

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHIMES

June 2023
Volume 62, Issue 6
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.

Community Worship Service in City Park

Sunday – June 18

First Lutheran will be hosting the Community Church Service on Father's Day Weekend! River City Six will provide music for worship on Sunday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Geneseo City Park Bandshell.

(Rain location will be at First Lutheran Church.)

We will have our regularly scheduled 5:30 p.m. service at First Lutheran on Saturday, June 17 but there will be no 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday.

Instead, come to the park at 10:30 a.m. and worship with our brothers and sisters in the community!

Fellowship ON TAP!

Congregational Life invites you to join us for a *Happy Hour* with Patrick Stebly of Geneseo Brewing Company. Enjoy a casual evening with others from our church at GBC on Tuesday, June 27! New brewer, Patrick Stebly (*member of FLC*) will give a tour and talk. Flatbread pizza appetizers will be provided but you are welcome to order food on your own. Come at 6 p.m. and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and an opportunity to connect with one another! Sign up at the Welcome Center or online if you plan to join us.



Signs of New Life

The city of Minneapolis has changed quite a bit since we were there in 2019 for the Festival of Homiletics. Matt and I have attended the Festival four times throughout our years in ministry, once in Atlanta, once in Denver, and now twice in Minneapolis. Last time we were there, in May 2019, the city was hopping. Downtown Minneapolis revolved around the Target corporate headquarters on Nicollet Avenue, which seemed to be a hub of activity at all hours. Restaurants and bars were busy all day – people grabbing a cup of coffee during morning rush hour or a power lunch at noon, and then from late afternoon to late evening, meeting for dinner and drinks and time with friends.

But in the past four years, things have changed. The first building we encountered as we entered the downtown area off the interstate, which happened to be across the street from Central Lutheran Church, was all boarded up. Matt asked, “Is that because of the riots?” and I said, “I don’t think so... they’re probably remodeling.”

But I was wrong. It was definitely because of the riots. The rioting has ended, but there are signs everywhere of the dis-ease that filled the city not so long ago. In addition to boarded up buildings, many stores and restaurants downtown now close at 6 p.m. People don’t come downtown to meet friends and relax. Corporations, including Target, are moving their headquarters out to the suburbs. Subsequently, restaurants and coffee shops are closing, since their customers are disappearing.

And yet, the people of Minneapolis are not giving up on their beloved city. The planters lining Nicollet Avenue were filled with flowers once again this spring, even in front of the boarded-up buildings. Central Lutheran Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, the venues for the Festival of

Homiletics, are in the city for good. If they had to board up their beautiful stained-glass windows, it was short-lived, and those boards are long gone.

My experience in the city made me realize two things: first of all, I am grateful for the peaceful, small-town life we have here in Geneseo. It’s quiet here, but quiet is not bad. Secondly, just like the signs of distress that linger in Minneapolis, there are signs of the distress of the pandemic that linger in our congregation. There are empty seats in our worship spaces that were once filled by the faithful, as glaringly obvious to those of us in church leadership as a boarded-up building in the middle of a metropolitan downtown.

And yet, there are signs of new life here, too. New faces have joined our family. We’ve celebrated baptisms and confirmations, first communions and weddings. Almost every weekend, we see people returning to worship for the first time since we shut down in-person worship three years ago. The congregational garden is planted and growing. We’re busy planning for Vacation Bible School and special summer worship opportunities. And God’s people are growing in faith and in love for God and neighbor.

If you haven’t yet returned to worship, or are struggling to get back to a regular rhythm of in-person weekend worship, I want you to know: we miss you when you’re gone, and we rejoice when you’re here because our family is more complete. When you are here, it’s a sign of the abundant life that Jesus brings us, a sign that the resurrection promise is being fulfilled. If you haven’t been to worship in a while, you might find when you come that some things have changed. What hasn’t changed is our commitment to follow Jesus and share his love with all.

—*Pastor Laura*

June 3 & 4, 2023

Holy Trinity

This weekend's texts include Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and Matthew 28:16-20.

June 10 & 11, 2023

Pentecost 2

This weekend's texts include Hosea 5:15-6:6; Romans 4:13-25 and Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

June 17 & 18, 2023

Pentecost 3/Happy Father's Day

This weekend's texts include Exodus 19:2-8a; Romans 5:1-8 and Matthew 9:35-10:8.

June 24 & 25, 2023

Pentecost 4

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 20:7-13; Romans 6:1b-11 and Matthew 10:24-39.

"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

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.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/a067387f-73d3-4805-ab9b-5369fd6382a1>

Registration is due by July 15.



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: Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Bob Groene, Michelle Mustain, Mike Pries, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Marlee Stiener and Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*).

Joys: We celebrate with the Fleming family (Adam, Heidi, Davian, Deklan, Danikka, and Dayla) as the adoptions are finalized! On the marriage Jacob & Kyleigh Hartman.

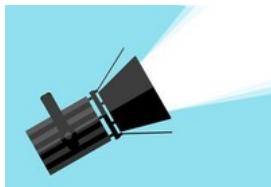
Thanksgiving: Steve Morgan is feeling much better and is very thankful for all the prayers.

Sorrows: On the death of Gary Johnson, 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



Spotlight On...Faithtime Kids Teachers

Each month, we highlight an area of volunteer ministry that has “openings” for additional volunteers. Current volunteers share about their experience:

Jan VanKerrebroeck is one of our more recent additions to the Faithtime Kids volunteer team. She writes:

“I noticed in the Chimes at some point this year that the program could use more volunteers to help with Faithtime. Because I am a retired teacher, what a perfect way for me to serve at Church and have fun at the same time! Lucky for me, Melinda Wildermuth was leading a large group of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders and could use a helper. What a great teacher and great group of Cool Kids! I have enjoyed getting to know all the kids who attend Faithtime, loved the Sanctuary Lessons led by Miss Abbey, the music with Mrs. Melinda and the fun activities planned each week. While the goal is to provide instruction for the children, the time spent there every week is rewarding for me and I leave happy that I am able to serve in this way.”

Meg Wildemuth has been teaching for many years, since her high school and middle school daughters were preschool/kindergarten age. She writes:

“I really enjoy the teaching aspect and in particular, love working with early education. Their little minds are like sponges, they remember the stories we share. They bring an excitement and energy to my week that is different than my professional work and helps me to see the world through a different lens. I love acting out Bible stories with the students and hearing their inputs to our storytelling. It’s refreshing to hear how kids see the stories, how they interpret them, how they shape them around their own small worlds. You get to see how much good and love there is in this world, especially when as adults, we are often bombarded with negative news... Our Faithtime ministry leadership does a great job of helping when you need it and giving you flexibility to run your own classroom and find the teaching styles that work best for you! There is a spot for every talent type, helping in a classroom, helping with other activities, bringing new talents and activities to the team!”

To learn more about the Faithtime Kids program and how you can volunteer to be a part of this ministry, contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, at 309-944-3196 or youth@firstgeneseo.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) News!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shares news about the work of the ministries of the ELCA and has resources available to members and congregations on their website <https://www.elca.org>

Periodically, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will issue a pastoral message or statement of topics of social interest. Her most recent statement was on anti-transgender legislation. Copies are available at the Resource Center for anyone interested.

- Social Ministry hopes to provide copies of Bishop Eaton’s future statements when they are accessible.

If you would like to have ELCA news sent to your personal email, you may subscribe at <https://community.elca.org/elca-email-subscriptions> and choose which topics are of interest to you or sign up for their monthly email newsletter. It is a great way to keep informed on the ministry of the ELCA worldwide church.

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, June 7, 14 & 21 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, June 28 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.

Families Celebrate Summer

Did you receive the Families Celebrate Summer cards at our Pentecost weekend? If you did ... we encourage you to take photos of your family trying the activities. Tag them on our Facebook page **#FamiliesCelebrateSummer** so others can see your journeys and adventures!

FIRST MINISTRIES



"Water, Water, Everywhere"

"Water, Water, Everywhere" VBS registration is live! Look for the link in your email or scan the QR code!



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.

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 fifth grade (*entering in 2023/24 school year*)

Please Note: *There will not be dinner served this year.*

Council Highlights for May 15, 2023

- We approved the Master Calendar/ Building Usage Policy.
- We approved the Scholarship Policy.
- We recommended changes to our by-laws based on the changes to the Scholarship Policy.
- We approved funding requests for the Geneseo Marriage and Family Counseling \$600, Cover Girls Quilting \$500, and Back 2 Back Ministries \$500.
- We discussed some of the recommendations from the Audit Committee and how we could implement them.
- We reviewed the Wedding Guideline Policy and Vision Team Document.

April Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

April actual	\$56,159
April budget	\$39,125
YTD actual	\$178,075
YTD budget	\$167,400

Net Income Over Expenses:

April actual	\$18,791 surplus
April budget	\$306 deficit
YTD actual	\$8,014 surplus
YTD budget	\$8,128 deficit

FIRST MINISTRIES



A Note from the Scholarship Committee

First Lutheran Church provides financial assistance to members of our congregation that are pursuing a college, graduate, or seminary education. This year, the scholarship committee awarded three scholarships to deserving applicants.

Jaci Bergles will begin her graduate work at The University of Illinois in Chicago this fall. She will be enrolled in a one-year social work master's program specializing in mental health. She currently works as a Program Therapist at the Eating Recovery Center in Northbrook, IL.

Alex Slaymaker will begin his undergraduate studies this fall at Central College to pursue a Data Science degree.

Emma Slaymaker will be entering her junior year at Cornell College where she is in the process of completing a double major in Environmental Sustainability and Justice and English, and a minor in Politics.

A Note of Thanks

I want to sincerely thank First Lutheran for awarding me the scholarship! The money will be so helpful in furthering my education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I will be graduating in May of 2024 with my master's in social work and will then be pursuing work as a therapist!

Thank you so much again for awarding me this scholarship, I'm extremely grateful to have such a close connection with First Lutheran. Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the years!

—*Jaci Bergles*

Thank You

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee and the church for the generous scholarship. I appreciate everything the church has done to support me. I am looking forward to continuing my education at Central College in Pella, IA. I plan to study Data Science, sing in the A Capella choir and play tennis on the Central team. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future brings.

*Thank you,
Alex Slaymaker*

Thank You

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for your generous award! I feel so blessed to be supported in so many ways by First Lutheran! I am so excited to be continuing school at Cornell College for my junior year this fall!

Emma Slaymaker

Diakonia Summer Sampler

Diakonia is an exciting opportunity which provides a spiritual journey to lay individuals who wish to become more involved in their church or who want to better understand their faith.

Diakonia meets once each week for two years during the school year (*September through April or early May*). Individuals are joined by other students and teaching pastors from around the Northern Illinois Synod to talk about the Bible, Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Lutheran Faith in the American Context, and other topics. Students are also given the opportunity to discern what spiritual gifts they might have to use in service to God's people. This course of study prepares students for the task of showing God's love in their workplaces, neighborhoods, families, and schools, as well as their local churches. Diakonia graduates are called to share the light of Christ in the world. Anyone who is looking for a deeper spiritual connection with Christ is encouraged to try diakonia.

If you're curious and want to try it out, a "summer sampler" is being offered soon! You are invited to join in a free 3-session study of "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr on Thursdays in July (July 6, 12, 20) from 6 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. Sign up by contacting Doug Wood at dwood1955@hotmail.com

**FIRST
MINISTRIES**



The Diakonia Program

Thank You

Thank you so much for the many cards and good conversation on my 90th birthday. I treasure all! Thanks to my family for planning and carrying out all the details. I am truly blessed to have so many caring families and friends!

—Carol Boyd

A Note of Thanks

First Lutheran Church Family,
Thank you so much for the book, onesie, and gift card. Big sister has already been reading it to her! And the gift card will surely come in handy! We can't wait to get back to church for everyone to meet her. Thanks again for thinking of us!

—The Cartons

Thank You from Pastor Laura

Thank you to all who participated in the First Lutheran Trivia Night! Thank you to Lance Camp for providing the clues and running the event. And thank you to Thrivent for providing the snacks and prizes with Thrivent Action Team funds. We raised \$822 for ELCA World Hunger.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *canned fruit with no added sugar, low sodium canned beans, canned tuna in water, whole grain tortillas, brown rice, toilet paper, Kleenex, dish soap, razors and shaving cream* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

• Another Opportunity

The Clothing room needs kitchen items, small appliances, bedding, towels and size 2XL and larger clothing. Items can be dropped off during business hours.





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Mark Your Calendar

The next *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of June 3 & 4 to benefit ELCA World Hunger. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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Charlene Daniels, *Custodian*
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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, May 8
Ministries — Monday, May 8
Council — Monday, May 15

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, JUNE 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

Melinda Wildermuth
Monday-Thursday

Mary Jo Brummet
Monday-Thursday

Abbey Cathelyn
Monday-Thursday

Linda Bloomberg
Monday-Thursday, select hours