



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHIMES

August 1, 2010
Volume 49, Issue 15
www.firstgeneseo.org

Sharing Christ's Love

WORSHIP WITH US THIS WEEKEND!

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Special Weekend Worship August 7 & 8, 2010

Pleasant Valley Boys will lead us in worship on Saturday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 8 at 8:30 & 10 a.m. Come and enjoy their rich gospel sound as they sing many of your favorite songs. Members of the Pleasant Valley Boys gospel ensemble includes Dr. Randall Mullin, Jon Palomaki, Paul VanDerSchaaf, Kevin DeJaeger and Lynn Zuck, pianist. With their melodic voices, they will praise God and lift your spirits through music and word.



Rally Weekend with Peder Eide! September 11 & 12

Over the weekend of September 11 & 12 we will gather and celebrate the music of Peder Eide as he shares an exciting faith-filled concert on Saturday evening and leads us in inspirational worship at both Sunday morning worship.

FIRST NOTES:

- Women's Summer Bible Study on Wednesday, August 4 in the Fellowship Room.
- Cover Girls Quilting on Wednesday, August 11 at 9 a.m.
- First Lutheran Preschool still has a few opening for the 2010-11 school year.



Building Up

In November, the mid-term elections will be held. Which means, very soon election campaigns will begin. Before long, we will see TV ads, hear radio spots and read direct mail flyers on the candidates.

Some campaigns will remain positive. In such campaigns, candidates focus upon the issues and what they believe personally about the issues of the day. I salute and honor such campaigns.

But sadly, many more campaigns will become negative. The goal of such campaigns is to project a negative image of their opponent. Such tactics include attacking character, distorting the record and demonizing the opponent. This type of campaigning is about building up their candidate by tearing the other candidate down.

What makes this twice as troubling to me is that it works. All kinds of candidates are elected because the public believes they are the lesser of two evils. If such campaigning did not work, it would not be used as a strategy. This means there is something in the human soul that buys into such negative thinking.

I see this thinking and conduct prevalent within our culture. We live in a day and age that believes it's acceptable to build ourselves up, by tearing others down. I see this unfold in family systems, business practices, community attitudes, governmental policies and even within the confines of the Church. If we move ahead in life by hurting someone else, we have lost our way. Make no mistake, you can't tear someone down and believe you're living out the faith.

Christians build themselves up, by building others up. St. Paul in Romans 15:2 put it like this, "Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor." We don't live for ourselves, we live for those around us. We serve, care, honor and love those around us.

Our model is, of course, Jesus. In the fullness of time, God sent his son to build you, me and the entire human family up. Just think about the fullness of our Lord's ministry. Jesus taught the world about the love of God. Jesus provided healing to those in need. Jesus took on evil, sin and death upon the cross. Jesus gave us forgiveness, life and salvation in his resurrection. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to form the Church for all generations. Everything Jesus did in his earthly life was to build us up.

Jesus invites us into his way of life. In Luke 10:27 Jesus directed us, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

In a world that accepts tearing each other down, we are invited into a better way. This is God's way – the way of building one another up.

—Pr. Arthur

"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear."
Ephesians 4:29

August 7 & 8, 2010

11 Pentecost

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear, God is with us! This weekend's texts include Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40.

August 14 & 15, 2010

12 Pentecost

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." This weekend's texts include Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2 and Luke 12:49-56.

FIRST WORSHIP & MUSIC



Please keep the following Lifelines petitions in your prayers:

World and Community: For our leaders: President Barack Obama and Governor Pat Quinn.

For regions suffering with violence: Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. For those soldiers in harms way: James Bent, Brian Fink, Jeff Libby, Joshua Rowold and Matt Tallman.

Church: For our bishops: Rev. Mark Hansen and Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim. For our partners in ministry: Pastor Paul Metili and the people of Osupuko Parish in Tanzania, Rev. Vijayakumar, Bishop of the Arcot Lutheran Synod, India and the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission in Haiti. For missionaries who share the Gospel around the world, especially Katie Blobaum and Randy & Carol Stubbs and family. For Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. For our pastors, parish staff, Preschool staff and Church Council (names listed on pg. 6).

Health and Wellbeing: Bob & Vi Anderson, Dick Anderson, Doug Anderson, Gene Belvel, Jo Ann Bengtson, Norris Bennett, Sarah Bognanno, Mike Bowen, Ryan Brandemeyer, Karis Breeden, Kari Bridgewater, Jackie Burns, Erma Cikanek, Dawn Collins, Richard Collins, Quinn Collins, Susan Corcoran, Jeff Dahl, Mary Ann Daniels, Scott Davis, Katelyn DeRycke, Lori Dodge, Madison Dolieslager, Betty Drefchinski, Charles Drummond, Kim Ehlinger, Aaron Elmendorf, Judy Enos, Bonnie Falkenstein, Fred Falkenstein, Ruth Floto, Marlene Franklin, Roy Gentry, Bill George, Rob Gilmore, Vicky Goff, Ida Goldsmith, Ed Goodall, Paul Gradert, Loretta Grassel, Leslie Hamilton, Kirsten Haneberg, Arliss Heist, Christina Henry, David Howe, Sharon Hulick, Dee Johns, Colleen Johnson, Elna Johnson, Mildred Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Nadene Kalchbrenner, Laura Keser, Kevin Klemmer, Elise Lambert, Chuck Landon, Larry Larson, Gail LaVinn, Katie Lawless, Bev Lewis, Larry Lowery, Bill Lundy, Pam Martens, Kathy Mayerle, Holly McDonald, John McDowell, Pastor Barbara Melaas-Swanson, Voy Mitchell, Christina Nelson, Danielle & Samantha Noe, Jenna Noel, Nancy Noord, Vicki Orsi, Mary Ortega, Glenna Palmer, Lois Puls, Bob Pyevich, Tammy Quade, Jessie Rayns, Jeff Renihan, Linda Rice, Mary Ann Rodems, Austin Ross, Andrew Roth, Betty Satterlee, Jim Shaw, Maudie Short, Barb Sierra, Luke Snodgrass, Cary Stach, Mark Stader, Linda Steimle, Bill Stenzel, Basil & Ethel Stewart, Fran Swanson, Mildred Swanson, Helen Terpening, Nicky Tesson, Dolores TwoBears, Charlotte Vandemark, Mitzi Ware, Mike Windy, Mike Winter and Eldon Zimmerman.

Joys: Baptism of Olivia Elizabeth DeSplinter. Peggy Renihan is improved and thanks everyone for their prayers.

Sorrows: Deaths of Mike Byers, cousin of Megan Sundeen and Helen VanAutre, good friend of Sue Conrad.

Thanksgiving: Brandon Humphries, George Daniel's cousin, has returned safely from Afghanistan under God's watch.

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Sue Wolf in the church office at 944-3196 or by e-mail prayers@firstgeneseo.org. 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 Arthur at home at 309-944-2034.

FIRST PRAYER

FIRST MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Preschool



First Lutheran Preschool PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

The first day of school is just around the corner on Wednesday, September 1! We are so excited to begin another great year with our littlest learners. There are still openings for the 2010-11 school year. If you are interested in having your child attend or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the preschool at 944-4306. Information about our curriculum is available online at www.firstgeneseo.org. We look forward to meeting you and your child!

Get My People GOING!!

Our group will meet on August 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. The goal is to encourage all God's people to have a healthy lifestyle. This program asks you to define your own barriers to good health practices and is designed for all people of every health condition. If you are interested in this program that will help you in all areas of your life – from healthy eating, to moderate exercise, getting enough sleep or deepening your spiritual life, please come and join us. Still interested, but can't make the meeting, contact Joan Holt at 944-3196 for more information or for a program packet.

Vesper Services at Jenny Lind Chapel

All are welcome to Sunday Evening Vespers at Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, IL this summer. Vespers will be held at 7 p.m. each Sunday through August 29.

Those conducting worship include:

August 1	Pr. Greg Mayer	First, Rock Island
August 8	Pr. Janet Lepp	St. James, Rock Island
August 15	Pr. Michel Clark	Grace Lutheran, Knoxville
August 22	Pr. Arthur Bergren	First Lutheran, Geneseo
August 29	Pr. Randy Willers	Salem Lutheran, Moline

First Health and Wellness

What is A Parish Nurse?

Parish nurses are persons of faith who are experienced registered nurses and have received special education in wholistic health care. They have skills in teaching and health counseling as well as knowledge of community resources.

As a member of the church staff, the parish nurse promotes wellness within the congregation, enhances the church's outreach ministry, and strengthens the awareness of the connection between faith and health. If you have a medical question or need help in any health related area, please contact Parish Nurse, Joan Holt at 944-3196 (jholt@firstgeneseo.org).

Blood Pressure: Our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures in the Fellowship Room after the service on August 14 and between services on August 15.

Care Ministry: Please call the church office or the Parish Nurse, Joan Holt, if you know of someone in need of a call or visit from a member of our Care Ministry team.

—Joan Holt, RN, PN
Director of Care Ministries

"...I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.

Jeremiah 33:6

DID YOU KNOW?

—First Lutheran Church member Jeff Lang serves on the board of directors at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC). LOMC is a camp of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America located just south of Oregon, Illinois along Illinois State Route 2 on the Rock River.

Women's Ministry

Summer Bible Study—All women are welcome to attend our final Summer Bible Study, “Pray Always” on Wednesday, August 4 in the Fellowship Room. Light refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. followed by Session 3—*Power* at 10 a.m.

Cover Girls Quilting—Come and enjoy a morning of quilting with the “Cover Girls” on Wednesday, August 11 at 9 a.m.

NI Synod Convention—The 22nd Annual Convention of the Northern Illinois Synodical Women's Organization will be Saturday, September 18 at First Lutheran Church, 324 North 3rd Street, DeKalb, IL. This year's theme is “*Act Boldly—Seek and Support Equal Justice*” and in addition to the usual business meeting, worship with communion, and messages from special people, you will be able to imagine yourself visiting third world countries as we offer you a World Market! All voting delegates must register by August 15 and forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Lutheran World Relief—School Kits

First Women's Ministry is collecting items for LWR school kits to send overseas. A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. The following items are needed to pack in the cloth bags sewn by our members:

- spiral notebooks (*no loose-leaf paper*)
- scissors blunt
- rulers (*30 cm*)
- pencil sharpeners
- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- eraser (*approx. 2 1/2" long*)
- construction paper (*assorted colors*)
- Crayola brand crayons (*16 or 24 count*).

Donations may be left in the basket outside the church office. Thank you for your ongoing mission support!

A Special Note of Thanks!

Thank you to all who helped make our VBS a success. The success of the week is due to the time and effort you put into our program. We had a great week starting with 63 children and growing to 74. We also had 35 volunteers to help out with the week and it was a real blessing to have so many involved here at First.

FIRST MINISTRIES



Men's Softball Tournament

Everyone is invited to come to Richmond Hill and cheer the First Lutheran team on to victory during the Season Ending Double Elimination Tournament on August 2-4!

- After 5 p.m. rainouts will be posted at www.geneseosoftball.wordpress.com.

Faithtime Music & Arts Program

Volunteers who love children are needed for the after school Faithtime Music & Arts Program to provide transportation, snacks, supervision during the supper hour, and assist leaders during lessons and rehearsals. Faithtime begins Wednesday, September 1. For more information or to volunteer, contact Melinda Wildermuth, Director of Worship & Music at 944-3196 (mwildermuth@firstgeneseo.org).

Retreat

From Friday, August 6 through Sunday, August 8, the staff of First Lutheran Church will be on retreat. The office will be closed on Friday, August 6 and Monday, August 9. Please keep the staff in your prayers for their retreat!



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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Bergren

*Pastor—*abergren@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Virgil Juliot

*Visitation Pastor—*vjuliot@firstgeneseo.org

Rev. Lynn Bergren

*Worship Pastor—*lbergren@firstgeneseo.org

Melinda Wildermuth

Director of Worship & Music

mwildermuth@firstgeneseo.org

Mary Jo Brummet

Director of Communication & Fellowship

*Ministries—*mjbrummet@firstgeneseo.org

Lori Schefsky

Director of Children's & Faithtime Ministries

lschefsky@firstgeneseo.org

Tim Oloffson

Director of Sr. High & Adult Ministries

toloffson@firstgeneseo.org

Joan Holt, RN, PN

Director of Care Ministries: Senior Health

*& Parish Nursing—*jholt@firstgeneseo.org

Sue Wolf

*Parish Secretary—*swolf@firstgeneseo.org

Doris Murray

*Treasurer—*dmurray@firstgeneseo.org

Charlene Daniels, Custodian

Church Council ~ Dan Brudos—president,

Karen Daniel—vice president, Dawn Ebarb—

secretary, Tom Baumgardner, Dick Carlson,

Joni Conrad, Tim Holmstrom, Jerry Klavohn,

Debbie Krause, Jim Larson, Randy Mullin,

Jim Murray, Bill Nelson, Maurice Nelson,

Mike Pries, Linda Storm, Jim Turner

FIRST LOOK . . .

August 1

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Cinnamon Roll Sunday
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
1:00 p.m. Elna Johnson 80th Birthday
Open House

August 2

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Music Therapy Class
7:00 p.m. Cabinet
7:00 p.m. VDC Secretariat

August 3

6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. VDC Men

August 4

9:30 a.m. WELCA Summer Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

August 5

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting

August 6

Office Closed—Staff Retreat

August 7

5:30 p.m. Worship—*Pleasant Valley Boys*

August 8

8:30 a.m. Worship—*Pleasant Valley Boys*
9:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Worship—*Pleasant Valley Boys*

August 9

Office Closed—Staff Retreat

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Music Therapy Class
7:00 p.m. Ministries

August 10

6:30 p.m. Hearts on Fire Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. VDC Men

August 11

9:00 a.m. Cover Girls Quilting
11:30 a.m. Summer Wellness Program—
Get My People Going!

7:30 p.m. Joyful Spirit Rehearsal

August 12

9:00 a.m. All Staff Meeting

August 14

5:30 p.m. Informal Worship
6:15 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks

August 15

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Fellowship/BP Checks
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Private Baptismal Party

VISIT OUR INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY
CALENDAR ON THE WEB AT
www.firstgeneseo.org

**Next CHIMES deadline:
Monday, August 2**