

March 2024 Volume 63, Issue 3 www.firstgeneseo.org

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND! Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m. Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

# HOLY WEEK AT FIRST

## PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 23 & 24

Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Livestream Worship 10:45 a.m. DIY Mini Resurrection Garden

## SACRED SPACES - MARCH 26

Footwashing ~ 1:00-2:00 or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY - MARCH 28

Noon Worship 6:00 p.m. Worship ~ Dinner & Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar

## GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

6:00 p.m. Worship The Passion According to John

## EASTER VIGIL - MARCH 30

6:00 p.m. Worship We will gather by the fire, hear stories of faith, and celebrate Holy Baptism & Holy Communion

## EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31

8:30 a.m. ~ Contemporary Worship led by Joyful Praise
10:30 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship featuring Sanctuary Singers and Glory Ringers
Both 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Livestream Worship Easter Fellowship - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

## The Great Three Days

## A Word From Pastor Laura

Since the early days of the church, believers have come together for the most central part of the liturgical year, remembering and honoring the death and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We refer to this time in the church by a special name: Triduum, in Latin, or simply "The Three Days."

The Three Days encompass Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day, according to the notes in our hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Here at First Lutheran, our Worship pattern is shifted forward just a bit. We begin with Maundy Thursday Worship at Noon and conclude our Easter celebrations by Sunday at Noon. Through these 72 hours, we will have 6 opportunities for Worship.

Maundy Thursday is so named because of the new commandment that Jesus gave us to "love another ... as I have loved you" (John 13:34). The word for commandment in Latin is mandatum, from which our word Maundy comes. For our congregation, we also take the opportunity to welcome children to the Table after they have received instruction. For some children, this will be their First Communion, and for others, the classes are an opportunity for them to learn more about the sacrament they have already been receiving. In both cases, as children complete the class, we celebrate with them by giving them their Communion Milestone. As these sisters and brothers join the congregation at the Lord's Table, we pray that they know God's love deeply and can fulfill Jesus' commandment to share that love with one another.

Good Friday is "good" not because of how we feel about what happened, but because of the salvation that comes to us through Jesus' sacrificial act of love on the cross. The heart of Good Friday Worship is hearing the Passion story again. It's a story that we may know well already, but each year we experience the power of the cross anew as we listen. On the night before Easter dawn, Christians begin celebrating what we know will come with the first light on the horizon – the discovery of the empty tomb. The good news is so good that we can't wait until that dawn to gather and rejoice. The signs of fire and light, water and Word, and the first resurrection meal await us. Traditionally, this is a Worship service that could last for many, many hours. In our setting, we will rejoice loudly and boldly for a shorter time, and then gather again on Easter morning to rejoice again (and again).

I invite you to make the observance of the Three Days a part of your Worship life this year. Join us for one of the two opportunities offered on Maundy Thursday; again on Good Friday to hear the Passion story anew; and then for at least one of the three Resurrection celebrations on Saturday and Sunday.

-Pastor Laura

#### March 2 & 3, 2024 Lent 3

This weekend's texts include Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 2:13-22.

March 6, 2024 – Midweek 3, Noon Today's focus is Sarah.

#### March 9 & 10, 2024

#### Lent 4

This weekend's texts include Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21.

March 13, 2024 – Midweek 4, Noon

Today's focus is Ishmael.

#### March 16 & 17, 2024

#### Lent 5

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10 and John 12:20-33.

March 20, 2024 – Midweek 5, Noon

Today's focus is Isaac.

## March 23 & 24, 2024

Palm Sunday | Sunday of the Passion This weekend's texts include Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11 and Mark 14:1—15:47.

#### March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday, Noon & 6:00 p.m. Today's texts include Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

#### March 29, 2024

**Good Friday, 6:00 p.m.** Today's text is John 20:1-18.

#### March 30, 2024

Easter Vigil, 6:00 p.m. Today's text is John 20:1-18.

#### March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Today's texts include Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Mark 16:1-8.

#### 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.

Officers and First Responders. Church: For our bishops: Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Rev. Michael Burk and Rev. Stacie Fidlar. 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: Bill Bergles (*Ray Bergles's father*), Carol Boyd, Carol Hulting Breczinski (*Gail Hutchinson's sister*), Diana Crim (*Brian Burghgrave's sister*), Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Robbie Gilmore (*Patsy Andress's nephew*), Nola Klemmer (*Diane Lowe's cousin*), Kathy Nelson, Jackie Nystrom, Mary Piper (*Judy Carbiener's sister*), Ray Rogers, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*), Gladys Swanson and Laura Wayne.

Joys: On the births of Jack VanDeWostine, son of Logan & Gabe VanDeWostine and 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild of Mel Becker; and Harvey Peter Yager, son of Nathan & Margaret Yager and grandson of Pete & Tracy Yager. Thanksgiving:

Sorrows: On the deaths of Russ Josh, friend of Joe & Marcia Green; Mary Ann Girten, sister of Sandra Holmstrom; Dan Andress, member; David Rose, Kathy Nelson's cousin; and Jim Schnepple, Kathy Nelson'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 Worship & Music

FIRST

PRAYER

## First Ministries

#### Faithtime Kids (Wednesdays Afterschool)

We continue with "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.

March 6 Faces of Easter 5 & 6
March 13 Faces of Easter 7 Faithtime Meal at 5 p.m. - Chicken Noodle Soup & Sandwiches
March 20 No Faithtime - Spring Break
March 27 No Faithtime - Holy week



### Our QUEST: The Mysterious Meal

"This is Christ's body, given for you." "This is Christ's blood, shed for you." How weird! We go to the Lord's table and consume our Savior? What?! As we near the end of this year's QUEST for sixth graders, we're talking about the mysterious meal: HOLY COMMUNION.

We're looking forward to a visit with Darla Anderson from the Altar Guild. During last month's exploration of WORSHIP, the students were fascinated to stand around the altar with Pastor Matt, learning about the words of institution, the ritual of communion, and the special items the presiding minister uses to serve the meal. With Darla, we'll learn even more about what happens before and after the congregation gathers for communion.

#### Next: LAST SUPPER (SORT OF)

The first week of March, we'll finish our QUEST with a shared meal at Beth Nyland's house. The students will each prepare a dish to share—a way of serving and honoring one another and celebrating just how much we've learned and grown by asking QUESTions.



On Sunday, March 10, the QUEST participants will be recognized in worship for reaching this milestone in their faith development. Please congratulate these young people and encourage them as they prepare to enter the Confirmation program next year:

Lucas Fuelling, Kellan Knackstedt, Matthew Mullins, Reese Shannon, Hudson Vorac, James Winkleman, and Zania Sefton

#### Confirmation (7th & 8th graders)

Confirmation Classes conclude this month, as we finish our study of the New Testament. Through the spring and summer months, students will work on their service projects, complete their worship participation requirements, and have the opportunity to attend the Spring Retreat and summer camp at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. Our final two lessons are:

March 6 — Letters

March 13 – Revelation

#### FLC Youth

There will be no youth group during Lent.

## Fiber Arts at First Meet-Up

Join us in the joyful creation of our new Fiber Arts at First group! Whether you're a seasoned knitter, warming up to crochet, or an artist in other fiber-based crafts, we invite you to gather with us for a time of creativity, connection, and community. Our group aims to bring together individuals who share a passion for working with yarn and fabric, fostering friendships as we knit, crochet, embroider, and more. Come share your skills, learn from others, and experience the warmth of fellowship as we weave together threads of new friendship and creativity. All skill levels are welcome, so bring your needles, hooks, and favorite projects, and let's craft beautiful memories together! We will meet up on Sunday, March 3 at 10:45 a.m. (after morning worship) in Grace Place to see who's interested and what day/time would work best for the group. If you cannot join us on March 3, or would like more information, please email or call Anne Calder at 309-230-9526, anneecalder@gmail.com.

## Sacred Spaces

"Sacred Spaces" is a pastoral care opportunity to meet one-on-one with Pastor Laura. Two windows of time are offered – feel free to arrive anytime during those hours and leave after you are finished visiting and praying with Pastor Laura.

Sacred Spaces: Anointing for Healing Tuesday, March 5 1:00-2:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sacred Spaces: Footwashing Tuesday, March 26 1:00-2:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

## First MINISTRIES



## 2024 Men's Lenten Breakfasts

All men in the community are invited to come enjoy a delicious breakfast at 7 a.m. on the following Saturday mornings during Lent. A free-will donation is collected at each breakfast.

March 2	Grace United Methodist Church
March 9	Saint Malachy Church
March 16	Geneseo First Methodist Church

## Milestones Ministry: Come to the Table

First communion preparation continues this month and culminates on Maundy Thursday.

March 3 First Communion Preparation (Children will make celebration banners)

March 24 First Communion Preparation (Children will work together to bake communion bread)

March 28Maundy Thursday Dinner Church and Celebration of First CommunionDinner and church are open to all members and guests.

Menu: Chicken breast, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans with bacon & onion & dinner roll Cost: \$10 suggested donation per person

## Northern Illinois Synod's Racial Justice Training

#### Thursday, March 21 & Thursday, April 18

The Northern Illinois Synod's Racial Justice team is hosting a two-day training, here at First Lutheran. This training is open to anyone who desires to learn more about what can be done to combat racism in our world and our church. This is one faithful way we can live out the promises we make, when we affirm our baptism, to work for justice and peace. Each day, the training is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a break for lunch. Participants are expected to attend both days. First Lutheran will cover the registration cost for any from the congregation who wish to attend. Please contact Pastor Laura with questions or to get registered.

## First Ministries



#### Make and Take Mini Resurrection Garden

With Easter right around the corner, it will be the perfect time to create a mini resurrection garden! Creating this garden will give you a lasting memory of the true meaning of Easter. All ages are welcome to join us for this event on Sunday, March 24 from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person, and this includes all

the supplies to make the garden centerpiece. Scan the QR code below to sign up by March 15.



## Men's Ministry

Thanks to all those that helped host the first Geneseo Ministerial Association's Men's Lenten Breakfast this year. It was very successful with Lendol Calder as the program, and we served 76 men.

We have another opportunity to serve later this spring. Anyone interested in being a *"Road Warrior"* and help us clean up the stretch of Hwy 6 that First Lutheran has "adopted" contact Dan Brudos.

## First Lutheran Preschool

The 3 year old class will be sharing about themselves and their families. We'll share the book "The Roly-Poly Egg" and talk about how special we are to our families. The 4 year olds will enjoy game week with a focus on following rules, taking turns and problem solving. Both preschool classes will be preparing for Easter and welcoming in the spring season this month with crafts, songs and activities.

- Spring Break will be Monday, March 18 -Friday, March 22. School will resume on Monday, March 25.
- Easter Break will be Friday, March 29 Monday, April 1.

### Faithtime Meal

Our Faithtime Meal is on March 13, and will feature Chicken Noodle soup & sandwiches and birthday cupcakes! We will celebrate March birthdays. The meal is served from 5-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

## Council Highlights for February 19, 2024

• We welcomed new members to the Church Council: Julie Kunkel, Matt Simosky, Sam Marshall, and Jamian Haser.

• Council approved the following measures: (1) a Mission Endowment fund raiser kickoff set for April 28 (2) \$1,000 from Social Ministry for LOMC THEKA Camp (3) a Finance Ministry recommendation to pay Deb Spence for up to 3 months to serve as Interim Finance Secretary during Patsy Andress's absence (4) up to \$3,200 to update the passenger elevator to code from the Unbudgeted Projects Fund (5) money to cover the cost of lunches for the Luther College Nordic Choir from the Music & Arts Fund (6) a pay increase for custodian Charlene Daniels

• Council delegated Ministry assignments to Council members: Personnel Committee: Cindy Groene Finance: Mike Ficken, Matt Simosky Stewardship: Sam Marshall, Jamian Haser Social Ministry: Kathy Heller, Linda Sheley Worship & Music: Julie Kunkel, Lorrie Lord Outreach: None Christian Ed & Youth: None Spirituality & Wellness: None Building & Property: Jeff Boyer Congregational Life: Cindy Groene January Financial Report General Fund Offering: January actual \$82,926 January budget \$75,208 YTD actual \$82,926 YTD budget \$75,208 Net Income Over Expenses: January actual \$23,667 surplus January budget \$28,214 surplus YTD actual \$23,667 surplus YTD budget \$28,214 surplus

## First Book Club

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *City Spies (*Geneseo Middle School On the Same Page Community-Read) and faith response to the author James Ponti on Thursday, March 21 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Sara Martinez is a hacker. She recently broke into the New York City foster care system to expose her foster parents as cheats and lawbreakers. However, instead of being hailed as a hero, Sara finds herself facing years in juvenile detention and—even worse banned from using computers. Enter Mother, a British spy who offers her a way out of her current problem, and the chance to make a home for herself within a secret MI6 agency. Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When not attending the local boarding school, they're honing their unique skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. All of these allow them to go places in the world of espionage where adults can't. No one said saving the world was going to be easy. Pick up a copy at the Resource Center to read this middle-grade mystery-adventure spy novel and join our discussion!

## First MINISTRIES

#### Welcome Back Deb!

We welcome Deb Spence back to the position of Financial Secretary, temporarily, as she fills in for Patsy Andress while Patsy takes some time with her family. Deb will be checking the *finacials@firstgeneseo.org* email address until Patsy's return later in March. We are grateful for both Patsy and Deb, and their ministry.

#### Spring Work Day

Come one, come all! We need your helping hands to spread mulch on Saturday morning March 23 at 8 a.m. Donuts and coffee will be provided!

## Flannel & Friends Chili Cook-off Party!

Congregational Life will be hosting a *Flannel & Friends Chili Cook-off Party* on Sunday, March 10 from 4-6 p.m.

in the Fellowship Room. Wear your favorite flannel and bring your chili best if you wish to participate in our chili cook-off!



Otherwise, just come sample and vote for your favorite chili, roll your way to victory as we play Left Center Right, a fast-paced dice game, and enjoy a meal that includes chili, baked potato bar, hot dogs and ice cream sundaes for dessert! Invite your friends and join us for this fun-filled party for all ages!

#### 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.

Mark your calendar and join LSTC's Learning Communities

#### 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.

## FIRST 7 MINISTRIES

## Thank You!

We want to thank our church family for their overwhelming generosity! Our shut-ins were delighted to receive their Valentine gifts bags full of treats and messages of love.

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry was very appreciative of the 260 food donations that they received from our Souper Bowl of Caring. A big thank you to the students of Quest

for decorating the Chief's and 49ers grocery carts for us! In case you didn't hear, the winner of our food pantry donation vote was the *Kansas City Chiefs!* In addition, \$1,271 in monetary gifts to ELCA World Hunger is greatly needed to help those suffering from hunger. Thank you again for *Sharing Christ's Love* and being a blessing to so many!



—Social Ministry

### Watch Out for Scams

More and more congregations, including our own, are being targeted by scammers and phishing attacks. These emails or text messages often pretend they are a pastor or bishop and ask for private conversation, or the need to for a favor, or to purchase gift cards. These attacks are a phishing or spoofing scam. This means that the email account or phone number has probably NOT been hacked. Attackers are using an alternate email address or phone number and contacts found using A.I. software.

#### HOW TO AVOID OR STOP SCAMS

- 1. Check the email address or phone number that sent the message. Modern email programs often only display the name as a default and not the email address. The attackers use this to their advantage and create addresses with the real name but use a bogus email address, often using Gmail or Yahoo accounts. Text scammers will use area codes that are in the area you are in, claiming it is a new phone number.
- 2. Look for red flags in the tone and grammar of the email or text. Attackers will want to create a sense of urgency, to prey on your desire to help. They will often claim the bishop, pastor, or deacon needs something and is in a meeting, or needs to urgently have a private conversation. These emails will often contain misspellings, strange punctuation, or grammar that is just "off" a bit. Read messages with requests carefully.
- 3. Ask someone. Have someone else read the message for you to see if they notice anything weird. Call or email the church or synod office to check what the email address or phone number of person actually is.
- 4. Do not purchase gift cards or give out information. These scams often ask for the purchase of gift cards or want you to provide further information (for more scams). Never share information or make purchases from a text or email request without verifying information.
- 5. Report it. Report it to the person or leadership, the chances good that if you received a scam email or text, someone else did too. Also report it to the FCC. If you are the victim of a scam, report it to local law enforcement.

#### Women's Ministry Cover Girls Quilting

Come and join us tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, March 6, 13, & 20 in Grace Place. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, March 27 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!

## 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 March 18 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Please contact one of us if you have an interest in attending. Thank you!

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

## First MINISTRIES

## A Note of Thanks

Thank you everyone for the treats and Valentine's Day wishes. It is nice to be remembered by your church family.

-Kathy DeJaeger

Thank you so much for all the goodies and cards for Valentine Day. It was a nice surprise. All the people involved are so thoughtful.

> God Bles all of you, *—Jeanette Brandau*

## HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Men's Topic: "Memory Care" Men's Health Program will be held at Hammond-Henry Hospital in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, March 6 from 7 to 8 a.m. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room.

#### Upcoming Women's Topic: "IMPACT Task Force"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Thursday, March 28 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.

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *cereal, pasta, condiments, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, dish soap, and cleaning supplies* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



Another opportunity ... Dietitians from Hammond-Henry Hospital will be back to teach a Heart Healthy Cooking Class at the Food Pantry on Tuesday, March 5 at 10 a.m., and the public is invited.



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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#### Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering will be collected the weekend of March 2 & 3 to benefit the Scholarship 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 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 – March 11 Ministries – March 11 Council – March 25

#### **PRESCHOOL STAFF**

Misty Slaymaker, Director Margi Ficken preschool@firstgeneseo.org

#### **NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 12**

#### **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  $\sim$  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