

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

May 2024
Volume 63, Issue 5
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.



Class of 2024...

Caleb Hartman

Connor Minnaert

Ryley Rowold

Olivia Marshall

Logan Palmer

Sidney Spindel

Join us in celebrating our High School Seniors! On Sunday, May 12 we will recognize our seniors during Worship at 9:30 a.m., and then gather for Fellowship with them at 10:30 a.m. This is a wonderful time in our seniors' lives, so let's take this great opportunity to show them how much their church family loves and prays for them and their future!

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!

We also rejoice with our 2024 Scholarship recipients. These students have shown stellar academic achievement, good citizenship, and compassion for Christ.

Erik Bergren

Erik will be a senior at Augustana College and his major is in Economics and Public Health.

Logan Palmer

Logan will attend Eureka College majoring in Business Administration and he will play for the baseball team.

Alex Slaymaker

Alex attends Central College and his major is Mathematics and Computer Science with Data Science emphasis and a minor in Business.

Emma Slaymaker

Emma attends Cornell College and is set to graduate in December of 2024. Her major is Environmental Justice and English. She also will hold a minor in Politics.

Let's Go and Get a Drink this Summer (and talk about God)

As the title of this newsletter article indicates, I am inviting you to come and get a drink with me this summer and talk about God. This is an invitation to both of the churches I serve. Ages ago, we used to gather often for times of fellowship and conversation at Geneseo Brewing Company for Theology on Tap. At these small group gatherings, where all are welcome, we shared a drink and grew in our relationships together as we explored Scripture, other faith traditions, books, and anything and everything that came up in the conversations. Well, let's do it again.

Now, the drink we can have together doesn't need to have alcohol, sugar, or carbonation in it, really that's entirely up to you what you want to drink. For me, it's more about people gathering and sharing in a time of fellowship and learning, than it is about the type of drink (or food) we are having together. The drink that we share together is just an opening for a conversation we can have about faith, life, and God in a public place.

Since Jesus ate and drank with **everybody** in public and in private, there must be something seriously holy about eating and drinking with people. Every single Sunday we replay and remember Jesus' last night, where he ate and drank with his friends. Food and drinks accompany most gatherings in the world and are the very elements that Jesus, and by extension we use, to share in God's promises. Eating and drinking together can become holy endeavors especially when our conversation moves past the shallows to the deep waters where God is leading us together. The promise is, that as we follow Jesus' invitation to the tables that have been prepared for us, we will find Jesus eating and drinking right beside us, even inside us.

As I said above, this is just an invitation, but it is one I hope you will accept. Come and see how when we talk about God openly, (theology) this opens us up to see God working in our own lives in profound and concrete ways. Come and see that how over a drink of your choosing we can grow in relationship with God and others. Come and see how sharing drinks together in a public place can be yet another expression of the table fellowship we practice every Sunday in worship.

Come and have a drink with me this summer every **fourth Wednesday** (*May 22, June 26, July 24, & August 28*) from 7-8:30 p.m. We will gather at Geneseo Brewing Company for another round of Theology on Tap. Join us! All are welcome!

—Pastor Matt

May 4 & 5, 2024

Easter 6

This weekend's texts include Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

May 11 & 12, 2024

Easter 7

This weekend's texts include Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

May 18 & 19, 2024

Pentecost

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

May 25 & 26, 2024

Holy Trinity

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers can be donated in honor or memory of a loved one, special occasion, or simply for the glory of God. The cost of two arrangements is \$50. The following dates are still open for flower donations.

May 5 & 12

June 2 & 9

July 21

August 4, 11 & 25

September 1, 8, 15 & 22

October 20 & 27

November 3

If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the office at 944-3196.

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 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, Ed Chase, Karen Coakley (*Suzi Sandoval's aunt*), Ashlyn and Olivia Dalsanto (*Kathy Nelson's friends' twin daughters*), Regina Davis (*Tom Vorac's sister*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Pastor Ted Granquist (*Sonja Nordstrom's friend*), Shirley Green (*Kathy DeJaeger's friend*), Deb Hardesty (*Darla Anderson's friend*), Amy Korth (*Kim Sefton's cousin*), Lonnie Love (*Jim & Janet Larson's neighbor*), Alan Novak (*Melissa Bohac'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: We rejoice with Houston Anselmi, Harper Brock, Ian McCarty, Charlie Reed, Amelia Runty, Gwendolyn Simosky and Wyatt Wirth who received their Communion Milestone on Maundy Thursday. On the baptisms of Davian Eugene, Deklan Eric, Danikka Anne and Dayla Pauline Fleming, children of Adam & Heidi Fleming; and Carter Lloyd Wayne, son of Kyle & Caley Wayne.

Thanksgiving: For answered prayers for the Living Water Via de Cristo team and participants. May the Holy Spirit guide them to serve.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Bill Bergles, father of Ray Bergles; Troy Kuethe, friend of First Lutheran; Diana Haddick, cousin of Julie Kunkel and Melinda Wildermuth; Delores Otenberger, aunt of Jodi Barnhart; Bernie Bettini, mother of Julie Kunkel's sister-in-law; and Robbie Gilmore, nephew of Patsy Andress.

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



First Friends Luncheon

"Birthday Celebration"

Come celebrate birthdays on Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will enjoy hamburgers, cowboy beans, salad and dessert. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office. Friends are always welcome!

Preschool Mayfest

Come and enjoy an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social, mini-carnival games and a special program presented by the preschool children in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 5 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This event is a fundraiser and open to the congregation. So let's show our support!

First Lutheran Preschool

The preschool children will finish out the school year by making May baskets to share with others, honoring their mothers for Mother's Day and enjoying Mayfest on May 5. The 3-year-old class will continue to learn about planting and growing and will plant mini gourd seeds on the playground in preparation for fall harvest. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about the mail and will draw maps to use when we take a walk to the post office to mail our letters. They'll also create adventures while reading *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson and will complete their journey through the alphabet. We are also looking forward to our kindergarten visit!

We are grateful for a fun year of preschool! Our last day of preschool will be Friday, May 24.

Council Highlights for April 15, 2024

As we do at every meeting, the Council reviewed reports from the pastors, the Cabinet, and the various ministry teams at First Lutheran. Of these reports, perhaps the most significant this month concerns ministry to youth. A Youth Ministry Task Force has begun meeting to determine outcomes for the youth ministry program. After the task force settles on realistic outcomes, then it will consider what additional resources will be needed to achieve the kind of youth ministry we want to see at First Lutheran.

- Approved Tim Holmstrom to be a member of the Audit Committee. Tim joins Judi Denys and Jim Spence as they conduct an annual audit of First Lutheran Church's financial records and the internal controls of the congregation. The purpose of an audit is to provide an opinion on the reasonableness of the congregation's financial statements and to recommend improvements to its internal controls.

- Council approved the following funding requests: (1) \$3,000 for college scholarships for four members of First: Logan Palmer, Erik Bergren, Alex Slaymaker, and Emma Slaymaker. Congratulations to these hard-working, high achieving students! (2) \$750 from Social Ministry for Churches United of Quad City Area.

March Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

March actual	\$28,917
March budget	\$36,758
YTD actual	\$154,385
YTD budget	\$148,075

Net Income Over Expenses:

March actual	\$2,824 deficit
March budget	\$4,198 deficit
YTD actual	\$18,906 surplus
YTD budget	\$3,686 surplus

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.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, May 1, 8 & 15 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "Gather" for our study guide. All women are welcome to join us!

Milestones Ministry ~ *Bible Adventures and Presentation for 2nd grade children*

Bible Adventures Class: Sunday, May 5 from 4-5 p.m.

Presentation of Bibles: Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Children are brought together on May 5 around God's Word as they use, read, study, and play in the Bible.

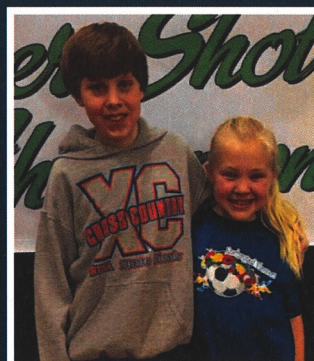
They will receive their NRSV Study Bible in worship on Sunday, May 19 as we celebrate Pentecost!

TrevStrong Geneseo BLOOD DRIVE

 ImpactLife

Thursday, May 16 | 2:00pm - 6:00pm
Geneseo Fire Department
209 S. Oakwood Avenue
Training Room

To make your appointment, scan the QR code, contact Jill Teerlinck at 309-944-7011 or email rememberandsmile21@yahoo.com.



FIRST MINISTRIES

First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Stationery Shop of Tehran* and faith response to the author Marjan Kamali on Thursday, May 16 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Rosalie Roy, a dreamy, idealistic teenager living amid the political upheaval of 1953 Tehran, finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri's neighborhood stationery shop, stocked with books and pens and bottles of jewel-colored ink. Then Mr. Fakhri, with a keen instinct for a budding romance, introduces Roy to his other favorite customer—handsome Bahman, who has a burning passion for justice and a love for Rumi's poetry—and she loses her heart at once. Their romance blossoms, and the little stationery shop remains their favorite place in all of Tehran. Pick up a copy and begin reading this novel that is all at once masterfully plotted, beautifully written and filled with characters who are arresting, lovable and so real!

From the Finance Ministry

In response to questions that arose at our last Annual Meeting, the team has developed a summary of all of the various Funds that support the ministry of First Lutheran Church. Regular offerings support our General Fund, which covers much of our ministry together. Additional gifts and income support specific aspects of our ministry and our partner organizations. As an insert in this month's Chimes, you will find First Lutheran Church Funds. If you have any questions about these funds, please contact any member of the Finance Ministry: Mike Ficken (Treasurer), Dan Brudos, Gary Gesme, Matt Simosky, or Pastor Laura.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

WHAT WE NEED

Cleaning Supplies

Window Cleaner
Laundry Detergent
Oven Cleaner
Garbage Bags
Paper Towels

Bleach
Disinfectant Wipes



Personal Care Items

Feminine Products
Hair Products
Toothpaste
Soap
Razors
Deodorant
Kleenex
Diapers

CLEANING SUPPLIES & PERSONAL CARE COLLECTION

BENEFITING . . .

**Geneseo-Atkinson
Food Pantry**

**During the month of May,
collection baskets will be
located in the Fellowship
Room.**

Thank You

Thank you for prayer of healing, support, cards, and food while I recovered from shoulder surgery. Your friendship, prayers and well wishes were much appreciated as well as comforting and helpful during this difficult time.

Thanks be to God for my church family,
—Kathy Nelson

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to First Lutheran Church and all the people involved in the funeral service held for our mom, Greta Nordstrom. Thanks to Pastor Matt Kamprath, Melinda Wildermuth, Darla Anderson, Randy Mullin, the kind people who volunteered to serve lunch to the overflow crowd, and (of course) to all who were kind enough to attend the visitation, service and/or lunch. It was truly well done, and the extra loving touch is appreciated.

—Paul, Sonja and Karen

A Note of Thanks

First Lutheran Preschool would like to offer a special thank you to the Thrivent members who have directed their monies to our program through Thrivent Financial's Choice Program. We appreciate these donations to our preschool where we provide enriching classes in a safe and nurturing environment. Our preschool is a warm and comfortable place where children can grow physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally. Your donations are used to continue to enhance our program. We would invite Thrivent members to consider First Lutheran Preschool as a choice to receive these dollars. Thank you!

HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Men's Topic: "Chair Yoga"

Men's Health Program will be held at Hammond-Henry Hospital in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, May 1 from 7 to 8 a.m. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room.

Upcoming Women's Topic:

"Gut Health & Digestive Issues"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Thursday, May 23 from noon — 1 p.m. Cost of the lunch is \$10 payable at the door.

Reservations for either of these programs may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *coffee, sugar, creamy peanut butter, cereal, rice sides, 100% juice, crackers, pasta sauce, granola/cereal bars, cake and brownie mix, chunky soups, pancake mix, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, cleaners, body wash, laundry detergent, Kleenex and paper towels* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



Maximize your impact ... donate through Birdies for Charity! The Food Pantry will receive 100% of your donation and will be guaranteed an additional bonus promise of at least 5%. Brochures are available at the Resource Center.



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 May 4 & 5 to benefit Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

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mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

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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 — May 13
Ministries — May 13
Council — May 20

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MAY 9

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