



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

July 2024
Volume 63, Issue 7
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Is Now Hiring

We are now accepting applications for three staff positions. We encourage everyone to share this information with anyone who may be interested in joining our ministry team.

Communications Specialist

This is a newly created position, with a focus on online communications. The purpose of the position is to tell the story of the Holy Spirit at work through the members and friends of the congregation. This person will develop and maintain a cohesive online presence for First Lutheran Church. It is a part-time position averaging 10 hours a week. A full position description is available on our website.

Programs Meal Coordinator

We are seeking a staff member to coordinate meals and snacks throughout the year for our Faith formation programs, including Faithtime, Vacation Bible School, and some of the Milestones Ministry programs. This person will set the menus, shop for food and supplies, and recruit volunteer meal teams. The first meal of the program year will be Faithtime Dinner on Wednesday, September 4. A full position description is available on our website.

Parish Accountant

Our current Parish Accountant, Trisha Amble, will be moving, and we are seeking a replacement. Duties include paying bills, maintaining the general ledger, and preparing financial reports. A full position description is available on our website.

The full position descriptions for each of these positions is available on our website, www.firstgeneseo.org, in the Announcements section. To apply for any of these positions, please send a cover letter and resume to Mary Jo Brummet, Parish Administrator, at mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org. Applications will be accepted through July 11.

Bread Upon Bread Upon Bread

I eat a lot of bread; toast, bagels, sandwich bread, Hawaiian bread, Italian bread, French bread, sourdough, tortillas, pitas, breadsticks, pretzels, pizza, cinnamon rolls, dinner rolls, and lots of communion wafers. Bread is an essential part of my life and diet. I would probably struggle taking bread and wheat out of my diet for I love the way it tastes. I like the comfort that bread provides.

Now, I know a lot of people don't eat bread for a lot of reasons; they either don't like the way it tastes, or they are cutting the carbs out of their diet, or they are completely removing the gluten from their diet because of an intolerance or allergy. There are also many who simply don't have enough bread to eat. Here in the United States, one in six children are affected by hunger. Globally, hunger is the biggest threat to people's health and well-being. Lack of access to bread or any food makes people angry and sometimes violent. Hunger causes wars and is used as a weapon. Lack of access to essential foods like bread creates suffering in our world.

Jesus talks a lot about bread for a reason. In the gospels Jesus feeds those who are hungry with bread. Jesus breaks bread with outsiders and insiders at tables of both the rich and poor. Jesus shows his disciples that his body broken will be the bread that they will eat for spiritual and physical communion with God. As essential as bread is to the table, so is Jesus to our world which longs to know a table that is not divided or broken, but restored and healed. A table where all are fed with bread and nourished.

Beginning July 28 through August 25, for five weeks in a row, we will be exploring the sixth chapter of the gospel of John which is all about Jesus as the bread of life. For five weekends we will explore how essential bread is to our worship life together. There will be an opportunity to bake the bread on July 21 that we will use in worship for Holy Communion. Our worship and music throughout the series will revolve around bread and table fellowship. Our noisy offerings for the month of July will go to Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry, and in August to ELCA World Hunger. By the end of the five Sundays, it will feel like bread upon bread upon bread and hopefully grace upon grace upon grace. Join us!

—Pastor Matt

July 6 & 7, 2024

Pentecost 7

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 and Mark 6:1-13.

July 13 & 14, 2024

Pentecost 8

This weekend's texts include Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14 and Mark 6:14-29.

July 20 & 21, 2024

Pentecost 9

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22 and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

July 27 & 28, 2024

Pentecost 10

This weekend's texts include 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 3:14-21 and John 6:1-21.

"Pick Up Choir" Sunday, July 21!

Children entering grade 3 through adults are invited to join the "Pick Up Choir" on Sunday, July 21. 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. All are welcome!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship at Liberty Village

The last Sunday of each month, Pastor Matt and Melinda will lead worship at Liberty Village at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends at Liberty Village on Sunday, July 28!

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, Ed Chase, Sue Chase, Karen Coakley (*Suzi Sandoval's aunt*), Dawn Collins (*Mike & Ethel Pries's daughter*), Ashlyn and Olivia Dalsanto (*Kathy Nelson's friends' twin daughters*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Alan Novak (*Melissa Bohac's father*), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Jay Sears, Cheryl Tracey Specht (*Mike & Ethel Pries's family friend*), Elsie Stees and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: We welcomed new members Pam Lawrence to our church family on June 2; and Pete & Tami Eckberg on June 23. On the births of Declan Benjamin Michael Gilligan, son of Megan & Josh Gilligan, and grandson of Mike & Margi Ficken; and Graham Karnoscak, son of Steven & Becky Karnoscak and grandson of Chris & Jodi Barnhart.

Thanksgiving: For faithful prayer warriors in our community of believers.

Sorrows: On the deaths of John Robinson, cousin of Linda Bloomberg; Larry Reed, father of Kevin Reed; Jan Rutherford, member; Deborah Brower, grandmother of Kendra Brower; and Charlene Iverson, mother of Theresa Nelson.

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



LAST CALL!

VBS registration will close on July 1. If you have missed the cutoff, contact Abbey Cathelyn to register at youth@firstgeneseo.org

VBS Service Project

This year our service project will benefit the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. We will be collecting school supplies from July 29-August 4. You can find a complete list of school supply needs on their website: geneseofoodpantry.org

Theology On Tap

Come and have a drink with Pastor Matt every **fourth Wednesday** (*July 24 & August 28*) from 7-8:30 p.m. this summer. We will gather at Geneseo Brewing Company for another round of Theology on Tap. Join us! All are welcome!

Faithtime Kids

Faithtime registration is open until August 1! Scan the QR code to register!



Faithtime Kids is an afternoon and evening of "Sharing Christ's Love" through education, movement, music, and the arts. Faithtime will begin Wednesday, September 4. Programming is available each week for ages kindergarten to 5th grade. Activities are open to members and guests of First Lutheran Church. Watch your mail for information on our Wednesday night programming!

Council Highlights for June 17, 2024

- This month much of our meeting was spent reviewing reports from Staff, Ministry teams, and voting members at the recent Northern Illinois Synod Assembly.
- Council approved the following funding request: \$341 from the Music & Arts Fund to cover the balance of registration fees for the Area 8 Handbell Festival.
- We reviewed and discussed job descriptions for two positions: Programs Meal Coordinator and Communications Specialist. Acting on a motion from the Personnel Committee, Council approved an updated Programs Meal Coordinator job description and authorized church staff to begin the hiring process for that position.

Council also approved a job description for the new position of Communications Specialist and authorized church staff to begin the hiring process for that position.

May Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

May actual	\$32,513
May budget	\$36,108
YTD actual	\$223,094
YTD budget	\$219,642

Net Income Over Expenses:

May actual	\$3,619 deficit
May budget	\$6,951 deficit
YTD actual	\$12,813 surplus
YTD budget	\$563 surplus

The Gospel according to Bread – July 28/29 – August 24/25

The last five weeks of the summer, our gospel readings come from John 6, the “*I am the bread of life*” chapter. Worship during this time will focus on Jesus as the bread of life and what this means for us and our world. We will have opportunities to make, eat, and share bread with others!

Making Bread: Communion Bread Baking: On Sunday July 21 at 11 a.m. come to the kitchen and help bake communion bread for the bread season!

Loaves of Love: An opportunity to bake loaves of sweet breads to take to our shut-ins. Contact Sherry Dickens for more information.

Eating Bread: Sunday morning fellowship (*except for Cinnamon Roll Sunday on August 4*) will feature breads from local bakers and bakeries.

Sharing Bread: The Noisy Offering on August 3 & 4 will benefit World Hunger. We will collect bread and bread products for the Food Pantry on August 24 & 25.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Bread-Baking Event on Sunday, July 21

Come join Pastor Laura and Kate Reed on Sunday, July 21 as we bake bread for Holy Communion. We will use the recipe that our Communion Milestone kids have used in past years, which is easy and tasty! All the supplies and ingredients will be provided, bring your own apron if you wish. All ages are welcome. We will meet at 11 a.m. in the Church Kitchen.

Good Samaritan Fund

Did you know that our congregation has a special fund called the Good Samaritan Fund? It is funded by designated donations, separate from the General Fund. The money in the Fund is used, at the discretion of the pastors, when there are people in need in our congregation and community. Past disbursements from the Fund have included partial rent payments, utility payments (mostly electricity), help with medical bills, filling up someone’s gas tank or paying for a ride, and providing a meal or restaurant or grocery gift card. Some of the recipients of the funds have been members of our congregation; most are non-members. Some are our neighbors in Henry County, some folks are simply passing through Geneseo on their way somewhere else and need help. When someone contacts the church requesting assistance, we first direct them to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. There are occasions when the Food Pantry cannot meet a need, and then we may be able to help. On days when the Food Pantry is not open, this Fund also allows us to offer some immediate assistance. So far this year, we have made 6 disbursements, and currently the Fund is almost empty. If you would like to donate to the Fund, you can do so by giving a check with “Good Samaritan Fund” in the memo line, or by going to www.firstgeneseo.org/giving, clicking on “Make a Secure Online Gift Today,” and choosing “Good Samaritan Fund” in the dropdown menu. Thank you to all those who have given to this Fund in the past, and who will give now, in order to Share Christ’s Love!

FIRST MINISTRIES

New Congregational Policy

In May, our Council approved a new Gifts Policy. This congregational policy was drafted by the Finance Ministry, in an effort to protect the long-term interests of the congregation and faithfully steward the assets and resources donated to our mission. Copies of the policy are available at the Resource Center and online. To find it online, go to www.firstgeneseo.org, go the Member Access section in the Welcome tab, use the password **First!** for access, and scroll down to the section labeled “Church Administrative Documents.”

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, July 10 & 17 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, July 24 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!

To the Members and Friends at FLC,
We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the generosity you show our group of breast cancer survivors. This location has been a perfect fit for us as it is warm, inviting and allows us plenty of space. You are a true blessing to us!

Warmly,
Geneseo Breast Cancer Support Group

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *pasta sauce, brownie and cake mixes, cereal, pudding, jello, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent and cleaners* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Lost Art of Keeping Secrets* and faith response to the author Eva Rice on Thursday, July 18 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Set in 1950s London, *The Lost Art of Keeping Secrets* centers around Penelope, the wide-eyed daughter of a legendary beauty, Talitha, who lost her husband to the war. Penelope, with her mother and brother, struggles to maintain their vast and crumbling ancestral home—while postwar London spins toward the next decade’s cultural revolution. Penelope wants nothing more than to fall in love, and when her new best friend, Charlotte, a free spirit in the young society set, drags Penelope into London with all of its grand parties, she sets in motion great change for them all. Charlotte’s mysterious and attractive brother Harry uses Penelope to make his American ex-girlfriend jealous, with unforeseen consequences, and a dashing, wealthy American movie producer arrives with what might be the key to Penelope’s—and her family’s—future happiness. Hurry and pick up a copy at the library and enjoy reading this utterly unique debut novel about a time and place just slipping into history.

- A complete listing of the book titles and authors for the 2024-25 year is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room.



2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

*"And being so fed, we will lean into the grace and grit of our vocation
to Be the Body, to live into the called life"*

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

- **R-1: Celebrating and Supporting the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**
- **R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Consider Becoming Reconciling in Christ**
- **R-3: Reject Christian Nationalism**

ELECTIONS

Synod Council Offices

Treasurer, Ms. Nancy Lillevold

Synod Council

Mr. Trace Gallagher, Ms. Leann Heimerdinger, Mr. Dave Kromphardt, Rev. Chris Lee, Rev. John Rothfusz

Congregational Life Committee

Ms. Carol Johnson, Mr. David Crippen

Global Missions Committee

Dr. Alan Esker, Rev. Makayla Dahleen, Rev. Jonathan Black

Ministry Support Committee

Ms. Julie Eshleman, Mr. Jason Gustafson, Rev. Matt Kamprath

Outreach Committee

Rev. Sarah Wilson, Rev. Dr. Eric Lemonholm

Social Ministry Committee

Mr. John Gustafson, Rev. Patrick Fish

2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Ms. Clara Solak, Mr. Luke Snyder, Ms. Paula Ebener, Mr. George Sanchez, Mr. Brandon Graves, Rev. Chad McKenna, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Ms. Minnette Willard, Mr. Mel Ehrler, Ms. Rita Gustafson, Rev. Jamie Gallagher, Rev. Julane Nease, Mr. Bill Wescott, Ms. Merianne Morris, Rev. Preston Fields, Deacon Shari Simon

ACTIONS TAKEN

- blessed a new synod banner
- heard from Rev. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, Senior Director for New Ministry Development and Evangelism at ELCA Churchwide
- passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- passed the 2025 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- passed three resolutions brought to the assembly
- elected several members to serve on Synod Council, committees, and 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- heard from Bishop Fidler about a new development project.
- heard from Becoming, a new Synod Authorized Worshipping Community in Oswego





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 July 6 & 7 to benefit the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Laura Kamprath
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

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worship@firstgeneseo.org

Mary Jo Brummet
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Patsy Andress, Financial Secretary
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Charlene Daniels, Custodian
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 — No meeting in July
Ministries — No meeting in July
Council — No meeting in July

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JULY 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