

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

April 2024
Volume 63, 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.

**Mission Endowment
Fundraiser Kickoff Dinner:**
*Celebrating a Proud Past,
Preparing for a Faithful Future*

*Sunday, April 28 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Room*

Our evening includes:

- Catered Dinner featuring a choice of two entrees
- Learn more about the Mission Endowment Fund and our multi-year fundraising campaign in honor of the upcoming 170th anniversary of First Lutheran Church

The whole congregation is invited and welcome.
Pizza and a movie will be available for younger children.

RSVP by scanning the QR code below or call the church office by Thursday, April 18



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

April always brings Easter celebrations. This year, in the month of April we will celebrate the second, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Easter. When you go to the greeting card section of the drugstore, a sign will remind you “Easter is March 31” so that you don’t forget to spend your money by then. On April 1, everything Easter-related will go on sale. But in the church, our celebration continues for seven weeks. We will celebrate Easter this year through May 12, hearing the resurrection stories and proclaiming “Alleluia” each week until then.

Our Faithtime kids learn in their Godly Play lessons during the Easter season about Knowing Jesus in a New Way – the resurrected Jesus is still fully human and fully divine, but in a brand-new way. Our Gospel stories throughout the season of Easter include resurrection stories from the Gospels of John and Luke, and two of Jesus’s “I am” sayings from John’s Gospel. We learn more about who Jesus is, and in turn learn more about our God, by listening closely to what Jesus says and does in these passages.

The month of April brings the conclusion of our Faithtime program year. Our 5th grade students will have the opportunity to learn more about the Fruit of the Spirit as they mark the end of their Faithtime years and prepare for middle school and their Quest time. The whole congregation is welcome to join us for our final Faithtime Dinner of the year – now scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 (details on page 6).

The end of April will be the middle of the Easter season, and there is no better time than right in the middle of the season in which we celebrate new life to think about the future for which God is preparing us as a congregation.

After 168 years of ministry, what new life might be waiting for First Lutheran? We will gather on the evening of Sunday, April 28 to celebrate our proud past and prepare for a faithful future. The Mission Endowment Committee hosts this event as the kickoff to a multi-year fundraising effort, in honor of the upcoming 170th anniversary of the congregation. A gift to the Mission Endowment Fund will generate income for decades to come that can be used by the congregation to support a variety of ministry efforts. A gift to the Mission Endowment Fund is a wonderful and meaningful way to memorialize loved ones, honor those who have taught you about Jesus, and declare your trust in the future of this congregation’s ministry. You can learn more about the Fund and how you can support it at the dinner!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He brings new life to you, and me, and the whole church – indeed, the whole world! I pray that as the weeks go on, and as the lilies and daffodils and hyacinths of our Easter garden lose their petals, that their sweet fragrance will linger. When you smell the sweetness in the air, may you be reminded of Jesus’s resurrection, and may you be courageous enough to whisper, or even shout, “Alleluia!”

—Pastor Laura

April 6 & 7, 2024

Easter 2

This weekend's texts include Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1—2:2 and John 20:19-31.

April 13 & 14, 2024

Easter 3

This weekend's texts include Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48.

April 20 & 21, 2024

Easter 4 | Good Shepherd Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18.

April 27 & 28, 2024

Easter 5 | Rogation Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8.

Good Shepherd Weekend

April 21 & 22

Good Shepherd Weekend is an opportunity for congregations across the state to learn about and support the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. This year, Andrea McClean, a Resource Specialist from the Moline foster care office, will join us to share a Temple Talk. You will be invited to make a gift to support the work of LSSI.

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 27 & 28.

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*), Brandon Sandoval, Christopher Unrath, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Rev. Michael Burk 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. 10).

Health and Wellbeing: Carol Boyd, Carol Hulting Breczinski (*Gail Hutchinson's sister*), Ashlyn and Olivia Dalsanto (*Kathy Nelson's friends' twin daughters*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Mike Erdman (*Kim Sefton's friends' brother*), Robbie Gilmore (*Patsy Andress's nephew*), Amy Korth (*Kim Sefton's cousin*), Troy Kuethe, Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Cheryl Tracey Specht (*Mike & Ethel Pries's family friend*) and Gladys Swanson.

Joys: On the births of Kamryn Danielle Serrano, daughter of Sydney & Daniel Serrano and granddaughter of Greg & Connie Dykema; Franklin James Holmstrom, son of Shane & Addyson Holmstrom and grandson of Tim Holmstrom; Estelle Reyburn, daughter of Andy & Lydia Reyburn, and granddaughter of Jim & Yvonne Wayne; and Emersyn Lillian-Rose McKee, daughter of Kyle & Kayla McKee.

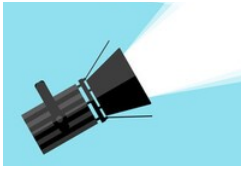
Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Leroy Brudos, father of Dan Brudos; Sienna Marie Reyburn, daughter of Andy & Lydia Reyburn; Greta Nordstrom, member; Mary Piper, sister of Judy Carbiener; and Connie Helms, mother-in-law of Kim Sefton's friend.

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



Spotlight On...Sunday Fellowship

Each month, we highlight an area of volunteer ministry that has “openings” for additional volunteers. This month, our focus is Sunday morning Fellowship. Those currently serving in this way share their experiences:

Shelly Kauzlarich has been working in the church kitchen for at least 25 years. She started cooking meals for Vacation Bible School and Confirmation, then was on a Faithtime Meal team, and now serves Sunday morning Fellowship every couple months.

Sam & Erin Marshall and **Jenn & Tony Stoeger** are more recent recruits. They have volunteered to serve on a Fellowship Team for about a year, give or take a bit.

1. Why did you decide to volunteer for this ministry? Or, why did you say “yes” when you were asked to serve?

Shelly: I love to cook and serve meals so how could I say no?! It is something I enjoy doing and makes me feel good.

Sam & Erin: Betsy Brudos asked us if we wanted to help. Since we were fairly new to the church we wanted to meet more church members. We’ve met so many people this way! Betsy and Dan helped teach us the ropes so it wasn’t intimidating at all.

Jenn: We said yes because we enjoy fellowship. Fellowship helped us quickly get to know people when we first started going to First Lutheran.

2. What might you say to encourage someone who is considering joining the team?

Shelly: Just do it! It is a fun time and you feel the love and appreciation from all you serve.

Sam & Erin: It’s not a significant time commitment - only once every 4-6 weeks. Since we are typically Saturday night church attendees, it allows us to see/visit with people we don’t get to normally see on Sunday mornings.

Jenn: First Lutheran is a kind place to volunteer.

3. How is your faith strengthened by your work in this ministry?

Sam & Erin: Getting to talk with your fellow church members and learning more about one another has strengthened relationships with each other.

Jenn: For me, my faith is strengthened when I serve others.

4. How do you get to participate in the work of “Sharing Christ’s Love” by serving in this way?

Shelly: I see the smiles and the appreciation on all those I serve. I know I am touching them in a special way.

Sam & Erin: We get to participate in an act of service, plus help to foster additional fellowship after worship.

Jenn: One way Jesus showed love and compassion was to feed his followers which is what we do (on a much smaller scale) with Fellowship.

5. What do you like best about this work?

Shelly: Again the smiles and appreciation shown from the simple gesture I do.

Sam & Erin: Connecting with other church members. Sampling all of Jenn’s yummy baked goods is also a bonus!

Jenn: I enjoy our crew and I enjoy baking.

If you are interested in serving Sunday morning fellowship, contact Pastor Laura.

Faithtime Kids (Wednesdays Afterschool)

The season of Easter extends the experience of Easter Sunday for six weeks, but it also helps prepare for the coming of the Mystery of Pentecost. This period is a transition between Jesus' earthly ministry and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time when the disciples and others began to know Jesus in a new way. He is neither simply human nor simply spiritual. He is completely both in a way that is anything but simple.

(The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 8)

April 3 *Knowing Jesus in a New Way*

April 10 *Knowing Jesus in a New Way*

April 17 Last Day of Faithtime

Faithtime Meal at 5 p.m. ~ Cookout (Burgers and sides)

FIRST MINISTRIES



Milestones Ministry: 5th Grade ~ The Fruit of the Spirit

Fifth-grade students are invited to explore *The Fruit of the Spirit* and how it relates to their transition to middle school on Wednesday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m. We will celebrate the knowledge that they have gained in worship on Sunday, April 21.

First Communicants

Congratulations to the following children who completed First Communion instruction and received their Communion Milestone on Maundy Thursday, March 28:

Houston Anselmi

Amelia Runty

Harper Brock

Gwendolyn Simosky

Ian McCarty

Wyatt Wirth

Charlie Reed

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

Mike Simosky

Erin Vorac

Pastor Matt/Pastor Laura

Meals and Snack

Betsy Brudos

Joy Sherbeyn

Alice Marshall

Lead Teachers, Assistants, and Table Talk Leaders

Meg Wildemuth/Chris Ahlstrand/Violet Runty (*Grades K-1*)

Jan VanKerrebroeck/Madison Kuethe (*Grades 2-3*)

Karen Clark/Melinda Wildermuth (*Grades 4-5*)

Beth Nyland - Quest (*Grade 6*)

Steve Morgan Cherie Larimer Katie Curcuru

Cindy Higgins Misty Slaymaker

FIRST MINISTRIES

Fiber Arts at First

All fiber crafters are welcome at the April Fiber Arts at First meet up on Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. in Grace Place. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needleworking—any yarn or fiber-based craft—with you and we'll make progress on our projects together and even help each other out when we get stuck! Every level of skill is welcome as we experience the warmth of fellowship and weave together strands of new friendship and creativity. For more information contact Anne Calder at 309-230-9526 or annecalder@gmail.com.

First Lutheran Preschool

It is Spring! The 3-year-old class will continue talking about their families, themselves and their senses. They'll also plant seeds in a bag and place them in our window so we can observe their growth. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about what they can do to care for the environment. They will also begin their weather unit, will observe and predict the weather and conduct several weather experiments.

- **Reminder** – Easter Break will be Friday, March 29 - Monday, April 1. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 2.

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Our congregation is seeking voting members for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, which will be held June 14 -15, 2024 at Augustana College in Rock Island. In addition to regular assembly business of passing a budget, electing Synod leaders, and amending the Synod constitution, Bishop Stacie Fidler will continue leading the Synod's work under the theme "Open God's Story." If you are interested in serving, contact Pastor Laura.

Faithtime Meal

Our last Faithtime Meal is on Wednesday, April 17. We are having a cookout featuring burgers, hot dogs with sides and birthday cupcakes for dessert! We will celebrate April birthdays. The meal is served from 5-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

Council Highlights for March 25, 2024

- We received feedback from a member of the congregation regarding the Midweek Lenten Worship schedule, which will be carefully considered as we make plans for Lent 2025.
- After much discussion, we did not accept the proposal from Girl Scout Troop 2499 to place compost bins at the church.
- Renae Shannon and Cindy Groene will begin terms on the Personnel Committee.
- Council approved the following measures:
(1) \$1,000 from Social Ministry for Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center
(2) funding for Melinda Wildermuth to attend the Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America Festival

- (3) funding for Pastor Laura to attend a personal retreat at LOMC
- (4) entering a 60-month lease for a copier with Gordon Flesch Company.

February Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

February actual	\$42,543
February budget	\$36,108
YTD actual	\$125,469
YTD budget	\$111,317

Net Income Over Expenses:

February actual	\$1,937 deficit
February budget	\$20,329 deficit
YTD actual	\$21,729 surplus
YTD budget	\$7,884 surplus

A Note of Thanks

With a heartfelt heart, wish to thank Pastors Laura & Matt and Vandemore Funeral Home for assisting me and family with Dan's funeral service. Visitation and service was beautiful and comforting. Thank you Melinda and choir members for the beautiful music. Appreciate the funeral lunch committee for a wonderful lunch. I'm blessed with the First Lutheran family for all the memorials, flowers, cards, condolences in person and through Vandemore tribute wall. It was a comfort for myself, Michelle's family and our extended family members.

God Bless Everyone,
Patsy Andress and Family

Thank you for the MANY Valentines cards and treats sent to my mom, Greta Nordstrom. Your kindness is appreciated. She loves her 1st Lutheran friends.

—*Sonja Nordstrom*

Chili Cook-Off Winners!

Our March 10th Chili Cook-Off was an amazing success! Thank you to everyone who attended and a very special **thank you** to our 7 chili participants!

Winners were:

1st Place – Linda Bloomberg

2nd Place – Eric Sefton

3rd Place – Lendol Calder

FIRST MINISTRIES



Civic Life and Faith: A New Social Statement

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is currently in the middle of the 6-year process of developing a new Social Statement. Currently, the ELCA has 13 Social Statements on a wide variety of topics, including Abortion, Caring for Creation, Education, Genetics, and Race, ethnicity, and culture. They can all be accessed at www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-and-Society, or by asking Pastor Laura or a member of our congregation's Social Ministry team.

From elca.org: "ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly."

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement on Church, State and Civic Participation. In December 2023, the draft Social Statement was published, and now is the draft response period. Members of ELCA communities have until September 30 to read the draft and submit feedback to the Task Force via a survey. The draft Social Statement and a link to the survey can be found at elca.org/civicsandfaith, or printed copies are available at our Resource Center.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Dress For Success

First Lutheran's Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a collection of professional clothing for women for Dress for Success Quad Cities on April 13 & 14. This organization empowers women facing life challenges and seeking to enter the workforce by not only providing them with interview and work-appropriate attire but also by providing encouragement through building confidence, networking and workplace-related support to help women thrive in work and in life. Attire needed includes professional tops and bottoms, suits, dresses, casual clothing (*dressy jeans, cardigans, etc.*), shoes & accessories. Please ensure all donated clothing is in very good condition and contemporary in style. Bring your freshly laundered clothing in shopping bags or boxes and place them on the display table in the Fellowship Room when you come to worship on April 13 & 14.

- Please no children's clothing or undergarments. Most urgent needs are large, XL, and plus size clothing and closed toed shoes.

First Friends

Join us as we celebrate spring at First Friends, on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Menu will be chicken casserole, salad, vegetable and dessert. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to reserve your spot. All are welcome. Come, bring a friend, or 2, and enjoy a meal with old and new friends!

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, April 3, 10 & 17 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, April 24 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, "*Gather*" for our study guide. All women are welcome to join us!

First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *Murder Inside the Beltway* and faith response to the author Margaret Truman on Thursday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Rosalie Curzon, a Washington, D.C., call girl, is found bludgeoned to death in her Adams-Morgan apartment. At the murder scene a video camera is discovered nestled high on a bookshelf. Had the victim taped some of her clients during their sexual liaisons? As the investigation proceeds, so does business inside the Beltway. President Burton Pyle is heatedly running for reelection against consummate politician Robert Colgate, who is expected to win. Colgate, though, is not without cracks in his slick exterior: Rumors swirl about his failing marriage and various dalliances. But no one is prepared for the explosive development that erupts when the daughter of Colgate's closest friend is kidnapped and Detective Mary Hall and rookie cop Matthew Jackson uncover a shocking connection between the abduction, the Curzon case—and a killer no one will see coming. Hurry and pick up a copy at the library and enjoy reading this capital crimes novel!

- May's book title will be *The Stationery Shop of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali.

An Invitation for Your Congregation

The LSTC Learning Communities offer no-cost theological education programs via Zoom designed to enhance lay theological education, enrich parish learning programs, and foster a stronger relationship between the seminary and its constituent congregations.

Liturgy and the Natural World

Join LSTC faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart for an inspiring 4-part series on nature and liturgy. Reimagine communal liturgies and daily rituals as you explore the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies. Sunday sessions begin April 7, and Wednesday sessions begin April 10.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped spruce the grounds and spread mulch. Your work is truly appreciated.

—Maurie Nelson
Building & Property

Geneseo Breast Cancer Support Group

We would like to welcome anyone who is currently in their breast cancer journey or is a breast cancer survivor to attend our Breast Cancer Support Group (BCSG) dinner meeting on April 15 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Please contact one of us if you have interest in attending. Thank you!

Pam Martens: 309-507-1201
Chris Ward: 563-529-4515
Dee Menendez: 309-945-2555

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *Jell-O, pudding, cake mixes, hamburger helper, chunky soup, cleaners, hygiene products, paper towels, dish soap, and Kleenex* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Here's an easy way to make a difference for those in need!

The Food Pantry has a charity wish list of items currently needed on Amazon. You can even choose to have the item(s) shipped directly to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry, 620 W Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254. Thank you for your support!

Visit [this site](#) to visit our Amazon Charity list.



FIRST MINISTRIES

HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Women's Topic: "Foot Care"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Thursday, April 25 from noon — 1 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$10. Reservations for either of these programs may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.

Upcoming Men's Topic: "Chair Yoga"

Men's Health Program will be held at Hammond-Henry Hospital in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, May 1 from 7 to 8 a.m. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room.



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

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 91
Geneseo, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of April 6 & 7 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
mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

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

Linda Bloomberg
Receptionist
receptionist@firstgeneseo.org

Patricia Amble, *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*

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 — April 8
Ministries — April 8
Council — April 15

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
TUESDAY, APRIL 9

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