

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

October 2023  
Volume 62, Issue 10  
[www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)

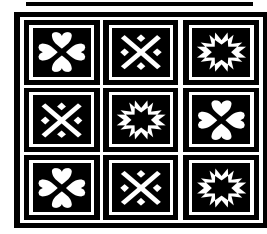
*Sharing Christ's Love*

**WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!**

Informal Worship Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Worship & Livestream Sunday 9:30 a.m.

## Lutheran World Relief *Kits & Quilt Dedication* October 7 & 8



Come and admire the beautiful quilts on October 7 & 8. Every Wednesday morning, the Cover Girls meet to make quilts to comfort those in need around the world. This service fulfills the Lutheran World Relief Mission: *Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans around the world to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering.*

Thank you to all who helped assemble and pack kits for Lutheran World Relief. We completed 59 Personal Care Kits, 70 School Kits, and 4 Baby Care Kits. We are so thankful to have a congregation who continue to support this ministry! These colorful quilts will be displayed and quilts and kits will be blessed during both worship services.



## *Rite of Confirmation* Sunday, October 29

Please join us at 9:30 a.m. Worship on Sunday, October 29, in person or via the livestream, as our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who have completed their Confirmation program will celebrate this Milestone on their journey of faith as Christians.

The entire congregation is also welcome to come on Sunday, October 22 to support the students as they present their Faith Statements. The presentations will be in the Sanctuary following Worship, at about 10:30 a.m.

# All Are Welcome

30 years ago, Marty Haugen wrote a hymn called *All Are Welcome*. It's a beautiful hymn and part of our congregational repertoire. Every time I sing the hymn, at least two things happen to me:

- I marvel at the expanse of God's welcome to all
- I wonder: Am I –and are we, as a congregation here at FLC and as the Church – doing enough to make that welcome a reality for all?

Welcoming others is sometimes simple. Welcoming old friends back when they return to visit and welcoming newcomers who are familiar with our worship style and with Lutheran culture is relatively easy. But, sometimes it's harder. Those who don't have a Lutheran background, or who don't speak English as their first language, or who are neuro-divergent, or who have physical limitations, may challenge our claim that "all are welcome in this place."

We do our best to make sure that all worshippers can fully participate. Large-print bulletins, a sound system for amplification, and the elevator are examples. Offering gluten-free bread and a wine or grape juice option for communion are examples too. Offering a nursery on Sunday mornings is an act of hospitality for parents of our youngest children. Our PRAYground space provides flexibility for families who choose to use it.

Last year, Abbey & Melinda completed a project that had been in the works for some time. At the end of the education wing on the second floor, a storage space has been transformed into a Sensory Room. This room provides a space for anyone who needs a place to calm down and re-set. It was designed with neuro-divergent children or adults in mind, but open to anyone who may benefit from it. I invite you check it out next time you're in the building, and to use it whenever it's needed.

This month, we are introducing a change in communion distribution procedures. We are hoping that this change will make receiving the sacrament more accessible for all. For those who find it difficult to use the tiny individual plastic cups that we use for communion each week, we will now have an option of a slightly larger individual cup. The larger cups will be about the size of a Dixie cup, easier to see for those with vision impairments and easier to hold for those with dexterity challenges. These will be available for anyone who has difficulty managing the small cups. We will include the following message each time we have a printed bulletin and as part of our verbal announcements:

*Larger communion cups are available for those who find it difficult to manage the small cups; please let the communion assistant know that you prefer a larger cup.*

Thank you to Jeff Boyer for making the trays to hold the larger cups, and to Melinda, the Worship & Music Ministry, and the Altar Guild for helping us implement this change.

As the final verse of Haugen's hymn decrees:

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers  
of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are  
welcome in this place.

—Pastor Laura

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October 7 & 8, 2023

**Pentecost 19/LWR Kits & Quilt**

**Dedication**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46.

October 14 & 15, 2023

**Pentecost 20**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14.

October 21 & 22 2023

**Pentecost 21**

This weekend's texts include Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Matthew 22:15-22.

October 28 & 29, 2023

**Reformation**

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28 and John 8:31-36.

**Noisy Offering**

**Make a "Joyful Noise!"**

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of October 7 & 8 to benefit Foster Hope. Foster Hope serves foster, adoptive & relative care families in the QC area. Bring your nickels and dimes!

**FIRST  
WORSHIP  
& MUSIC**



**Communion Assistant Training**

If you would like to serve as a communion assistant, or if you are a current communion assistant and would like a refresher, come to communion assistant training October 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room or October 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We always need communion assistants and welcome anyone who would like to serve!

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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:** Kathie DeJaeger, Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Patricia Eklof (*Lorrie Lord's mother*), Adam Fleming, Alex Fleming (*Adam Fleming's brother*), Heidi Fleming, Michelle Mustain, Reid Oberle, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Marlee Stiener.

**Joys:** On the baptism of Ava Elizabeth Putnam, daughter of Justin & Katie Putnam. For the spirit filled worship to refresh my soul. *-Janet Larson*

**Thanksgiving:** For God's gift of creation, the majesty and beauty of each season, provisions for our daily needs, God's faithfulness in every situation guiding us to sense the sacredness of His world. *-Kathy Nelson*

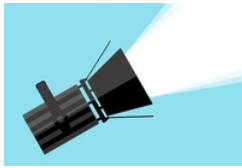
For the rain to nourish the soil. *-Janet Larson*

**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...Altar Guild

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

**Deb Spence** has been an Altar Guild member for more than 10 years, collectively.

**Cindy Higgins** has been an Altar Guild member for a little under a year.

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

**Deb:** I decided to volunteer when there was an article in the Chimes requesting a need for Altar Guild. After discussing the tasks with Verla Shelton, the leader at the time, I knew this would be a great fit for me.

**Cindy:** Deb called me one day, and asked if I would consider helping to set up the altars. Since I am retired now from working as an RN at our hospital, I said yes. I come from a family of servers. My grandfather, Arthur Bengston, was a Lutheran minister. My parents helped at the church I grew up in, Trinity Lutheran in Moline, every weekend. Deb has been very patient and kind, teaching me and guiding me, setting up the altars.

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

**Deb:** My faith continues to be strengthened each time the meal is prepared and the table is set for communion. It’s such a wonderful feeling that this meal is shared with everyone!

**Cindy:** I love helping people. I worked as an RN for 47 years. Now I enjoy other opportunities to help people. Being more active in our church helps strengthen my faith, as I get to know members better. Also I get to learn how the church functions, and become a team member.

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

**Deb:** I would encourage anyone to join Altar Guild – it’s very satisfying to participate in such an important part of the weekly service.

**Cindy:** Come and learn how we set up the altars. It’s fun and so interesting and not hard at all. Come and participate as a team member, not just a church member. There are so many opportunities at our church, not just the Altar Guild! I also help with Faithtime Kids, and it’s loads of fun.

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

**Deb:** I am thankful for the opportunity to serve.

**Cindy:** I feel blessed being able to help our church preparing the communion table. It makes me feel more connected to God and our church.

5. What do you like best about this work?

**Deb:** Altar Guild tasks are very flexible. All the Altar Guild members are just wonderful and willing to help as needed.

**Cindy:** It makes me feel good to be a part of the team that pulls the church together. I have learned so much, and enjoy getting to know Deb better. Come and see what it’s all about!

Altar Guild prepares the altars for and cleans up from Holy Communion each weekend, and also prepares for Holy Baptism. They also prepare the worship spaces for the different seasons of the church year. 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)

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## Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

We had a wonderful first month of Faithtime! This month, we begin our journey into the Old Testament, learning about the Holy Family and God's faithfulness.

### All children Grades K-5

- October 4      *The Holy Family*
- October 11    *Creation (Faithtime Meal at 5 p.m.)*
- October 18    *The Ark and the Flood*
- October 25    *The Exodus*



## FIRST MINISTRIES

A note on *Godly Play* from *The Complete Guide to Godly Play* by Jerome W. Berryman:

### The Story

It is common to see all the children gathered in rapt attention as the storyteller invites them to enter the story themselves. The storyteller uses handcrafted objects of great beauty and simplicity to focus attention on the central elements. In the process the story comes alive again in the children's experience, helping them to find meaning in their own living- in what happens at home, at school, and in the larger world.

## The Quest! is on for First Lutheran's sixth graders!

Each month the students explore a new theme—always starting with God's word (*what does the Bible say?*), followed QUESTions, conversations, and experiments that invite both thought and action. Together, we're learning what it means to be people of faith.

In September, each student chose a loved one and spent two weeks preparing a special gift for that individual. After giving, we regrouped to talk about how it feels to give. We finished with a colorful science experiment to see how, when we allow our gifts to flow freely, they spread to those around us—and the ripple effects can reach far and wide.



In October, we'll turn our focus toward CREATION.

Keep your eyes open for signs that the students are flexing their creative muscles in, around, and beyond the building.

## Confirmation

On Wednesday, October 25, Confirmation students will participate in *Boo-4-Food*. We will work in teams to collect items for the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry from surrounding neighborhoods.

- Classes will begin November 26.

## Milestones Ministry

On October 29, we celebrate with four students who are ready to say "yes" to their baptism and continued life of faith. These students have completed two years of Confirmation classes, served as worship participants, volunteered in and out of the church, and professed their faith to their peers, family, and church members. We will enjoy a special fellowship time after worship that day.

*Joseph "Dylan" Haser*  
*Emily Haverback*

*Eli Palmer*  
*Connor Runty*

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## FIRST MINISTRIES

### Livestream Updates

The Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. service can now be viewed on our First Lutheran website, [www.firstgeneseo.org](http://www.firstgeneseo.org)! Scroll all the way to the bottom and the service will be there - be sure to click on the audio button! The service will continue to be streamed to Facebook and can be viewed there as well. If you are viewing from our website, email your attendance to [worship@firstgeneseo.org](mailto:worship@firstgeneseo.org). On Facebook, please note in the comments all the people from your household who are viewing; we only see the username.

You will also notice that an invitation or announcement will appear prior to the service, usually the Thursday before. This is because we now schedule our services through a streaming service which allows us to stream to both our website and Facebook. We are continuing to learn more about the features now available to us and appreciate your patience and grace as we test these new features. The livestream service is an important part of our worship life, and we will continue to work on enhancements to this experience!

### A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Pastor Laura & Matt and our entire church family for the prayers lifted up for our daughter, Kim. These past three years have been difficult. We are heartbroken that she lost her battle. Thank you to all who sent cards, prayed or lifted us up with kind words. It was really appreciated.

In Christ's Love,  
*Kathy & Ray Rogers*

### Large plastic Communion Cups are Now Available!

If you need a larger plastic communion cup due to dexterity, visual, or other challenges that make it difficult to manage the smaller cups, larger plastic cups will be available beginning on the weekend of October 7 & 8. They will contain the same amount of wine/grape juice as the smaller cups but will be easier to grasp. Simply ask a communion assistant if you need this type of cup and you may take the cup from the tray or the assistant can hand it to you, whichever works best for you. These cups will be available to those who come forward for communion and to those who are served within the assembly at the end of communion.

### First Book Club

Join us for discussion on the content of the book *Five Days at Memorial* and faith response to the author Sheri Fink on Thursday, October 19 at 2 p.m. in Grace Place.

After Katrina struck and the floodwaters rose, the power failed, and the heat climbed, exhausted caregivers chose to designate certain patients last for rescue. Months later, several health professionals faced criminal allegations that they deliberately injected numerous patients with drugs to hasten their deaths. *Five Days at Memorial*, the culmination of six years of reporting, unspools the mystery of what happened in those days, bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life and into a conversation about the most terrifying form of health care rationing. In a voice at once involving and fair, masterful and intimate, Fink exposes the hidden dilemmas of end-of-life care and reveals just how ill-prepared we are in America for the impact of large-scale disasters—and how we can do better. A remarkable book, engrossing from start to finish, *Five Days at Memorial* radically transforms your understanding of human nature in crisis.

## Trunk or Treat!

Do you love to hand out candy on Halloween? Would you like to stay warm while having fun passing out treats to children in our community? Then First Lutheran's Trunk or Treat event is for you! On Tuesday, October 31 from 4-7 p.m. you are invited to dress in costume (if you'd like), decorate a table in the Fellowship Room (we can help you with that too!), pass out candy and enjoy all the fun costumes and smiles! If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Misty Slaymaker at [slaymakerfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:slaymakerfamily@yahoo.com) or 714-2838.

You can also sign up at the Welcome Center.

- Another way to participate is by donating candy. Please bring your donation to the church and place them in the "pumpkin" container located in the Fellowship Room.

## FIRST MINISTRIES



## First Friends

First Friends will gather on Thursday, October 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Menu will feature pork loin, potatoes, salad and dessert! Cost is \$7.

We will have a short program about Good Samaritan Home Health Services. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to reserve your spot!

## Faithtime Meal

Our Faithtime meal is on Wednesday, October 11. We will have an "Octoberfest" type meal with brats, German potato salad, and much more! The meal is served from 5-5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. All are encouraged and welcome to attend these meals. No sign-up is needed. Come and see, and most importantly, eat! 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 September 18, 2023

- Approved Building & Property request for \$5,751.93 from the Building Fund for new kitchen flooring from Dave's Floor Trends.
- Approved Building & Property request for \$5,785.80 from the Building Fund for steeple lighting through VanOpdorp Electric.
- Approved Building & Property request for \$14,250.00 from the Building Fund for concrete work in the south parking lot to be completed by KR Concrete & Construction.
- Jim Luikart retirement: Personnel has met and discussed position.
- Glory Ringers Tip Jar: To raise money for conferences and festivals for the Glory Ringers to attend in the future. Tip Jar to be placed during services.

### August Financial Report

#### General Fund Offering:

August actual	\$34,767
August budget	\$33,825
YTD actual	\$318,352
YTD budget	\$302,700

#### Net Income Over Expenses:

August actual	\$8,602 deficit
August budget	\$4,571 deficit
YTD actual	\$5,975 deficit
YTD budget	\$26,143 deficit

# FIRST MINISTRIES

## THANK YOU!

We are grateful to everyone who has donated paper to our preschool this past month.

## First Lutheran Preschool

Both of our classes will continue to learn about the autumn season as we observe the changes taking place outdoors. The three year old class will be learning with the color orange and the triangle shape. They'll explore pumpkins and use them for many experiments and activities. The four year old class will focus on autumn, friendship, sequencing and patterning. They will also take a walking field trip to the fire department. All classes will be learning through Halloween themed songs and projects near the end of the month.

## 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, October 4, 11 and 18 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. No experience necessary!

**Women's Bible Study** will gather on Wednesday, October 25 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.



**Dueling Piano Fundraiser**

**Date: Saturday  
October 7, 2023  
Doors open at 6 PM  
Pianos will start at 7 PM**

**Tickets:  
\$40 for an  
Individual  
\$350 for a  
table of 10**

**\*Bring your own Snacks and Beverages  
\*Purchase tickets at:  
<https://guardianangelfund48.com>**

**Geneseo Community Center  
541 East North Street**  
Guardian Angels will be raising money to help support children at local schools



## Join us at Autumn Fest

**Saturday, October 14  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Plan on joining us this fall to experience outdoor ministry at LOMC in Oregon, IL

**Fun For All Ages - OPEN HOUSE  
Cider Press - Chili Lunch - Wagon Rides  
Crafts - Bake Sale - Donut Fun 5K  
Labyrinth Devotions - Games - Hiking  
Pumpkin Carving and So Much More!**

A freewill donation will be accepted throughout the event to offset activity costs and help LOMC. Thank you!!

[www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org) for more information



## HHH Community Health Series

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

Men's Health Program will be held at Hammond-Henry Hospital in the first floor conference room on Wednesday, October 4 from 7 to 8 a.m. Those attending may purchase breakfast in the hospital dining room.

### Upcoming Women's Topic: "Advanced Health Care Planning"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on October 26 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](mailto:hhhfound@hammondhenry.com).

## FIRST MINISTRIES

## 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 October 16 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Please contact one of us if you have interest in attending. Thank you!

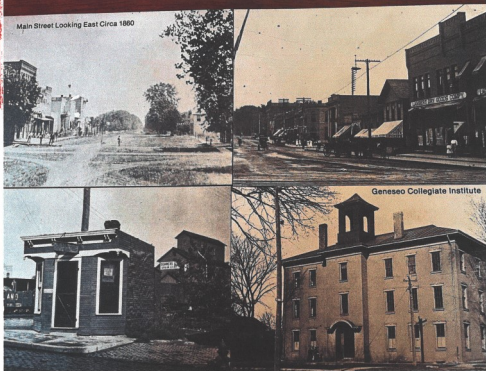
Pam Martens: 309-507-1201

Chris Ward: 563-529-4515

Dee Menendez: 309-945-2555

OCTOBER  
**11**

Angie  
Snook  
Presents



**GENESEO - THE  
EARLY YEARS**

October 11, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.  
At The First Presbyterian Church

Call the Church Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to reserve your seat for this special event, 309-944-5189. The first 50 reservations will be accepted. A Program and Dessert Bar will be offered with donations to the Geneseo Historical Museum.

Learn facts about our town which will surprise you even if you have lived here all your life.

## Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *cooking oil, salt, egg noodles, crackers, 100% juice, toilet paper, dish soap, lotion, conditioner and band aids* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

• **Another Opportunity ...** The Food Pantry is collecting food for *Thanksgiving food baskets*, which may be dropped off during business hours, and non-perishable donations may be placed in donation bins at Fareway, Nosh, or Inspire Continuing Care by November 14. The following items are needed: *Turkey or ham, stuffing, mashed potato mix or bag of potatoes, gravy mix or gravy, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, French fried onions, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes or yams, creamed corn, corn, sour cream, corn muffin mix, rolls, pie filling, pie crust mix, whipped topping, butter, juice, or sparkling juice.* Thank you for your help providing our guests with what they need for their Thanksgiving dinner!





**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

114 E. Main Street  
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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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**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

**Jim Luikart, Parish Accountant**  
jluikart@firstgeneseo.org

**Patsy Andress, Financial Secretary**  
financials@firstgeneseo.org

**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 — October 9  
Ministries — October 9  
Council — October 16

**PRESCHOOL STAFF**

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 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 ~ 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