



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

March 2023
Volume 62, Issue 3
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.



Lenten Gathering 2

“Hosting Angels”

Genesis 18:1-15

Sunday, March 5

Breakfast for Dinner — 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

Soup & Salad Lunch — Noon

*Featured Soups ~ Vegetable Beef
& Chicken Chili*

Lenten Gathering 3

“Fruit of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:16-26

Sunday, March 12

Pasta Dinner — 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15

Soup & Salad Lunch — Noon

*Featured Soups ~ Potato Ham
& Chicken Tortilla*

Lenten Gathering 4

“Manna and Quail”

Exodus 16:1-36

Wednesday, March 22

Soup & Salad Lunch — Noon

Featured Soups ~ Deer Chili & Taco

**Please Note:*

No Sunday Gathering on March 19

Lenten Gathering 5

“Breakfast on the Beach”

John 12:1-14

Sunday, March 26

Taco Dinner — 5 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

Soup & Salad Lunch — Noon

*Featured Soups ~ Broccoli Cheddar
& Chicken Rice*

Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet

Written By Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox

“Honor the space between no longer and not yet,” so writes author and life coach, Nancy Levin. We can probably all think of a host of experiences from our own lives in which we occupy the space between no longer and not yet. The space between no longer pre-pandemic life and not yet what will settle into post-pandemic life. The space between before and after a medical diagnosis, before and after living with a loss, before and after navigating a relationship change, a job change, a move. The space between childhood and adulthood, young adulthood and midlife, midlife and the autumn years. The space between yesterday and tomorrow, your comfort zone and uncharted territory. The space between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, “we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.”

But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here - present-tense, each and every day - calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us - over and over again.

One way that we can lean into and honor this space between no longer and not yet is to engage in spiritual practices that both invite us to be attentive to God's present-tense call and nourish God's relationship with us. This Lent, you are invited into the spiritual practice *vocare*, a practice designed to help you discover and embrace various ways that God calls you in everyday life so that even amid the not yet, you can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good.

From Pastor Laura:

We began this series on Ash Wednesday with a reminder of our shared, called, baptismal life. The series will culminate on Easter Sunday with the call to practice resurrection. Each week, we'll add a new guiding word of the *vocare* practice and practical ways to engage *vocare* in your personal life, your circle of relationships, and our congregation:

Called to Values (*Lent 1*)

Called to Openness (*Lent 2*)

Called by God (*Lent 3*)

Called to Attentiveness (*Lent 4*)

Called to Regret (*Lent 5*)

Called to Experience God's Presence (*Palm/Passion Sunday*)

Join us, as together we honor the space between the no longer and the not yet, and as we prepare ourselves for the joy of resurrection life and our world for the promises of God's kingdom come.

March 1, 2023

Lenten Gathering 1 at Noon

Today's text is John 6:1-14.

March 4 & 5, 2023

Lent 2

This weekend's texts include Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and John 3:1-17.

March 5 & 8, 2023

Lenten Gathering 2

Text is Genesis 18:1-15.

March 11 & 12, 2023

Lent 3

This weekend's texts include Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-42.

March 12 & 15, 2023

Lenten Gathering 3

Text is Galatians 5:16-26.

March 18 & 19, 2023

Lent 4

This weekend's texts include 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5: 8-14 and John 9:1-41.

March 22, 2023

Lenten Gathering 4 at Noon

Today's text is Exodus 16:1-36.

March 25 & 26, 2023

Lent 5

This weekend's texts include Ezekial 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11 and John 11:1-45.

March 26 & 29, 2023

Lenten Gathering 5

Text is John 21:1-14.

**FIRST
WORSHIP
& MUSIC**

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, Angie Boyer (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's daughter*), Capik family (*Abbey Cathelyn's friends*), Judi Denys, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Arvid Hagberg, Chris Hanover (*Deb Beyerlein's cousin*), Steve & Karen Harker (*Kathie DeJaeger's friends*), Martin Howard's mom (*Steve & Jodi Martin are friends with Martin*), Bob Lopez (*Steve & Jodi Martin's friend*), Michelle Mustain, Mike Pries, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*).

Joys:

Thanksgiving: For the "second family" that Kathie DeJaeger has found at the Senior Center in her community. She thanks FLC for our prayers and asks for continued prayers, as she has upcoming medical tests on April 3.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Kevin Polley, brother of Linda Bloomberg; Pastor Leandro da Silva. Leandro served as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil, and in 2002-2003, he served as an intern pastor here at First Lutheran; Michelle Wilson, mother of Katie Coppejans; Robert Bennett, father of Kristy Ross and Judy Nelson; and Maxine Wyffels, sister of Kathy Rogers.

**FIRST
PRAYER**

FIRST MINISTRIES



Easter Garden

We invite you to help decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers for Easter! Easter lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, or mums may be ordered in memory or honor of loved ones. The cost is \$18 for any variety. These flowers may be ordered by completing the form located in the pew racks or by calling the church office at 944-3196. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Our deadline is March 15. Names will be recognized in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9. You may take a plant of your choice home after the 10:30 a.m. Easter service.

Men's Lenten Breakfast

The Geneseo Ministerial Association is hosting the Men's Lenten Breakfast. All men are invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast at 7 a.m. each week on the following Saturday mornings during Lent. A free will donation will be collected to cover the cost of the meal.

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| March 4 | First Methodist Church |
| March 11 | <i>Week off ~ No Breakfast</i> |
| March 18 | First Presbyterian Church |
| March 25 | First Lutheran Church |

Maundy Thursday Noon Meal

During Holy Week, come and enjoy a warm meal in the Fellowship Room following the noon service on Maundy Thursday, April 6. The main entrée is Ham Balls with scalloped potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, dinner roll and dessert. To assist with planning, please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office at 944-3196. The deadline is Thursday, March 30.

Lenten Devotional

A devotional, *Feast On This: Table Talk for Families* is still available at the Resource Center. We are borrowing this devotional, with permission and with our thanks, from another ministry. Pick up a copy today!

First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the GMS Community Book: *Property of the Rebel Librarian* and faith response to the author Allison Varnes on Thursday, March 16 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

April's book is *An Act of Love* by Nancy Thayer. In their modest farmhouse in rural New England, Owen and Linda McFarland feel that they've found a little slice of heaven. Both previously divorced, they now have a second chance at a happy home with his son, Bruce, and her daughter, Emily. While the transition wasn't easy, Linda and Owen hope the newly blended family has put their troubles behind them. But they are mistaken. Bruce, seventeen, and Emily, fifteen, are enrolled together in an elite Massachusetts boarding school when bright, extroverted Emily attempts suicide, shocking the entire family. In recovery at the hospital, she makes a horrifying accusation that threatens to destroy the idyllic life Linda and Owen have worked so hard to build. With illusions laid bare, loyalties are tested and a family must learn to start anew. Hurry and pick up a copy today and begin reading this riveting novel!

Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

In February, our Godly Play stories focused on Parables. I hope you got to check out Facebook to see some of our work! During Lent, we move on to the stories titled “*Faces of Easter*.” These lessons help children to prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ’s journey toward the cross and resurrection.

All children Grades K-6

3:15-3:30 p.m. Arrival/Snack

3:30-4:00 p.m. Mixed age group activity (varies weekly)

March 1 Faces of Easter I/II (*Jesus’ Birth and Growth & Jesus is Lost and Found*)

March 8 FOE III/VI (*Jesus’ Baptism and Blessing by God & Jesus’ Desert and Discovery Experience*)

March 15 FOE V/VI (*Jesus as Healer and Parable-Maker & Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine*)

March 22 No Faithtime

March 29 FOE VII (*The One Who Was Easter & Still Is*)

**FIRST
MINISTRIES**



First Communion

Children currently in third grade will begin their First Communion preparation on Sunday, March 12 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. There will be a total of three classes and then children will receive their first Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6. Children must attend all preparation classes. If your child has not yet received First Communion and is interested, we welcome them to join us. Please contact Abbey Cathelyn if you have any questions.

March 12 First Communion Preparation

March 26 First Communion Preparation *Children will make celebration banners.*

April 2 First Communion Preparation *Children will work together to bake communion bread.*

April 6 Dinner Church and Celebration of First Communion

Confirmation (*7th & 8th graders*)

This month, as the season of Lent continues, we will meet on Sunday evenings for Lenten Gatherings. The whole family is invited to come on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. for a meal, scripture, and time of prayer. Each Confirmation family is asked to sign up to help prep, serve, and clean up for one of the meals. Wednesday class will resume on April 12.

Sunday, March 5 at 5 p.m. — Lenten Gathering 2: *Hosting Angel*
(*Breakfast for Dinner*)

Sunday, March 12 at 5 p.m. — Lenten Gathering 3: *Fruit of the Spirit*
(*Pasta Dinner*)

Sunday, March 19 — No Lenten Gathering on Sunday (*Spring Break week*)

Sunday, March 26 at 5 p.m. — Lenten Gathering 5: *Breakfast on the Beach*
(*Taco Dinner*)

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

The 3 year old class will be sharing about themselves and their families. They will have fun with the book “Roly-Poly Egg” by Kali Stileman. The morning class will enjoy game week with a focus is on following rules, taking turns and problem solving. The afternoon class will work on planning a vacation and will end the month with a beach day.

- **No School** ~ Spring break Monday, March 20–Friday, March 24. School will resume on Monday, March 27.

Table Tennis Tuesdays

Are you looking this winter season to get some exercise, release some stress, and have some fun? Join Pr. Matt in the Youth Room to play table tennis (*on a brand spanking new table!*) on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. Games will be a mix of doubles and singles played to eleven. Middle School age and up are welcome to play. The whole community is invited to join us.

Opportunities to Play:
March 7 & 28



Scholarship Guidelines and Applications

This opportunity is open for members who plan to continue their education following high school and renewal applications for current undergraduate students. Copies of the guidelines and application are available at the Resource Center. You can also receive an application by emailing youth@firstgeneseo.org. Applications are due March 11.

Council Highlights for February 20, 2023

New council members were introduced.

Old Business

- Approved depositing the check from Church Mutual and referred the issue to the Building & Property Ministry to provide further guidance.

New Business

- Approved funding requests from Social Ministry for \$1,000 for LOMC and \$1,000 for Braveheart Children’s Advocacy Center.
- Approved Bridgette Fitzpatrick to serve on the Preschool Board and Jim Spence to serve a 3-year term on the Audit Committee.
- Approved Easter Sunday services on April 9 at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- March & April meetings for Cabinet, Ministries and Council have been changed. See master calendar for dates.

- Ministry assignments for 2023:
Building & Property–Jeff Boyer
Congregational Life–Cindy Groene
Finance–Mike Ficken
Personnel–Lendol Calder
Social Ministry–Kathy Heller/Linda Sheley
Stewardship–Jill Laingen
Worship & Music–Mike Eckwall/Lorrie Lord

January Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

January actual	\$58,795
January budget	\$60,125
YTD actual	\$58,795
YTD budget	\$60,125

Net Income Over Expenses:

December actual	\$17,032 surplus
December budget	\$17,114 surplus
YTD actual	\$17,032 surplus
YTD budget	\$17,114 surplus

A Special Note of Thanks

Thanks to all the children who made me Valentine cards. They were beautiful! Thanks to the church members who took the time to sign and include cards in the large decorated sack given to me. Also, a big thank you for all the sweet treats and gifts in that sack, all were much appreciated. To Kathy Nelson for bringing all of the above to me at Liberty Village.

Many Thanks,
—Bev Carius

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, March 1, 8 & 15 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. in Grace Place. 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.

Thank You

Family & friends from First Lutheran. Sending you blessings with appreciation for all the gifts I received from you on Valentin's Day.

Thank you,
—Gladys Swanson

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.

—Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry

HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Men's Topic: "Arthritis"

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

Upcoming Women's Topic: "Genetic Testing"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on March 23 from noon — 1 p.m. Cost of the lunch is \$10 payable at the door.

Reservations for either of these programs may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email hhhfound@hammondhenry.com.

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *coffee, tortillas, canned fruit, juice, pasta, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, paper towels and diapers size 3, 4, 5 and 6* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

Other opportunities to help!

As the weather starts to warm up, the clothing room is especially in need of spring clothing, sheets, new women's underwear, and any clothing size 3XL or larger. The Food Pantry accepts any size clothing, accessories, kitchenware, decorations, books, games, toys, movies, and other household items.





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 March 4 & 5 to benefit Mission Endowment Fund. Bring your nickels and dimes!

STAFF DIRECTORY

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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
mkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Melinda Wildermuth
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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, March 6
Ministries — Monday, March 6
Council — Monday, March 13

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 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