

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

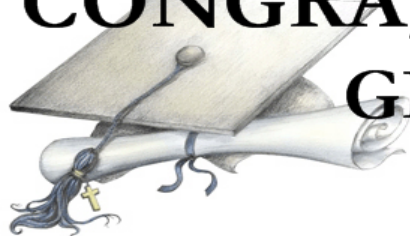
May 2025
Volume 64, Issue 5
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Join us on Sunday, May 18 as we bless ALL graduates. Whether you are graduating from high school, vocational school, or college, we want to recognize this milestone and rejoice with you. We also rejoice with our 2025 scholarship recipients. These students have shown stellar academic achievement, good citizenship, and compassion for Christ.



Camp Chaos VBS! June 8-12 ~ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Are you ready for this summer to get a little ... chaotic? Get ready for Camp Chaos VBS!

This summer, your “campers” can spend a few days at a campsite in the forest.

But watch out – things are starting to get a little crazy at Camp Chaos.

Camp Chaos VBS focuses on five of the Gospels’ most chaotic stories. Your campers will learn how Jesus is our peace in a chaotic world.

Registration is now open for children in grades Pre-K-5.

We can’t wait to see you! **Scan the QR code below!**

Registration closes on May 30.



Top 5 Ways to be an Awesome Internship Congregation

By now, hopefully you've heard the good news that First Lutheran will host Madelyn Knutson as our pastoral intern beginning in August. She will serve in a pastoral role, but is not yet ordained, and so we will call her "Vicar Madelyn." (The title *vicar* is used in a variety of ways among Christian denominations, but within the Lutheran tradition, a vicar is a candidate for ordination, a pastor-in-training.) Here are some ways that we can work together to make this a great experience for everyone!

5. Introduce yourself to her. Tell her your name, and then do it again next time you see her. We only have one new person to meet – she has 800.

4. Focus on Vicar Madelyn's gifts for ministry, not her age. It's true that she is young. However, it won't be particularly helpful for her to hear from 50 different people that she's young enough to be your daughter (or granddaughter). It *will* be helpful for her to receive honest feedback about her preaching, pastoral care, and leadership.

3. Expect to be challenged. Growing in faith involves asking questions that sometimes challenge our theological understanding. When this happens to you, be honest and patient with yourself about the challenges you are experiencing. When you see this happening with others, be kind and gentle.

2. Help us form an Internship Committee of dedicated disciples. We are seeking input from the whole congregation about who has the gifts to serve in this way. We want to form a committee that represents a variety of ages, genders, and backgrounds. *If you are willing to serve, or if you would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact me soon.* The Council will appoint this committee at our June 16 meeting.

1. Pray for Vicar Madelyn. Pray for her growth as a leader in God's church, and for her vocation to be affirmed by her ministry here. Pray for her health, and that of her family. Pray for me, as I learn how to be a good internship supervisor. Pray for the Internship Committee and our Staff, as we work with Vicar Madelyn.

As a congregation, we will work together to make the coming academic year one of learning, growth, and faithful discipleship for Vicar Madelyn and all of us.

Congregational leaders (those on the Finance Ministry and the Congregation Council) will be working in the coming months on securing the funding we will need for this venture. Madelyn will receive a modest monthly stipend for her work, and there are a few other expenses associated with the program. Since this was not anticipated when we developed and approved the 2025 budget, we will not have funds available in the General Fund until this coming January, when we begin a new budget year. For the months of August through December, the internship will be funded from several sources, including the Mission Endowment Fund, Memorial funds, and the Unbudgeted Projects Fund. We have been careful stewards in past surplus years, resulting in funds being available now for this ministry. Thanks be to God and the generosity of this congregation, our ministry is not limited because "it's not in the budget."

Stay tuned for more news in the coming months about how we will be welcoming Vicar Madelyn!

—Pastor Laura

May 3 & 4, 2025

Easter 3 | Good Shepherd Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 1:9-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; and John 21:1-19.

May 10 & 11, 2025

Easter 4

This weekend's texts include Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; and John 10:22-30.

May 17 & 18, 2025

Easter 5

This weekend's texts include Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; and John 13:31-35

May 24 & 25, 2025

Easter 6

This weekend's texts include Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; and John 14:23-28.

May 31 & June 1, 2025

Easter 7

This weekend's texts include Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; and John 17:20-26.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship at Liberty Village

Pastor Laura and Melinda will lead worship at Liberty Village on May 25 at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends!

Care Minister Training

Another opportunity to be trained as a Care Minister will be offered on Tuesday, May 6 at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room. Care Ministers will be paired with homebound members, to bring communion approximately once per month. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Mary Jo Brummet or Pastor Laura.

Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza. For our leaders:

President Donald Trump 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 Emmanuel Gideon Mollel and the people of Ilkiding'a and Osupuko Parishes 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. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: Ann Behrendt (*Phil Wildermuth's sister*), Courtney Benke (*Mindy Brown and Melissa McCarty's friend*), Debra Beyerlein, Carol Boyd, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Gretchen Jones (*Maurie Nelson's friend*), Alan Novak (*Melissa McCarty's father*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Barbara Sigwalt (*Kathi Fluck's friend*).

Joys: We rejoice with Paisley Ericson, Avery Kuethe, Macy Vorac, Brooks Vorac and Camille Wildermuth who received their Communion Milestone on Maundy Thursday. On the baptism of Blakely Rae Hannam, daughter of Trey & Megan Hannam and granddaughter of Todd & Kim Foes.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Francis Cathelyn, grandfather of Ryan Cathelyn and Nicole Rowold; Jim Smith, uncle of Bill Nelson; and Pope Francis.

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

Good Shepherd Weekend

The weekend of May 3 & 4 will be Good Shepherd Weekend, an opportunity for our congregation to promote and support the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Serving Illinois since 1867, LSSI is one of the largest statewide social service providers. They welcome all people as they strive to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. Throughout the state, they offer affordable housing services, home-based care for seniors, programs for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health and addiction services, prisoner and family ministry, foster care for children and youth, and intact family services.

Our guest preacher for the weekend will be Pastor Gary LaCroix. Our Noisy Offering that weekend will benefit LSSI, so save your coins! You will also be encouraged to give your offerings using the envelopes provided, or online at lssi.org. Our gifts this weekend will have double the impact! All gifts for Good Shepherd Weekend will be matched by an anonymous donor, up to \$5000.

First Friends Luncheon

"Birthday Celebration"

Come and join us as we celebrate all of our First Friends' birthdays at an indoor picnic on Thursday, May 8 at 11:30 a.m. Fried chicken, cowboy beans, potato salad and cake and ice cream on the menu. ALL are welcome. Cost is \$7. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

Garden Ministry

It's time to plant the church garden! This year, we will devote our garden space to our flower ministry. Planting will be scheduled in early May, with the day chosen based on the weather. If you would like to help plant, please contact Karen Myhre.

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.

Now Hiring!

First Lutheran Church is searching for our next Programs Meal Coordinator and Director of High School Ministry!

- **The Programs Meal Coordinator** is responsible for setting the menus, purchasing food and supplies, and coordinating the volunteer teams for the Faithtime Meal program and some other congregational meals. We are seeking someone who is dependable, organized, motivated, and loves to feed people! The hours required for this position vary week to week, depending on the events on our church calendar.
- **The Director of High School Ministry** is responsible for planning and executing the ministry program for our high school students. This individual will work with student leaders and adult volunteers to plan learning, service, and fellowship events. We are seeking someone who is organized, motivated, and passionate about the Gospel. This position averages 10 hours per week, including some evening and weekend hours.

More information, including complete position descriptions and instructions for applying, can be found on our website. **Applications are due by May 15.**

FIRST MINISTRIES

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

Bible Adventures Class: Wednesday, May 14 from 5-7 p.m.

Presentation of Bibles: Sunday, May 18

Children are brought together on May 14 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 18.



First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Women* and faith response to the author Kristin Hannah on Thursday, May 15 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. Read the book and join our discussion!

FIRST MINISTRIES



Scholarship Spotlight

We rejoice with our 2025 scholarship recipients. These students have shown stellar academic achievement, good citizenship, and compassion for Christ.

Logan Palmer

Logan attends Eureka College majoring in Criminal Justice and plays for the baseball team.

Alex Slaymaker

Alex attends Central College majoring in Mathematics with a Data Science Emphasis and Business Analytics.

Mission Endowment

As of April 28, a total of \$54,325.28 has been received 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.



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 4. 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 class 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 and Wildemuth farm visits. We are grateful for a fun year of preschool! Our last day of preschool will be Friday, May 23.

Women's Ministry

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 Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Council Highlights for April 22, 2025

- Council had the opportunity to explore a new Ministry One app for FLC.
- Approved Jeff Boyer and Jenn Stoeger to be Voting Members at Synod Assembly in June. We are seeking two more Voting Members.
- Discussed and approved pastoral intern candidate Madelyn Anderson. Will need to appoint Internship Committee by June.
- After consideration, the Council has decided not to approve a new building usage request for private music lessons.
- Approved funding requests: \$500 from Social Ministry to Freedom House for new emergency shelter. \$2,000 from Mission Endowment for internship expenses.
- Appointed Matt Fuelling to fill a vacancy on the Personnel Committee.
- Discussed retirement of Director of Worship & Music.

March Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

March actual	\$45,122
March budget	\$38,308
YTD actual	\$159,712
YTD budget	\$154,425

Net Income Over Expenses:

March actual	\$5,542 deficit
March budget	\$5,310 deficit
YTD actual	\$23,203 surplus
YTD budget	\$6,907 deficit

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 invite all Thrivent members to consider First Lutheran Preschool as a choice to receive these dollars. Thank you!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, May 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "*Gather*" for our study guide. Everyone is welcome!

Thank You So Much!

First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the book, onesie, and gift card to Sweet Peas. We are so lucky to raise Tucker in such an incredible church family.

Thank you!
Ian, Dana & Tucker Cooper

FIRST MINISTRIES

Community Open House
Wednesday, May 14 ~ 3 to 6 p.m.
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)
4646 38th Avenue, Moline
Spring is a time for new beginnings!
Join LSSI's Moline Children's Community Services staff for an open house and learn about the many programs supporting youth and families in Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties, including Foster Care, Intact Family Services, and Family Support Services.
Light refreshments will be served.

Double Your Impact on World Hunger

My fellow congregants,

I have exciting news from the Northern Illinois Synod's World Hunger Subcommittee. A generous donor has offered to match all gifts made to the "World Hunger Appeal" from March 16 through October 16, 2025, up to \$100,000. This means that your donation will have double the impact, helping us make a significant difference in the fight against world hunger. Now is the time to donate and to make a substantial impact on world hunger.

For the match to occur, *donations must be made directly to our congregation*. Your role is crucial in this campaign. Once a month, our congregation will send the funds raised locally to the Synod. The Synod will then match those funds through this campaign and forward the match to World Hunger.

Please consider donating to ELCA World Hunger through this incredible campaign. You can donate through the offering envelopes and ensure that "*ELCA World Hunger*" is indicated on the envelope, or you can donate online at the link below:

1. Visit <https://www.firstgeneseo.org/giving>
2. Click on "Make a Secure Online Gift Today."
3. Select "World Hunger Appeal" in the drop-down menu
4. Make your gift

Grace and peace,
—*Johanna Hager*



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 May 3 & 4 to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. 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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Mary Jo Brummet
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Abbey Cathelyn
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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

Jeff Boyer—*President*
Sam Marshall—*Vice-President*
Julie Kunkel—*Secretary*
Matt Simosky—*Treasurer*

Chris Ahlstrand, Chase Anselmi,
Cindy Groene, Jamian Haser,
Kathy Heller, Lorrie Lord,
Eli Palmer, Linda Sheley

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — **Tuesday, May 13**
Ministries — **Tuesday, May 13**
Council — **Monday, May 19**

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MAY 8

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