



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

*Sharing Christ's Love*

September 2024  
Volume 63, Issue 9  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

## WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

## God's work. Our hands.

*Sunday, September 8*

*God's Work Our Hands* is a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our congregation will gather after worship, at about 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. This year, you will have the choice of two service projects.

- One team will head outside to the playground to spread mulch in preparation for our new school year, and to complete some additional outdoor projects.

*Please bring:* work gloves, if you wish; a rake, if you have one.

- One team will assemble and pack Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

*See page 6 for a list of items being collected through September 8.*

After our work is completed, lunch will be provided for all volunteers by our Social Ministry team. Please consider joining us and our fellow Lutherans churchwide for a morning of fun, fellowship and service! All ages and abilities are welcome!



## Congregational Picnic

*Richmond Hill ~ Sunday, September 29*

*Noon - 3 p.m.*

As we conclude our Season of Creation with Mountain & Hill Sunday, we will gather for a Congregational Picnic at one of our favorite local hills! Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Baked Beans will be provided; everyone is asked to bring your own beverage, and a dish to share (salad, side, or dessert). You are also invited to bring your own picnic basket with plates and utensils, so that we can reduce the amount of waste we create. After we eat, we will have a time of games and fellowship – pick-up basketball, pickleball, tennis, or disc golf are all possibilities! Bring any equipment you may want to use.

# Welcome Chasidy & Erin

In August, our congregation has been blessed with two new staff members, both of whom have jumped right in!

*Chasidy Gonnella* is our new Parish Accountant. She currently works as an internal auditor for Elite Casino Resorts. She brings over 20 years of experience in accounting, predominantly in higher education. Chasidy relocated to the quad cities six years ago to be closer to family. She says, "In my free time, I often spend time at one of my nieces' or nephews' sporting events. If I'm not there I'm typically reading a book." Chasidy's duties here at First include paying bills, managing payroll, budget preparation, bank reconciliation, and maintaining the general ledger. She works closely with the Treasurer and Finance Ministry.

*Erin Vorac* is our new Communications Specialist. This position was created to manage our online communications, and to serve as a resource and support for all communications. Erin and her husband Jake are members of First Lutheran and have four children: Hudson (13), Cooper (10), Brooks (7) and Macy (7). Erin has a degree from University of Iowa in journalism and mass communications and a master's degree from St. Ambrose University. She worked for 15 years in various aspects of government and non-profit communications, consulting and event planning before taking a break from professional work to stay home with her children. We are delighted that she will be using her skills as a part of our ministry team!

She writes, "I'm excited to get started in this new position and use my talents to enhance the congregation's communications to its various demographics. My goal is to understand how our members prefer to consume information and develop strategies to fulfill those various needs. I am looking forward to highlighting all of the amazing things that happen at First Lutheran Church in ways that are meaningful, educational and impactful to our congregation and community. I am hopeful that I get to meet many of you and put names to faces as I interact with the various groups, programs and events that are happening."

Both Chasidy and Erin bring a unique set of skills to their positions, and we are grateful for their expertise. Please welcome them, as you have the opportunity. Chasidy can be reached at [accountant@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:accountant@firstgeneseo.org) and Erin can be reached at [communications@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:communications@firstgeneseo.org).

Our third open position, Programs Meal Coordinator, is still in the process of being filled. I hope to have more information to announce soon about this! Plans for Wednesday evening Faithtime Dinner are all pending as this newsletter goes to print, so watch First Day for more information about that!

Please continue to pray for our staff members, including Chasidy and Erin, as we work together with you all, *Sharing Christ's Love* – with each other, with our community, and with all of God's beloved world.

—Pastor Laura

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## August 31 & September 1, 2024

### **Pentecost 15**

This weekend's texts include Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27 and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

## September 7 & 8, 2024

### **Season of Creation: Planet Earth**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:1-25, Romans 1:18-25 and John 1:1-14.

## September 14 & 15, 2024

### **Season of Creation: Humanity**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:26-28, Philippians 2:1-11 and Mark 10:41-45.

## September 21 & 22, 2024

### **Season of Creation: Sky**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 4:23-28, Philippians 2:12-18 and Matthew 15:33-39.

## September 28 & 29, 2024

### **Season of Creation: Mountain & Hill**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 65:17-25, Romans 8:28-39 and Mark 3:13-19.

## **Season of Creation: Plant Earth**

During the month of September, we are celebrating Season of Creation. The weekend of September 7 & 8 is Planet Earth weekend, and you are invited to bring a globe to worship if you have one. There will be a table set up at the front of the worship space to display the globes.

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**

### **Worship at Liberty Village**

Pastor Matt and Melinda will lead worship at Liberty Village on September 22 at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends!

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*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:** Mary Blauvelt (*Linda Bloomberg's mother*), Carol Boyd, Judy Carbiener, Betty Clark (*Mike Clark's mother*), Karen Coakley (*Suzi Sandoval's aunt*), Giselle Distad (*Julie Kunkel's niece*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Tim Kretchmeir (*Maurie & Brenda Nelson's friend*), Jake Lowe, Gary Nelson (*Kathy Nelson's brother*), Alan Novak (*Melissa Bohac's father*), Ethel Pries, Dan Ray (*Julie Kunkel's brother*), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Krue Simms (*Jessica Harper and Matthew Mullins's friend*) and Gladys Swanson.

**Joys:** On the baptisms of June Ruby Schuler, daughter of Mark & Elizabeth Schuler; and Franklin James Holmstrom, son of Shane & Addyson Holmstrom.

### **Thanksgiving:**

**Sorrows:** On the deaths of Cheryl Tracey Specht, family friend of Mike & Ethel Pries; Odetta Thompson and Beverly Chrisop, sisters-in-law of Carol Boyd; and Jean Carlson, mother of Jill Carlson and grandmother of Emma & Hannah Loehr.

*If you wish to submit a prayer request, please visit [www.firstgeneseo.org](http://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**

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## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

Faithtime Kids begins Wednesday, September 4 from 3:15-5:15 p.m.

#### All children Grades K-5

September 4	<i>The Light</i>
September 11	<i>Circle of the Church Year</i>
September 18	<i>Creation</i>
September 27	<b>No Faithtime</b> ( <i>half day of school</i> )

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### Godly Play: No Single Way To Learn

In Godly Play, our Faithtime Kids program for children ages K-5, we tell stories with multisensory materials to appeal to a broad range of learning styles: *auditory* because the story is spoken out loud; *visual*, because the handmade wooden figures represent what is happening in the story; *kinesthetic*, because the storyteller moves the materials around. Later, any child who wishes to learn to tell the tale can respond similarly. In “*response time*,” those children who work best together can pair off or form groups to work on creative projects. Those who work best alone have the time and space to concentrate on projects by themselves. We gather the children in a circle for the storytelling, and at the end for a feast, because they thereby learn about being in a community and working together. Everything we do in Godly Play contributes to learning.

### Milestone Ministry ~ *Welcoming Young Children to Worship: Sanctuary Crawl*

Event: Saturday, September 7 ~ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Kindergarten children and their families learn about Worship at First! Kids can ask questions, explore the Sanctuary, and learn how they can be an important part of worship. Children will receive their stones during worship that evening.

### Worshipping Together

We hope you will join us the weekend of September 7 & 8 as we introduce a new intergenerational approach to worship. Instead of a distinct children’s sermon time & message and traditional sermon, everyone will receive the same message—in a little bit different way. The message themes will span several weeks and change with the season of the church year. Our first theme will be Creation.

Children will still come forward as usual during the children’s sermon and the pastor or Abbey will deliver a message based on that season’s theme. This message is also applicable to adults and will complement the information they will hear in the traditional sermon. Once children return to their seats, they will have activities to work on related to the theme. Babies through pre-readers will have age-appropriate activities in the PRAYground on Sunday mornings. Older children will have lapboards with activities and supplies that they can take to their seats to work on. Lapboards will be available at both Saturday and Sunday worship.

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## Blessing of the Harvest

With the upcoming harvest season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of all farmers, and for a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring a symbol of their harvest to be blessed during the worship services on October 5 & 6.

## Sacred Spaces: Healing

“Sacred Spaces” is an opportunity for 1-on-1 pastoral care with Pastor Laura. The sacred space is set up in Grace Place, and our time together will focus on healing, including anointing. Two windows of time are offered – feel free to arrive anytime during those hours and leave after you are finished visiting and praying with Pastor Laura (*you won’t need to spend the whole hour at the church*).

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Sacred Spaces: Healing

Tuesday, September 24

1-2 p.m. or 6-7 p.m.

## First Friends

Hard to believe summer has wound down and we are gearing up for what many feel is the prettiest season in the Midwest. First Friends will be kicking off on Thursday, September 12 with a delicious lunch of roasted pork loin, red potatoes, salad and dessert starting at 11:30 a.m. We will enjoy an opportunity to ‘catch up’ with old and new friends after lunch and share our summer travels, adventures or just chat! All are welcome....bring a friend or two. Cost is \$7 and you are asked to sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to let us know you will be joining us. We are looking forward to seeing some new faces and catching up with some of the FF regulars.

## First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *Lessons in Chemistry* and faith response to the author Bonnie Garmus on Thursday, September 19 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it’s the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America’s most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth’s unusual approach to cooking (“combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride”) proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn’t just teaching women to cook. She’s daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. This novel is “irresistible, satisfying and full of fuel” so be sure to read it and join our discussion!

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### First Lutheran Preschool

Welcome back to preschool! Our preschool year will begin on September 3 and we are excited to welcome our preschool children and families! We continue to plan for every child to experience a positive, safe and happy environment at preschool. Both classes will be focusing on expressing feelings and emotions through fun activities and projects. We'll be getting to know all about each other this month and will begin our autumn activities. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

### LWR Personal Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief provides Personal Care Kits each year to those in need due to natural disasters, war, violence, and civil unrest. We are collecting *light-weight dark color bath towels (must be no larger than 52 x 27, dark color recommended), adult-size toothbrushes (multipacks are acceptable), sturdy combs, bath-size bars of soap, and metal nail clippers*. Items can be placed in the baskets at the display in the Fellowship Room through September 8.



### Mission Endowment

*From the Mission Endowment Committee:*

Thank you to all who already made commitments and gifts for the Mission Endowment Fund Campaign: *Celebrating a Proud Past, Preparing for a Faithful Future*. As of August 19, 2024, we have received 21 commitments totaling \$47,220.00. Commitments can be returned anytime in the offering plate at Worship, mailed to the church, or submitted online at [www.firstgeneseo.org/giving](http://www.firstgeneseo.org/giving).

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

## Council Highlights for August 19, 2024

- Approved the following funding requests: \$615 from Social Ministry benevolence for the Geneseo Police Department; \$300 from Social Ministry benevolence for Cover Girls Quilting; continuing education funds for Abbey Cathelyn to attend Godly Play training; \$4500 from Unbudgeted Projects for funding the Communications Specialist position until December 2024.
- Voted to hire Chasidy Gonnella as the Parish Accountant and Erin Vorac as the Communications Specialist.
- Approved two new members to join the congregation: Pat Holman and Addyson Holmstrom.
- Approved the appointment of Linda Sheley to the Preschool Board.
- Discussed a process for receiving input from the congregation regarding the Charlotte

Swanson gift. Pastors, Lendol Calder, Cindy Groene, Lorrie Lord, and 3-4 additional members will form a task force to gather information and make a recommendation.

- Received a recommendation from the Furniture Task Force; no decision was reached; discussion will continue at future meetings.

### July Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

July actual	\$31,136
July budget	\$36,108
YTD actual	\$297,143
YTD budget	\$291,858

Net Income Over Expenses:

July actual	\$7,440 deficit
July budget	\$3,564 deficit
YTD actual	\$10,386 surplus
YTD budget	\$8,923 deficit

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## Sanctuary Singers

The Sanctuary Singers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4. Rehearsals are from 6–7 p.m. in the choir room. High-school aged youth and older are welcome!

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## Glory Ringers

The Glory Ringers bell choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 12. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. in the choir room and we are looking for 3 or 4 more youth or adult ringers!

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## G.E.M.S (God's Excellent Musicians)

is a vocal group for middle and high school youth. The first session begins on Wednesday, October 2 and rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5–5:45 p.m. through October 23. G.E.M.S will sing in worship on Sunday, October 27. Rehearsals will be held in the choir room.

## Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, September 4, 11 & 18 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

## Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, September 25 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!

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### A Note of Thanks!

Thank you to everyone involved with bringing beautiful flowers to me. I really enjoy them and appreciate everyone thinking of me.

—Donna Lester

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *cereal, ready to eat soups, chips, crackers, shredded cheese, milk, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo and conditioner* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



## Walking Together: Companion Congregations

On Saturday, September 28, our congregation will welcome Pr. Seth Sululu during worship at 5:30 p.m. There will be a time of welcome and fellowship prior to worship for members to meet and have conversation with Pr. Sululu. Pr. Sululu serves in the North Central Diocese of Tanzania.

Pr. Sululu's visit to Northern Illinois Synod churches is to encourage and build relationships with congregations who have committed or are interested in developing companion relationships with congregations in Tanzania. Our companion congregation is Osupuko and we hope to get an update on how that congregation is doing. Many changes have happened in the past few years that have affected congregations in Tanzania. Pr. Sululu has a long-standing relationship with NIS and will focus on the vision and mission of the global church. Please join us for an inspiring message from Pr. Sululu and hear how God is working in the lives of believers in Africa. Let us all pray for safe travel and joyous reunion of friends throughout Northern Illinois and beyond.





## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*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 September 7 & 8 to benefit Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center. Bring your nickels and dimes!

#### STAFF DIRECTORY

**Rev. Laura Kamprath**  
[lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org)

**Rev. Matt Kamprath**  
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**Melinda Wildermuth**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
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**Mary Jo Brummet**  
*Parish Administrator*  
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**Abbey Cathelyn**  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*  
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**Chasidy Gonnella, Parish Accountant**  
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**Patsy Andress, Financial Secretary**  
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**Charlene Daniels, Custodian**  
[cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org](mailto: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, September 9

Ministries — Monday, September 9

Council — Monday, September 16

#### PRESCHOOL STAFF

Misty Slaymaker, *Director*

Margi Ficken

[preschool@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:preschool@firstgeneseo.org)

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

#### 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