

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

September 2023
Volume 62, Issue 9
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.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023

God’s Work Our Hands is a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our congregation will gather after worship, at about 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. This year, you will have the choice of two service projects.

- One team will head outside to the playground to spread mulch in preparation for our new school year.
Please bring: work gloves, if you wish; a rake, if you have one.
- One team will assemble and pack Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.
See page 8 for a list of items being collected through September 10.

After our work is completed, lunch will be provided for all volunteers by our Social Ministry team. Please consider joining us and our fellow Lutherans churchwide for a morning of fun, fellowship and service! All ages and abilities are welcome!

Season of Creation

Last year in August, our congregation tried something new – we celebrated the Season of Creation. Each weekend, we gathered for Worship centered on a creation-related theme. We celebrated the work of God Our Creator, who made all things good and who made us to be stewards of it all.

On the weekend of September 9 & 10, we will begin this year's celebration of the Season of Creation. Our themes for this year will be Forest, Land & Prairie, Wilderness, and River & Stream. Our worship texts and prayers, our hymns and songs, and our Scripture readings and preaching will all relate to these themes. Our worship will also be enhanced by the photos you have submitted to Melinda.

The resources we are using were developed by Norman Habel, David Rhoads, and Paul Santmire. Pastor Matt and I were fortunate to have Dr. David Rhoads as one of our professors of New Testament when we attended seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. A working group in our Northern Illinois Synod was formed by Pastor Jeff Schlesinger, in order to create resources that would be useful to all the congregations of our Synod. First Lutheran's Mission Endowment Fund granted a request to help fund the development of these resources. This month, we will experience the fruits of the labor of many faithful theologians.

For 48 weeks out of the year, plus our Festivals, we use the Scripture texts assigned by the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a resource used by Christians of many different denominations in many parts of the world. For these 4 weeks beginning September 9 & 10, we will use the Scripture texts assigned for the

Season of Creation. In some cases, the readings are longer or shorter than we may be used to. The chosen text's connection to the theme may not be evident at first glance, but if Pastor Matt and I do a good job of preaching, the connections will become clearer.

The Season of Creation is a time to give thanks and praise to our Creator, naming specific aspects of the magnificent Creation. We also confess and lament the ways in which we humans have misused the gifts of Creation. We pray for Creation, especially in places where it is most broken. We receive God's forgiveness and we are sent back out into Creation to witness to and participate in God's healing and restorative work.

I am praying for our congregation as we prepare for all the things that September brings: a return of Faithtime Kids and Faithtime Meal, First Book Club and First Friends, Sanctuary Choir and Glory Ringers, Preschool classes, and the Season of Creation. I am praying for the Holy Spirit to inspire each worshipper to bring our heartfelt praise for God, our sincere repentance, and a readiness to trust in God's restorative and life-giving work in our world, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

—Pastor Laura

September 2 & 3, 2023

Pentecost 14

This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:13-20.

September 9 & 10, 2023

Season of Creation: Forest

This weekend's texts include Genesis 2:4b-22; Psalm 96:1-13; Acts 10:34-42 and John 3:1-16.

September 16 & 17, 2023

Season of Creation: Land & Prairie/

Blessing of the Harvest

This weekend's texts include Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16; Psalm 139:1-18; Romans 5:12-17 and Matthew 12:38-40.

September 23 & 24, 2023

Season of Creation: Wilderness

This weekend's texts include Joel 1:1-12, 17-20; Psalm 65:1-13, Romans 8:18-27 and Matthew 3:13 - 4:2.

September 30 & October 1, 2023

Season of Creation: River & Stream

This weekend's texts include Ezekiel 47:1-12; Psalm 104:25-33; Revelation 22:1-5 and John 7:37-38.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Blessing of the Harvest

With the upcoming harvest season, First Lutheran will be praying for the safety of all farmers, and for a bountiful harvest. Farmers are invited to bring a symbol of their harvest to be blessed during the worship services on September 16 & 17.

Save the date

Affirmation of Baptism (*Rite of Confirmation*)
Sunday, October 29.

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: Joey Eaker (*Jeff & Patti Boyer's grandson*), Adam Fleming, Alex Fleming (*Adam Fleming's brother*), Heidi Fleming, Milo Holth (*Mike & Margi Ficken's great nephew*), Michelle Mustain, Reid Oberle, Mike Pries, Peggy Schram (*Doris Swanson's daughter*) and Marlee Stiener.

Joys: On the marriage of Dana & Ian Cooper. On the birth of Stetson Dean Schefsky to parents Zach & Hannah Schefsky and grandson of Tony & Lori Schefsky. We welcomed new members Dave Gustafson; Neil & Alice Marshall; Derek & Renae Shannon their children Ella and Reese; Tony & Jenn Stoeger and Jake & Erin Vorac and their children Hudson, Cooper, Brooks and Macy to our church family the weekend of August 19 & 20, 2023.

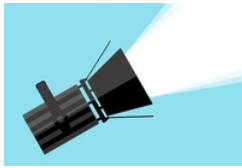
Thanksgiving: For the prayers for healing for Heidi Fleming following the accident.

Sorrows: On the deaths of Steve Alexander, brother-in-law of Bill & Theresa Nelson; and Kim Stadler, daughter of Kathy Rogers.

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



Spotlight On...Sanctuary Choir

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

Chris Ahlstrand has been singing with the choir since about 1990, when Jim Rimington was the director.

Mindy Brown has just completed her first full year singing and is beginning her second year.

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

Chris: I love music and I love making music. I have sung in choirs since childhood days and have had the benefit of learning from wonderful directors, family friends, teachers and vocal coaches. As the new church year began here at First Lutheran many years ago, I happily answered the call to volunteer for the church choir! Joining friends who love singing is great fun!

Mindy: I decided to be part of the choir so I could be more active in the church and get to know people since I am newer to the church. Also I enjoy singing so it is nice to get to do something I love while also serving the church.

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

Chris: My faith is continually refreshed by the messages our choir music shares.

Mindy: My faith is strengthened by being in the choir as I enjoy the music and the message of the pieces that Melinda picks out for the choir to sing.

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

Chris: I would always encourage anyone to join choir if they can count, read, carry a tune, and love music!!! Praising the Lord in song is a special offering that we can all make together.

Mindy: I think everyone can sing in the choir. It is very easy-going, and Melinda provides so much encouragement. Even if you aren't the most confident in your singing ability, the choir is so warm and inviting and makes you feel like you have belonged for years. I feel I have made some very good friends by singing in the choir.

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

Mindy: I get to “share Christ's love” by singing on Sunday mornings and bringing joy and smiles to the faces of others. Our songs are so beautiful, and I love to provide good music to the congregation. What makes me enjoy being part of the choir is having people come up to us at the end of the service and tell us that we did a nice job. I'm proud to be part of the choir.

5. What do you like best about this work?

Mindy: What makes me enjoy being part of the choir is having people come up to us at the end of the service and tell us that we did a nice job. I'm proud to be part of the choir.

Sanctuary Choir sings for Sunday worship at least once per month, September through May, plus some special occasions, and rehearse on Wednesday evenings during the program year.

If you want to learn more, contact Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship & Music, at 309-944-3196 or worship@firstgeneseo.org

Faithtime Kids (*Wednesdays Afterschool*)

Faithtime Kids begins Wednesday, September 6 from 3:15-5 p.m.

All children Grades K-5

September 6	<i>The Light</i>
September 13	<i>Circle of the Church Year</i>
September 20	<i>The Holy Bible</i>
September 27	No Faithtime (<i>half day of school</i>)



FIRST MINISTRIES

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a new "Parent Resource Center" on 2nd floor. You'll find lots of information about our programming and other learning resources! Be sure to visit soon!

Godly Play: No Single Way To Learn

In Godly Play, our Faithtime Kids program for children ages K-5, we tell stories with multisensory materials to appeal to a broad range of learning styles: *auditory* because the story is spoken out loud; *visual*, because the handmade wooden figures represent what is happening in the story; *kinesthetic*, because the storyteller moves the materials around. Later, any child who wishes to learn to tell the story can respond in the same style. In "*response time*," those children who work best together can pair off or form groups to work on creative projects. Those who work best alone have the time and space to concentrate on projects by themselves. We gather the children in a circle for the storytelling, and at the end for a feast, because they thereby learn about being in a community and working together. Everything we do in Godly Play contributes to learning.

Quest

This month marks the beginning of a new children's faith formation program for 6th graders, Quest. Quest is led by Beth Nyland and focuses on the questions this age group might have about their faith. This month, the theme will be "*Gifts*." Quest meets on Wednesdays from 3:15-5 p.m.

Milestone Ministry ~ Welcoming Young Children to Worship: Sanctuary Crawl

Children in Kindergarten and their families learn about worship at First! Kids can ask questions, explore the Sanctuary, and learn how they can be essential to worship.

Event: Saturday, September 9 ~ 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Blessing: Saturday, September 9 (5:30 p.m.)

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. Children will present what they have learned and created during worship on the Sunday after camp. The first Arts Camp will be on Wednesday, September 27 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 September 20.*



FIRST MINISTRIES

Faithtime Evening Meal

Please join us for Food, Fellowship, and Fun at Faithtime Meals! This month's features will be grilled pork chop sandwiches, baked beans, cole slaw, and ice cream sundaes.

PLUS, every month, we celebrate birthdays with BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES!

Beginning in October, our monthly meals will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and will feature a delicious menu that will be advertised in the Chimes and on Facebook.

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

The meal is served from 5:00-5:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays:

September 6

October 11

November 8

December 13

January 10

February 14 (*Ash Wednesday*)

March 13

April 10

Stuff the Bus with Paper!

First Lutheran Preschool is looking for donations of blank paper. No need to run to the store to buy new ... we would love to use any blank paper

(even if its lightly damaged)

you have laying around your home or business, including anything that you have been meaning to recycle. Our preschoolers love to color,

paint, draw and cut paper during class time! If you can lend a helping hand with a donation of paper, we will put it to good use!



New Members

First Lutheran Church welcomes these new members who were received in worship

August 19 & 20, 2023

Dave Gustafson

Neil & Alice Marshall

Derek & Renae Shannon and their children

Ella and Reese

Tony & Jenn Stoeger

Jake & Erin Vorac and their children

Hudson, Cooper, Brooks and Macy

First Book Club

First Book Club will resume this fall on Thursday, September 21. We meet at 2 p.m. in Grace Place. Our first book title is *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty.

A murder...A tragic accident...Or just parents behaving badly? What's indisputable is that someone is dead. Madeline is a force to be reckoned with. She's funny, biting, and passionate; she remembers everything and forgives no one. Celeste is the kind of beautiful woman who makes the world stop and stare but she is paying a price for the illusion of perfection. New to town, single mom Jane is so young that another mother mistakes her for a nanny. She comes with a mysterious past and a sadness beyond her years. These three women are at different crossroads, but they will all wind up in the same shocking place. *Big Little Lies* is a brilliant take on ex-husbands and second wives, mothers and daughters, schoolyard scandal, and the little lies that can turn lethal.

- A complete listing of the 2023-24 book titles and authors is available at the Resource Center in the Fellowship Room.

Jenny Lind Chapel Annual Högmassa

Sunday, September 24 at 4 p.m.

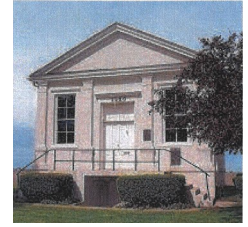
The Jenny Lind Chapel will host its annual Högmassa (High Mass) worship with the Rev. Wayne Miller, retired Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Miller is a graduate of Augustana College, Rock Island, (*Bachelors in Music Education*) and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

After he was ordained in 1984, Miller served as assistant pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago, and the pastor of the Augustana Center for Developmentally Disabled Children until 1986. He was associate pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville, Ill., from 1986 to 1994, before he was called to St. Mark Lutheran Church, Aurora.

Pastor Miller served St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora, Illinois from 1994 until his election as Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in 2007. He retired in 2019 and has served as an interim pastor in several congregations in the past few years.

Bishop Miller and his wife, Pam, are being honored this year by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois at their 42nd Annual True Friends Celebration in October.

FIRST MINISTRIES



HHH Community Health Series

Upcoming Women's Topic:

"Wellness with Humor"

Women's Health Program luncheon will be held at the Geneseo Community Center Activity Room on Thursday, September 28 from noon — 1 p.m. Cost of the lunch is \$10 payable at the door. Reservations required. Please register by calling Hammond-Henry Hospital at 944-9112 or email hfhfound@hammondhenry.com.

First Friends

Wow...where did the summer go??? Come join us for First Friends lunch on Thursday, September 14 at 11:30 a.m. Menu will include grilled burgers, cowboy beans, salad and dessert. **Everyone is welcome!** Come, bring a friend or two, and enjoy the fellowship and food. Cost is \$7. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office to help us plan.

G.E.M.S (*God's Excellent Musicians*)

is a vocal group for youth in grades 6, 7, and 8. Youth will have the opportunity to sing music of different styles and explore the use of various instruments in worship. Session 1 begins Wednesday, September 13 and rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5-5:45 p.m. through October 25 (*no rehearsal October 4*). G.E.M.S will sing in worship on Sunday, October 29. Rehearsals will be held in the choir room.

Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6. Rehearsals are from 6-7 p.m. in the choir room. High-school aged youth and older are welcome!

Glory Ringers

The Glory Ringers bell choir will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 7. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. in the choir room and we are looking for 3 or 4 more youth or adult ringers!

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool

Welcome back to preschool! Our year will begin on September 5 and we are excited to welcome our preschool children and families! We continue to plan for every child to experience a positive, safe and happy environment at preschool. Both classes will be focusing on expressing feelings and emotions through fun activities and projects. We'll be getting to know all about each other this month and will begin our autumn activities. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

LWR Personal Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief provides Personal Care Kits each year to those in need due to natural disasters, war, violence, and civil unrest. In 2022, over 94,000 kits were distributed in 12 countries, including Ukraine, Syria, South Sudan, and Haiti. We are collecting *light-weight dark color bath towels (must be no larger than 52 x 27, dark color recommended), adult-size toothbrushes (multipacks are acceptable), sturdy combs, and metal nail clippers*. Each kit also contains two bars of soap, which we have already. Items can be placed in the baskets at the display in the Fellowship Room through September 10.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to everyone that made my 90th Birthday extra special. Thank you for the cards and well wishes and to all that came to my Open House. It was a very special day and I really enjoyed it. Also, thank you for the garden flowers that have been delivered to me at Liberty Village. They are so pretty and I enjoy them so much. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,
—Jenny Anderson

Council Highlights for August 21, 2023

- Discussed the 2022 Audit Report and the suggestions from the Finance Ministry.
- We talked about having a Cyber Audit and its benefits.
- Approved three funding requests, 1 from Social Ministry for \$700 for the Geneseo Royal Family Kids Camp, 2 from Mission Endowment, the first was for \$900 for The Navigators of Puerto Rico and the second for \$900 for San Jose Obrero.
- We were very excited to approve a number of new members to add to our Congregation!
- We discussed a number of issues that the Building & Property Ministry have been working on.

July Financial Report

General Fund Offering:

July actual	\$41,430
July budget	\$33,825
YTD actual	\$283,586
YTD budget	\$268,875

Net Income Over Expenses:

July actual	\$3,714 surplus
July budget	\$4,056 deficit
YTD actual	\$2,627 surplus
YTD budget	\$21,572 deficit

Women's Ministry

Cover Girls Quilting

Come and work with the "Cover Girls" tying quilts made of donated fabrics on Wednesday, September 6, 13 & 20 at 9 a.m. in Grace Place. The need is great!

Women's Bible Study will gather on Wednesday, September 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will use the Bible Study from the Lutheran magazine *Gather*. All women are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship and Bible Study.

FIRST MINISTRIES

FLC Youth Thank You!

We kicked off the year with a pool party. Thank you to Mark & Darla Anderson for hosting!

Thank You!

Many thanks to First Lutheran for the very pretty flower arrangements.

Thanks again,
—Doris Swanson

SEPTEMBER IS
**HUNGER
ACTION MONTH.**



Help Fight Hunger at the
STOP HUNGER SOUP SUPPER

Friday, September 15
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.



Proceeds support
Geneseo-Atkinson
Food Pantry

First Methodist Church
302 N State St., Geneseo

**\$25 in advance at the
Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry**
\$30 at the door
\$5 off for kids under 14

Includes: Soup/chili, cornbread,
dessert, and a Geneseo-Atkinson Food
Pantry soup bowl (while supplies last)

Food Pantry Collection

The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is collecting *tuna, low sodium chunky-style soups, pasta sauce, pasta, baked beans, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent, lotion and body wash* to share with those in our community. Donations may be left in the basket by the church office.

- **Another Opportunity** ~ The Clothing room needs King size sheets, plus size comfortable clothing, and new or like new underwear.
- **Hammond-Henry Hospital Dietitians** will teach a class about cooking with fresh fall fruits and vegetables at the Food Pantry on Tuesday, September 12, at 1 p.m. This class is free and open to the public!
- The Food Pantry partners with local nurses to provide two **Foot Care Clinics** each month. Nurses soak feet, trim and file toenails, help with ingrown toenails, and give a light foot massage with lotion. Please call 944-3165 or email geneseopantry1@gmail.com to make an appointment. Cost is \$37. Food Pantry Guests are provided with a voucher.





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

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 91
Geneseo, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Noisy Offering

A *Noisy Offering* will be collected the weekend of September 2 & 3 to benefit the Organ & Bell 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

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 — September 11
Ministries — September 11
Council — September 18

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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

**NEXT CHIMES DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 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