



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

August 2024
Volume 63, Issue 8
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Milestones Ministry

Back to School Blessings & Blessing of the Keys

Sunday ~ August 11

Students of all ages, teachers, school staff, and faith formation volunteers will be blessed as they begin a new school year. Each student will receive a brand-new backpack tag! The backpack tag is a constant reminder that God is with the students of our community in their daily lives and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year. We invite members, friends, neighbors, or other family members that would like a blessing! We will also bless the keys of our new and upcoming drivers.



Back to School Bash! It's a Pool Party!

Splish Splash ... You're invited to the Back to School Bash
at the Edwards Aquatic Center on
Sunday, August 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this free event! See you there!
A light meal of pre-made sandwiches, chips, and cookies will be provided.

Entering Confirmation

Sunday ~ August 25

We will be blessing our 7th grade students who are entering Confirmation this year. This milestone marks the commencement of a new chapter of involvement in the faith community and commitment to lifelong learning and serving in the body of Christ. Students will also receive their Confirmation Bibles.

Jumping into the Deep End

There's something special about the community swimming pool in the height of summer. When I was in middle school, I used to ride my bike to Sholem Pool in Champaign and meet my friends there. We'd spend the afternoon jumping off the diving boards and hanging out at the snack bar. Now, Anna does the same at the Edwards Aquatic Center.

First Lutheran Church has rented the pool for a special end-of-summer/beginning-of-the-school-year celebration. After the last public swim hours of the 2024 season, we will have a couple hours for our church family to enjoy the water. My hope is that we will fill the pools with God's children, of all ages, for some water fun, and remember those baptismal waters that washed over us and brought us new life.

I know that not everyone will wish to don a swimsuit and jump in. I hope that even if you don't plan to swim, you might come and dip your toes in the water and enjoy a time of fellowship. I hope you'll have the opportunity to meet someone new and reconnect with old friends.

We'll gather at the pool on the evening of Sunday, August 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event is free! A light dinner and snacks will be provided by Congregational Life – and there is a sign-up at the Welcome Center if you would like to donate some of the snacks. It will be a great way to conclude our weekend, after having blessed our students and teachers at Worship, including a special *"Blessing of the Keys"* for our high school sophomores.

After the pool party ends, we'll jump into the deep end of our program year. A new year of Milestones will be underway, and we will bless our 7th grade students with the *"Entering Confirmation"* Milestone on August 25.

Faithtime Kids programming, Quest, and First Lutheran Preschool classes will begin the first week of September. Before we know it, we'll have said goodbye to summer once more.

I encourage you to jump in with us! Many faithful volunteers will be returning to roles where they have served in the past, and new volunteers will be joining the teams. There are still many places where more volunteers are needed. Send an email or give me a call if you wish to volunteer your time to help the children and youth of this congregation explore their faith, learn the Bible stories, and grow in God's love.

I also encourage you to take a look at the Milestones Ministries insert in this newsletter. Throughout the coming program year, we will be hosting events to help the children and youth of our congregation mark Milestones in their faith lives. From learning how to pray, to coming to the table for Holy Communion, to receiving their own Bibles, to exploring our Worship space, to writing their own faith statements and affirming the promises made at Holy Baptism, these Milestones are one way that parents and the whole congregation can work to fulfill the promises we make to children when they are presented for Holy Baptism. At that moment, God's resounding "Yes" to each child is echoed by the "Yes" of our promises to raise these children in the faith. As they grow, we will teach them, pray for them, and ask for God's blessing on them.

—Pastor Laura

August 3 & 4, 2024

Pentecost 11

This weekend's texts include Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16 and John 6:24-35.

August 10 & 11, 2024

Pentecost 12

This weekend's texts include 1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:25—5:2 and John 6:35, 41-51.

August 17 & 18, 2024

Pentecost 13

This weekend's texts include Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20 and John 6:51-58.

August 24 & 25, 2024

Pentecost 14

This weekend's texts include Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Ephesians 6:10-20 and John 6:56-69.

Worship at Liberty Village

The last Sunday of each month, Pastor Matt and Melinda lead worship at Liberty Village. Volunteers are needed on August 25 at 1 p.m. to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

"Pick Up Choir" Sunday, August 18th!

Children entering grade 3 through adults are invited to join the "Pick Up Choir" on Sunday, August 18. Rehearsal begins in the choir room at 8:45 a.m. and the choir will sing the anthem during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza. 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 Brian Hanshaw (*Jan & Steve Weber's son-in-law*), Jacob Hartman, Brandon Sandoval, Christopher Unrath, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Stacie Fidler. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Daniel Meiyan and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. V. Samuel Kennady, Bishop of the Arcot Lutheran Synod, India. For missionaries who share the Gospel around the world. For Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: Carol Boyd, Betty Clark (*Mike Clark's mother*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Amy Korth (*Kim Sefton's cousin*), Kevin Legred (*Judy Radke's brother*), Alan Novak (*Melissa Bohac's father*), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Cheryl Tracey Specht (*Mike & Ethel Pries's family friend*) and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: On the births of Vera Selda Cassens, daughter of Christopher Cassens and Sanna Selda Stendahl, and granddaughter of Jim & Nancy Cassens; and Callie Michele Olson, daughter of Devin & Megan Olson and granddaughter of Diane Olson.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Robert Gushanas; Barb Bowman, friend of Paul Zima; and Sandy Strosahl, sister of Susan Chase.

FIRST PRAYER

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please visit www.firstgeneseo.org and use the password First! to access the prayer request form in the Member Access Section. 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 MINISTRIES



Faithtime Kids

Registration for Faithtime Kids closes on August 1! If you have missed the deadline, contact Abbey Cathelyn at youth@firstgeneseo.org. Faithtime is open to all children in grades K-5. You do not have to be a member to join! Faithtime begins Wednesday, September 4. A full schedule for 2024-2025 is available on our website!

Confirmation (7th & 8th grades)

Confirmation students begin a new year with Family Meetings on August 5 & 7. 7th grade students will receive their Entering Confirmation Milestone at Worship on Sunday, August 25. Acolyte Training will be held after Worship on August 25th for all Confirmation students. Families will begin working on service projects and worship participation requirements, and Wednesday classes will begin in November. Please pray for our 16 students and their families throughout the coming year.

Quest

Quest will begin September 4 for 6th grade students. It is called the QUEST because it's focused on QUESTions. From September through March, students and leader Beth Nyland (and other volunteers) will consider many questions about what it means to be Christian and Lutheran. Each month will bring something new and an opportunity for the 6th graders to strive for something individually or as a team. Contact Beth Nyland at bgnyland@gmail.com for more information.



First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *Swans of 5th Avenue* and faith response to the author Melanie Benjamin on Thursday, August 15 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Centered on two dynamic, complicated, and compelling protagonists—Truman Capote and Babe Paley—this book is steeped in the glamour and perfumed and smoky atmosphere of New York's high society. Babe Paley—known for her high-profile marriage to CBS founder William Paley and her ranking in the International Best-Dressed Hall of Fame—was one of the reigning monarchs of New York's high society in the 1950s. Replete with gossip, scandal, betrayal, and a vibrant cast of real-life supporting characters, readers will be seduced by this startling new look at the infamous society swans. Be sure to read this gossipy and fun novel and join our discussion!

Season of Creation Pictures Needed!

The focus of worship September 7th through 29th is “*Season of Creation*”, a way to honor and give thanks for all that God has made. The themes for this year include Planet Earth, Humanity, Sky, and Mountain and Hill. The following pictures are needed:

- Planet Earth: Pictures of God’s creation and new birth.
- Humanity: Pictures of large crowds of people such as people at sporting events, people in a waiting line, people at concerts.
- Sky: Aerial pictures from drones or planes, any pictures of the sky only.
- Mountain and Hill: Pictures of mountains and hills.

Please send your pictures of any of these themes (and please indicate which theme your picture goes with) to Melinda Wildermuth at worship@firstgeneseo.org. The pictures should be in **jpeg format and landscape/horizontal in orientation**. Deadline for picture submission is August 31.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to provide coffee and treats for fellowship after the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. We need just two more teams to make it a once every three-month rotation. Treats can be purchased or homemade, and reimbursement is available. Training on making coffee and operating the dishwasher will be provided. Please consider this opportunity to provide hospitality and to lighten the load for our current fellowship teams! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Melinda Wildermuth at worship@firstgeneseo.org.

Northern Illinois Synod

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

35th Annual Convention

Saturday ~ September 21, 2024

Theme: “*God Is Our Refuge*”

Morning Message: *Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Julie Monnard*

Keynote Speakers: *Rev. Dr. Ruben Duran and Christine Moolo, Members of the ELCA AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) Executive Committee*

Psalm 46:1 “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*”

Location:

Zion Lutheran Church

250 East Street South, Kewanee IL

Coffee & Registration: 8 a.m. Registration Fee: \$40



Fellowship – Worship – Singing Songs – Exhibits-WELCA business meeting for voting members

FIRST MINISTRIES

Come and sing with Sanctuary Singers!

Sanctuary Singers will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4 at 6 p.m. in the choir room. Anyone who loves to sing, ages high school and older, are welcome! We sing once a month at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sundays, and for special services such as Christmas and Easter. For more information, contact Melinda Wildermuth at worship@firstgeneseo.org.

Geneseo Breast Cancer Support Group

We would like to welcome anyone who is currently in their breast cancer journey or is a breast cancer survivor to attend our Breast Cancer Support Group (BCSG) dinner meeting on August 19 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Please contact one of us if you have interest in attending. Thank you!

Pam Martens: 309-507-1201

Chris Ward: 563-529-4515

Dee Menendez: 309-945-2555



Chip in Fore Children Charity Golf Outing

Saturday, September 14, 2024
1 p.m. Shotgun Start

Four-Person Scramble, \$75/player or \$300/Team
Golf Cart, Lunch, and Goodie Bag Included
Raffle Prizes & Games on Golf Course

Highland Springs Golf Course
9500 35th Street W, Rock Island, IL 61201



Join fellow golfers, foster parents, and community members for a day of friendly competition for a cause. Funds raised will benefit local foster care programs.

Visit LSSI.org/Golf or scan the QR code to learn more and register.

Questions? Contact Andrea McClean at 309.373.3728

Theology on Tap

Mark your calendar! Come and have a drink with Pastor Matt at Geneseo Brewing Company on Wednesday, August 28 from 7-8:30 p.m. This will be our last summer gathering, so be sure to join us. All are welcome!

June 2024 Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| June actual | \$42,788 |
| June budget | \$35,900 |
| YTD actual | \$254,500 |
| YTD budget | \$264,332 |

Net Income Over Expenses:

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| June actual | \$6,128 surplus |
| June budget | \$4,796 deficit |
| YTD actual | \$18,942 surplus |
| YTD budget | \$5,359 deficit |

Thank you for your generous contributions and support for Glory Ringers!

FIRST MINISTRIES

Six members of Glory Ringers attended the Area 8 Handbell Festival in Columbia, Missouri June 20-23. It was an amazing experience to ring with over 200 people! We learned tips and tricks to improve our ringing technique, attended workshops including a yoga and sound healing session led by our own Tricia Fuelling, and enjoyed working with two amazing clinicians on some very challenging music! Thank you to all who donated to our tip jar throughout the year, and for your support of our music. We look forward to another year of ringing and invite anyone who reads music to come and ring with us! Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the choir room and will begin September 5. For more information contact Melinda Wildermuth at worship@firstgeneseo.org.

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, August 7, 14 & 21 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "*Gather*" for our study guide. All are welcome to join us!

A Note of Thanks!

The Cover Girls Quilting would like to thank everyone for the donations of material and sheets. We have been creating some very original quilts.

- A note about the sheets - they don't have to be perfect. If there's a spot or tear, we salvage what we can for our quilts. We can also use fitted sheets.

Our group feels very blessed to be able to make these much needed quilts. We invite anyone to join us on our mission.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *baked beans, pizza crust mix, cereal, crackers, cake and brownie mixes, pancake mix, syrup, cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste and laundry detergent* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



Did You Know?

- Hammond-Henry dietitian will provide a class about cooking healthy food at the Food Pantry on Tuesday, August 13, at 1:00. Try some new foods and receive recipes! This class is free and open to the public.
- The Food Pantry partners with Wright Foot Left and Sole Relief to provide two Foot Care Clinics each month. Nurses soak feet, trim and file toenails, help with ingrown toenails, and give a light foot massage with lotion. Please call 309-944-3165 or email geneseopantry1@gmail.com to make an appointment. Cost is \$37. Food Pantry Guests are provided with a voucher.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of August 3 & 4 to benefit ELCA World Hunger. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

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cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

Larry Lord, Livestream Technician
Hilary Anselmi, Nursery Coordinator

COUNCIL

Lendol Calder—*President*
Jeff Boyer—*Vice-President*
Kathy Heller—*Secretary*
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*

Cindy Groene, Jamian Haser,
Julie Kunkel, Lorrie Lord,
Sam Marshall, Linda Sheley,
Matt Simosky

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, August 12
Ministries — Monday, August 12
Council — Monday, August 19

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, AUGUST 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-Thursday

Rev. Matt Kamprath
Monday & Wednesday

Melinda Wildermuth
Monday-Thursday

Mary Jo Brummet
Monday-Thursday

Abbey Cathelyn
Monday-Thursday

Linda Bloomberg
Monday-Thursday, select hours