



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

June 2024
Volume 63, Issue 6
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

2nd Annual Fellowship ON TAP!

Congregational Life invites you to join us for a *Happy Hour* with Patrick Stebly of Geneseo Brewing Company. Enjoy a casual evening with others from our church at GBC on Tuesday, June 25! Brewer, Patrick Stebly (*member of FLC*) will give a tour and talk. Flatbread pizza appetizers will be provided but you are welcome to order food on your own. Come at 6 p.m. and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and an opportunity to connect with one another! Sign up at the Welcome Center or online if you plan to join us.



VBS ~ Operation Restoration July 29–August 31

Operation Restoration is for children entering kindergarten through fifth grade. Three- and four-year-old children can enjoy their own self-contained VBS experience and join the large group for opening. All children will explore the many ways to be menders in God's world.

Features:

- An overarching theme of **restoration** that invites and inspires everyone to be a mender in God's world.
- **Daily themes:** Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest
- **Activity Centers** that are engaging, multisensory, and fun!
- **Storytelling and music**
- 5:30– 7:30 p.m. (snack included)



Registration is live! Scan the QR code to register by July 1. We can't wait to see you!

A WORD FROM BISHOP STACIE FIDLAR



Walking Together

The first question I asked people gathered for our Congregational Resourcing Event was this:

What's your favorite Bible story?

The answers came fast and furious, Hebrew Bible and New Testament. Good Samaritan. Woman at the Well. The resurrection. David and Goliath.

Now – tell me what that story has to do with your life. How does God's story of life and redemption and healing and reconciliation shape your life? Does that change the story – or how you think about it?

The arc of God's story with the beloved people of God's creation is long, but all along the way it is meant to shape us. That's why our ancestors recorded these stories in their minds and hearts and finally in writing. They wanted us to be shaped by them. They wanted us to learn from them. They wanted us to know deep within us how God's story never leaves us the same. **God's story is meant to be transformative.** It never leaves us the same.

That's why we are called as the people of God to be continually immersed in God's story. To open it in our lives and listen to how God is reaching out to us in this time and this place through the old, old story of love and life.

God's story, God's work through Jesus, is woven with your story. Your life is a story of redemption, time and again. Your life is a story of finding your authentic self, your home, your peace, in the heart of God's story. From the beginning of creation through the reconciling and healing work of Jesus and continually blowing through the Holy Spirit's nudging – God is always at work in you. On you. Among you.

Open God's Story in your life and listen. Open God's Story in your congregation – where is God's mission, Jesus' calling, leading you?

Synod Assembly 2024

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Each congregation will send voting members to gather under the theme of Open God's Story. *First Lutheran Church, Geneseo will be sending our Pastors and 3 lay voting members: Lendol Calder, Cindy Groene, and Jenn Stoecker.*

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, the Synod is encouraging congregations to have a food drive for local food pantries during the time that an in-kind offering would have been collected for Synod Assembly. *(Here at First Lutheran, we will continue to collect items for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry.)* The offering at the Festival Worship on Friday will be split between Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and ELCA World Hunger, both celebrating 50 years of ministry.

You are invited to pray for the voting members as they gather in June:

Almighty God, we give you thanks that by your Holy Spirit you sustain the church. Guide us to be your hands and feet and heart to bring healing, hope, and restoration. As the Holy Spirit continues to work among us and in us, we pray for the strengthening of our communities of faith, as we navigate new challenges and possibilities. Be with our synod staff and all pastors and leaders in congregations, and all who gather as your church everywhere. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

June 1 & 2, 2024

Pentecost 2

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 and Mark 2:23—3:6.

June 8 & 9, 2024

Pentecost 3

This weekend's texts include Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 and Mark 3:20-35.

June 15 & 16, 2024

Pentecost 4 | Happy Father's Day

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 and Mark 4:26-34.

June 22 & 23, 2024

Pentecost 5

This weekend's texts include Job 38:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and Mark 4:35-41.

June 29 & 30, 2024

Pentecost 6

This weekend's texts include Lamentations 3:22-33; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and Mark 5:21-43.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

"Pick Up Choir" Sunday, June 9!

Children entering grade 3 through adults are invited to join the "Pick Up Choir" on Sunday, June 9. 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. There are also parts for rhythm instruments so those who prefer to play rather than sing are welcome!

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: Diana Baca (*Janet Larson's friend*), Carol Boyd, Regina Davis (*Tom Vorac's sister*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Deb Hardesty (*Darla Anderson's friend*), Maureen Josh (*Joe & Marcia Green's friend*), Lea Ann Koch (*Tim and Shane Holmstrom's friend*), Alan Novak (*Melissa Bobac's father*), Ray Rogers, Jan Rutherford, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Cheryl Tracey Specht (*Mike & Ethel Pries's family friend*) and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: On the birth of Jackson Stephen Sheley, son of Marissa & Adam Sheley and grandson of Rich & Linda Sheley. On the baptism of Estelle Marie Reyburn, daughter of Andy & Lydia Reyburn.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Leanne Alhorn, member; and Isla Galliard, Kathy Nelson's niece's friend's daughter.

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

Fiber Arts at First

Crafters are invited to bring your latest yarn and fiber project to Fiber Arts at First meet up on Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. in Grace Place. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needleworking--any yarn or fiber-based craft--with you and we'll make progress on our projects together and even help each other out when we get stuck! One of our members will also teach the "Magic Loop" knitting technique for knitting small circumferences. Every level of skill is welcome as we experience the warmth of fellowship and weave together strands of new friendship and creativity. For more information contact Anne Calder at 309-230-9526 or anneecalder@gmail.com.

Theology On Tap

Come and have a drink with Pastor Matt every **fourth Wednesday** (*June 26, 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!

LSSI Foster Fair – Moline

June 21 ~ 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. ~ FREE

Foster Fair is a Statewide Event Raising Awareness for Foster Care! Join Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) at nine community locations statewide on June 18, 21 or 22, **including Friday, June 21 in Moline**, for fun, family activities. Meet LSSI staff and learn about becoming a foster parent or supporting children in foster care. Meet other local organizations assisting kids and families. Refreshments will be served. Games and giveaways!

Join us at Marketplace at 2500 in Moline (*2500 53rd Street*) for activities and special guests that include: yard games (bags and giant Jenga); Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Royal Family Kids; Closet2Closet; and MORE! Attendees can also purchase food from participating food trucks.

A New Chapter for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

From Social Ministry ...

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will now be known to the world and the people they exist to help as "Global Refuge." The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, their mission of providing the "long welcome" has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for their essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify themselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters.

As Global Refuge, they become even more accessible to clients, partners, and supporters without altering the core mission. They remain dedicated to fostering a world of just and welcoming communities, informed by their Lutheran heritage and nearly 85 years of experience. Their faith-based identity remains integral to the organization, reflecting the spirit of love that shapes their work of welcome and strengthens their relationships with Lutheran communities and congregations, as well as with nondenominational and interfaith partners. More information about Global Refuge can be found on their website, www.globalrefuge.org

First Book Club

Did you know ... First Book Club plans to continue meeting monthly during the summer! Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Ride of Her Life* and faith response to the author Elizabeth Letts on Thursday, June 20 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

In 1954, sixty-three-year-old Maine farmer Annie Wilkins embarked on an impossible journey. She had no money and no family, she had just lost her farm, and her doctor had given her only two years to live. But Annie wanted to see the Pacific Ocean before she died. She ignored her doctor's advice to move into the county charity home. Instead, she bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, and headed south in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. Annie had little idea what to expect beyond her rural crossroads; she didn't even have a map. But she did have her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness. Pick up a copy and begin reading this triumphant true story of a woman, her horse, and their last-chance journey across America!

FIRST MINISTRIES

The Word In Season Devotional Booklets

These daily devotions offer inspiration and focus for each day. The July–September issue is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room. Help yourself to a copy and enjoy!

Council Highlights for May 20, 2024

- First Lutheran will be represented at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly June 14-15 by Pastor Matt and Pastor Laura, Lendol Calder, Jenn Stoeger, and Cindy Groene.
- On recommendation from the Building & Property Ministry, we voted to recommend a bid from West Concrete for tearing out and replacing the parking lot on the South side of the church. As the bid exceeds \$15,000, per the church bylaws, a congregational meeting will be called in June to consider the expenditure.
- On a recommendation from the Finance Ministry, we approved a new Gift Policy to help ensure that First Lutheran Church will faithfully and properly manage and steward the assets and resources donated to its mission.
- Council approved the following funding requests: (1) \$250 from the Mission Endowment Fund for Emma Slaymaker and the Manna Project International (2) \$300 for Pastor Laura to participate in a 6-month coaching program as part of her Ministry Development.
- We approved new voting members: Pamela Lawrence and Peter & Tami Eckberg.

April Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

April actual	\$27,845
April budget	\$36,108
YTD actual	\$183,533
YTD budget	\$190,581

Net Income Over Expenses:

April actual	\$630 deficit
April budget	\$8,039 deficit
YTD actual	\$19,813 surplus
YTD budget	\$3,057 surplus

FIRST MINISTRIES



Faithtime Kids

We are excited to begin our 2024-2025 Faithtime Kids program year! Our first afternoon for Faithtime Kids will be Wednesday, September 4 from 3:15-5:15 p.m. Faithtime is open to children in grades kindergarten through fifth.

The goal of Faithtime is:

- To teach children (K-5) the stories of our faith.
- To provide a safe space for children to learn and grow.
- To foster friendships among children and supportive relationships with caring adults.
- To provide a basic understanding of Lutheran theology.
- To teach children to sing the faith.
- To allow children to express their faith through play, artistic expression, and social interactions.

All members of First Lutheran Church and guests are welcome to join Faithtime activities. Scan the QR code below or contact the church office. The deadline to register is August 1. If you have questions, contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministry at 944-3196 or youth@firstgeneseo.org.



Educational Conversation ~ “Wellness Begins Within”

—Genesis 1:29-30

Shane McAnalley, MD, CEO Aroga Ltd, and Shawn McAnalley, Director of Wellness Partner Success, have an incredible understanding of the science behind plant sourced nutrition. The nutritional support for the structure of cells impacts the proper function of the cells. They will be sharing the discoveries and work of their father, Dr. Bill McAnalley, “Father of Aloe” who was a renowned PhD, Dr of Toxicology and Dr of Pharmacology during a health conversation about “Wellness Begins Within” on Thursday, June 13 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room A. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Diane Lowe (309) 314-2558.

Congregational Garden

The Congregational Garden is planted! The committee is asking for donations of grass clippings to help keep weeds to a minimum. If you would be willing to donate, please call Karen Myhre at (309) 533-7053. Also, additional volunteers for garden maintenance would be welcomed!

Hospitalization

Due to Federal guidelines, known as HIPAA, hospitals are no longer able to contact the church about the hospitalization of one of its members. If you or your loved one is taken to the hospital, be sure to contact the church office at 944-3196 so that Pastor Matt or Pastor Laura can call on you.

A Note of Thanks from our Scholarship Recipients

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for your generous scholarship! I appreciate all the support I get from my church family at First Lutheran as I continue my academic journey. I have made the most of my experience by singing in the choir, playing on the tennis team, and being a resident assistant. I am excited to continue my education at Central College for my sophomore year!

Thank you,
Alex Slaymaker

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for your generosity! I am beyond grateful for the opportunities college has given me, funded partly by First Lutheran! I am finishing my college career this December. Thank you for helping me make the most of my time at Cornell College!

Yours In Christ,
Emma Slaymaker

A Note of Thanks!

First Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your hospitality towards us at our Hammond Henry Hospital Annual Meeting on April 23. A special thank you to Maurie Nelson for his help. Your facility is beautiful, and we enjoy working with you so much.

Sincerely,
Julie Riney

FIRST MINISTRIES

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, June 5, 12 & 19 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, June 26 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!

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *pasta sauce, cereal, ready to eat soup, canned meat, canned fruit, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, shampoo, conditioner and diapers* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Another opportunity** ... The clothing room is especially in need of all sizes for men's clothing, small women's clothing, adult socks, adult underclothes and sheet sets.

Here's an easy way to make a difference for those in need! The Food Pantry has a charity wish list of items currently needed on Amazon. You can even choose to have the item(s) shipped directly to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry, 620 W Main Street, Geneseo, IL 61254.

Thank you for your support! [Amazon Charity list.](#)





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of June 1 & 2 to benefit the Mission Endowment Fund. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
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Melinda Wildermuth
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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 — June 10
Ministries — June 10
Council — June 17

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JUNE 6

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