

This is a Letter to the Editor of the Geneseo Republic; published Friday, September 11, 2009

Come and See

Over the past few weeks, much has been written about my tradition. As pastor of First Lutheran Church, I believe the time has come for me to address our identity to the good people of Geneseo.

We are First Lutheran Church. We are the people with the “Come and See” yard signs. We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

First Lutheran Church holds core values. We believe in the grace filled Word of God. We believe that God comes to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in love of neighbor, enemy and God. We believe in Christ’s death and resurrection. We believe God is present in Word and Sacrament every time we worship. We believe in the time honored values of Geneseo – family, nation and faith in God.

First Lutheran Church is diverse in membership. We are from Henry County farms, Wolf Road and Geneseo proper. We are wealthy, middle class and at the edge of poverty. We are young, middle aged and elderly. We are religiously and politically conservative, moderate and liberal. As you can see, we are not of one mind on any one issue. But that’s not a problem for us, because our core values give us peace and unity.

First Lutheran Church honors all Christians. We believe that all Christian traditions bring a unique and Godly witness to Geneseo and the world. We respect all people of faith. God needs us all and even more importantly we all need God.

For more than 150 years, First Lutheran Church has lived by its core values, enjoyed a diverse membership and respected all of God’s children in Geneseo. As it has always been, so it will always be. But don’t take my word for it. If you don’t have a church home, come and see how we share Christ’s love at First Lutheran Church.

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