

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

July 2023  
Volume 62, Issue 7  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://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.

## “Water, Water, Everywhere”

**When: July 23-26**

**On Sunday, July 23, join us for a kickoff at the John & Carla Edwards Aquatic Center from 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

*Fun for the whole family!*

**Monday-Wednesday will be at First Lutheran from 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$10 per child**

**Who: Children pre-k (*must be 3 by June 1*) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (*entering 2023/24 school year*)**

*Registration deadline is July 1!*

## Youth Handbell Workshop July 22!

Children entering grades 3 through 12 are invited to attend a handbell worship with Glory Ringers on Saturday, July 22 at 2 p.m. We will learn basic techniques, work on songs, play games, eat snacks, and then present what we have learned at the 5:30 p.m. Worship service that evening. Registration forms are available at the Resource Center, by scanning the QR code, or at

<https://firstgeneseo.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/a067387f-73d3-4805-ab9b-5369fd6382a1>

Registration is due by July 15.



# Ministry Opportunities in the QC

In mid-June we gathered with Lutherans from all over our region (synod) in assembly to do the work of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) of which First Lutheran is a part. At the assembly this year, we passed a budget for 2024 and some resolutions, and we elected officers and committee members for the synod. The business that was conducted this year was pretty much par for the course. Those administrative tasks of the church are important and necessary and were done without any hindrances.

Now, I have always appreciated Synod Assembly not so much for those tasks, but rather for those stories of the church which come from people and places both known and unknown to me. Through worship, dialogue, and fellowship we connect to people and places both far away and nearby. We listen to perspectives which might challenge us and voice concerns and support when needed. We hear stories at Synod Assembly of how God's grace touches ordinary people's lives in really profound ways and how our giving impacts people all over the world.

One of the highlights of Synod Assembly this year for me came during Bishop Stacie Fidlar's report to the synod. During her report she introduced an exciting new opportunity for ministry between the Northern Illinois Synod and the Southeastern Iowa Synod with the Latino/a/e community right here in the Quad Cities. Bp. Fidlar welcomed the Rev. Jose Pilar Alvarez Carera to the stage to speak about this new ministry during her report and we heard his story.

Pr. Alvarez Carera will be serving as the pastor developer in two different congregations in the Quad Cities. He will be serving at one congregational new start in Davenport, Iowa at St. Mark Lutheran Church, and at Iglesia San Jose Obrero which meets at Trinity Lutheran

Church in Moline. In September of last year, Pastor Alvarez Carera, who had served as the president of the Guatemala Lutheran Church, moved to Davenport with his family. He was granted asylum after threats on his life due to his public advocacy for indigenous rights. It certainly was a highlight and a privilege to hear about his courageous journey of faith which led him here. He will be succeeding the Rev. Jose Cortez who is retiring after developing the ministry and serving at San Jose Obrero faithfully for the last 12 years.

In our work as pastors, we are always keeping our ears and eyes out for opportunities where this congregation can participate in ministry by helping our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. As we will certainly continue to hear more about this exciting new joint ministry and learn of their needs, may we be open to where God might be calling us to help and participate in this new venture. If you feel inclined to help now, please go to [nisynod.org/](http://nisynod.org/) give or send a check to the Northern Illinois Synod c/o Iglesia San Jose Obrero.

May God bless the Rev. Alvarez Carera, his family, and the ministries that he will be serving on both sides of the Mississippi. May God's Spirit continue to call on us to be part of the healing of this world which God so very loves whether it be in our little region of the world or somewhere far, far away. Amen.

—*Pastor Matt*

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July 1 & 2, 2023 ~ *Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July*

**Pentecost 5**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23 and Matthew 10:40-42.

July 8 & 9, 2023

**Pentecost 6**

This weekend's texts include Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:15-25a and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

July 15 & 16, 2023

**Pentecost 7**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

July 22 & 23, 2023

**Pentecost 8**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

July 29 & 30, 2023

**Pentecost 9**

This weekend's texts include 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

**“Pick Up Choir” Sunday, July 2!**

Children entering grade 3 through adults are invited to join the “*Pick Up Choir*” on Sunday, July 2. Rehearsal begins in the choir room at 8:30 a.m. and the choir will sing the anthem during the 9:30 a.m. service.

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**

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**Euphonium Quartet Sunday,  
July 16!**

Fab 4, a Euphonium Quartet including First Lutheran member Luke Larson will provide special music during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, July 16.

**90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Open House for  
Jenny Anderson**

Please join us for a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration honoring Jenny Anderson on Saturday, July 22 from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Cake and punch will be served. Public is invited.

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*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 and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 8).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Nancy Barnhart (*Chris Barnhart's mom*), Brant Betcher (*Jami Haser's friend*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Bob Groene, Andrew Lord (*Larry Lord's son*), Neil Marshall, Michelle Mustain, Mike Pries, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Marlee Stiener, Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*) and Laura Young (*Jami Haser's friend*).

**Joys:**

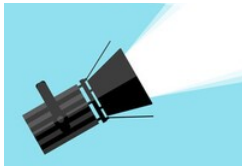
**Thanksgiving:**

**Sorrows:** On the deaths of Kay Terpening, member; Dean Olson, member; Ray Sterling, member; and Marjorie VanKerrebroeck, mother of Bob VanKerrebroeck and grandmother of Kate Reed.

*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 MINISTRIES



## Spotlight On...Glory Ringers

Each month, we highlight an area of volunteer ministry that has “openings” for additional volunteers. This month is Glory Ringers, our bell choir. Current volunteers share about their experience:

**Tricia Fuelling** has been ringing with the bell choir for about 12 years.

**Mark Schuler** joined the choir last fall.

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

**T:** I started ringing when asked by my mother-in-law, Mary. It was a chance to get involved in something musical and provided some “me time”. I had never really seen or heard a bell choir before I went to that first rehearsal!

**M:** I wanted to be more connected to our congregation (*livestream although very convenient with 2 small children, prevents this, in my opinion*). Music is also very important to me as an outlet for expression.

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

**T:** My knowledge of hymns has increased substantially, allowing me to connect more with my faith in that way. It provides a way to stay active and involved in church as well.

**M:** Simply by playing - growing up hearing the same songs and hymns, now being able to play them in a group, strengthens my faith. I also find comfort in the faith of the group.

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

**T:** Do it! I always say, if you can hold an ice cream cone and count to 4, you can play bells. Reading music is a plus, but many ringers don’t know how to read notes when they start. It’s accessible to all ability levels and a fun way to work your brain!

**M:** Don’t be shy! If you can read music, you can play!

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

**T:** Sharing music with the congregation is always a blessing. As a group, we are always helping others strengthen their skills and encouraging each other.

**M:** I feel Glory Ringers is a great way to use the gifts I’ve been blessed with to share with others.

5. What do you like best about this work?

**T:** It’s a fun musical outlet and is always allowing me to learn new things.

**M:** Perhaps the thought of setting an example for Chet and Hattie (*my children*) - that each of us has an opportunity to give in our own way that is Christ-driven. And, oh yeah, the music too!

Glory Ringers play for Sunday worship about once per month, September thru May, plus some special occasions, and rehearse on Thursday evenings during the program year.

**If you want to learn more**, contact Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship & Music, at 309-944-3196 or [worship@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:worship@firstgeneseo.org)

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *peanut butter, whole grain crackers, 100% fruit juice, milk, no salt added canned vegetables, Kleenex, laundry detergent, denture cleaner, food storage bags, and aluminum foil* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Another Opportunity** ~ The Clothing room needs blankets, towels and washcloths.



## Funeral Ministry

The Funeral Ministry is a service provided to First Lutheran families after the death of a loved one and allows family and friends to gather after the service to visit with each other and enjoy a simple meal. This ministry has been appreciated by many generations of First families and in spite of several changes through the years it continues as a vital part of the life of First Lutheran Church.

We are currently in need of some 'new' volunteers and to update our 'old' list. We especially need volunteers to provide homemade desserts, set up/take down tables and, on occasion, be available to prepare and serve at the luncheons. If we can add you to the 'new' list or if you would like to be removed from the 'old' list *please* email Betsy Brudos at [bdbrudos@gmail.com](mailto:bdbrudos@gmail.com) and indicate how you would like to help.

## Thank You

First Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your generosity.  
I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to know my hometown is behind me.  
Geneseo will always be home.

In Christ,  
*Emily VandeWiele*  
*Back 2 Back Ministries*

## Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for all your support for the cleaning supply drive. The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry was appreciative of all the items that were brought in!

—*Social Ministry*

## Save the Date!

First Lutheran Church would like to celebrate the milestone of a new school year with a blessing, mission work project, party, and yummy doughnuts! FLC will be offering blessings to students, educators, their keys, and backpacks during **Worship on Sunday, August 13**. More information will be in the August Chimes and on Facebook.

Our mission project on August 13 is packing School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The congregation is invited to pack the kits after the worship service at 10:45 a.m. Items for these kits will be collected in July and the first part of August. Following is a list of the items we need to complete our kits.

70-sheet spiral notebooks ( <i>no loose-leaf paper</i> )	blunt scissors
rulers	crayons ( <i>16 or 24 count</i> )
pencil sharpener	2 ½" erasers
Canvas bags ( <i>scan the QR Code to see the options for purchasing the bags</i> )	
Amazon gift cards to purchase items needed to complete the kits.	



**Scan the QR Code for instructions on how to make the bags!**

Each kit also contains #2 unsharpened pencils and black or blue ballpoint pens. We have enough of these to complete this year's kits.

- **Please Note** ~ Each school kit requires four 70-sheet spiral notebooks. Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office. Thank you for giving a child the supplies they need to have a great school year!

# FIRST MINISTRIES



## Nursery Coordinator Position Is Shifting

Beginning July 1, our Nursery Coordinator position is shifting from a paid position to a volunteer position. Lori Schefsky will remain in the position as the Nursery Coordinator, and continue doing the work she's been doing since the beginning of the year. Her position includes recruiting and scheduling volunteer Nursery Attendants, serving as a Nursery Attendant herself regularly (*about once per month*), and keeping the nursery tidy and safe.

Our Nursery, located on the first floor just off the Fellowship Room, is designed for children ages 0-2, and is staffed by volunteers on Sunday mornings during the worship hour. It is also open during other times, including Saturday evening worship, for families to use as needed. If you would like to learn more about being a Nursery Attendant, please contact Lori Schefsky at [tlztschef@gmail.com](mailto:tlztschef@gmail.com). Thank you, Lori, for all you do to support and care for the youngest members of our church family!

### Men's Softball Schedule

July 10	7 & 8:15 p.m.	Diamond 1
July 18	7 & 8:15 p.m.	Diamond 1
July 24	7 & 8:15 p.m.	Diamond 2
August 1	7 & 8:15 p.m.	Diamond 1
August 7-10	End of Season Tournament	

Check for rainouts after 5 o'clock on Facebook Geneseo Church Softball League Group page. Come to Richmond Hill and cheer the team on to victory!

### Faithtime Kids

Faithtime Kids is an afternoon and evening of "Sharing Christ's Love" through education, movement, music, and the arts. Faithtime will begin Wednesday, September 6. Programming is available each week for ages Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Activities are open to members and guests of First Lutheran Church. Watch your mail for information on our Wednesday night programming! Online registration will be emailed out on August 1. Contact Abbey Cathelyn for more information. Stay tuned for more information regarding children and youth activities!

## Council Highlights for June 19, 2023

- Approved the Vision Team Document. Council thanked the committee for all of their hard work.
- Approved updates to the Wedding Guidelines Policy.
- Approved funding request for \$600 from Music & Arts Fund for Community Service in the Park on 6/18 and \$400 from Faith Formation Fund for GBC Fellowship On Tap event.
- Approved updates to the Investment Strategy Document.
- Approved Sam's Club Visa card for Betsy Brudos for purchases made as a volunteer Meals Coordinator.

### May Financial Report

#### General Fund Offering:

May actual	\$36,824
May budge	\$33,825
YTD actual	\$214,899
YTD budget	\$201,225

#### Net Income Over Expenses:

May actual	\$2,224 deficit
May budget	\$3,981 deficit
YTD actual	\$5,790 surplus
YTD budget	\$12,109 deficit



## 2023 SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

*"And being so fed, we will lean into the grace and grit of our vocation to Be the Body, to live into the called life"*

### RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

**R-1: Growing in Faith: The diakonia Program for 2023**  
 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly and

**R-2: Memorialize Churchwide to Update the Social Statement on Abortion**

### ELECTIONS

#### Synod Council Offices

Vice President, Ms. Minnettee Willard

Treasurer, Ms. Lori Whalen

Secretary, Rev. Lu Cantrell

#### Synod Council

Ms. Katie Mehlretter, Mr. Alex Chenoweth, Ms. Christina King,  
 Ms. Rhonda Copeland, Mr. Brandon Graves, Rev. Joy Alsop

#### Congregational Life Committee

Ms. Kelly Van Fleet, Mr. Greg Bruner, Rev. Ryan Mackey

#### Global Missions Committee

Ms. Janet Larson, Mr. Mike Wadle, Rev. Janet Hunt

#### Ministry Support Committee

Dr. Randy Mullin, Rev. Karen Tews, Rev. David Russell

#### Outreach Committee

Ms. Lisa Gerloff-Banker, Rev. Robin Luckey

#### Social Ministry Committee

Ms. Donna Kelly, Mr. Paul Lockwood, Rev. Joanna Patterson,  
 Rev. Scott Ralston

#### Consultation Committee

Ms. Kearsti-Ray Knowles, Mr. Melvin Ehrler, Rev. Hope Johnson,  
 Rev. Zach Baer

#### Committee on Discipline

Ms. Grace Heimerdinger-Bakke, Mr. David Kromphardt,  
 Rev. Gwen Sefrhans-Murphy, Rev. Dr. Jon Pedersen

### SPECIAL GUESTS

**Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox**

Director of Nourishing Vocation Project through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community at St. Olaf College

**Rev. Peter Carlson Schattauer**

Assistant Director for the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community at St. Olaf College

**Mr. Nick Kiger**

ELCA Churchwide Representative, Director of Mission Support

### ACTIONS TAKEN

- passed the 2024 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- passed the 2023 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- passed both resolutions brought to the assembly
- elected several members to serve on Synod Council and committees.
- heard from Bishop Fidlar on new initiatives including a partnership with Southeastern Iowa Synod



NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD  
 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
 JUNE 16-17, 2023



**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 July 1 & 2 to benefit the Building Fund. 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

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

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

**Charlene Daniels, Custodian**  
cdaniels@firstgeneseo.org

**Larry Lord, Livestream Technician**

**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 — No meeting in July  
Ministries — No meeting in July  
*(May meet if desired)*  
Council — No meeting in July

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, JULY 11**

**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