

November 2024 Volume 63, Issue 11 www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m. Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Festival of All Saints

The Festival of All Saints will be observed on Saturday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 3 at 9:30 a.m. During worship, a bell will be rung as we read the names of the saints from our congregation who have died in the past year, and their family members will be invited to light a candle in remembrance of their loved one. Afterward, there will be an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to come forward to light a candle in memory of someone dear to them. Worship will be in the Sanctuary both Saturday and Sunday. We remember and honor the following saints:

Larry Barnes Marlee Stiener Daniel Andress Leanne Alhorn Gladys Swanson Greta Baugh Ida Goldsmith Greta Nordstrom Janice Rutherford Nancy Gustafson

Commitment Weekend November 9 & 10, 2024

Recently, we kicked off our 2025 stewardship campaign—Any 'Giving' Sunday. On any given Sunday, you can faithfully respond to God's call to be a good steward. Any given Sunday can be a "Giving" Sunday.

You should have received a two-sided commitment card by mail. We ask that you complete it and bring it with you to Worship on Commitment Weekend, November 9 & 10, or return it to the church office any time. Alternatively, you can submit your commitment online. Please visit www.firstgeneseo.org/giving and fill out the form or scan the QR code.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

If we receive 150 commitment cards by December 1, Pastor Laura gets a Gatorade Bath to celebrate our win! Our youth received their own version of a commitment card and those will count toward our goal. We will keep you updated on our progress toward that goal with a display in the Fellowship Room.





ANY®
'GIVING'
SUNDAY

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

A WORD FROM PASTOR LAURA

Dearly beloved,

we are gathered here today to witness the union of these two people...

so begins most TV drama weddings. In the Lutheran church, we begin weddings with a reminder that we are gathered in God's presence to witness a holy event.

On Sunday, November 17, our congregation will have an opportunity that will be a first for me, in my ministry, and probably a first for many of you. We will have the joy and privilege of celebrating a wedding as a part of our weekly Worship.

Melissa Bohac and Gregg McCarty joined our congregation earlier this year, at the time engaged but without a date set for a wedding. When I suggested to them the possibility of having a wedding during our Sunday morning Worship, they were intrigued. Personally, I am delighted that they have decided to get married here, at the church, during Worship with their church family surrounding them.

Here's what you can expect on the weekend of November 16 & 17:

- Saturday Worship at 5:30 p.m. will be a "normal" service in the Fellowship Room, with Pastor Matt preaching on the scripture texts assigned for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost.
- Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. will be far
 from normal, in exciting ways. In the place
 of the assigned lectionary scripture texts
 and the sermon, we will celebrate the
 marriage of Melissa and Gregg. Pastor
 Laura will offer a homily based on the
 scripture texts they have chosen for the
 wedding.
- Sunday Worship will be livestreamed, as usual.
- At both weekend Worship opportunities, God's Word will be proclaimed and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

You are invited to choose the worship opportunity that fits your spiritual needs. All are welcome to attend both Worship services.

This is not the only special worship opportunity you will have in the month of November. I also invite you to Worship on the weekend of November 2 & 3 for All Saints' Day, as we remember and celebrate the faithful witness of those in our congregation who have died since last year's All Saints' Day. This day is always meaningful for me, as a pastor, to remember those whom we have loved and lost from our church family. In addition to remembering and honoring those named that day, I also remember my own dear grandmothers, my beloved brother-in-law, and so many other saints whose baptisms are now complete in death.

On Sunday, November 24, we will have Worship at Liberty Village at 1 pm, and all are invited to join us there.

Then, that same day at 4 pm, the Geneseo Ministerial Association will host Thanksgiving Worship at Geneseo High School. This will be a unique opportunity to gather for worship with our siblings in Christ from many different congregations in Geneseo. We will be united to give thanks to our God for all of God's good gifts to us, especially the gift of Jesus Christ. Our Worship that afternoon will include special music from the Community Choir. Then, we'll enjoy pie and fellowship. Join us. Come in person, if you can. Join us online, as you're able. Your presence in this congregation helps make this expression of the Body of Christ more complete.

-Pastor Laura

November 2 & 3, 2024

All Saints

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a; and John 11:32-44.

November 9 & 10, 2024

Pentecost 25/Commitment Weekend

This weekend's texts include 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28 and Mark 12:38-44.

November 16 & 17, 2024

Pentecost 26

Saturday texts: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 and Mark 13:1-8.

On Sunday, November 17 we will celebrate the marriage of Gregg McCarty and Melissa Bohac during Worship.

Sunday texts: Proverbs 3:3-6 and Matthew 5:1-10.

November 23 & 24, 2024

Christ the King

This weekend's texts include Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:33-37.

Worship at Liberty Village

Pastor Matt and Melinda will lead worship at Liberty Village on November 24 at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends!

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Community Thanksgiving Worship

The Geneseo Ministerial Association invites you to join the community for Thanksgiving Worship on Sunday,

November 24 at 4 p.m. at the Geneseo High School Performing Arts Commons.

An offering will be collected for the

Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry.

Pam Edwards will lead a Community Choir. All are welcome to participate in the choir, rehearsal begins at 3 p.m. After Worship, we will enjoy a time of pie and coffee fellowship.

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.

FIRST PRAYER

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Stacie Fidlar. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Emmanuel Gideon Mollel and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. Dr. Peter Paul Thomas, 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. 10).

Health and Wellbeing: Dennis Bloomberg (Linda Bloomberg's husband), Carol Boyd, Milo Camp, Jeff Carbiener (Norm Carbiener's nephew), Joey Eaker (Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson), Gail Hutchinson, Andrew McCarty, Gregg McCarty, Judy Nelson, Alan Novak (Melissa Bohac's father), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (Doris Swanson's daughter), Barbara Sigwalt (Kathi Fluck's friend) and Paul Zima.

Joys: On the births of Peyton Renee Converse on October 7, daughter of Mark & Rylee Converse and Gracie Mae Converse on October 15, daughter of Billy & Rori Converse, and granddaughters of Brian & Diane Converse.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Carol Hulting Breczinski, sister of Gail Hutchinson; Nancy Gustafson, member; and Barbara Zerull, mother of Mike Zerull.

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 (Wednesdays Afterschool)

Here's the November schedule:

All children Grades K-5

November 6 The Ark and the Temple November 13 The Exile and Return November 20 No Faithtime

November 27 No Faithtime

A note on Godly Play

Closing and Feast

Towards the end of our Response Time, we gather the children back in the Fellowship Room for a "feast," because they thereby learn about being in a community and working together. We respond to the work done and reflect on where God showed up that day. Everything we do in Godly Play contributes to learning. We say the Lord's Prayer, extinguish the candle, and then send everyone out with a high five, a handshake, or a hug.

We're on a Quest with the Creator!

Throughout October, the 6th graders in QUEST considered what God says about CREATION, what God has created, and how God calls us to use our own creativity.

We began by noticing parts of God's creation that make us say "WOW!" The students brought artifacts to share, and we tried to see them as if for the first time. A shell. 3D-printed toys. Music. A little brother!

We noticed that God's creation is good and beautiful and impressive ... and also confusing and mind-boggling! We decided God must be inventive, caring, kind, smart, and playful to be such a Creator. (All these are the 6th graders' words.)

Surrounded by so much awesomeness, we have no excuse but to love and care for what God has made. But we're human, and we mess up. A lot. Pollution, war, bullying ... these were just a few of the mistakes the 6th graders identified.

As the month goes on, we'll create something as a group: a trunk or treat plan for a synod-wide service event at the end of the month. We'll also be exploring this QUESTion:

What things can you do to make a creative difference in this world?

How do YOU answer this question? We're all created to be creators, so we encourage you to get creative, too!

Worshiping Together

On Sunday, November 24 we will culminate our Gratitude theme with a service project. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Room after Worship to make a Thanksgiving craft for the residents at Liberty Village. We will distribute the crafts to residents at our Worship service at Liberty Village that afternoon. You can join us at 1 p.m. to sit and sing with the residents.

Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

FIRST MINISTRIES

Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, November 6. We will meet for 12 weeks through the winter months to cover Luther's Small Catechism: The Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, the 10 Commandments, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. We will also talk about Lutheran theology – what does it mean to be a saint and sinner simultaneously? What is the theology of the cross? How do we find law and gospel when we read scripture? Please pray for our 16 students and their families this year! Here's the November schedule:

November 6 — Martin Luther

November 13 — *The Ten Commandments*

November 20 — No Confirmation Class – ½ day at school

November 27 — No Confirmation Class – Thanksgiving Break

Mission Endowment

As of October 21, we have received 23 commitments, totaling \$49,720.00 toward our Mission Endowment Fund Campaign: Celebrating a Proud Past, Preparing for a Faithful Future goal of \$170,000.

Commitments can be returned anytime in the offering plate at Worship, mailed to the church, or submitted online at



www.firstgeneseo.org/giving.

Committee: Sam Marshall, Bob Groene, Jill Laingen, Sarah Hofer & Randy Mullin

Milestones Ministry Stewardship: Kids and Money

Children in fourth grade are invited to a Milestone event on Sunday, November 3 from 5-7 p.m. (Dinner is included) This will be a time to learn and remember what it means to be a steward of all that God has given us. They will receive their blessing and gifting stone during Worship on November 10.

Theology On Tap

Join Pastor Matt for another 'round' of *Theology* on *Tap!* We will gather at 7 p.m. at Geneseo Brewing Company on Wednesday, November 20. All are welcome to join us!

First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *Someone Else's Shoes* and faith response to the author JoJo Moyes on Thursday, November 21 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Who are you when you are forced to walk in someone else's shoes? Nisha Cantor lives the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy, until her husband announces a divorce and cuts her off. Nisha is determined to hang onto her glamorous life. But in the meantime, she must scramble to cope-she doesn't even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in. That's because Sam Kemp – in the bleakest point of her life – has accidentally taken Nisha's gym bag. But Sam hardly has time to worry about a lost gym bag-she's struggling to keep herself and her family afloat. When she tries on Nisha's six-inch high Christian Louboutin red crocodile shoes, the resulting jolt of confidence that makes her realize something must change—and that thing is herself. This novel is a story of mix-ups, mess-ups and making the most of second chances. Be sure to read the book and join our discussion!

FIRST MINISTRIES

Veteran's Brunch

First Lutheran Church greatly appreciates the sacrifice and service of our military and veterans. To show our appreciation for their service, we will be hosting a brunch for all our First Lutheran Veterans on Saturday, November 9 at 8 a.m. All First Lutheran Veterans are invited to attend! Have a wonderful, safe and blessed Veteran's Day!

First Friends

Come join us on Thursday, November 14 for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. We meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Cost is \$7. Please and sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to let us know you will be joining us. This group is open to anyone looking for a delicious meal and fellowship!

First Lutheran Preschool

The preschool children will be learning through Thanksgiving themed activities, songs and art this month. When learning about Thanksgiving, our focus will be on sharing what we have and helping each other. We discuss how to show we are thankful and what we are thankful for. The children will play games, learn songs, dances and customs that may have been shared on the first Thanksgiving. We'll look forward to sharing our annual Thanksgiving Sing and Share program with our preschool families.

No preschool November 25-29.
 Classes will resume on Monday,
 December 2.

Council Highlights for October 21, 2024

Council approved the following measures:

- \$500 to Rebuilding Together Henry County.
- Up to \$1500 from the Building Fund for concrete repair on the north side of the church.
- Receiving 9 confirmands as Voting Members of the congregation: Jaylee Brudos, Elijah Coppejans, Olivia DeSplinter, Gretchen Fuelling, Hannah Fuelling, Penelope Kline, Ida Rowold, Ella Shannon, and Hannah Wildemuth.
- Saturday Worship November 30 through December 28 will be in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.
- Recommending amendments to two sections of the constitution, for Congregation approval in January. A congregational letter will be mailed in December with the proposed amendments.

We continued to discuss:

- Safety and Security measures, with a plan to continue discussions in future months and develop a policy.
- Youth & Family Ministry position descriptions.

We received a report from the Swanson Trust Gift Task Force, with their plan to gather ideas from the congregation. A letter and request for written feedback will be mailed to the congregation in November.

September Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

September actual \$45,934 September budget \$36,108 YTD actual \$373,694 YTD budget \$364,075

Net Income Over Expenses:

September actual \$4,567 surplus September budget \$6,394 deficit YTD actual \$2,657 surplus YTD budget \$17,450 deficit

Treble Chorus Singers Needed!

Female singers ages 6th grade and older are invited to sing a beautiful anthem for the Christmas Season, "How Far is it to Bethlehem?" in worship on Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m. for Advent Lessons and Carols. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, December 4 and 11 from 5:30 -6:15 p.m. in the choir room. For more information contact Melinda Wildermuth (worship@firstgeneseo.org).

Christmas Poinsettia Garden

Poinsettias for our Christmas Garden may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. This year's plants will be large 4-5 bloom plants and will cost \$17.50. Order and payment are due by Monday, December 16.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Community Christmas Dinner

Romans 12:1 "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice-the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

First Lutheran Church will provide a free Christmas dinner for our community on December 25th. Members will prepare and serve the meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Meals will also be delivered to homebound residents within the Geneseo/Atkinson/Cambridge area. Delivery requests must be made by Monday, December 23. Volunteers are needed to prepare food on Monday, December 23 and to serve guests on December 25. Sign-up sheets are located at the Welcome Center or by calling Janet Larson (309) 507-2997. We will also appreciate donations of homemade Christmas cookies!

Angel Tree

Our Christmas tradition continues here at First Lutheran with the support of an "Angel Tree" which will provide Christmas gifts for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Foster Care Children along with residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home and Allure. The tree will be decorated in a two-fold process with LSSI Foster Care angel tags with children's names and gift suggestion ideas followed by angels for the residents of Hillcrest and Allure. The tree will be located at the north end of the Fellowship Room.

- LSSI Foster Care Angels ... Please feel free to take a name and purchase gifts, wrap or put into Christmas bags with the angel tag on the gift and return to church by Sunday, December 1.
- *Hillcrest and Allure Angels* ... The first of December the names from the nursing homes will be added to the angel tree which provides the opportunity to support both groups or choose whichever group you prefer.

Thank you for being Angels to both groups. For some this is the only Christmas gift they will receive so your generosity means more than you will ever know.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Cover Girls Quilting

Come see what Cover Girls are all about! Join us for a time of fellowship and fun tying quilts for LWR on Wednesday, November 6, 13 & 20 in Grace Place. All are welcome ... no experience necessary!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, November 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine "*Gather*" for our study guide. Everyone is welcome!

HHH Health Series

Upcoming Women's Topic: "Neurology" Women's Health Program will be offered from 12 noon - 1 p.m. at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Wednesday, November 20. The cost of the luncheon is \$12. Reservations may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or emailing a response to hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you for all the outreach and prayers for my mother, Jean Carlson. Special thanks to Pastor Laura for the wonderful prayers and messages sent during this difficult time. We truly appreciate your support.

–Jill Carlson, Michael Goethals, Hannah & Emma Loehr

I want to thank the ladies and gentleman who brought me flowers this summer, they were beautiful. You made every Friday a very special day for me.

-Bev Carius

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and the banana bread. I am almost back to my normal routine since fracturing my ankle. Thank you for thinking of me.

-Doris Swanson

Thank You!

Thank you to all the amazing garden helpers - 19 bouquets went each week to our shut-ins. Special thanks to Tom, Diane, Connie, Patsy, Deb, Cindy, Jerry, Tony and Jen. See you next summer!

—Karen Myhre



Grow Ministries is a residential, faith-based, counseling program for victims of domestic violence, trafficking, jail/prison, and addictions.

OPEN HOUSE

Grow Ministries, Inc. is thrilled to extend a warm invitation to join us at our upcoming Open House! This special occasion presents a wonderful opportunity for you to take a tour, meet our residents and volunteers, and check out our resource center/food pantry!

We will be serving light snacks + drinks

Saturday, November 9 ~ 2-5 p.m. 101 North East Street - Cambridge IL The Pastorin Charge First Geneseo Parish 114E.Main Street, Geneseo IL 61254-1566 ELCT-North Central Diocese Arusha Western District Osupuko/Ilkiding'a Parish P.O.BOX 352 Arusha 08/09/2024

REF: GREETINGS FRIENDLY CONGREGATION

Dear friends, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It's been a long time now since we haven't been able to communicate. Through this document, for the love of Christ, I would like to bring these warm greetings to you. With that, let me inform you a little about our Osupuko congregation which is a friend of the First Geneseo congregation. Due to the increase in people and the growth of services, for this year 2024, our congregation was successfully divided into two congregations which are;

- 1. The congregation of Ilkiding'a has four (4) sub congregations which are; Ilkiding'a, Olmelil, Shiboro, and Ebenezer. The total number of congregants is 754
- 2. The congregation of Osupuko has six (6) sub congrigations which are; Kioga, Ilkisongo, Oldonyosapuk, 4 Iltulele, Uzima and Naresho. The total number of congregants is 1504.

The congregation continues to provide spiritual services to its members with great success. The congregation also continues with development works including the construction of church buildings for worship, teaching the Word of God and serving the needy through the diaconia services. The Ilkiding'a congregation is served and led by Rev Emmanuel Gideon Mollel 0754559513 assisted by Rev.Shedrack Meshack 0695984629 and Osupuko is led by Rev.Wiliam Lobulu Lukumai 0753222446

I hope that by the power of God, we will continue to company at and pray for each other. "Let

Brotherly love and continue". Hebrews 13:1

Yours in Christ.

Rev. Emmanuel Gideon Mollel- 0754559513

Arusha Western District Pastor and Ilkiding'a's Pastor in charge

Global Mission

On September 28th, First Lutheran members were blessed to welcome Pr. Seth Sululu, Mary E. Laiser, and Elizabeth Megiroo representing the ELCT North Central Diocese. ELTC is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. These guests presented the current status of their churches and the joy they had to share about the growth of members in Tanzania. Mary and Elizabeth represent the women's ministry programs in Tanzania. Mary was the recipient of a scholarship from NIS for her education in ministry many years ago and is still very thankful for the opportunity to visit with long-term supporters and friends. Pr. Laura presented Pr. Sululu with a picture book of First Lutheran Church's members depicting various programs and worship settings. Thank you to Erin Vorac for compiling and designing the book, it will be a blessing to our friends in the Osupuko Parish. Currently, we are working to re-establish communication with the pastors of Osupuko Parish and to build a strong relationship between First Lutheran and the two churches that have now been formed from the original companion congregation. Their membership has increased to over 2,000 members and have created a second congregation based on geography. Many members in Tanzania travel hours to attend worship services. The leadership teams provide so much more for members than one hour of worship, they have discipleship programs as well as social service opportunities. It will be exciting to hear how they are meeting the needs of their members. Thank you to all of the faithful members of First who took time to welcome our visitors and to worship as one body in Christ. Our congregation was blessed with their visit and encouragement to pray for each other.

-Janet Larson and Johanna Hager, Global Mission Committee Members



Geneseo, Il 61254-1566 309-944-3196 www.firstgeneseo.org e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of November 9 & 10 to benefit the Helmets of Hope. 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

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Parish Administrator
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Abbey Cathelyn

Director of Youth & Family Ministry
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Linda Bloomberg, Receptionist receptionist@firstgeneseo.org

Erin Vorac, Communications Specialist communications@firstgeneseo.org

Chasidy Gonnella, 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

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, November 11 Ministries — Monday, November 11 Council — Monday, November 18

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 91 Geneseo, IL

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