts include Amos 5:18-24, and Matthew 25:1-13.

November 14 & 15, 2020

Pentecost 24/Commitment Weekend

This weekend's texts include Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Matthew 25:14-30.

November 21 & 22, 2020

Christ the King

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Matthew 25:31-46.

November 25, 2020

Thanksgiving Eve

Today's texts include Psalm 65 and Luke 17:11-19.

November 28 & 29, 2020

Advent 1

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

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, Josh Francis, Jakob Gradert, Brian Hanshaw, Jason Kinnard, 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. 10).

Health and Wellbeing: For all who are fighting COVID-19, Michele _____ (*Jodi Martin's friend*), Dave Allison (*Barb Burghgrave's brother-in-law*), Don Lohse, Larry Lord, Ryleigh Martin (*Steve Martin's cousin's granddaughter*), Kathy Nelson, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), and Ron Spittler (*Sherry Dicken's nephew*).

Joys: On the baptisms of Raelynn and Shea Anderson, twin daughters of Aaron & Keely Anderson.

Thanksgiving: Kathy Nelson gives thanks to those at First Lutheran who planted, weeded, and tended the garden. It was a beautiful garden, and the produce was delicious and blessing to those of us who are not gardeners.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Roger Peterson, member and Dianne Peterson, 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



Jul Gott

Jul Gott 2020 has been canceled due to COVID-19! We are very disappointed but hopeful our congregation can still provide for the organizations you have supported year after year (*Lutheran World Hunger, Backpack Blessings and the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry*). This year we will be sending a Christmas Card to each member requesting you prayerfully consider giving a monetary donation to Jul Gott so that we may continue to support these organizations. Last year we raised over \$5,000 and are hoping with your help we can do the same!!!

Merry Christmas and Blessings to all!

Advent Devotionals

The season of Advent begins on the weekend of November 28 & 29. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's coming at Christmas. During the busy-ness of the holiday season commercially, in the church year, these weeks are a time of reflection, anticipation, and watching for Christ. This year, the Spirituality & Wellness Ministry is providing families with a couple of Advent devotional resources. Families with children can receive a pack of daily activity cards for both the Advent & Christmas season. Adults are invited to participate on Tuesdays in Advent at 6:30 p.m. for an online Advent Zoom worship following with small group time exploring the Advent devotional *I Wonder as I Wander*. Both of these devotionals are available to pick up in the Fellowship Room anytime in November.

Caring Conversations

Caring Conversations will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings on Zoom at 8 p.m. through December 16. Our topic through November is *Resilience in Practice*. Here is the link to join the conversation on building resilience in these uncertain times.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480708545?pwd=TVljVDNsS1dzTWZxZURwUDFYUVBIQT09>

We will also discuss scripture and other resources to strengthen our faith and encourage each other. Contact Janet Larson at jslarson6931@gmail.com for more information.

Sharing Christ's Love through Quilts and Kits

Thank you to the Cover Girls Quilters, to all who donated supplies for personal care kits and school kits, and to Faithtime and Confirmation students for assembling the kits. This year, the Cover Girls completed 34 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and 8 quilts for Another Child Foundation. What a great accomplishment during a shortened quilting season! Our congregation also collected items to assemble 56 personal care kits and 50 school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Women's Ministry Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics for Lutheran World Relief. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday, November 4, 11 & 18 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *Fireproof* and faith response to the author Eric Wilson on *Thursday, November 19* at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

• December's book title is *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America* written by Bill Bryson. Back in America after twenty years in Britain, Bill Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. The AT offers an astonishing landscape of silent forests and sparkling lakes—and to a writer with the comic genius of Bill Bryson, it also provides endless opportunities to witness the majestic silliness of his fellow human beings. For a start there's the gloriously out-of-shape Stephen Katz, a buddy from Iowa along for the walk. Despite Katz's overwhelming desire to find cozy restaurants, he and Bryson eventually settle into their stride, and while on the trail they meet a bizarre assortment of hilarious characters. But *A Walk in the Woods* is more than just a laugh-out-loud hike. Bryson's acute eye is a wise witness to this beautiful but fragile trail, and as he tells its fascinating history, he makes a moving plea for the conservation of America's last great wilderness. An adventure, a comedy, and a celebration, *A Walk in the Woods* has become a modern classic of travel literature. Be sure to pick up a copy today and join us for the discussion!

FIRST MINISTRIES

A Note of Thanks

"He will answer the prayer of those in need. He will not turn from their prayer." Psalm 102-17

God heard the prayers of the people in Romania and worked through the hands of the Cover Girls at First Lutheran. Eight colorful quilts were donated to Another Child Foundation annual Project Respond drive. These quilts will keep families warm this winter as well as reminding them that there are women who used their God given talents and time to create the quilts.

Thank you for being God's hands and feet to bring the gospel to people in need.

—Janet Larson, ACF

Children's Bible Presentation

Over the weekend of November 7 & 8 we will be presenting Story Bibles to our Kindergarten students and NRSV Bibles to our 3rd grade students. Families can join us at any of our three worship services, or let us know that you will be participating via the Livestream so that we can deliver the Bible to you before the weekend. This is one way we can live out the promises we make when we bring our children for Holy Baptism.

Thank You

On behalf of the board of Geneseo Marriage and Family Counseling, Thank You! Thank you for the donation the Social Ministry group provided to our organization. The support helps us continue our mission to provide professional counseling services to those in need. Thank you again.

Nathan Vorac
Board President



Faithtime Kids

In November, Faithtime kids focused on stories from the Old Testament. We met some very important characters that taught us to remember that God always keeps his promises. This month we continue with the Old Testament.

All children Grades K-6

November 4 — *The Burning Bush*

Memory Verse: *Philippians 4:13*

November 11 — *The Plagues*

Memory Verse: *Acts 16:31*

November 18 — *The Red Sea*

Memory Verse: *Exodus 14:14*

November 25 — **No Faithtime**

Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

Our Confirmation class is meeting weekly, with 16 students joining us either in person or via Zoom. We continue our study of Lutheran History & Catechism this month. Here's our schedule:

November 4 — *Apostles' Creed 3*

November 11 — *Lord's Prayer*

November 18 — *Baptism*

November 25 — **No Class** ~ *Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 6:30 p.m.*

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2020!

We rejoice with our sisters and brothers in Christ who affirmed their baptismal promises in the Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday, October 25. They have each chosen a Confirmation Verse.

Oliver Bryan Anderson ~ "Give encouragement to each other and keep strengthening one another." *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Imogene Greene ~ "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." *1 John 4:7-8*

Caleb Cole Hartman ~ "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." *Colossians 2:6-7*

Connor William-David Minnaert ~ "For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth." *Psalms 71:5*

Carleigh Norton ~ "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you." *Deuteronomy 31:6*

Logan Palmer ~ "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." *Isaiah 40:31*

Ryley Joel Rowold ~ "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." *Psalms 119:105*

Sidney Christine Spindel ~ "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

Altar Flowers for 2021!

Altar flowers can be donated in honor or memory of a loved one, special occasion, or simply for the glory of God. The cost of two arrangements is \$45. If you would like to purchase altar flowers in 2021, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

Christmas Poinsettia Garden

Poinsettias for our Christmas Garden may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. This year's plants will be large 4-5 bloom plants and will cost \$18.00. They will be used at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. You are welcome to take them any time after the Christmas Day service. All donors and persons honored or memorialized will be listed in the Christmas bulletins. Order and payment are due by Sunday, December 6.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Thank You

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to be an "outpost" for Trek or Treat! I hope you had as much fun as the kids did!



—Abbey Cathelyn

Save the Date!

All Kindergarten through 2nd grade students are invited to join Ms. Morgan on Friday evening **November 20 from 6-7:30 p.m.** for a *Dance Party with Jesus!* Keep an eye out for an invite and an email with the sign-up information!

Council Highlights for October 19, 2020

Church Council met via Zoom on Monday, October 19, 2020. Our eight confirmands were accepted as voting members of the congregation.

Old Business

- Work continues on completing the recommendations from the 2019 Audit Report, including beginning risk assessment of our various investments.
- The application for forgiveness has been submitted for PPP funds.

New Business

- Two requests from Social Ministry were approved: \$500 for Braveheart and \$500 for FLC Secret Santa gifts.
- Worship schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was approved. We will have three identical worship services on Christmas Eve at 2:00, 5:00, and 10:00 p.m., and the 5:00 p.m. service will be

Livestreamed. We will have one worship service on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. Sign-ups will begin on December 1, online or by calling the church office.

September Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

September actual	\$39,219
September budget	\$32,833
YTD actual	\$360,886
YTD budget	\$350,000

Net Income Over Expenses:

September actual	\$3,101 deficit
September budget	\$3,375 deficit
YTD actual	\$24,355 surplus
YTD budget	\$6,743 deficit

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

The preschool children will be learning through Thanksgiving themed activities, songs and art this month. When learning about Thanksgiving, our focus will be on sharing what we have and helping each other. We will discuss how we show we are thankful and what we are thankful for. The 3 year old classes will be using the color brown and the square shape in their activities and will be learning about patterning. The 4 year old classes will continue to work with letters. They will play games, learn songs, dances and customs that may have been shared on the first Thanksgiving.

- **Please Note:** There will be no school November 23-27. Classes will resume on Monday, November 30.

eGiving

Did you know that you can now create an account and enroll yourself in electronic giving to support First Lutheran Church? Our new giving software allows donors to manage their own accounts, so that you can make adjustments to the amount, add an extra one-time gift, or cancel a scheduled transaction. Giving to the church with recurring electronic gifts provides the congregation with a steady, predictable cash flow, and gives you peace of mind that your gift is being received regularly (*even if you forget to write a check!*). You can also access your giving record at any time, and print your own statements when needed. Sign up today using the link on our homepage: www.firstlutheran.org



Support LOMC by participating in a 5K Benefit!

On Sunday, November 1, you are invited to walk, run, or bike 5K in support of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. Church camps, including LOMC, have been hit hard this year and need our support! You are welcome to travel to LOMC to join the benefit, or participate right here at home. Sponsors are also needed for each walker/runner/cyclist. You can register for the benefit or sponsor a participant at <http://lomc.org/5k/>

Recognizing our First Lutheran Veterans

First Lutheran Church greatly appreciates the service of our military and veterans.

Every fall, we honor and recognize our First Lutheran Veterans at our annual Veteran's Brunch. Because of the pandemic, we decided that it would be safest to not gather together for a brunch this year. Instead, on the morning of Saturday, November 7, church members will be dropping off a treat and small gift to each Veteran's home. To best protect our veterans, we will be gloved and masked and simply leave the gift at the front door.

If you are a veteran and will not be available or do not wish to receive a gift, please contact Maurie Nelson at (309) 945-2140 or by email at kuppr215@gmail.com. You are also invited to contact Maurie if you are a First Lutheran veteran who may not be known to our organizers, so that we can add your name to our list.

Also, we are looking for assistance in delivering to our veterans, if you would like to help us deliver, please let Maurie know.

Have a wonderful, safe and blessed Veteran's Day!

Dear Friend,

Last year, LSSI served 12% of children and youth under the guardianship of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), more than any other organization in the state. To provide this level of care for thousands of children and families who depend on our support, it's critical that we maintain adequate staff members and foster parents to meet this demand.

On social media and emails like this, LSSI has shared and will continue to share with you the perspective of our many dedicated staff who support families and children in our foster care and other child-centered programs. One of those hardworking people is Lindsay, Child Welfare Supervisor of our Intact Family Services program.

"The children and families I serve have shown great strength, resiliency, and hope, which in turns gives me more drive to continue this meaningful work," Lindsay said. "I feel especially grateful to be a part of the Intact Family Recovery program that prioritizes keeping families together. It has been such a joy to watch our newborn clients grow into amazing toddlers, witness mothers viewing the world through a new, sober lens, and to be a positive agent for change."

LSSI currently has a number of openings in child welfare, which can be found on our Careers page at [LSSI.org/careers](https://www.lssi.org/careers) in the Case Management section. These openings are across Illinois, each position critical to supporting children and families in the communities where we work.

Today, we are simply asking you to share this information with your friends, family, social media networks, or anyone you think might be interested in making a difference in the lives of children and families every day.

We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Mancilla

Talent Acquisition Specialist

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *chicken broth, baked beans, pie crust mix, ramen noodles, gravy mix, Kleenex, antibacterial wipes, lotion, liquid soap and mouthwash* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Another way to help! — Many Geneseo and Atkinson residents receive clothing and household items from the Food Pantry to help them stay within their budget. The Food Pantry is currently most in need of winter coats of all sizes and girls clothing.

Thank You

Please accept our heartfelt thank you for your recent monetary donation. Your generosity will greatly assist us as we continue serving our two communities during this pandemic. Your donation will help as we stock our shelves. Again, thank you!

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry



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, November 9
Ministries — Monday, November 9
Council — Monday, November 16

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

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