



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

August 2025  
Volume 64, Issue 8  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://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.

## Milestones Ministry



### Back to School Bash! It's a Pool Party!

Splish Splash ... You're invited to the Back to School Bash  
at the Edwards Aquatic Center on  
*Saturday, August 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.*

Everyone is welcome to join us for this free event! See you there!  
A light meal of pre-made sandwiches, chips, and cookies will be provided.

### Back to School Blessings & Blessing of the Keys *Sunday ~ August 10*

Students of all ages, teachers, school staff, and faith formation volunteers will be blessed as they begin a new school year. Each student will receive a brand-new backpack tag! The backpack tag is a constant reminder that God is with the students of our community in their daily lives and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year. We invite members, friends, neighbors, or other family members that would like a blessing! We will also bless the keys of our new and upcoming drivers.

### Entering Confirmation *Sunday ~ August 24*

We will be blessing our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who are entering Confirmation this year. This milestone marks the commencement of a new chapter of involvement in the faith community and commitment to lifelong learning and serving in the body of Christ. Students will also receive their Confirmation Bibles.

*Acolyte Training for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

# All Creatures of our God and King

I was blessed to get to spend a full week at camp this past month with 3 of our Confirmation students. In addition to the human creatures who shared the week with us, we were joined by many more of God's beloved creatures: chipmunks, squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, turtles, spiders, bees, deer, hawks, and wild turkeys (including a mama turkey and her 4 chicks). The camp experience is a holy one: the time is set apart for God's special purposes. Each day begins and ends in worship. New relationships are formed – friendships with fellow campers and counselors. And each camper's relationship with God is renewed.

On the final full day of camp, the counselors led the campers through an experience called "Eco-Stations of the Cross." Each station along the short hike used land, trees, and wildlife to mark significant points along Jesus' passion. As the campers recalled Jesus' suffering and sacrifice, and finally Jesus' resurrected life, they prayed for the environment, which also suffers greatly and sacrifices so much of itself. They prayed for renewal, and restoration, and resurrection for this world God so loves. I will be spending time this coming month preparing for the Season of Creation, which we will celebrate in worship during September. The resources we will use have been prepared for us by the Creation Care Subcommittee of the Northern Illinois Synod. The team met here at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center several years ago while compiling and writing these worship resources. This year, we will celebrate Ocean & Lake Sunday; Animal

Sunday; Storm & Weather Sunday; and Cosmos Sunday. **As in years past, I invite you to submit photographs you have taken which correspond to these themes.** We will project the photos during Worship. You can email your photos to me this year:

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

The month of August will also be a time of new beginnings, as we welcome two new full-time staff members. Vicar Madelyn Knutson will begin her ministry with us at the beginning of the month. Inger Oswald, our new Director of Worship & Music, will begin her ministry here on August 20.

I want to remind you of a few things as we welcome our new staff members:

- Share your name, before being asked, each time you meet them for at least the first month. They are meeting A LOT of new people!
- Expect that with this new chapter of ministry for First Lutheran Church, there will be some change. Each member of our staff team brings their own unique gifts, skills, and passions for ministry. Our ministry may feel a bit different, but what remains constant is our mission of Sharing Christ's Love.
- Pray for Vicar Madelyn, Inger, and each of our staff members and lay leaders.

Together, as a congregation of faithful disciples, we will worship, grow in faith, serve, and share the good news. We will give thanks to our God and King – Creator of ridiculous turkeys, tiny chipmunks, and beautiful humans – for the love poured out on us through Jesus Christ.

*—Pastor Laura*

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### August 2 & 3, 2025

#### **Pentecost 8**

This weekend's texts include Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12:14, 2:18-23; Colossians 3:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21.

### August 9 & 10, 2025

#### **Pentecost 9**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40.

### August 16 & 17, 2025

#### **Pentecost 10**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 23:23-29; Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12:49-56.

### August 23 & 24, 2025

#### **Pentecost 11**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 58:9b-14; Hebrews 12:18-29 and Luke 13:10-17.

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### August 30 & 31, 2025

#### **Pentecost 12**

This weekend's texts include Proverbs 25:6-7; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 and Luke 14:1, 7-14.

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**

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### **Light Girls Music Coming**

#### ***Sunday, August 3***

Deirdre and Fiona Light, granddaughters of former member Beth Magnuson, will be bringing their music to First Lutheran on Sunday, August 3. Deirdre is a 13-year-old harpist who enjoys playing Celtic tunes, as well as music from films and TV shows. Fiona is a 12-year-old accordionist who loves a good polka or dance tune. Together, the girls will provide beautiful music for our worship service!

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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 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 pastor, 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*), Mary Blauvelt (*Linda Bloomberg's mom*), Carol Boyd, Judy Carbiener, Kay Heatherly (*Maurie & Brenda Nelson's friend*), Gretchen Jones (*Maurie Nelson's friend*), Alan Novak (*Melissa McCarty's father*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Barbara Sigwalt (*Kathi Fluck's friend*), Mike Simosky, Charles "Corky" Tieken and Easton and Jace VanDoren (*Jay & Darcie VanDoren's twin grandsons*).

**Joys:** On the marriages of Scott & Sarah Nelson; and Lucas & Ashli Larson. On the births of Memphis Phillip Kolb, daughter of Brody & Kayla Kolb and granddaughter of Steve & Jodi Martin; and Easton and Jace VanDoren, twin sons of Jacob & Sydney VanDoren, grandsons of Jay & Darcie VanDoren and great-grandsons of Stan & Linda Storm.

### **Thanksgiving:**

### **Sorrows:**

*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 Laura at 703-505-8710.*

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## **FIRST PRAYER**

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Training on our New Church App

We recently launched a new app for our church and we'd love for you to download and learn how to use it! The app is a convenient way to access: livestreams and archives of worship services, our calendar of events, upcoming activities and opportunities to get involved, submitting prayer requests, important church-wide announcements, our membership directory, giving options & history, and more. In September we will begin using the app to check in to worship.

We invite you to participate in one of our upcoming training sessions to learn how to use the app and all of its features. We will have volunteers available to help you through every step.

- **Saturday, August 16** (*prior to worship*) 5-5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room
- **Sunday, August 17** (*after worship*) 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room

If you would like to download the app on your own and explore, here is how to get started:

#### 1. Download the App from your phone's App Store

- Search Church by MinistryOne in Google Play or Apple App Store

It is a purple box with a white cross



### Notice of Congregation Meeting ~ *Sunday, August 3 at 10:30 a.m.*

The Congregation Council has called a special meeting of the Congregation to approve the Council's recommendation for replacing heating and air conditioning (HVAC) units that serve two areas of our building. The Council recommends spending \$47,700 from our Building Fund and accepting bids from Wirth, Inc. for the replacements. All voting members are encouraged to attend the special meeting, as we need a quorum to conduct business.

### Council Highlights for July 21, 2025

- ELCA— Churchwide Assembly will begin next week and include election of a bishop.
- Safety & Security had first meeting and reviewed projects of security cameras, security fobs, updated first aid kits and new/updated AED's. Also discussed reducing entry points into church.
- Reviewed and approved updates to Constitution.
- Accepted recommendation from Personnel Committee to offer employment to Inger Oswald as Director of Worship & Music.
- We will receive new members the weekend of August 16 & 17. Dennis Bloomberg; Matt, Lauryn, Stella and Josie Deets; Loretta Dick; Rev. Scott & Trish Schmidt; and Jeff Harling.
- Discussed scheduling of upcoming Congregation Meeting involving furnace and air conditioning replacement.

#### June Financial Report

##### General Fund Offering:

June actual	\$38,937
June budget	\$37,308
YTD actual	\$260,647
YTD budget	\$271,350

##### Net Income Over Expenses:

June actual	\$3,626 surplus
June budget	\$5,062 deficit
YTD actual	\$1,483 deficit
YTD budget	\$16,671 deficit

## Compassion International Sunday

On Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24, Social Ministry will be hosting a Compassion International Sunday. Compassion International is an organization that works to end child poverty by connecting vulnerable children with churches through child sponsorship and other child initiatives. These sponsorships help provide medical care, fight malnutrition, protect children from harm, and share the hope of the gospel. When children are cared for, mind, body and soul, they go from surviving to thriving with the resources they need to break the chains of poverty.

Compassion means seeing the suffering of others, deeply caring and taking action to stop it. As the hands and feet of Jesus, it's our responsibility to care for those living in poverty. An effective way to do that is through sponsorship. A sponsor's support is a life-changing way to show these children how valuable and loved they truly are. Being loved and chosen by a sponsor fights the lies of poverty and speaks loudly to the child about their worth. Roger Bengtson will be available with packets and more information at both worship services so please join us as we learn more about this important ministry.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts continues to meet monthly for dinner and conversation. All widows at First Lutheran are invited to join us at Habaneros on Wednesday, August 6 at 5 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathy Rogers, coordinator of the group, at (309) 945-5132 or call the church office. *(Reservations necessary)*

### Worship at Liberty Village

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

### First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *The Vanishing Half* and faith response to the author Brit Bennett on Thursday, August 21 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

"The Vanishing Half" tells the story of twin sisters, Desiree and Stella Vignes, who grow up in the small, insular town of Mallard, Louisiana, where residents are predominantly light-skinned Black individuals. At sixteen, they run away to New Orleans, but their lives diverge dramatically. Stella chooses to "pass" as white, severing ties with her family and creating a new life for herself in California with a white husband and daughter, while Desiree returns to Mallard with her dark-skinned daughter, Jude, after an abusive relationship. The novel explores the themes of identity, race, family secrets, and the lasting impact of choices across generations, as the sisters and their daughters navigate their intertwined but separate lives. Be sure to read this critically acclaimed novel and join our discussion!

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

2nd Annual

### Chip in Fore Children Charity Golf Outing

Saturday, September 13, 2025  
1 p.m. Shotgun Start

Register your team by April 30, 2025 and receive 20 free raffle tickets for your team.

Four-Person Scramble, \$300/Team  
Golf Cart, Lunch, and Goodie Bag Included  
Raffle Prizes & Games on Golf Course

Highland Springs Golf Course  
9500 35th Street W, Rock Island, IL 61201

Join fellow golfers, foster parents, and community members for a day of friendly competition for a cause. Funds raised will benefit local foster care programs.

Visit [LSSI.org/Golf](https://LSSI.org/Golf) or scan the QR code to learn more and register.

Questions? Contact Andrea McClean at 309.373.3728

## FIRST MINISTRIES



### Faithtime Kids

Registration for Faithtime Kids closes on August 1! If you have missed the deadline, contact Abbey Cathelyn at [youth@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:youth@firstgeneseo.org). Faithtime is open to all children in grades K-5. You do not have to be a member to join! Faithtime begins September 10. A full schedule for 2025-2026 is available on our website! Scan the QR code below to register!



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We love our volunteers! Please consider volunteering your time to Faithtime Kids!

We need: Classroom Teacher – Grade 4-5

Classroom Assistants – Grade 2-3 and 4-5

Drivers – Transport children from school to church

Table Talk – Engage in conversation and relationship building during snack time

Substitute teachers and drivers-People we can call to fill in!

- Please contact Abbey Cathelyn for more information on how you can help!

### Book Sale Benefits ELCA World Hunger

In August, a book entitled “Adventures in Faith, Faith in Adventures:” will go on sale in the Fellowship Room. The book was written by Kent Terry. Mr. Terry is a retired school psychologist, a lay minister, member of the Northern Illinois Synod’s Hunger Committee, a sporting enthusiast, competing in eight or nine different events, either at the local or state level. The stories, which predominantly are short, center around experiences or events which have occurred in his life, and at the end, a Bible Verse or religious phrase that blends in with the story. The book sells for \$20. Proceeds will go to ELCA World Hunger which is currently receiving matching funds until October. In addition all proceeds realized will be credited to the church’s hunger account. Any further information regarding the sale of the books can be obtained by contacting Gary Daniels.

### Magazine Now Available in Print

*Living Lutheran* (formerly *The Lutheran*) is a quarterly magazine, now published in print once more! It is a great source for news, reflections and stories from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its local and global companions. We cover religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more.

As the magazine of the ELCA, their mission is to:

- Nurture awareness of Christ’s presence in our lives and the world
- Share stories of God’s people living their faith
- Connect readers with the global Christian community
- Provide an open forum for discussion
- Challenge readers to bring God’s grace and care to all

Our congregation will submit a subscription beginning next month. Cost is \$17 per year (a \$3/year savings over an individual subscription). Sign up at the Welcome Center or fill out the form on our website if you would like to subscribe. Money will be collected later, once the subscription is active.

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## A Note of Thanks

Dear First Lutheran family,  
Thank you to Betsy Brudos and everyone that provided cookies for Glen's Celebration of Life on May 31. Everyone and everything that people did was deeply appreciated.

—Janet Anderson & family

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Thank you to everyone for your prayers, flowers & visits while I was in the hospital and home. A special thanks to the angels or First Gals that delivered meals for several days. That helped me so much! First Lutheran has been blessed with these angels and all they do for others: Sherry, Beth, Arlene, Cindy & Jerry included.

God bless your thoughtfulness!!

—Patsy Andress

## Did You Know?

Maurie Nelson recently was the recipient of the DAR Community Service Award from the Geneseo Chapter DAR. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Community Service Award is an award "presented to those who perform voluntary community service on a local level." Congratulations, Maurie!

## 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, August 6, 13, 20 & 27 in Grace Place.

All are welcome!

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## Bible Study

We will gather on Wednesday, August 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!

## FIRST

## MINISTRIES

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## Thank You

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship! I am grateful for the opportunities I have and I appreciate the generosity from First Lutheran in helping me make the most of my time at college! I have made the most of my experience by singing in the choir, playing on the tennis team, and being a student hall director. I am excited to continue my education in Mathematics and Business Management at Central College for my junior year!

Thank you,  
Alex Slaymaker

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *spaghetti sauce, sugar, taco seasoning, canned vegetables, canned fruit and juice, toilet paper, paper towels, men's body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, cleaning supplies, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant* to share with those in our community.

Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

**Another opportunity ...** The clothing room is especially in need of: all sizes children's clothing, men's clothing all sizes, new men's underwear in all sizes, sheet sets, bath towels, hand towels and washcloths. Donations can be dropped off at the Food Pantry.

- **Mark Your Calendar!** The next dietitian class will be Tuesday, August 12 and Tuesday, September 9 at 1 p.m. Try new dishes, learn how to prepare them, and take home recipes! Everyone is welcome.





## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

114 E. Main Street  
Geneseo, IL 61254-1566  
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 August 2 & 3 to benefit Foster Hope. Bring your nickels and dimes!

### STAFF DIRECTORY

**Rev. Laura Kamprath**  
lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

**Vicar Madelyn Knutson**  
*Intern*  
Madelyn.Anderson@lstc.edu

**Inger Oswald**  
*Director of Worship & Music*  
worship@firstgeneseo.org

**Mary Jo Brummet**  
*Parish Administrator*  
mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

**Abbey Cathelyn**  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministry*  
youth@firstgeneseo.org

**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*

### PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

### 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.

### 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, August 11**  
Ministries — **Monday, August 11**  
Council — **Monday, August 18**

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 7**