

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

*Sharing Christ's Love*

February 2022  
Volume 61, Issue 2  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

## *Celebrate Mardi Gras at First!*



*Transfiguration Weekend*

*February 26 & 27, 2022*

The "River City Six" returns to raise the roof with their toe-tapping, hand-clapping Dixieland Jazz music on Sunday.

### Weekend Schedule

Saturday Informal Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Jazz Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast at 10:45 a.m.

Join us for a fabulous Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Room immediately following the service on Sunday morning! Breakfast includes 3 delicious pancakes, bacon and/or sausage and a drink!

Featuring live music from "River City Six" ~ *Cost: Kids 10 and under \$2 ~ Adults \$5*

Proceeds benefit the youth attending the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis!

## Souper Bowl of Caring



For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring has been driving grassroots efforts using the energy of the Big Game to illustrate the collective impact of tackling hunger locally. Each year, churches, schools, and civic groups around the country join us and host food and fundraising campaigns that benefit charities in their own neighborhoods. Since 1990, over \$163 million has been raised for almost 10,000 local charities around the nation and the world.

This year, all food and monetary donations will go to River Bend Food Bank. River Bend Food Bank is a non-profit organization that collects and distributes food to hunger relief charities in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. Over the weekend of February 12 & 13, bring food offerings (*canned and dry goods*) to put in the team-themed carts in the Fellowship Room. We will also be collecting monetary donations in the football helmets during the offering. *Let's Tackle Hunger!*

# Love is in the Air

Being a somewhat recently married man (12 years), and since it's February, I think it is fitting to examine and investigate this upcoming saint's day of St. Valentine. St. Valentine, according to Wikipedia (*a reliable source*), was not just one person in the life of the church, but maybe several. The origin of Valentine, and how many Valentines there were, remains somewhat a mystery. Probably the best evidence of whom Valentine was comes from historians who hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius and eventually was beaten and executed around February 14, 296 for trying to convert the Emperor and his court to Christianity. In 496, two hundred years later, Pope Gelasius marked February 14<sup>th</sup> as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. Whoever Valentine was, he was truly a bold witness to the faith.

What makes St. Valentine the patron of love comes from legend of him marrying young Christians when Christianity was still viewed in the Roman world as rebellious to the Roman cult of the emperor. Is St. Valentine's Day about romantic love? Well, not really. Even though legend has it that St. Valentine married young Christians, and Valentine's Day is a day in which love between couples is celebrated, we forget that he stood up for his faith and love in Christ Jesus. This was in defiance to an oppressive powerful force that sought to undermine a message of hope, redemption, and love. We forget that love calls and invites us to sometimes do things which might lead us into danger. Valentine, like so many others, gave his life up for the love he came to know in Jesus Christ. A love that he shared with others who were seeking to be bound in love.

As Valentine's Day comes around in the middle of this month remind yourself of the witness of St. Valentine who stood up for love in a time that was difficult to do so. Valentine stood up for the love that he came to know in Christ Jesus, which is a love that is patient; and kind; which is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends (*1 Corinthians 13*).

And as you celebrate the love you share with your loved ones, always know that you are so very loved by the One who has brought us all into life, redeemed and forgiven us for all time, and promises to be with us till the end of time inviting us to stand up for love in Jesus' name. Happy St. Valentine's Day!

—Pastor Matt

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## February 5 & 6, 2022

### **Epiphany 5**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11.

## February 12 & 13, 2022

### **Epiphany 6/Souper Bowl of Caring**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 and Luke 6:17-26.

## February 19 & 20, 2022

### **Epiphany 7**

This weekend's texts include Genesis 45:3-11, 15, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 and Luke 6:27-38.

## February 26 & 27, 2022

### **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

This weekend's texts include Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 and Luke 9:28-36.

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to all who help make this Advent and Christmas Season special; all the worship assistants, musicians, altar guild, congregation families, and the Worship & Music Ministry! You are truly a blessing to me, and this congregation.

—Morgan Sarber  
Director of Worship & Music

## **FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC**

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*Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:*

**World and Community:** For the people of Afghanistan. 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 Josh Francis (*Paul & Kay Terpening's nephew*), Raul Falcon (*Ted & Lanell Carpenter's neighbors' son*), Brian Hanshaw (*Jan & Steve Weber's son-in-law*), Geoffrey Lindesmith (*Austin Ross' friend*), Jessica Ruggles (*Scott Denys friend's daughter*), Brandon Sandoval, Brian Sandoval, Christopher Unrath, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

**Church:** For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Jeff Clements. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Daniel Meiyen and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. Raja Socrates, 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, Tina \_\_\_\_\_ (*Paul & Kay Terpening's friend*), Lonnie Anderson (*Kathy Heller's brother*), Dan Andress, Lila Becker, Carol Boyd, Bruce Carmen (*Amanda Baumgardner's boyfriend*), Sue Chase, Quinn Collins (*Mike & Ethel Pries' granddaughter*), Marcia Green, Nancy Gustafson, Mike Lee (*Jacob Martin's uncle*), Les Matson (*Steve & Jodi Martin's friend*), Ann Esslinger McCarrell (*Steve Hawk's cousin*), Michelle Mustain, Lynn Schuler (*Laura Wayne's daughter*), Kim Sefton, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Charlotte Sperfslage (*Mel & Lila Becker's great granddaughter*), Janet Stees, Gladys Swanson, Chris Thurman and family (*Steve & Jodi Martin's friend*) and Tracey Vinavich (*Kathy Nelson's colleague*) and family.

**Joys:** On the birth of Finnegan Thomas Simosky, son of Matt & Tiffany Simosky and grandson of Michael & Paula Simosky. For snow to replenish the soil. —Janet Larson

**Thanksgiving:** For road crews, first responders and power lineman. —Janet Larson

**Sorrows:** On the death of Brody Iverson, nephew of Bill & Theresa Nelson.

*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 Matt at 703-505-9517.*

## **FIRST PRAYER**

## FIRST FAITHTIME MINISTRIES



### Faithtime Kids (Wednesdays Afterschool)

This month we are preparing for our "Poetry Café and Open Mic Night" Family Worship on February 16 at 6 p.m. The evening will feature poetry and special music about God's love.

#### All children Grades K-6

- 3:15-3:45 p.m. Check In, Snack & Table Talk
- 3:45-4:00 p.m. Whole Group Game
- 4:00-4:10 p.m. Opening in Sanctuary
- 4:10-5:30 p.m. Message, Music & Motion
- 5:30 p.m. Check Out in Sanctuary

#### February's schedule:

- February 2 — No Faithtime
- February 9 — *The Beatitudes*
- February 16 — *Joseph Feeds His Family*  
\*Family Worship at 6:15 p.m.
- February 23 — *Transfiguration*

### Faithtime Evening Meal

An evening meal is offered each week during Faithtime. The meal will be continuously served from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$2 per child ages 3 through 11, \$4 for ages 12 through adult, or \$15 per family. Everyone is invited to make Faithtime your mealtime! Following is a listing of our January meals:

- |             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| February 2  | No Faithtime/No Meal      |
| February 9  | Chicken & Mashed Potatoes |
| February 16 | Pizza                     |
| February 23 | Pulled Pork Sandwiches    |



### Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

We continue our exploration of the New Testament this month, as we discover how the early church began and how many of the challenges faced by the first Christians are similar to the challenges we face as disciples today.

- February 2 — *Acts*
- February 9 — *1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians*
- February 16 — *Family Worship*
- February 23 — *Letters*

### Synod Assembly Voting Members

Our congregation is seeking voting members for the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, which will be held Sunday, June 5 (*digital*); Sunday, June 12 (*digital*); and Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18, 2022 (*in-person at Augustana College in Rock Island*). In addition to regular assembly business of passing a budget, electing Synod leaders, and amending the Synod constitution, we will be electing a new Synod Bishop. If you are interested in serving, contact Pastor Laura.

### Did you notice?

Offering envelopes for 2022 have changed slightly. Each of our restricted funds is listed now. The last line is "Other," where you can include gifts for the Steeple Fund, World Hunger, LSSI, Disaster Response, the Food Pantry, or other designations. The final Capital Campaign has concluded; we encourage you to redirect those gifts to another fund. If you have any questions, you can contact Patsy Andress at [financials@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:financials@firstgeneseo.org)

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## Growing in Faith Together (GiFT)

This month, we will introduce a new model for Sunday morning faith formation after worship. Classes begin at 10:45 a.m. and conclude at 11:30 a.m. The first Sunday of each month, families will meet in the Fellowship Room for Family Sunday School. Family Sunday School will be designed for the entire family to come and sit together for an interactive Bible lesson. The lesson will be designed for families with children in preschool and elementary school. The others Sundays of the month, adults are invited to attend Bible Study with Pastor Laura in Conference Room A.

**February 6** – Family Sunday School: *Fishing for People*

**February 13** – Bible Study: *First Corinthians*

**February 20** – Bible Study: *First Corinthians*

**February 27** – No Bible Study ~ Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast!

## FIRST MINISTRIES



## Youth

Senior High youth will resume for Prayer and Ping Pong on Tuesday nights February 15 & 22 from 6-7 p.m. in the Youth Room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Come and join the fun!

## Thank You

Dear First Lutheran Church,  
Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your monetary donation to the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Your generosity will directly benefit the families and individuals served by the Food Pantry.

Thanks again for your kindness,  
—Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

### First Lutheran Preschool Registration

First Lutheran Preschool will begin enrolling for the 2022-23 school year in March. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2022. If you are interested in more information, would like a tour or would like to get on the registration list, please contact the preschool at 944-4306.

## First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *"The Four Winds"* and faith response to the author Kristin Hannah on Thursday, February 17 at 5 p.m. in Grace Place. March's book title is *"The Kurdish Bike"* by Alesa Lightbourne. *"Courageous teachers wanted to rebuild war-torn nation."* With her marriage over and life gone flat, Theresa Turner responds to an online ad, and lands at a school in Kurdish Iraq. Befriended by a widow in a nearby village, Theresa is embroiled in the joys and agonies of traditional Kurds, especially the women who survived Saddam's genocide only to be crippled by age-old restrictions, brutality and honor killings. Theresa's greatest challenge will be balancing respect for cultural values while trying to introduce more enlightened attitudes toward women -- at the same time seeking new spiritual dimensions within herself. Be sure to pick up your copy today and begin reading this novel of love, betrayal and redemption.

## FIRST MINISTRIES

### First Lutheran Preschool

Happy Valentine's Day! We'll be sharing our love and kindness with others this month by making valentines for our families, friends, and church member shut ins. The 3-year-old class will be working with the color pink and the heart shape. They will use beets to color paint and have a pajama day. The 4-year-old classes will be using the book "The Word Collector" by Peter Reynolds to learn how powerful their kind words are. They will use their kind words to design valentines. They will also be continuing their letter journey through books and projects.

### Valentine Cheer for our Shut-in's

Let's send some Valentines Day love and cheer with cards or messages to our shut-in members. Please drop your cards, letters or messages in the decorated box at the display in the Fellowship Room by Sunday, February 6. We have 10 shut-ins and a list of their names are available at the display.



### 2022 Church Council

**President:** Lance Camp

**Vice President:** Mike Eckwall

**Secretary:** Linda Sheley

**Parish Treasurer:** Mike Ficken

**Cabinet:** Lance Camp, Mike Eckwall, Linda Sheley, Mike Ficken, Kathy Heller, and Pastors Laura & Matt Kamprath.

**Members:** Jodi Barnhart, Lance Camp, Mike Eckwall, Mike Ficken, Gary Gesme, Kathy Heller, Jill Laingen, John Peters, Linda Sheley, Jacob Steffes, Phil Wildermuth and Pastors Laura & Matt Kamprath.

Please feel free to contact any of these members with any joys or concerns you may have about First Lutheran.

### A Special Note of Thanks!

Friends at First Lutheran,  
Thank you for Finn's Welcome basket! The onesie and book are wonderful and we are looking forward to some Sweet Peas! Hope to see the congregation soon and do Finn's baptism.

Thanks so much.

—Matt, Tiffany, Ben, Gwen  
& Finn Simosky

### Council Highlights for January 17, 2022

#### Old Business

- Approved Nursery Attendant position for 2022.
- Approved Livestream Technician position for 2022.

#### New Business.

- Approved funding request from Social Ministry for \$800 for Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center.

#### December Financial Report

##### General Fund Offering:

December actual	\$64,414
December budget	\$57,666
YTD actual	\$468,687
YTD budget	\$453,000

##### Net Income Over Expenses:

December actual	\$25,398 surplus
December budget	\$16,640 surplus
YTD actual	\$21,536 surplus
YTD budget	\$26,123 deficit



## A Special Note of Thanks!

*"Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds."*

*Hebrews 10:24*

The Community Christmas Dinner was an outpouring demonstration of love and good deeds. We served a delicious celebration meal to approximately 100 people, combined dine-in, delivery and curbside pickup. There were over 25 volunteers who prepared, served and made deliveries. This outpouring of service was a blessing to those being served and serving. God provided for this annual celebration in so many wonderful ways. Thank you to all who had a part in this celebration.

—Janet Larson

## Thank You

To all members of First Lutheran. Thank you for cards, phone calls, visits and to Social Ministry for the Daily Guidepost devotional book. May each and everyone have a Blessed New Year!

—Gladys Swanson

## Women's Ministry

### Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, February 2, 9 and 16 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

## FIRST MINISTRIES

# BLOOD DRIVE

[BLOODCENTER.ORG](http://BLOODCENTER.ORG)

## First Lutheran Church



Thursday, February 17th 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall, 114 E. Main Street, Geneseo, IL

**MASKS AND APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.**  
To schedule, please contact Nancy Cassens at:  
309-507-1684, [jncassens@gmail.com](mailto:jncassens@gmail.com).

DONORS GET THEIR CHOICE  
OF A ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
THEMED SHIRT OR A GIFT CARD!

Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.  
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 12/23/21  
Group Sponsor Code: 3872



## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *pizza sauce, pizza crust mix, coffee, juice, mandarin oranges, size 4, 5, and 6 diapers, Lysol disinfecting spray, gallon freezer bags, cold medicine, and mouthwash* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



**Did you know ...** We have expanded food options for our Food Pantry Guests! They now have three options to receive their food:

1. Visit during business hours (*Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9-noon and 1-4 p.m. and Friday 9-noon*)
2. Fill out a checklist at [geneseofoodpantry.org](http://geneseofoodpantry.org) and schedule a pickup time.
3. Make a Monday evening appointment through our website ([geneseofoodpantry.org](http://geneseofoodpantry.org)).

The third option is new, providing an opportunity for people who previously couldn't visit us during our regular business hours.



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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309-944-3196

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e-mail: first@firstgeneseo.org

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### STAFF DIRECTORY

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cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

**Melinda Wildermuth**  
*Staff Musician*

#### COUNCIL

Lance Camp—*President*  
Mike Eckwall—*Vice-President*  
Linda Sheley—*Secretary*  
Mike Ficken—*Treasurer*  
Jodi Barnhart, Gary Gesme,  
Kathy Heller, Jill Laingen,  
John Peters, Jacob Steffes,  
Phil Wildermuth

#### Meeting Schedule:

Cabinet — Monday, February 7  
Ministries — Monday, February 7  
Council — Monday, February 21

#### PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 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

**Morgan Sarber**  
Monday-Thursday

**Mary Jo Brummet**  
Monday-Thursday

**Abbey Cathelyn**  
Monday-Thursday

**Linda Bloomberg**  
Monday-Thursday, select hours