

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

January 2024
Volume 63, Issue 1
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.

Congregation Forum

Sunday ~ January 21, 2024

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please join the Church Council for a Congregation Forum on Sunday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will present a First Reading of the 2024 Budget and answer your questions about the Annual Report, so that we are prepared for the Annual Meeting on January 28.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday ~ January 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Congregational Meeting Agenda:

- I. Attendance and Establishment of a Quorum
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2023
- IV. Ratification of Amendments to Constitution Provision C12.05.
- V. Reports of the Pastors, Program Staff, Preschool
- VI. Reports of all Ministries, Committees and Organizations
- VII. Treasurer's Report and Reading of the 2024 Proposed Budget
- VIII. Adoption of 2024 Budget
- IX. Report of the Nominating Committee
- X. Elections
- XI. Adoption of Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions
 - a. Updates to reflect the Model Constitution
 - b. Amendments to Bylaws
- XII. Election Results
- XIII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment



A Farewell and Two Welcomes

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome 2024, our congregation bids farewell to a staff member and welcomes two more to the team.

Jim Luikart is retiring as our Parish Accountant, after over a decade in this position. He came on board at FLC after retiring from full-time work, and now he has decided to retire again. In this position, he has worked closely with the rest of the staff, with ministry volunteers, and with our congregational Treasurers and Finance Ministry to ensure our financial records are complete and accurate. He makes sure all of our bills are paid – and that’s a big job! We are so grateful to Jim for his years of faithful service. He has been a vital part of our team, and we will miss him (and his stories and jokes!). We wish him and his wife Joan well in this next chapter of their lives, and we pray for God’s blessings on them.

With every ending is a new beginning – and we are fortunate that Trisha Amble has already begun her work with us as our new Parish Accountant. She joined our staff at the end of November and has been training with Jim. Trisha lives here in Geneseo with her husband Lester. They have five children, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She brings with her many years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting, and financial administration. Welcome, Trisha!

We are also excited to welcome Hilary Anselmi to our staff as our Nursery Coordinator. Hilary has served as a volunteer in the Nursery and now steps into this position. Her role will be to schedule volunteer Nursery Attendants and oversee the Nursery ministry, and you will find her serving in the Nursery about once a month. Hilary and her husband Chase have been a part of our FLC family for about five years, and they have three children: Houston, Chandler, and Hallie.

I encourage you to check out this month’s *Spotlight On...* (page 4), which highlights our Nursery ministry. I also encourage you to say “Thank You” to Jim and “Welcome” to Trisha and Hilary. We are blessed by the gifts of each of our devoted staff members.

I also encourage each of you to attend the Budget Forum on Sunday, January 21 and the Annual Meeting on January 28. At the Annual Meeting, we have some work to do as a congregation: passing the budget for 2024, electing congregational leaders, and amending our Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. The process may not be the most thrilling, but the work is crucial to the ministry God is calling us to do. Your attendance and participation in this meeting empowers our work – Sharing Christ’s Love with our neighbors near and far.

Finally, I encourage you to read the updated document “God’s Vision for Us,” which can be found online. Go to www.firstgeneseo.org, click on the Member Access section in the drop-down menu under the Welcome tab, and use password **First!** to gain access. Then scroll down, past the Lifelines Prayer List, to the Member News & Schedules section. There you will find a link to the updated document. Printed copies are also available at the Resource Center. As you read it, you will find that we have been working hard, making progress toward goals, and revising goals as needed along the way.

Pastor Matt and I are praying for you in this new year, and we humbly ask for your prayers for us, our staff and volunteers, and the ministry of this congregation

—Pastor Laura

January 6 & 7, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11.

January 13 & 14, 2024

Epiphany 2

This weekend's texts include 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and John 1:43-51.

January 20 & 21, 2024

Epiphany 3

This weekend's texts include Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 and Mark 1:14-20.

January 27 & 28, 2024

Epiphany 4

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 and Mark 1:21-38.

Milestones Ministry

Anniversary of Baptism - A "Walking Wet" Milestone

Join us on Sunday, January 7 on the Baptism of Our Lord as we celebrate all who were baptized in the past year. The Anniversary of Baptism is an opportunity to remind everyone that living our baptism is a lifelong journey – and one needs to be prepared to live and walk wet! Those who were baptized in the past year should have received a letter in the mail with details regarding the event.

Pray and Play

Pre-K children and their families learn about the gift of prayer, God's love; and how that love helps us navigate life.

Event: January 20 ~ 10-10:45 a.m.

Blessing: January 21

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



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*), Brandon Sandoval, Christopher Unrath, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Rev. Michael Burk and Rev. Stacie Fidler. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Daniel Meiyen 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*), Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Kari Gentry (*Kathy Heller, Lonnie Anderson and Kris VanVooren's sister*), Russ Josh (*Joe & Marcia Green's friend*), Mary Jo Nelson (*Kathy Nelson's sister-in-law*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Marlee Stienner and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: Baptisms of Andrew Alan McCarty and Ian Shea McCarty on December 10, sons of Gregg McCarty and Melissa Bohac.

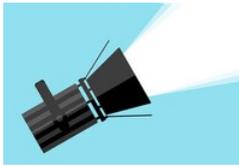
Thanksgiving: For all the prayers for Bob Groene throughout his cancer treatments, and for the healing that God has provided.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Greta Baugh, mother of Jan VanKerrebroeck and grandmother of Kate Reed; Bob Lopez, friend of Steve & Jodi Martin; and George Mason, father of Judi Denys.

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 PRAYER

FIRST MINISTRIES



Spotlight On...Nursery Attendants

Each month, we highlight an area of volunteer ministry that has “openings” for additional volunteers. This month, our focus is Nursery Attendants. Those currently serving in this way share their experiences:

Anne Haverback has been serving in the Nursery for many years, often with the help of one of her daughters.

Hilary Anselmi has been serving in the Nursery for over a year, and she recently accept the position of Nursery Coordinator.

1. Why did you decide to volunteer for this ministry? Or, why did you say “yes” when you were asked to serve?

Anne: I decided to volunteer in the nursery because my own children, when they were younger, would use this service. I wanted to be able to provide parents of younger children time to focus and reflect upon the church service.

Hilary: I was looking for an opportunity to serve our congregation that was also flexible for my family. I also enjoy working with young children, so serving as a Nursery Attendant was a perfect fit for me!

2. What might you say to encourage someone who is considering joining the team?

Anne: Say yes, it's amazing how younger children can make you smile and bring so much joy.

Hilary: Do it! Being a nursery attendant is a small time commitment but very rewarding!

3. How do you get to participate in the work of “*Sharing Christ’s Love*” by serving in this way?

Anne: Serving as a nursery attendant allows me to meet new families and become a familiar face to younger members.

4. What do you like best about this work?

Anne: I enjoy being able to provide positive interactive play time in a calm environment while listening to the church service on the speaker.

Hilary: It’s fulfilling to spend time with our youngest members of the church and connect with their families!

Hilary schedules our Nursery Attendants. She writes: If you are looking for a way to volunteer your time at First Lutheran, I am looking for additional volunteers to staff our Nursery! The Nursery is open during our Sunday morning service. Our volunteers have the flexibility to choose services that best fit their schedule, and only need to serve every few months! If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to me at 502-9841 or hanselmi.ha@gmail.com. Thank you!

Reminder: Winter Cancellation Policy

With snow flying once again, please remember that First Lutheran Church follows the Geneseo School District 228 weather cancellations. If the school district cancels classes or events, First Lutheran cancels its programming as well.

Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

Faithtime resumes on January 10!

All children Grades K-5

January 10	<i>Parable of the Good Shepherd (Faithtime Meal at 5 p.m.)</i>
January 17	<i>Parable of the Leaven</i>
January 24	<i>Parable of the Mustard Seed</i>
January 31	<i>Parable of the Sower</i>

A parable is a metaphor that uses a short narrative fiction to reference a transcendent symbol, which in the Gospels is generally the Kingdom of Heaven. The first lesson introduces the Good Shepherd as the *primary* image of Jesus for children.



FIRST MINISTRIES

The Calendar Year is Ending, but Quest is Exploring Beginnings

In secular terms, December feels like the end of the year. But we know this is a season of beginning. Advent!

So, for the past few weeks the 6th graders of QUEST have focused on BEGINNINGS. Scripture exploration has taken us into Ecclesiastes (*"to everything there is a season"*) and Isaiah (*"See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness."*). These young people have lived relatively few seasons, but they understand fully how an ending is often a beginning. And they know what "wilderness" feels like.

They also write beautiful prayers—honest and poetic. For example:

*"There is a time to move forward, and a time to move on. Amen."
"A time to have a family, a time to lose one. Amen."*



So yes, we ponder weighty matters in QUEST. But we also keep our hearts light and our hands busy—painting pictures you will see during Christmas Eve worship, wrapping Christmas gifts for a family we've adopted through the local food pantry, and making ornaments to share with our own loved ones.

Next: WORSHIP

We'll enjoy a holiday break at the end of December. Then, when we reconvene in January, we'll be talking about WORSHIP. What is it? Why do we do it? What are the non-negotiables and the nice-to-haves when we gather as people of God? By the start of February, the students will be ready to share of themselves in a worship service with the congregation. We look forward to worshipping with you!

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes continue on Wednesdays, 5:45-7:00 p.m. in Conference Room A. Our lessons for January are:

January 3 — No Class (<i>Christmas Break</i>)	January 24 — <i>Job</i>
January 10 — <i>Babylonian Captivity</i>	January 31 — <i>Jesus</i>
January 17 — <i>Prophets</i>	

FLC Youth

The Youth Room will be open from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesdays in January. Any Senior High youth are welcome to come hang out, do homework, and enjoy some small group devotion time with Abbey.

- Dates: 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 & 1/31

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

Preschool resumes Monday, January 8, 2024. Winter weather, ice and snow will be a focus for all classes in January. The 3-year-olds will participate in activities involving the color white and the triangle shape. They will go on a scavenger hunt around the church in search of a gingerbread man who has run away with their cookie dough! They will also use snowmen to learn about size and ordering. The 4-year-olds will have indoor snow days, bringing the snow in for experiments and art. They will learn about owls, read the book "Owl Moon" and go owling. Families will work together at home to complete a snowflake project to share with the class.

- **No School** on Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr Day

First Friends

Come start the New Year with some new friends! First Friends will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 11 for lunch and a short program by Mat Schneppe, Henry County Director of Emergency Management. Menu will be chicken and rice with sides and dessert for \$7. Come, bring a friend and enjoy food and fellowship on a cold winter day. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196.

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Cover Girls is starting another year of quilting and you're invited! Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, January 3, 10, & 17 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, January 24 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "Gather" for our study guide. All women are welcome to join us!

Faithtime Meal

Our Faithtime Meal is on Wednesday night, January 10, and will feature pulled pork with sides and birthday cupcakes! This month we will celebrate January birthdays and July half-birthdays. The meal is served from 5-5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come and see, and most importantly, eat! Take a night off and enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun!

*Cost: Adults: \$5 - Children aged 3-11: \$3
Family: \$20 per household*

First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* and faith response to the author Melanie Benjamin on Thursday, January 18 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

"Never would I allow my size to define me. Instead, I would define it."

She was only two-foot eight-inches tall, but her legend reaches out to us more than a century later. As a child, Mercy Lavinia "Vinnie" Bump was encouraged to live a life hidden away from the public. Instead, she reached out to the immortal impresario P. T. Barnum, married the tiny superstar General Tom Thumb in the wedding of the century, and transformed into the world's most unexpected celebrity. Be sure to curl up and read this sweeping love story that follows two Portuguese refugees who flee religious violence to build new lives in Civil-War America.

Notes of Thanks

THANK YOU to everyone who donated Christmas gifts for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Foster Care Children. LSSI, the foster care parents, and the foster care children are grateful for your support and generosity. Once again, First Lutheran members have made Christmas joyous for many needy children. God’s blessings as we share Christ’s love.

—Kathy Nelson, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Cornerstone Lifetime Trustee



What a wonderful surprise of a huge plater of fruit & candy delivered to our room in Liberty Village. We worship every Sunday with you through Facebook, including having communion. We love being at Liberty Village and appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

—John & Joan Elden

On behalf of all of us here at Hillcrest Nursing Home we would like to say *thank you!* The Christmas trees help brighten some of our residents.

—God Bless, Hillcrest Home

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas military gift boxes or purchased Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree. Your kindness and generosity touched many hearts this past holiday season. Thank you so very much.

—Social Ministry

Christmas Parade Float Thank You

Thank you to the *Helping Hands* that set-up, decorated, and disassembled the float for the Geneseo Christmas Parade. Thank you as well to those that walked in the parade and passed out candy. We demonstrated First Lutheran’s *sharing of Christ’s love* to our community. A special thanks to Gary and John Daniels for providing the trailer and driving. And as always, a warm thank you to Gene Stees for crafting the church model.

Council Highlights for December 18, 2023

- We have a new Parish Accountant and a new Nursery Coordinator. Thank you to both of them for coming on board!
- We approved the Pastors’ Housing Resolution and the Staff Mileage Resolution.
- We voted to approve two line items that have gone over the current budget. Our total budget is still well within our total expected expenditures.
- We received the Nominating Committee report, and recommended an amazing group of volunteers for various leadership roles to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
- We set the Annual Meeting for January 28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

- We earmarked \$50,000 of the Building Fund for roof replacement in the future.

November Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

November actual	\$34,265
November budget	\$34,325
YTD actual	\$413,320
YTD budget	\$404,676

Net Income Over Expenses:

November actual	\$5,814 deficit
November budget	\$3,894 deficit
YTD actual	\$17,872 deficit
YTD budget	\$39,272 deficit



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

114 E. Main Street
Geneseo, IL 61254-1566
309-944-3196
www.firstgeneseo.org
e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 91
Geneseo, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of January 6 & 7 to benefit Royal Family Kids Camp. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Laura Kamprath
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Melinda Wildermuth
Director of Worship & Music
worship@firstgeneseo.org

Mary Jo Brummet
Parish Administrator
mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

Abbey Cathelyn
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
youth@firstgeneseo.org

Linda Bloomberg
Receptionist
receptionist@firstgeneseo.org

Patricia Amble, Parish Accountant
accountant@firstgeneseo.org

Patsy Andress, Financial Secretary
financials@firstgeneseo.org

Charlene Daniels, Custodian
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

Larry Lord, Livestream Technician
Hilary Anselmi, Nursery Coordinator

COUNCIL

Lance Camp—*President*
Lendol Calder—*Vice-President*
Kathy Heller—*Secretary*
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*

Jeff Boyer, Mike Eckwall,
Cindy Groene, Jill Laingen,
Lorrie Lord, John Peters,
Linda Sheley

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — January 8
Ministries — January 8
Council — January 15

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JANUARY 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-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