

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

September 2020
Volume 59, Issue 9
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

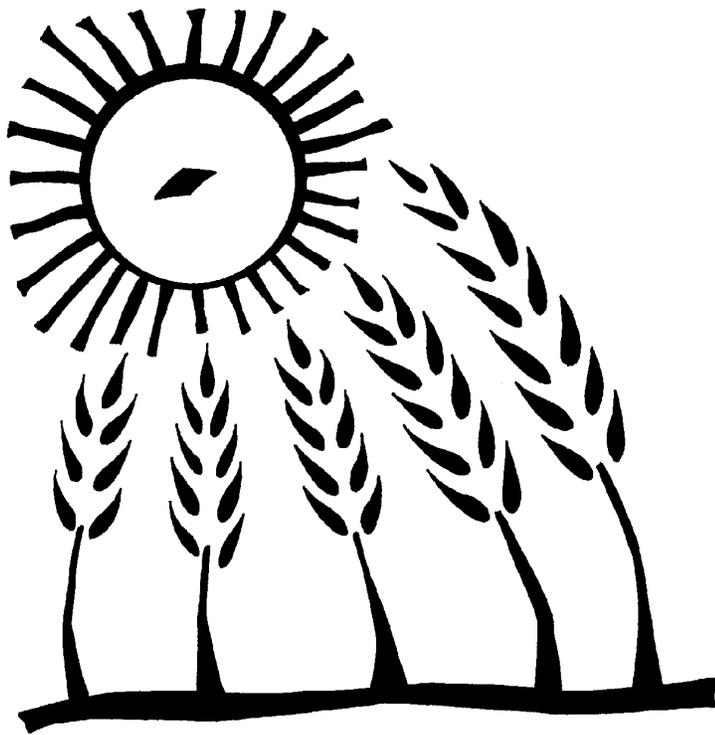
Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

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

Worship livestreamed on Facebook

Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

*“For everything there is a season, and
a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up
what is planted”* *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*



With the upcoming harvest season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of all farmers and a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring a symbol of their harvest to be blessed during the worship services on September 26 & 27.

FIRST NOTES:

—“*Race: The Power of Illusion*” a 3-part documentary starting on September 1 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

—Faithtime Kids & Confirmation begins September 9!

—God’s Work, Our Hands Highway Clean Up on September 13!

—First Book Club begins on Thursday, September 17 at 5 p.m.

New Life

August 19, 2020

This morning, the air was brisk as I walked Anna to school. I know that the summer heat is not gone yet, but it feels like autumn is coming. With the changing of the season, I'm feeling all the feels: sadness that summer has come and gone and we didn't get the vacation at the beach we had hoped for this year; hope that the end of summer and the beginning of the school year will be a chance for us all to reset and find new rhythms; and joy, because autumn is my favorite time of year.

This time of year will bring a trip (*or several*) to the apple orchard, pumpkin carving, sweaters and boots, and beautiful colors on the trees. It will also bring the beginning of Faithtime and Confirmation and youth group and return to rehearsals for the Glory Ringers. It means first Bibles, First Communion, and the Rite of Confirmation, Reformation and All Saints Day.

Many activities will be missing from the life of our congregation this season – choirs and praise teams, Faithtime meals, First Friends. These activities are on hold for now, until we can safely sing together and eat together. Our weekend faith formation program, GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) is also on hold, as we focus our faith formation efforts on Faithtime, Confirmation, and high school youth group.

And, of course, our worship life continues to look different. There are exciting things happening – we are getting so close to being able to livestream worship, which will be a blessing into the future, long after the pandemic is over, especially for those who are homebound. Most of the changes, though, are losses that we lament: not being able to sing together, not being able to share the peace, not being able to celebrate Holy Communion at the table together.

And yet, the Holy Spirit continues to move among us and breathe new life into our family here at First. We are celebrating baptisms. We are welcoming new members. People are discovering new spiritual gifts. I'm surprised, these days, when I see these signs of life. But I really shouldn't be. Shouldn't I have learned by now that our God is a God of surprising new life? When we go to the tomb, expecting to find it full of death, instead we find that the tomb is empty, and Jesus is living, and we too can live.

So we will persevere. We will continue to follow the guidelines, and find ways to do ministry in the midst of a pandemic. And God will continue to bless us with life.

I want to share with you a few notes about some changes you will notice this month. First, since we are able now to livestream worship on Facebook, the experience will be different for those worshipping at home. The livestream will happen during 8:15 worship on Sunday mornings. This will be recorded, and then the recording will be posted to our Facebook page and YouTube channel by early Sunday afternoon.

Second, when you call the church office or stop by during the week, you will be welcomed by Deb Spence, who will be filling in as our Receptionist while Sherry Dickens takes the opportunity for seasonal employment with Wyffels.

As the weather cools, and the colors change, we will continue to look for ways that God is working in our world. Everything may be different now – except for God's gift of new life, which is ours, in this season and the next.

—Pastor Laura

September 5 & 6, 2020

Pentecost 14

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 18:15-20.

September 12 & 13, 2020

Pentecost 15

This weekend's texts include Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12 and Matthew 18:21-35.

September 19 & 20, 2020

Pentecost 16

This weekend's texts Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16.

September 26 & 27, 2020

Pentecost 17/Blessing of the Harvest

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32.

Glory Ringers

The Glory Ringers bell choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 10, from 7- 8:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will wear masks and properly social distance—and we are looking for 2 more youth or adult ringers! Contact Morgan Sarber (worship@firstgeneseo.org) if you are interested in ringing!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Worship DVD's Available!

Church service DVD's are available on the shelf by the church office, if anyone would like to take one to a loved one who is sheltering at home without internet access.

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, 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. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: For all who are fighting COVID-19, Michele _____ (*Jodi Martin's friend*), Gary Gesme, Harley Hepner (*Darla Anderson's cousin*), Becky Karnascak (*Chris & Jodi Barnhart's daughter*), Jerry Myhre, Harland Rapp (*Steve & Jodi Martin's neighbor*), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Deanna Swanson, and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: On the birth of Ezekiel Lee Pedersen, son of Pastor Reed (*Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover*) and Megan Pedersen, on August 1.

Thanksgiving: Candy McMahon (*friend of Barb Burghgrave*), has finished her radiation for her brain tumor and is doing very well. She is very thankful for all the prayers and said it was all the love and prayers that got her through such a difficult time.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Ronald Sterling, brother of Ray Sterling; Geraldine Johanson, mother of Yvonne Wayne; and Ron Kunkel, father of Jeff Kunkel.

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



Faithtime Kids (*Grades K-6*)

Faithtime begins Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for children in Grades K-6. This year, we will be using the “*Spark*” curriculum from Augsburg Fortress which goes along with the Spark Bibles we distribute to children in our congregation. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a Bible lesson, creative art, drama, and music. If you are still interested in joining, but have not registered, please contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministries at youth@firstgeneseo.org

All children Grades K-6

September 9 — *Creation*

Memory Verse: *Genesis 1:1*

September 16 — *The First Sin*

Memory Verse: *Romans 3:23*

September 23 — *Noah’s Ark*

Memory Verse: *Acts 16:31*

September 30 — *Abraham and Sarah*

Memory Verse: *Psalms 136:1*

Faithtime is still collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. These kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Supplies can be dropped off on the table underneath the “*Come and See*” bulletin board. We will be collecting the following items until the end of September:

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (*no loose-leaf paper*)
- #2 unsharpened pencils
- rulers (*30 cm*)
- black or blue ballpoint pens (*no gel ink*)
- pencil sharpeners
- Crayola crayons (*16 or 24 count*)
- blunt scissors
- 2 ½” erasers

First Lutheran Preschool

Welcome back to preschool! Our year will begin on September 8 and we are excited to welcome our children and families! This year will bring many changes to our procedures but we continue to plan for every child to experience a positive, safe and happy environment at preschool. All classes will be focusing on expressing feelings and emotions from behind the mask through fun activities and projects. We’ll be getting to know all about each other this month and will begin our autumn activities.

Confirmation (*7th & 8th graders*)

We will welcome our Confirmation students with an Orientation on Wednesday, September 2, and then begin lessons on September 9. We are planning to welcome 12 new 7th grade students and 4 returning 8th grade students. This year, we will focus on Lutheran History & Catechism in the fall and Lutheran Living in the spring. Our lessons for September are:

September 9 — *Martin Luther*

September 16 — *The Reformation*

September 23 — *Lutheran Confessions*

September 30 — *Luther’s Small Catechism*

Our 9th grade students who have completed two years of Confirmation instruction are preparing their Faith Statements. They are planning to affirm their baptismal promises on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

FLC Youth (*Grades 9-12*)

This month, FLC Youth in grades 9-12 *and* Confirmation students in grades 7 & 8 are invited to participate in “*God’s Work, Our Hands*” on Sunday, September 13 beginning at 11:30 a.m. We will meet here at church at 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot and have a brief overview on clean up safety. We will be cleaning up our section of highway 6 between Geneseo and Atkinson. Please contact Abbey Cathelyn if you will be participating. Gloves, safety vest and garbage bags will be provided.

Youth are invited to a *Youth Kick off Pizza Party Picnic* after cleaning up in the green space by the FLC playground. If you cannot attend the cleanup, all youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to meet at the church at 1:30-3p.m. for the pizza party to kick off our year!

Follow FLC youth on Social Media!



Instagram: flcg_youth



Snapchat: flcg_youth

“Race: The Power of Illusion”

Grace and Peace to each of you as together we face the challenges of these unprecedented times. As a church community we seek ways to safely worship our Lord and to lovingly respond to the needs of our neighbors. As a church community we also seek ways to constructively respond to the societal unrest in our nation.

Your Social Ministry Team believes this to be an important time for each of us to learn important truths about race and racism, and the divisions in our country. This is an important time for each of us and for our congregation to thoughtfully consider what we believe, how we might be more Christ-like in our relationships with all of God’s children, and what we might do in the interest of unity and peace.

Please join us to see the video “*Race: The Power of Illusion.*” This compelling 3-part documentary will be shown on September 1, 8, & 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Each part is 56 minutes long. Seating will comply with social distancing guidelines and all are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

Later this fall, we will offer this same series of videos on-line. You may watch those from home, and if you missed an in-person portion you can catch it later online.

In Ephesians St. Paul writes about the church’s work to heal divisions, exercise humility, patience and goodness, to bear one another in love, and to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace among the people. He encourages the church to no longer be children, tossed to and from by every wind of doctrine, trickery, or deceit. Instead, in Ephesians 4:15 he says “*But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*”

Sign up today at the Welcome Center or call the church office to register to attend these three showings on September 1, 8, & 15. That will help us provide ample and appropriate seating.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Spirituality and Wellness ~ Safe Harbor

In a recent sermon, Pr. Laura reflected on the passage of Matthew 14:32: “*And when they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.*” She compared the boat to being a sanctuary, protected and safe from the waves of the storm which Jesus had just calmed. Many of us are seeking that spiritual sanctuary from the troubles of this present world. Where do we turn when the waves of the storm around us are frightening and unpredictable? We turn to truth, the Word of God that never changes. We turn to those around us who are safe and can provide us with comfort. We turn to prayer, to share our prayer requests with other believers who can intercede for us when the storms arise. We also turn to prayer when we come through the storm and can praise God for His provision and protection. Lifelines is our congregation’s way of connecting the needs of our members with the intercessors who have committed to pray for those needs. Prayer submissions may be sent or called in to the church office where they will be compiled and sent out to the prayer team. Anyone can join the prayer team to become prayer intercessors and to experience the joy and power of prayer. Lifelines prayer requests are also for answered prayers and to share the joys and thanksgivings for all God has done for us. Prayer is an act of gratitude.

Council Highlights for August 17, 2020

Church Council met via Zoom on Monday, August 17. Work continues by Ministry teams to address and improve the current worship opportunities at the church. Building & Property is researching new chairs for the Fellowship Room that will be easier to sanitize, and Worship & Music continues to work towards improved electronic options for worship. Social Ministry will be offering a three part program, “*Race: The Power of Illusion*” in September.

Old Business

- Council voted on three members for the Audit Committee: Reid Oberle, Freja Hager, and Judi Denys
- Preschool and Faithtime activities will resume soon. The Preschool will be putting up a removable fence in the east greenspace near the playground to provide an outdoor learning space for students. Faithtime activities have been scheduled to promote social distancing and ensure education opportunities for the children of the congregation; volunteers are still needed.

New Business

- The Annual Meeting date for 2021 is set for January 24, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. More details to follow.

- Funding requests were approved for Churches United of the Quad Cities Area, First Lutheran Preschool, the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, River Bend Foodbank, and Geneseo Marriage and Family Counseling.
- Building usage request for the Girl Scouts was approved for Troop meetings on select Sundays through December.
- Council approved new members, Jeff & Patti Boyer, Emily Buccholz, Michelle Buccholz, Ryan Cathelyn, and Butch & Nancy DeBlieck, who will be welcomed to the congregation on September 20 & 27.

July Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

July actual	\$27,868
July budget	\$32,833
YTD actual	\$286,928
YTD budget	\$284,331

Net Income Over Expenses:

July actual	\$7,179 deficit
July budget	\$5,615 deficit
YTD actual	\$29,627 surplus
YTD budget	\$83 surplus

First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Dollmaker of Krakow* and faith response to the author R.M. Romero on Thursday, September 17 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

• October's book title is *As Bright as Heaven* written by Susan Meissner. In 1918, Philadelphia was a city teeming with promise. Even as its young men went off to fight in the Great War, there were opportunities for a fresh start on its cobblestone streets. Into this bustling town, came Pauline Bright and her husband, filled with hope that they could now give their three daughters--Evelyn, Maggie, and Willa--a chance at a better life. But just months after they arrive, the Spanish Flu reaches the shores of America. As the pandemic claims more than twelve thousand victims in their adopted city, they find their lives left with a world that looks nothing like the one they knew. But even as they lose loved ones, they take in a baby orphaned by the disease who becomes their single source of hope. Amidst the tragedy and challenges, they learn what they cannot live without--and what they are willing to do about it. Pick up a copy today and begin reading this compelling story of a mother and her daughters who find themselves in a harsh world not of their making, which will either crush their resolve to survive or purify it. A complete listing of the 2020-21 book titles is available at the Resource Center.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Thank You

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee and members of First Lutheran Church for the scholarship and all of the support you have given me over the years. I'm truly grateful for everything you all have done and I will always cherish the memories I made at First Lutheran.

Thanks again,
Hayes Murphy

A Special Note of Thanks!

First Lutheran Family,

Thank you so much for the Panera gift card, onesie and baby book! That was so thoughtful. We feel so blessed to be part of such a loving congregation! Times have been so crazy these days, and having a baby during Pandemic doesn't make things any easier. But, we are counting our blessings and overjoyed that God blessed us with another beautiful daughter. Thank you so much again!

Love,
Stef, Tyler, Maddy & Emmi McLaughlin

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

It has been a privilege to serve as a member of the counting team for the past 25 years. I enjoyed serving and will cherish many good memories. Thank you so much for the gift certificates. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Donna Gotthardt

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

The Geneseo Food Pantry is collecting *brown sugar, powdered sugar, microwave popcorn, single serve oatmeal, unsweetened cereal, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antibacterial wipes, and dish soap* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Another way to help! — As fall approaches our clients will be in need of lightweight jackets, long sleeve shirts, and jeans. A large number of families and individuals use the items donated by the community to reduce the cost of clothing for their children

- The Food Pantry will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



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, September 14
Ministries — Monday, September 14
Council — Monday, September 21

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

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

Deb Spence
Monday-Thursday, select hours