

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

November 2023  
Volume 62, Issue 11  
[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.

## *Festival of All Saints*



The Festival of All Saints will be observed on Saturday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 5 at 9:30 a.m. During worship, a bell will be rung as we read the names of the saints from our congregation who have died in the past year, and their family members will be invited to light a candle in remembrance of their loved one. Afterward, there will be an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to come forward to light a candle in memory of someone dear to them. Worship will be in the Sanctuary both Saturday and Sunday. We remember and honor the following saints:

*William "Roy" Holmstrom*

*Janet Stees*

*Daniel Thompson*

*Gladys Hulting*

*Ronald "Ron" Alhorn*

*Gary Johnson*

*Kathleen "Kay" Terpening*

*Dean Olson*

*Raymond "Ray" Sterling*

*Lynn Eyrich*

*Henrietta "Jean" Clark*

## *Commitment Weekend*

*November 11 & 12, 2023*

Our Stewardship season culminates on November 11 & 12 with Commitment Weekend. You are invited to bring your Commitment Cards to Worship that weekend. This year, commitments for 2024 include your tithes and offerings to support the ministry of First Lutheran Church, the Northern Illinois Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; additional financial gifts for other appeals; your prayers for our common work and our community; your presence in weekend Worship; and your time as a ministry volunteer. Commitment Cards were mailed to all households in October, and extra cards are available at the Resource Center. You can also make your commitment online at [firstgeneseo.org/giving](http://firstgeneseo.org/giving).

# The Generations

They say a generation is a period between twenty to thirty years in length where children grow up into adults and then begin to have their own children. In our long history as people, each one of us has been created by others and then we in turn have created others. It's estimated that there have been about twelve thousand generations since the dawn of humanity. That's a lot of generations.

In the Bible there are lists of the generations of the faithful. People have joked with me that when they have sat down to attempt to read the entire Bible, they often get stuck in Genesis when the generations are named. I admit, that reading through those lists is not the most fascinating read, but the biblical writers thought it important enough to record the names of the ones who have come before to know where they are now. For our ancestors in the faith, it's their record of history, but also a remembrance of how God called them through the generations and how God still calls on them now.

In this church, I estimate that there have been about six to seven generations that have come through these doors since 1856, which is truly amazing when you think about it. What is amazing to me is that each generation has taken what was passed on to them and then built upon the work that began so long ago. Within this church you can see how the names and family histories have been recorded to remember the past and honor it for the future. One example of that is in our beautiful stained glass in the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Room which bears names of loved ones who have helped build this place. Another example of that recording is the Archive Room at church which bears the names and faces (*and so much more*) of those who have come before us. Each one of us is a living story, testifying to the faithful generations who brought us here.

Our stewardship program this year is entitled *From Generation to Generation* and

it made me think about the generations of faith within my own family that have led me to you all. Now many of you already know that my dad served as a pastor for over thirty-five years, but you might not know that my grandpa served in ordained ministry as well along with many others in my family (uncles and aunts) who work in professional ministry. Maybe it was in the cards that I would go into ordained ministry, but since the get-go I have been surrounded by the church on all sides. In my early twenties, I was positive that my generation would not carry the torch of ministry, but it seems that God had different plans for me, that eventually led me to the call to ministry. As I look back on it now, I am thankful for the generations of the faithful that have led me to this work which I find to be fulfilling and certainly always interesting in the old ways and in the new.

What is your background story which led you here to be reading this newsletter article? I would truly love to know, because we all have a story about how God has led us to this place and how God has brought us through the generations. Now, some of us have deep histories in this particular congregation, and others have come here from elsewhere, but the fact remains that we are all here because God has led us here.

Part of our work as people faith is to build upon the work that has already been done here trying to be faithful to the past generations, while at the same time keeping an eye and ear toward where God might be leading us into the future that is not yet known. We hope and pray that you will consider how you and your generation can help to build upon the work of the generations that have come before, so that your children's generation, and subsequent generations will come to know God in Christ Jesus and His Love.

—Pastor Matt

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November 4 & 5, 2023

**All Saints**

This weekend's texts include Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12.

November 11 & 12, 2023

**Pentecost 24/Commitment Weekend**

This weekend's texts include Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13.

November 18 & 19, 2023

**Pentecost 25**

This weekend's texts include Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30.

November 25 & 26, 2023

**Christ the King**

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46.

**Christmas Poinsettia Garden**

Poinsettias for our Christmas Garden may be ordered in memory or honor of a loved one. This year's plants will be large 4-5 bloom plants and will cost \$17. Order and payment are due by Monday, December 11.

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**



**Community Thanksgiving Worship**

Hosted by the Geneseo Ministerial Association

*Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 p.m.*

*Fine Arts Center, Geneseo High School*

Community Choir led by Pam Edwards

*(Choir Rehearsal begins at 3 p.m.)*

Pie and Coffee Fellowship to follow worship

Offering will be collected for Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry



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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. 10).

**Health and Wellbeing:** Leanne Alhorn, Carol Boyd, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Marlee Stiener.

**Joys:** Celebrating the joy of sharing Bible study with Pr. Laura and the women of FLC. To worship freely in a vibrant congregation led by faith filled pastors and worship leaders. *-Janet Larson*

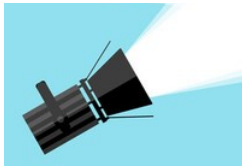
**Thanksgiving:** For the refugees and immigrants that have joined our community, may we extend a long welcome to all. For the dedicated staff at Hillcrest Home as they care for my mother, Carol Boyd. We are grateful for the faithful leadership of Pr. Laura, Pr. Matt and Melinda. For the men and women of Living Water Via de Cristo #63. May they lead with faith. *-Janet Larson*

**Sorrows:**

*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...Joyful Praise

*Each month, we highlight an area of volunteer ministry that has “openings” for additional volunteers. This month is Joyful Praise. Current members of the praise team share their experience:*

**Chris Barnhart** started playing drums at First in 2009. When he started it was a joint team made up of members from both Geneseo and Cambridge Lutheran churches. He has been a member of Joyful Hearts, Joyful Spirit and the Youth Praise teams, before Joyful Praise.

**Lorrie Lord** has been a part of Joyful Praise for a little over a year now.

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

**Chris:** For me, it was a way to participate in a Ministry which I felt a strong desire to do after completing my Via De Cristo weekend. At the same time, I was also looking for an opportunity to play with other like-minded musicians in an contemporary ensemble.

**Lorrie:** Music as a means of worship has always been a focus of mine, and I was looking for a way to be a part of what, for me, would be something new – Praise Music! I approached Melinda about the possibility of me playing my violin with the praise team, and she responded with enthusiasm to the idea. She and the entire praise team have been so supportive and welcoming from the very first rehearsal. I also felt that this would be a good learning experience for me as a violinist, as I quickly found out that the worship-band style of playing as a string player was not taught in the classical music setting!

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

**Chris:** It’s just amazing to see when the music we play connects with and energizes the congregation. Of course, it’s God’s word that is lifting up the congregation, we are just conduits for that.

**Lorrie:** Leading worship with praise music strengthens my faith by being able to be a part of a team bringing God’s message of grace, love, and forgiveness in a way that is different than the traditional hymns and liturgy.

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

**Chris:** It’s fun, and challenging, but rewarding at the same time. Also, the Praise team members are just great to work with.

**Lorrie:** I would encourage anyone who felt drawn to joining the praise team to give it a try. We have fun rehearsals, grow as musicians, and grow in faith by working together.

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

**Chris:** I get to spread the Word through music, which, as I mentioned, lots of fun.

**Lorrie:** Sharing Christ’s Love is what it is all about! In addition to playing violin with the team, I have at times served as a vocalist on the praise team as well. Some of the praise songs have lyrics that are quite powerful and have a way of speaking to the heart.

5. What do you like best about this work?

**Chris:** I enjoying playing and it’s a great honor and privilege to help craft the musical portions of our worship services.

**Lorrie:** “Joyful Praise” is a very apt name for our group. Being a part of this area of ministry has turned out to be something that has brought me much joy in unexpected ways!

Joyful Praise provides music for Sunday worship about twice per month, plus some special services. Musicians include instrumentalists (keyboard, drums, guitar, bass, and others!) and vocalists. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings. 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)

## Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

### All children Grades K-5

November 1	<i>The Ten Best Ways</i>
November 8	<i>Exile and the Return (Faithtime Meal at 5 p.m.)</i>
November 15	No Faithtime
November 22	No Faithtime
November 29	<i>Advent 1</i>

## FIRST MINISTRIES



A note on *Godly Play*

### Closing and Feast

Towards the end of our Response Time, we gather the children in a circle for storytelling from the Bible, and at the end for a feast, because they thereby learn about being in a community and working together. We respond to the work that was done and reflect on where God showed up that day. Everything we do in Godly Play contributes to learning. We gather all together in the Sanctuary for the last ten minutes to talk about important parts of the day, pray the Lord's Prayer, extinguish the candle, and then send everyone out with a high five, a handshake, or a hug.

### **We're on a Quest with the Creator!**

Throughout October, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in QUEST are considering what God says about CREATION, what God has created, and how God calls us to use our own creativity.

We began by noticing parts of God's creation that make us say "WOW!" The students brought artifacts to share, and we tried to see them as if for the first time.

A spectacular sunset. An apple. Puffy white clouds. The Eiffel Tower.

Paper and markers and our ability to use them.

We noticed that God's creation is good and beautiful and impressive ... and confusing and scary and mind-boggling! We decided God must be brilliant, caring, clever, imaginative, energetic, wise, and downright genius to be such a Creator. (*All these are the 6<sup>th</sup> graders' words.*) Surrounded by so much awesomeness, we have no excuse but to love and care for what God has made. But we're human, and we mess up. A lot. Pollution, war, deforestation, bullying, greed ... these were just a few of the mistakes the 6<sup>th</sup> graders identified.

As the month goes on, we'll create something as a group: an entry for Geneseo's Scarecrow Row. We'll also be exploring QUESTions like this:

#### **What things can you do to make a creative difference in this world?**

How would YOU answer this question? We're all created to be creators, so we encourage you to get creative, too!



### **Confirmation**

Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, November 29, 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room A. This year we will be studying the Bible, beginning with a lesson on Genesis. Please keep our 19 students and their families in your prayers, as we begin our weekly class sessions and dive deep into God's word.

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## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Psalm 150

If you are in grades 7-12 and play an instrument, come and play! Psalm 150 is an instrumental group that will provide music for worship during the Advent and Christmas season. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m. in the choir room on November 8, 15, 29, and December 13. Psalm 150 will play for worship on Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 a.m. All instruments are welcome!

### Arts Camp

Children in grades 2-5 who love music, art, drama, movement, and instruments are invited to attend Arts Camp! Arts camp uses many different art forms to explore a scriptural theme. *“Light of Christ”* Arts Camp will be held on Wednesday, November 15 from Noon – 5 p.m. This is a scheduled half-day for the Geneseo School District and there is no Faithtime on this date. Registration forms can be found at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room, by scanning the QR code, or by going to First Lutheran’s website. Registration deadline is November 8.



### Let’s Spice It Up!

Congregational Life is hosting a pumpkin spice fellowship over the weekend of November 18 & 19. Join us on Saturday evening before church at 5 p.m. or Sunday morning following church at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come and enjoy some delicious pumpkin treats, pumpkin spice creamer for your coffee and apple cider!

### First Friends

Come celebrate all things Thanksgiving with a full Thanksgiving meal and wonderful fellowship! On Thursday, November 9 at 11:30 a.m. we will feast on turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy and of course pumpkin pie! Cost is \$7 and reservations are appreciated. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office. All are welcome to attend.

### Angel Tree

Our Christmas tradition continues here at First Lutheran with the support of an *“Angel Tree”* which will provide Christmas gifts for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Foster Care Children along with residents of Hillcrest Nursing Home and Allure. This year the tree will be decorated in a two-fold process with LSSI Foster Care angel tags with children’s names and gift suggestion ideas followed by angels for the residents of Hillcrest and Allure. The tree will be located at the north end of the Fellowship Room,

- *LSSI Foster Care Angels* ... Please feel free to take a name and purchase gifts, wrap or put into Christmas bags with the angel tag on the gift and return to church by *Sunday, November 26*. The gifts need to be delivered to the LSSI Moline office in time for the children's Christmas party on December 3.
- *Hillcrest and Allure Angels* ... Around the middle of November the names from the nursing homes will be added to the angel tree which provides the opportunity to support both groups or choose whichever group you prefer.

*Thank you for being Angels to both groups.* For some this is the only Christmas gift they will receive so your generosity means more than you will ever know.

**First Book Club**

Come and join us for discussion on the content of the book *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* and faith response to the author Hazel Prior on Thursday, November 16 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

Eighty-five-year-old Veronica McCreedy is estranged from her family and wants to find a worthwhile cause to leave her fortune to. When she sees a documentary about penguins being studied in Antarctica, she tells the scientists she’s coming to visit—and won’t take no for an answer. Shortly after arriving, she convinces the reluctant team to rescue an orphaned baby penguin. He becomes part of life at the base, and Veronica’s closed heart starts to open.

**Women’s Ministry**

**Cover Girls Quilting**

Come see what Cover Girls are all about! Join us for a time of fellowship and fun tying quilts for LWR and the needy on Wednesday, November 1, 8 and 15 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. No experience necessary!

**Women’s Bible Study** will gather on Wednesday, November 22 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will be using the Lutheran magazine, “*Gather*” for our study guide. All women are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible Study.

**Faithtime Meal**  
 Our Faithtime Meal is on Wednesday, November 8, and will feature fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, peaches, and birthday cupcakes! This month we will celebrate November birthdays and May half-birthdays. The meal is served from 5-5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. No sign-up is needed. Take a night off and enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun!  
*Cost: Adults: \$5 - Children aged 3-11: \$3 - Family: \$20 per household*

**Council Highlights for October 16, 2023**

- We will be conducting our quarterly review of Worship times next month.
- Stewardship letters will be going out soon.
- The first stage of the parking lot project is complete.
- We are looking for a new Parish Accountant and approved a new position description for the Parish Accountant.
- Approved Building & Property request for \$750 from the Building Fund for kitchen paint and labor; \$250 from the Faith Formation Fund for Advent resources; and \$600 Social Ministry request to The Guardian Angel Fund.
- We gladly and joyfully approved five confirmands as Voting Members.

**September Financial Report**

<b>General Fund Offering:</b>	
September actual	\$23,940
September budget	\$33,826
YTD actual	\$342,293
YTD budget	\$336,526
<b>Net Income Over Expenses:</b>	
September actual	\$7,916 deficit
September budget	\$4,379 deficit
YTD actual	\$13,891 deficit
YTD budget	\$30,522 deficit

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## FIRST MINISTRIES

### First Lutheran Preschool

The preschool children will be learning through Thanksgiving themed activities, songs and art this month. When learning about Thanksgiving, our focus will be on sharing what we have and helping each other. We will discuss how we show we are thankful and what we are thankful for. They will play games, learn songs, dances and customs that may have been shared on the first Thanksgiving. We'll look forward to sharing our annual Thanksgiving Sing and Share program with our preschool families.

- **No preschool November 20-24.**  
Classes will resume on Monday, November 27.

### Altar Flower Ministry

If you love to arrange flowers, consider being a member of our new Altar Flower Ministry! Volunteers will arrange flowers each week for worship using both purchased flowers and seasonal flowers from gardens. If you are interested in participating, please contact Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship & Music ([worship@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:worship@firstgeneseo.org)). An organizational meeting will be held in December and the ministry will begin January 1, 2024. Congregation members and friends can still sign up to sponsor altar flowers with a suggested donation to cover costs. The sign up form will be available at the Welcome Center in December.

### Milestones Ministry

#### *Stewardship: Kids and Money*

Children in fourth grade are invited to a Milestone event on Sunday, November 5 from 10:45-11:30 a.m. This will be a time to learn and remember what it means to be a steward of all that God has given us. They will receive their blessing and gifting stone during Worship on November 12.

### Veteran's Brunch

First Lutheran Church greatly appreciates the sacrifice and service of our military and veterans. To show our appreciation for their service, we will be hosting a brunch for all our First Lutheran Veterans on Saturday, November 4 at 8 a.m. All First Lutheran Veterans are invited to attend! Have a wonderful, safe and blessed Veteran's Day!

### A Very Special Christmas Gathering

First Lutheran members will host the annual Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a free traditional dine-in dinner. Our mission is to bring our neighbors and friends together to celebrate Christ's birth and to extend a warm welcome to our community. Volunteers will also deliver meals to those in Geneseo/Atkinson/Cambridge communities who are unable to leave their home. Home or curbside deliveries can be scheduled by calling the church office at 944-3196, or Janet Larson 507-2997. The free community dinner is only possible by God's grace and provision, volunteers are needed to help cook, serve and deliver meals. A team will meet on Saturday, December 23 to prepare portions of the meal and to set up tables. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Janet Larson.



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## Many Notes of Thanks!

*From Dan Brudos*

Thanks to all those “*Road Warriors*” that helped pick up trash along the stretch of Hwy 6 that First has “adopted”. We helped maintain God’s creation by collecting 20 bags of garbage in April and 11 more in October. Way to go Team!

*From Karen Myhre*

Thank you to all the helpers at the church flower garden. Debbie Beyerlein and Tom Vorac the delivery people of the flower cups, Cindy Groene for making the name tags and Jerry who helped pick zinnias at 6:30 in the a.m. The veggie crew that put everything out for people to take home and enjoy. See you next year!

*From Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry*

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.

*From Claire Yerkey ~ Navigators - de Puerto Rico*

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your recent financial gift! I’m encouraged by your collective heart to support the gospel message going to the nations and specifically to contribute towards the ministry journey that the Lord has for me in Puerto Rico. I am blessed to have support like you!

*From Gladys Swanson*

Thanks to family and friends for cards and gifts on my birthday. They were very much appreciated.

**FIRST  
MINISTRIES**

*Thank  
you!*

## HHH Community Health Series

**Upcoming Women’s Topic:**

*“Eyes - What do we need to know?”*

Women’s Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Wednesday, November 15 from noon — 1 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$10. Reservations may be made by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email [hhhfound@hammondhenry.com](mailto:hhhfound@hammondhenry.com).

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *tomato juice, low sodium chunky style soups, low sodium pasta sauce, crackers, coffee, denture adhesive and cleaner, mouthwash, toilet cleaner, pain relievers and diapers size 4-6* 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 teach a class on food safety on Tuesday, November 14 at 1 p.m. at the Food Pantry. The class is free and open to the public!



**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 November 11 & 12 to benefit Helmets of Hope. 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*  
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**Mary Jo Brummet**  
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**Abbey Cathelyn**  
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**Jim Luikart, Parish Accountant**  
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**Patsy Andress, Financial Secretary**  
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**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 — November 6  
Ministries — November 6  
Council — November 13

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**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