



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

Sharing Christ's Love

June 2025
Volume 64, Issue 6
www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

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

Check out our New Website!

We recently launched an updated website at www.firstgeneseo.org. The new site better integrates with other software we use in the church and gives us more flexibility in the future. It has the same features as before, including: important announcements on our home page, featured events, full calendar of events, live streams of sermons, video archives, a members-only section, information on our ministries and outreach, and a way to submit prayer requests:

- Go to Welcome on the main navigation and then scroll down and click on Member Access.
- You will be prompted for a password. The password is **First!**
- Once you are logged in, scroll to the section called Submit a Prayer Request.
- Fill out the form with the required information if you or someone you know would like to be added to our Lifelines Prayer List.

By submitting a prayer online, you are indicating you have obtained permission to share and print the names of all persons involved. Submitted prayers will be on our Lifelines Prayer List for six weeks and may be renewed. Prayers will be updated weekly in First Day, which can be viewed in the Member Access section. If you are a member and would like to join our E-Prayer (*email prayer chain*) for dedicated prayer at home, please contact the office at Prayer@FirstGeneseo.org for details.



Alternatively, you can quickly access the Prayer Request Form by scanning this QR code, which is also on the Welcome Cards you receive at Worship each week.

3rd Annual Fellowship ON TAP!

Congregational Life invites you to join us for a *Happy Hour* at Geneseo Brewing Company. Enjoy a casual evening with others from our church at GBC on Tuesday, June 24! 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.



Signs of the Spirit

Signs of God's Spirit are sometimes fleeting but always present in our world and in our individual lives. While we are sometimes too busy to witness the signs, there are other times in which we get a moment to take a step back from what we are doing and give thanks for the work that God has done and is continuing to do. I thought this month would be a good time to take a moment and simply list the ways in which I think God's Spirit has moved and is moving.

- We will be welcoming Vicar Madelyn in August.
- Spring is here!
- Our Stewardship Team is running on all cylinders
- New guests and visitors almost every weekend (introduce yourself to them!)
- Ministries continue to be responding to the call of the gospel
- New Care Ministers are trained and ready to begin serving
- Lent & Easter was inspiring and joyful
- Cambridge Lutheran is celebrating 150 years of ministry
- Congregations are resilient amid nationwide decline in church attendance
- High School Youth has had a resurgence
- Mission Endowment continues to sow seeds for the future
- Faithtime continues to 'Share Christ's Love'
- VBS in June
- Graduations and end of the year celebrations bring joy
- We are utilizing social media to spread the gospel
- Add your own signs of the Spirit here: _____

If you have made it thus far in your reading of this article, I hope you have seen some of the signs of where I believe God's Spirit is active and alive in both congregations that I serve. This list is not exhaustive, but I hope you have seen some of these signs. I also hope and pray that in your own life you can make a list or add to this one. The promise is, the Spirit is always active and moving us forward whether we want to go or not. May we get on board with where the Spirit will take us, and may it lead us to each other. Amen.

—*Pastor Matt*

May 31 & June 1, 2025

Easter 7

This weekend's texts include Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-13, 16-17, 20-21 and John 17:20-26.

June 7 & 8, 2025

Pentecost

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17 and John 14:8-17.

June 14 & 15, 2025

Holy Trinity | *Happy Father's Day*

This weekend's texts include Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5 and John 16:12-15.

June 21 & 22, 2025

Pentecost 2

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29 and Luke 8:26-39.

June 28 & 29, 2025

Pentecost 3

This weekend's texts include 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25 and Luke 9:51-62.

"Pick Up Choir" Sunday, June 22!

Children entering grade 3 through adults are invited to join the "Pick Up Choir" on Sunday, June 22. 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.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC

Favorite Hymns and Songs

Let us know your favorite hymns and praise songs and we will incorporate them into worship this summer! Send your list to Melinda Wildermuth
worship@firstgeneseo.org

Worship at Liberty Village

Pastor Laura and Melinda will lead worship at Liberty Village on June 22 at 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help lead singing, and all are welcome to worship with our members and friends!

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 Mollé 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: Mel Becker, Ann Behrendt (*Phil Wildermuth's sister*), Courtney Benke (*Mindy Brown and Melissa McCarty's friend*), Debra Beyerlein, Carol Boyd, Dan Hofer (*Brian Hofer's father*), Gretchen Jones (*Maurie Nelson's friend*), Jim Larson, Steve Morgan, Alan Novak (*Melissa McCarty's father*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Barbara Sigwalt (*Kathi Fluck's friend*).

Joys: On the marriage of Emily Storm and Vernon Sainvil.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the death of Joey Eaker, grandson of Jeff & Patti Boyer.

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

Worship Opportunities

Several unique worship opportunities are happening this month in our area. Join siblings in Christ from other congregations to worship and praise our God!

- 8 Lutheran congregations from Moline and Rock Island will join together on Sunday, June 8 to celebrate Pentecost. Bilingual (*English and Spanish*) Worship will be in Centennial Hall at Augustana College, Rock Island at 10 a.m. Pastor Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera will be installed as the Pastor of Iglesia San Jose Obrero, Moline.
- Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover will host Vespers this summer on select Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. On June 8, worship is led by Pastor Randy Swanson. On June 29, worship is led by Pastor Laurie Hensley.
- Ecumenical Worship will be held at the Henry County Fairgrounds on Sunday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at the Beer Garden tent. Pastor Matt and Cambridge Lutheran Church will be helping lead worship. Bring your own lawn chair. Valet parking is available for those with mobility concerns.

Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts will gather at Sweet Peas for dinner on Wednesday, June 4 at 5 p.m. All widows at First Lutheran are invited. Please RSVP to Kathy Rogers, coordinator of the group, at (309) 945-5132 or call the church office. (*Reservations necessary*)

Sunday Morning Greeters

If you would be interested in being a Sunday morning greeter, please contact Melinda Wildermuth worship@firstgeneseo.org. This is a great opportunity for both individuals and families to get involved!

Welcome Pastor Catie Ford!



The Mission Endowment Committee is pleased to welcome Pastor Catie (Nelson) Ford as our guest preacher on the weekend of June 14 & 15. Pastor Catie is visiting as part of our campaign: *Celebrating a Proud Past, Preparing for a Faithful Future*. Pastor Catie was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Church, before attending Augustana College to study religion and communications. She spent a year serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission with the ELCA before attending seminary at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. After earning her Master of Divinity, she was ordained here at First Lutheran Church on October 23, 2021. Pastor Catie and Dillon Ford were married just a few weeks before her ordination. She serves as the Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, Wisconsin.

She writes: Dillon and I have been settling into life in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. We spend a lot of our time volunteering in the community. I have been a high school track coach for the past 4 seasons and Dillon just started umpiring for little league baseball. We also enjoy spending time in the beautiful creation we find ourselves surrounded by. We take our two dogs for lots of walks, I have gotten back into long distance running, and Dillon takes his bike on the trails. Our most exciting update is that we will be adding a little one to our family in early September! We are over the moon to start the parenthood chapter of our lives!

We hope you are able to join us on the weekend of June 14 & 15 to welcome Pastor Catie back to Geneseo, as together we celebrate our proud past and prepare for a faithful future.

Faithtime Kids

We are excited to begin our 2025-2026 Faithtime Kids program year! Our first afternoon for Faithtime Kids will be **Wednesday, September 10** from 3:15-5:15 p.m. Faithtime is open to children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

The goal of Faithtime is:

- To teach children (K-5) the stories of our faith using the Godly Play method.
- 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.



FIRST MINISTRIES



Camp Chaos VBS begins June 8!

This year, we are collecting school supplies for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. For a list of items needed, please visit geneseofoodpantry.org/current-needs. We will collect items from June 7-12.

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 *We Were the Lucky Ones* and faith response to the author Georgia Hunter on Thursday, June 19 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety. As one sibling is forced into exile, another attempts to flee the continent, while others struggle to escape certain death, either by working grueling hours on empty stomachs in the factories of the ghetto or by hiding as gentiles in plain sight. Driven by an unwavering will to survive and by the fear that they may never see one another again, the Kurcs must rely on hope, ingenuity, and inner strength to persevere. Be sure to read this extraordinary, propulsive novel and join our discussion!

FIRST MINISTRIES



Birdies for Charity

The John Deere Classic Tournament is scheduled for June 30 through July 6. Several of our partners in mission are participating in Birdies for Charity this year! You can make a donation online at birdiesforcharity.com

- Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry – Bird #2406
- World Relief Quad Cities – Bird #930
- Jenny Lind Chapel – Bird #1955
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – #861

Mission Endowment

As of May 19, a total of \$55,135.28 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.



High School Youth

All high school students are invited to come and help with a service project at the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry on Sunday, June 22 at 4 p.m. We will meet there and wash windows! Supplies will be provided. After we finish working, we'll grab dinner or an ice cream treat together!

Theology on Tap is back!

Homebrewed Edition

This month, we gather on Thursday, June 26 at 7 p.m. to discuss theology and enjoy fellowship at the home of Gregg & Melissa McCarty, 414 E Wells Street, Geneseo. BYOB and a lawn chair.

Nursery Help Needed This Summer!

If you enjoy small children, consider volunteering to help in the nursery during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sundays, especially this summer. Contact Hilary Anselmi hanselmi.ha@gmail.com for more information.

Council Highlights for May 19, 2025

- Approved a funding request for \$1,000 from Social Ministry to support Project Now. This donation will help support the shelter they had opened over the winter.
- Discussed our incoming intern candidate. This discussion included setting up the intern committee and funding for the intern.
- We discussed plans for improved security of the church building including cameras and security fobs.
- Discussed a recommendation from the Personnel Committee for an updated job description for the Director of Worship & Music.

April Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

April actual	\$36,417
April budget	\$42,303
YTD actual	\$196,129
YTD budget	\$196,733

Net Income Over Expenses:

April actual	\$3,460 deficit
April budget	\$740 deficit
YTD actual	\$19,743 surplus
YTD budget	\$7,647 deficit

Notes of Thanks

Pastors Laura & Matt, Staff and Congregation,
Thank you for making our Geneseo Breast Cancer Support Group feel so welcome and valued at First Lutheran. We do not take your kindness and support for granted. It is appreciated by each of our support members.

Our sincere thank you,
Geneseo Breast Cancer Support Group

Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thank you to your congregation for your generous support during these challenging times. Your contributions make a meaningful impact on the lives of our community's newest members. We truly appreciate your commitment to our mission!

Thank you!
World Relief Team

First Lutheran Church,
Thank you so very much for your contribution to Back Pack Blessing. We are feeding 87 kids a weekend now. So you know it is a very much needed mission for our school kids.

Thank you!
Sharon Carton

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, June 4, 11, 18 & 25 in Grace Place.
All are welcome!

Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "Gather" for our study guide. Everyone is welcome!

FIRST

MINISTRIES

Just Moved!

Mel Becker has recently moved to Allure of Geneseo. His new address is:

**704 S Illinois St Rm 303
Geneseo IL 61254**

As Mel settles into his new home, his daughter Karen, invites members of First to come and visit him or send a card!

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *tuna, spaghetti (pasta) noodles, spaghetti sauce, sugar, baked beans, canned peas, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and laundry detergent* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Other opportunities ...

- Join us for a **Heart Health Lesson** from Courtney Hart of the American Heart Association Tuesday, June 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Food Pantry.
- Join us for a **blood drive** Friday, June 13, 12:30-3 p.m., at the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. To book your appointment, contact the Food Pantry at (309) 944-3165.

Did you know? The Food Pantry has a **blood pressure machine!** Take your blood pressure discreetly and take an information sheet to help you make informed decisions about your health!





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

114 E. Main Street
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309-944-3196

www.firstgeneseo.org
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 June 7 & 8 to benefit the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Melinda Wildermuth
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Mary Jo Brummet
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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 — **Monday, June 16**
Ministries — **Monday, June 16**
Council — **Monday, June 23**

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, JUNE 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