

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

April 2023
Volume 62, Issue 4
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST

PALM SUNDAY — APRIL 1 & 2

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Livestream Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY — APRIL 6

Noon Worship & Meal

5:00 p.m. Worship ~ Dinner & Holy Communion

Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 7

6:00 p.m. Worship

EASTER VIGIL — APRIL 8

*6:00 p.m. Worship ~ We will begin and conclude
the evening by the fire outside.*

EASTER SUNDAY — APRIL 9

8:30 a.m. ~ Contemporary Worship led by Joyful Praise

*10:30 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship featuring a brass quintet,
Sanctuary Choir and Glory Ringers*

10:30 a.m. Livestream Worship

Easter Fellowship — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Out with the Old, and in with the New

As many of you may have already heard, I will be having my left knee replaced on April 17th. I know that I am young, but I have suffered for twenty-seven years with a defect in my femur which has over time and through sports, worn down the cartilage in my knee into nothing. It's been a slow grind. Beginning at fifteen years old, I have had three surgeries to help alleviate or fix the problem and unfortunately it isn't really fixable. I have had to be patient.

Finally, at forty-two years of age, I will be having my knee replaced. Yippee! While this is exciting for me, I am still nervous about the surgery and recovery. I have visited many people who have had this surgery done and I know that it is not a 'walk' in the park.

However, I am still thankful. I am certainly very thankful that there is new medical technology that exists to be able to help me now, before I was due to get the help. I am thankful that I have good medical insurance to help defray some of the costs. I am thankful that I have a supportive family and congregations. I am thankful and hopeful that this surgery will help me reclaim some movement and help me to not hurt all the time and play further into the future. I think this new knee will bring me some new life.

I am thankful that I will be able to throw out this old knee and get a new one. This is not to say that my old knee is bad, or that I didn't have many great times with it (*trust me, I did*), it just isn't working like it should anymore. It needs to be replaced. This makes me think about our lives together as the Body of Christ.

What old thing that we do in our life together needs to be thrown out or replaced, to find ways for new life to emerge? That is the question for every generation and is the question we are asking in the Church (*across the entire United States*) right now.

We remember that what came before was good, and we got a lot of good times out of it, but lately, not everything is working as it has before and we are stumbling around, eager for things to be as they were before but now are certain they won't be the same.

As we ask that question, we will have to be patient for the answers.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter, we remember that Jesus' life and faith upset a lot of old thinking about God, our world, and the ways in which we live. We are still coming to grips with Jesus' vision and his way of life. We are still coming to grips with how his life and death brought attention to God's mercy and love for all. We are still coming to grips with how his life and death brought focus into other people's lives and deaths in our world who have been discarded and forgotten about by people of faith. His life and death drew attention to those of us who are waiting patiently for new life to emerge for them and their neighbors. In these seasons, we remember what God in Christ has done for us all. We are people of the cross and the resurrection. We are people who suffer with others and proclaim a message of new life. The old is always supporting and adding foundation to the new in our world.

I am already dreaming of all of the things I will be able to do once this old knee is replaced. Hopefully, it will be all of things that I am currently doing, with just a lot less pain and discomfort. Hopefully, I will be able to reclaim some of the movement that I used to have, and if not, I guess I will have to be a little more patient and wait more for new life that will, in God's time, certainly emerge. Until then, keep me in your prayers as I will certainly keep you in mine.

—Pastor Matt

April 1 & 2, 2023

Psalm Sunday

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 27:11-54.

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday, Noon & 5:00 p.m.

Today's texts include Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

April 7, 2023

Good Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Today's text is John 18:1-19:42 (paraphrased).

April 8, 2023

Easter Vigil, 6:00 p.m.

Today's text is John 20:1-18.

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

Today's texts include Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 28:1-10.

April 15 & 16, 2023

Easter 2

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31.

April 22 & 23, 2023

Easter 3/Rogation Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 24:13-35.

April 29 & 30, 2023

Easter 4/Good Shephard Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Rogation Weekend

With the upcoming planting season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of farmers, the growth of crops, and a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring soil from their fields to be blessed during worship services on April 22 & 23.

Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For the people of Ukraine. 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*), Jessica Ruggles (*Scott Denys' friend's daughter*), 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 Meiyen 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. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 8).

Health and Wellbeing: For all who are fighting COVID-19, Ron Alhorn, Capik family (*Abbey Cathelyn's friends*), Judi Denys, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Arvid Hagberg, Sharon Matson (*Jodi Martin's co-worker and friend of Jodi & Steve Martin*), Michelle Mustain, Mike Pries, Joe Schellhase (*Jodi Barnhart's dad*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*).

Joys: On the baptism of Caroline Mae Hughes, daughter of Austin & Bethany Hughes.

Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Val Howard, Steve & Jodi Martin's friend's mom; Charles "Boots" Knapp, brother-in-law of Connie Carlson; and Gladys Hulting, member.

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 FAITHTIME



Faithtime Kids

(Wednesdays Afterschool)

We are entering our last month of Faithtime!

April Schedule:

- April 5 No Faithtime
April 12 *Knowing Jesus in a New Way*
April 19 *Last day of Faithtime*

Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$3 per child ages 3 through 11, \$5 for ages 12 through adult, or \$20 per family.

April Meal Schedule:

- April 5 No Meal
April 12 Chicken
April 19 Cookout

Confirmation *(7th & 8th graders)*

We wrap up our program year with 2 more Wednesday classes and then a celebration! Class meets in Conference Room A, 6:15 – 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 5 – No Class

(Holy Week Worship this week, Thursday through Sunday)

Wednesday, April 12 – Lesson: *The Devil*

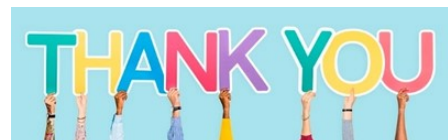
Wednesday, April 19 – Lesson: *Doubt*

Wednesday, April 26 – End-of-Year Party with High Schoolers in the Youth Room

- Confirmation Camp will be at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center July 9-14, with our neighboring Lutheran congregations of the Andover Cluster.

Thank you, Faithtime Volunteers!

We could not do this ministry without these faithful shepherds! Most of the people on this list do more than one job, whether it is driving, leading music, or helping fill in where it is needed!



Drivers

Lynette Wildemuth
Jerry Klavohn
Mike Simosky
Pastor Matt/Pastor Laura

Meals and Snack

Betsy Brudos
Joy Sherbyn
Lisa Wayne

Lead Teachers, Assistants, and Table Talk Leaders

Meg Wildemuth/Chris Ahlstrand *(Busy Bubbles)*
Melinda Wildermuth/Jan VanKerrebroeck *(Cool Kids)*
Beth Nyland/Pastor Laura *(Maple Trees)*
Katie Curcuru Margi Ficken Cindy Higgins
Cherie Larimer Steve Morgan

Christmas Program

Kathy Heller Mike Eckwall

We also thank Tiffany Stees for her work as a lead teacher and Program Meals Coordinator during the first few months of Faithtime!

First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *"An Act of Love"* and faith response to the author Nancy Thayer on Thursday, April 20 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

May's book title is *"Becoming"* by Michelle Obama. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare. Hurry and pick up a copy today and begin reading this intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

FIRST MINISTRIES

Senior Recognition

Senior Recognition is right around the corner! If your child is a senior, please have them fill out the senior information sheet that was sent to them and return it in the enclosed envelope to Abbey Cathelyn by Sunday, April 30. Senior Recognition will be at the 9:30 service on May 14.

Spring Work Day

Come one, come all! We need your helping hands to spread mulch on Saturday, April 1 starting at 8 a.m. Donuts and coffee provided!

Carol Boyd's 90th Birthday

Please join us for a cake and punch reception to celebrate Carol Boyd's 90th birthday on Sunday, April 30 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room.

First Friends

Join us as we celebrate spring at First Friends, on Thursday, April 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Lunch will be Fried Chicken! Come, bring a friend or 2. *New price is \$7.* Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to reserve your spot.

Another Child Foundation Project Respond

Ukrainian refugees have been taking refuge in Romania and resources are scarce. This year First Lutheran members are being asked to provide for this relief effort.

Our commitment to providing for children is three fold:

1. Pray for the safety and provision for the children and families in Romania, Honduras and Guatemala
2. Provide *new* warm **hoodies** (*children sizes through adult medium*) and **blankets**, a collection box is located in the Fellowship Room.
3. Donate financially to Another Child Foundation to provide much needed humanitarian aid where needed most.

Our collection dates are through the middle of June, items can be donated anytime over the next few months. Contact Janet Larson or visit www.anotherchildfoundation.org. Information on upcoming mission team opportunities are also on the website! Trips to Honduras and Guatemala are available as well as the aid distribution to Romania.

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

It is Spring! We are excited to start spending more time outside this month. All preschool classes will be preparing for Easter and welcoming in the spring season this month with crafts, songs and activities. The 3-year-old class will be learning about their senses. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about what they can do to care for the environment. They will also complete their weather unit and share their families with each other through photos.

- **No School** ~ We will have Easter break from Friday, April 7–Monday, April 10. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 11.

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, April 5, 12 & 19 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will be using the Bible Study from the Lutheran magazine "Gather." All women are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible Study.

First Communion

Children will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 5 p.m. service. These young children have completed their study and preparation for this day by learning about Holy Communion, making their own banner, baking bread together and sharing a meal together. We gladly join with them at the Lord's Table.

Ellis Brown

Landon Dwyer

Ella Haverback

Lillian Rowold

Kane Stees

Britta Wildemuth

Council Highlights for March 13, 2023

- We discussed the disposal of the ping-pong tables.
- We talked about the repairs that may need to be done with our property claim.
- Compassion Sunday will be May 20-21.
- Pastor Laura gave us a review of the Annual Congregational Report.
- Approved funding requests for: Easter Sunday instrumentalists; Social Ministry for \$800 for Churches United of the Quad Cities and \$500 for Rebuilding Together Henry County.
- We got an update from the Vision Team. We also appreciate all of their dedication and work on this important project.
- Approved Lendol Calder and Kathy Nelson as voting members for Synod Assembly. We would love to send a 3rd voting member. Please reach out to Pastor Laura if you are interested.

February Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

February actual	\$29,673
February budget	\$33,825
YTD actual	\$88,468
YTD budget	\$93,950

Net Income Over Expenses:

February actual	\$23,381 deficit
February budget	\$18,817 deficit
YTD actual	\$6,349 deficit
YTD budget	\$1,703 deficit

Geneseo Community Choir and Children's Choir Invitation

The Community Choir of Geneseo will be celebrating their 15th anniversary this summer. The theme is "Perspective." The Community choir includes those entering 8th grade and older adults. They will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Wednesday, May 31 thru June 21 in the GHS concert hall. The performance is Wednesday, June 28 at 7 p.m. in the GHS concert hall.

Repertoire includes: "Blue Moon", "Crowded Table", "Amazing Grace" and "Choose Something Like a Star" (*featuring artist, Sharon Michaelson*). If you are interested in singing, please call Pam Edwards, the director at 309-944-6641 or email (*singplay53@gmail.com*) by May 12.

Students entering grades 4-7 are invited to sing in the Children's Choir. They will rehearse June 22, 23, 26, 27, 28 and will perform with the Community Choir on June 28. Registration forms are available through your Geneseo elementary and middle school choir instructors or contact Pam Edwards. The deadline to register is May 12.

Repertoire includes: "Brave", "Inscription of Hope" and "Under the Sea". Combined choirs will sing "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" and "Bandstand Boogie". More information is available on the Community Choir of Geneseo's FB page.

Save the Date!

VBS will be July 23-26, 2023!

Memorial Service & Reception for Bill Duncan

Memorial service and simple reception on Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. at First Lutheran Church for Bill Duncan, former resident of Geneseo, led by his son-in-law, Pastor Jeff Carlson, who grew up in and was ordained at First Lutheran. All are welcome.

Save the Date:

Trivia Night at First Lutheran Church

Friday ~ May 12, 2023

Proceeds will benefit ELCA World Hunger

Gather your team now -- Registration will open April 12!

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *nuts, seafood and poultry, fruit packed in 100% juice, whole grain cereal, low sodium soup, paper towels, dish soap, cleaners, band aids and Ziploc bags* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Did you know?

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is open: *Mondays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.* Food is distributed, and donations are gratefully accepted during business hours. The Clothing room is open to all residents of Geneseo and Atkinson on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The Food Pantry will be closed on Good Friday, April 7 and Memorial Day, May 29.





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 April 29 & 30 to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. 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
worship@firstgeneseo.org

Mary Jo Brummet
Parish Administrator
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Abbey Cathelyn
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Linda Bloomberg
Receptionist
receptionist@firstgeneseo.org

Jim Luikart, *Parish Accountant*
jluikart@firstgeneseo.org

Patsy Andress, *Financial Secretary*
financials@firstgeneseo.org

Charlene Daniels, *Custodian*
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

Larry Lord, *Livestream Technician*

Lori Schefsky, *Nursery Coordinator*

COUNCIL

Lance Camp—*President*
Lendol Calder—*Vice-President*
Kathy Heller—*Secretary*
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*

Jeff Boyer, Mike Eckwall,
Cindy Groene, Jill Laingen,
Lorrie Lord, John Peters,
Linda Sheley

Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, April 17
Ministries — Monday, April 17
Council — Monday, April 24

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

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