

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

May 2023
Volume 62, Issue 5
www.firstgeneseo.org

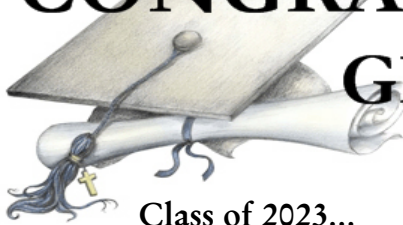
Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Class of 2023...

Jessalyn Belvel

Tara Bomlery

Ethan Ernst

Samantha Hancks

Hunter Moreno

David Pearson

Josie Peters

Alex Slaymaker

Sydney Stanfield

Ava Stebly

Dennis Thompson

Delainey VanRycke

Join us in celebrating our High School Seniors! On Sunday, May 14 we will recognize our seniors during Worship at 9:30 a.m., and then gather for Fellowship with them at 10:30 a.m. This is a wonderful time in our seniors' lives, so let's take this great opportunity to show them how much their church family loves and prays for them and their future!

First Lutheran Church

Friday, May 12

6 - 9 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit
ELCA World Hunger

Gather your team of up to 8 people now!

**TRIVIA
NIGHT!**



Dwelling in Spring

Spring has sprung, even with the recent freeze warnings. The eggs have hatched and we have a nest full of baby birds in the crook of the cross outside the church's south entryway. Our congregation garden is waiting, as the fields are, for just the right time for planting. *(More information about how you can participate in caring for the garden this year is coming soon!)*

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement following Matt's knee replacement surgery. As I write, it has been one week, and he is healing and improving each day. It's hard for him to imagine right now, but I know that he'll soon be back on the golf course (and back in the pulpit!).

April was a busy month, beginning with Holy Week. I want to express my gratitude to all those who helped make our observance of Holy Week possible. FLC staff and volunteers worked together to make 9 worship services and 3 congregational meals possible over the course of 9 days. We celebrated a baptism and First Communion and commended a brother in Christ into God's care. Thank you to our meal teams, fellowship volunteers, lectors, altar guild, ushers, communion assistants, nursery attendants, musicians, projection assistants, counters, and everyone who said "yes!" when one of us called or emailed with a job for you. Thank you to our entire staff, who worked hard to make everything come together.

April also saw the conclusion of our Faithtime programming on Wednesdays. Our final day of Faithtime Kids and Faithtime Meal was April 19, and our final day for Confirmation Class was April 26. We served over 40 children in our Faithtime Kids program and had 17 students in Confirmation this year. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers for those programs for a year completed and job well done!

During the month of May, we find a new rhythm at First Lutheran. We continue to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection, as the Easter season lingers. At the end of the

month, our Easter celebration will culminate with Pentecost. We will remember Jesus's ascension to heaven and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church. We will rejoice that God uses us – Jesus' disciples – to share the good news with the whole world.

We will celebrate and support the ministry of First Lutheran Preschool with Mayfest on May 7. Friday, May 12 we will host Trivia Night, a fundraiser for ELCA World Hunger. I'm getting my team together now, and hope to have plenty of good competition that evening! May 14 will be our Graduate Recognition Sunday, as we celebrate and bless our High School Seniors. May 20 & 21 is Compassion International Weekend, and you will have an opportunity to choose a child to sponsor through the organization Compassion International. May 27 & 28 we will celebrate Pentecost.

In the middle of the month, Pastor Matt and I are planning to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis. We will be out of the office, but still reachable by phone and email, May 15-18. This event is a gathering of outstanding preachers from many Christian traditions, sponsored by Luther Seminary. We will worship, hear the good news preached, and attend workshops to help us enhance our preaching. It's been described as "summer camp for preachers."

I am ready for summer, and especially preacher summer camp, but not too eager for spring to be over. It is good to enjoy God's goodness in springtime, when there's still a chill in the air, or at least a cool breeze overnight even when days get hot. The fiery tongues of Pentecost and the scorching days of summer can wait until the end of May, so that we can enjoy the remainder of the Easter season and the beauty of springtime.

—Pastor Laura

May 6 & 7, 2023

Easter 5

This weekend's texts include Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14

May 13 & 14, 2023

Easter 6/Happy Mother's Day

This weekend's texts include Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22 and John 14:15-21.

May 20 & 21, 2023

Easter 7/Compassion International Weekend

This weekend's texts include Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 and John 17:1-11.

May 27 & 28, 2023

Day of Pentecost

This weekend's texts include Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 and John 20:19-23.

Save the Date!

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 18th at 10:30 a.m. in the Geneseo City Park Bandshell. Rain location will be at First Lutheran. We will have our regularly scheduled 5:30 p.m. service at First Lutheran on Saturday, June 17th 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!

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, Judi Denys, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Bishop Stacie Fidler, Bob Groene, Arvid Hagberg, Pastor Matt Kamprath, Michelle Mustain, Mike Pries, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Kim Stadler (*Kathy Rogers' daughter*).

Joys: On the baptisms of Hayes Michael Hannam, son of Trey & Megan Hannam; and Madelyn Lea McLaughlin, daughter of Tyler & Stefanie McLaughlin. On the birth of Briar Jo Carton, daughter of Mathew & Whitney Carton. We rejoice with Ellis Brown, Landon Dwyer, Ella Haverback, Lillian Rowold, Kane Stees, and Britta Wildemuth who received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving prayer for the safety of everyone in Henry County during the recent tornado and storms. Be with all who have suffered loss of property and businesses. Thank you to the Henry County Sheriff's Department and all law enforcement, Office of Emergency Management, first responders and everyone helping with the cleanup and those checking on neighbors and friends to provide aid. Thank you, Lord, for keeping us safe. *-Kathy Nelson*

Sorrows: On the death of Ron Alhorn, 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



First Friends Luncheon

"Birthday Celebration"

First Friends will celebrate YOU in May! Come enjoy a birthday celebration for all of us on Thursday, May 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw and birthday cake & ice cream all for \$7! Invite a friend or two and please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

First Lutheran Preschool

Our final month of preschool for this year we will be making May baskets, honoring our mothers for Mother's Day and enjoying Mayfest on May 7. The 3-year-old class will continue to learn about planting and growing. They will paint with flowers and make flower petal suncatchers. They will also be planting mini gourd seeds on the playground in preparation for fall harvest. The 4-year-old classes will be learning about the mail. They will draw maps that they will use when we take a walk to the post office to mail our letters. They'll create their own adventures while reading *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson and will complete our journey through the alphabet. We are also looking forward to our kindergarten visit.

We are grateful for a safe and happy year of preschool! Our last day of preschool will be Friday, May 26.

Do you speak other languages?

If so, we need your participation in the reading for Pentecost weekend May 27 & 28! We would like to present **one verse** of the reading from Acts in different languages. Please contact Melinda Wildermuth at worship@firstgeneseo.org by May 15 if you can participate!

Save the Date

VBS 2023 ~ "Water, Water, Everywhere!"

Spend your Vacation Bible School wondering about the water!

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 Church 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.*

Registration will be sent electronically on June 1 to all First Lutheran members via our Shelby system. The link and QR code will be available on Facebook beginning June 1.

Pre-registration only. If you do not have access to the link, please contact Abbey Cathelyn, Director of Youth & Family Ministry at youth@firstgeneseo.org

The registration deadline for VBS is June 25

Milestones Ministry

What: Bible Adventures and Presentation for 2nd grade children

When: Sunday, May 21 from 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Presentation of Bibles: Sunday, May 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Children are brought together on May 21 around God's Word as they use, read, study, and play in the Bible. They will receive their NRSV Study Bible in worship on Sunday, May 28 as we celebrate Pentecost!

FIRST MINISTRIES

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

WHAT WE NEED

Cleaning Supplies
 Window Cleaner
 Laundry Detergent
 Oven Cleaner
 Garbage Bags
 Paper Towels

Personal Care Items
 Feminine Products
 Hair Products
 Toothpaste
 Soap
 Razors
 Deodorant
 Kleenex
 Diapers



CLEANING SUPPLIES & PERSONAL CARE COLLECTION

BENEFITING ...
**Geneseo-Atkinson
Food Pantry**

**During the month of May,
collection baskets will be
located in the Fellowship
Room.**



Council Highlights for April 24, 2023

- We are working on updating the Building Usage Policy and final revisions will be presented at the May meeting.
- The Trivia Night Fundraiser will be on May 12th. It will benefit the ELCA World Hunger program. There are still some tables available!
- We discussed the changes to the Lenten Services.
- We discussed the upcoming 2022 Financial Audit and are suggesting the use of the Synod Audit Guide as a basis for their report.
- We approved the following funding requests: Scholarships Committee for three \$750 scholarships and Organ and Bell Fund for \$93 to repair some handbell handles.

March Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

March actual	\$33,448
March budget	\$34,325
YTD actual	\$121,916
YTD budget	\$128,275

Net Income Over Expenses:

March actual	\$4,428 deficit
March budget	\$6,119 deficit
YTD actual	\$10,777 deficit
YTD budget	\$7,822 deficit

FIRST MINISTRIES



Compassion International

Is God calling you to step into a child's future today? When you come to worship on the weekend of May 20 & 21, we will be sharing about an opportunity to sponsor a child through Compassion International. After worship, you're invited to drop by the table in the Fellowship Room to learn more about child sponsorship.

Let's show children living in poverty what it means to be loved with actions and in truth.

Preschool Mayfest

Come and enjoy an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social, mini-carnival games and a special program presented by the preschool children in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 7 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. This event is a fundraiser and open to the congregation. So let's show our support!

Bells in Motion Concert

Bells In Motion is a progressive handbell ensemble based in Springfield, IL. Formed in 1997, the members of the group join by audition and hail from all around the Midwest. They have performed at many notable venues and festivals in the US, Canada, and Europe, continually bringing audiences to their feet.

The ensemble combines seven octaves of bronze and aluminum handbells and chimes, string bass, drums and other musical instruments. They perform music ranging from jazz to classical, big band to blues, Broadway to rock, and sacred to original compositions written especially for this thrilling group of performers and their instrument.

May 7, 2023 at 4 p.m.

First Congregational UCC

101 W Pearl Street, Geneseo

Tickets available at the door. \$15 for adults, \$8 for students.

A Mission Opportunity

Each year, Royal Family Kids Camp offers a chance for children who have gone through family-induced trauma or who are or have been involved with foster care or social services to experience the joy of summer camp. This 5-day camp for children ages 7-11 provides a 2:1 camper to counselor ratio so that individual attention can be provided, and the children feel safe, have fun, and experience unconditional love. They discover self-worth and a feeling of success as they accomplish projects and make friends. RFKC can be a life-changing experience.

Camp activities include games, woodworking, craft projects, music, swimming, fishing, canoes, paddle boats, and a rock-climbing wall. Each child leaves camp with a special quilt and a photo album, so the positive memories can be recalled all year long!

Volunteers are needed to make this camp possible. This year, camp for Henry County kids will be held July 23-28. Volunteers are needed to help with fishing, Bible Storytelling, woodworking, and as counselors. Training is provided. More information about the national organization is available at www.forthethechildren.org. To volunteer, or with questions about how to support the Henry County chapter, contact Wendy at rflkc.trac.geneseo@gmail.com.

Thank You

Thank you Pastor Laura, Pastor Matt, Melinda and the entire staff at First Lutheran Church for the beautiful Lenten and Holy Week services. Also thank you to the many volunteers who helped and participated in making these services meaningful and significant.

Thank you to those who assisted with the Ham Ball Dinner, purchasing the food items, making salads and dessert, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Your efforts made this meal possible for many of our church family to enjoy and celebrate Maundy Thursday.

*Blessed Easter to everyone
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
—Kathy Nelson*

Women’s Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the “Cover Girls” tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, May 3, 10 & 17 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women’s Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, May 24 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.

HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Men’s Topic: “Skin Cancer”

Men’s Health Program will be held at Hammond-Henry Hospital in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, May 3 from 7 to 8 a.m. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room.

Upcoming Women’s Topic: “Hospice”

Women’s Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Thursday, May 25 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 *100% fruit juice, low sodium canned vegetables, oatmeal, and 100% whole grain pasta, laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.



Did you know... The Dietitians from Hammond-Henry Hospital will return to the Food Pantry to teach a free “*Using Food to Improve Your Immune System*” class on Tuesday, May 16 at 1 p.m. The public is invited.

- The Food Pantry will be closed on Memorial Day, May 29.



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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lkamprath@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Matt Kamprath
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Melinda Wildermuth
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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, MAY 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