

# FAITH ALIVE!

AT FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS!

DECEMBER/JANUARY  
2019/2020

All of this and more on the web at  
[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

SEE ALSO...

[facebook.com/1stlu](https://www.facebook.com/1stlu)

[instagram.com/1stlu](https://www.instagram.com/1stlu)

[twitter.com/1stlu](https://twitter.com/1stlu)

[1stlu.org/cal](http://1stlu.org/cal)

[pinterest.com/firstlu](https://www.pinterest.com/firstlu)

#faithalive365

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



I WENT TO a conference last month in the Twin Cities to hear Brian McLaren talk about change in the church. In just a few hours he rattled off quite a few memorable lines. For example, "There are two kinds of pain: the pain of change and the pain of not changing." The claim, of course, is that pain is inescapable. Because nothing stays the same. "So, we have to decide: what kind of pain do we want to experience?" This was not a conference for the faint of heart!

The primary change he advocates for is to 'migrate' (his book is called "The Great Spiritual Migration") from a system of beliefs, known primarily through doctrines, to a way of Life/a way of Love. In the gospel of Mark, when the scribe—who knows his

Godlaws—asks Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important one of all?", he is asking for ONE. Boil it down for me Jesus! Jesus responds by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Then Jesus continues, "The second is this: (Remember, the scribe didn't ask for two!) You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love of God and love of neighbor are **equally** important to Jesus. They are intertwined. Jesus does not command that we believe a certain belief. He commands the scribe to LOVE: God and neighbor equally.

Loving the neighbor means loving the stranger, the outsider, the outcast and even the enemy. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan, which

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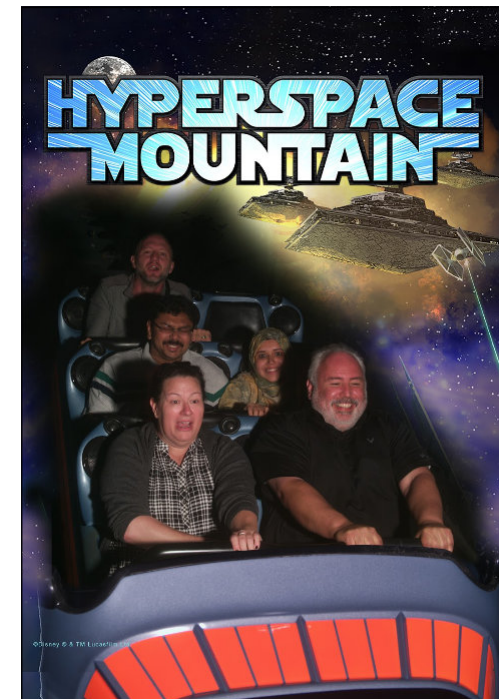
## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



It is no secret that my happy place is Disneyland. It is one of the places I still make sure I visit when I go to California. A few weeks ago I was gifted with a book called "Disney Devotionals". I was so excited! The theology is a little off, but it did help me reflect a little about my recent visit to Disney and life, particularly a life of faith.

My brother-in-law chose to join me on my most recent jaunt to Disney, which was great fun. He wasn't so sure he would get anything out of roller coasters, he has jumped out of airplanes after all, but we soon found out that he LOVES roller coasters. One of our last rides was on Space Mountain, or as they call it now Hyperspace Mountain (insert eye roll). Holy moly, that ride is fast!

*Continues on page 5*



## SURVEY REGARDING OUR NEXT BISHOP

The La Crosse Area Synod encourages all synod members to read the *Our Next Bishop:*

*A Study Guide and Survey* and take the Synod Survey Response available at [1stlu.org/nextbishop](http://1stlu.org/nextbishop).

The survey is meant to foster the thoughtful discussion and prayerful discernment that is vital in making this call. Take your time: read, reflect and pray.

Deadline to submit surveys is **5pm, Wednesday, Jan. 15.**

*Questions?*

Contact the synod office: [office@lacrosseareasynod.org](mailto:office@lacrosseareasynod.org)

**I say "be careful" about how we imagine being a church who is God's Love in the world because most every other time God followers leap out from comfortable priorities of the world and into God's Love-priorities, they get in trouble. But at least it's holy trouble!**

is Jesus' response to a lawyer who asked, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus is basically saying that the 'others', our hurt enemies, deserve our care, concern and resources as much as 'our own' people.

What if being Church meant **being God's Love** in the world instead of simply being a group of people who agreed on a list of doctrines?

Be careful with your answer. According to McLaren, if we allow ourselves to make this migration, we will find ourselves recognizing that money is a liar. We will also see, as Pope Francis saw and shared in his encyclical, "Laudato Si" that "the earth cries out" in pain as much as we can

hear "the cries of the poor." Migrating to a spirituality of Love rather than doctrine will change the ways we know neighbors, ourselves. Creation and God. And it will hurt a bit. Because we ourselves will be changed. Our greed will perish. Our buried racism and classism will perish. Our indifference to harming the earth with our carelessness will perish. And our Love will blossom in unexpected ways. I say "be careful" about how we imagine being a church who is God's Love in the world because most every other time God followers leap out from comfortable priorities of the world and into God's Love-priorities, they get in trouble. But at least it's holy trouble!

God modelled this dangerous choice for Love most obviously through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we approach the season of Christmas, there are lights and gatherings and gifts and feasts. But the celebrations are not simply done for us to feel full and a little tipsy. Faithfully done, Christmastime remembers that God chooses the harder way: stooping down from the heavenly places to be born as one of us. In Jesus, God is born as a mortal, who will model Love and true Life which is so powerful it overcomes Death.

We, too, as God's church can be born anew this Christmas season. Baptized into the Love and Life of Christ, we can be God's Love in the world courageously seeking ways to love God and love neighbor... equally.



Pastor Jason Stanton  
[jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)

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[office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org)  
[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 & 10:30AM  
Wednesday 6:15 PM

### SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your announcement in the monthly newsletter, send it to [newsletter@firstlu.org](mailto:newsletter@firstlu.org), or give it to Andy in the office. **Deadline for the newsletter is always noon on the 15th of the month.**

To have your announcement in the weekly announcements pages handed out each weekend, send it to [announcements@firstlu.org](mailto:announcements@firstlu.org), or give it to Andy in the office. **Deadline for the weekly announcements is always noon each Wednesday.**

First Lutheran is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)





# Advent Around the Table

We invite everyone to join us on **Sunday, Dec. 1 at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall** for this annual tradition. We will gather to create advent crafts for our homes, and costumes for the Christmas Program. Along the way we will learn more about this particular season, have great fellowship and grow in our faith as we kick off the Advent season.

# Christmas Giving Tree

**Return gifts by Dec. 8**

Make certain tags are attached to outside of the wrapped gift.

If you purchase gift cards, please wrap them in a box.

*Call the office at 608.783.2236 if you'd like to know what else may be on a person's wish list*

# ICICLE TOES PROJECT

**Through December 25**

Warm socks for folks who need them! Socks will be collected for donation to New Horizons Shelter, a community resource where people are helped during times of need. Please bring new socks for children or adults to the Icicle Toes Tree in the narthex. Thank you!

# Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to give a rose in honor or memory of loved ones for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, you may do so by filling out the form and return it to the church office. Cost is \$5 per rose.

**Order deadline is December 15.**

*Please print clearly*

Your name and phone number:

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I would like a rose in **memory** of:

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I would like a rose in **honor** of:

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# God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of a difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



## Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



## Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



## Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



## Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth – helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



## Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds – bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



## Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250



## Oxen and plow

A pair of oxen will help create record-breaking harvests, provide natural fertilizer for the fields and give families the gift of time.

\$1,000

Give through your congregation, by visiting [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by sending a check to ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

[ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)

# Blue Christmas

The Holidays can feel sad, stressful or difficult. We may miss loved ones who are away, absent or dead. Join us at First Lutheran for an hour of worship including music, prayers, candlelight and reflection on what God is up to amidst our blue feelings around Christmastime. **Saturday, December 21, 5pm**, with a time for a light meal & conversation following.

# Christmas Caroling!

**Sunday, Dec. 15, 4pm**

Meet at church, where we will all load on a bus and go around town spreading Christmas cheer! Then come back to church for a yummy meal and fellowship!

Please RSVP at [1stlu.org/caroling](http://1stlu.org/caroling)

Space Mountain was the first fully indoor rollercoaster. It has two tracks and can reach speeds up to and probably exceeding if my last ride through is any indication, 30 miles an hour. It is also done completely in the dark. You cannot see where you are going: when there will be a turn or a drop or a moment of reprieve as you head up a small hill. There are moments when your adrenaline spikes in absolute glee or in absolute terror and times when you can catch your breath.

As I reflected later that evening while I was enjoying my dinner on Main St, USA, I realized that life, especially life in faith or ministry, is a lot like Space Mountain. We don't always know what we are doing, we don't always know where the Spirit is going to lead us, sometimes we are experiencing glee, sometimes terror. Sometimes we have moments to catch our breath and sometimes there are moments when things are moving so fast your just hold on and try not to squeal.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says: Trust in the Lord

with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.

Life might feel like a ride on Space Mountain, and we might have very little idea about what is ahead, but we have the most amazing gift: Jesus. Jesus the Christ who walks alongside us, who reminds us that our God will never forsake us, who is a fount of grace and love in a life that can feel void of it. Jesus who reminds us that even on those days when we are pretty sure we can't do this life of faith another moment, provides us what we need to keep going. Jesus who makes our paths straight even with the twists and turns the world throws our way. This is what I hold on to each day.



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz  
karyn@firstlu.org

**One in ten people 65 and older is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and many more are impacted as caregivers.**



APPROXIMATELY 20% OF La Crosse County residents are 65 and older and that number will increase to 30% within the next 5 years. With this growth in the aging population comes a great need for awareness of how Alzheimer's Disease and dementia will touch us all, because age is the No. 1 risk factor of Alzheimer's. One in ten people 65 and older is diagnosed, and many more are impacted as caregivers. Many of these people are members of our congregation and community, either personally diagnosed or caregiving for a loved one diagnosed. Pastor Karyn and I attended a meeting in November for faith leaders to talk about dementia and how churches can support caregivers and people with dementia. We have already begun talking about ways to become dementia-friendly: on Nov. 20, the La Crosse County dementia care specialist was the guest speaker at the monthly OWLs meeting.

**DEMENTIA RE-IMAGINED BOOK DISCUSSION**

Jan. 4 you are invited to be a part of a book discussion, *Dementia Reimagined*, by Tia Powell, M. D. Read the book in December and join the discussion at 9am, at Pastor Karyn's home. Snacks and beverages will be provided. It's time to talk about dementia-friendly support and spirituality. Join the conversation!

**HOSTING MEMORY CAFE AT FIRST**

The Memory Café is an opportunity for fellowship for people living with memory loss, Alzheimer's & other related dementias and their care partners to enjoy regular, social interaction with others to laugh, to learn and create community. **We are looking for people to help host March 26 at 1pm.** Memory Cafes are informal, relaxed environments.

We need people to provide hospitality, beverages and a light snack and people to lead some sort of fun, engaging program or project. Themes and topics may include: Art, animals, music, creating, food and more. If you are interested in hosting the Memory Cafe, contact Bridget. If you or someone you know would benefit from attending the Memory Cafe, please invite them. **The second cafe we are hosting is June 25.**



Bridget Crave  
Director of Small Group Ministry  
bridget@firstlu.org

La Crosse Area Synod  
School of  
Theology



An education and  
discipleship ministry of the  
La Crosse Area Synod-ELCA

**Starting up Jan. 9**  
**La Crosse Area Synod**  
**School of Theology**

For those who want to dig a little deeper into what it means to be Lutheran: our heritage, theology, leadership, worship & spiritual practices.

More info & online reg at  
[1stlu.org/theology](http://1stlu.org/theology)



## READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, Dec 1	Matthew 24:36-44
Wednesday, Dec 4	Jeremiah 33:14-18
Sunday, Dec 8	Matthew 3:1-12
Wednesday, Dec 11	Isaiah 40:1-11
Sunday, Dec 15	Matthew 11:2-11
Wednesday, Dec 18	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
Sunday, Dec 22	Matthew 1:18-25
Tue, Dec 24	Luke 2:1-14
Wednesday, Dec 25	Luke 2:8-20
Sunday, Dec 29	Matthew 2:13-23
Sunday, Jan 5	John 1:1-18
Wednesday, Jan 8	Mark 1:21-45
Sunday, Jan 12	Matthew 3:13-17
Wednesday, Jan 15	Mark 2:1-22
Sunday, Jan 19	John 1:29-42
Wednesday, Jan 22	Mark 4:1-34
Sunday, Jan 26	Matthew 4:12-23
Wednesday, Jan 29	Mark 5:1-20

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for December/January. Readings used during worship are determined by the pastors on a weekly basis, and therefore are subject to change.

You can also view this list online and subscribe to receive them as an email at [1stlu.org/readings](http://1stlu.org/readings).



## *Year-End Donations*

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep First Lutheran in mind. You can make a tax-deductible, year-end donation on our website at [1stlu.org/give](http://1stlu.org/give).

## 2019 SMALL GROUPS

### Weekly Groups:

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Knitters

Middle & High School  
Youth Groups

Parent Share

Quilters

Sunday Morning  
with Coffee

### Monthly Groups:

Drawing from the Well

Grief Support Group

OWLs  
(Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

Elizabeth Circle

**FAITH  
ALIVE! U**

## Public Service as a Christian in Today's World

**Officer Joel Miller  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 6pm**

Hear from First Lutheran member and La Crosse Police Officer Joel Miller talk about his faith journey and being a police officer. He'll talk about issues like identity formation and changing personal perspectives to align his faith with his work, and explore how to connect your work and faith in ways that are fulfilling and of service to the least of those in your community.

**FAITH  
ALIVE! U**

## COMMUNITY MEAL

**Before the  
Faith Alive! U  
presentation  
join us for a meal  
starting at 5:30pm**

*Sign-up  
to help with the meal at  
[1stlu.org/meal](http://1stlu.org/meal)*

**Childcare is available:  
for kids in grade school  
we offer a supervised  
kid zone. For kids not  
yet in grade school,  
we will have adult  
supervision in the  
nursery.**

**FAITH  
ALIVE! U**

## Cultural Humility

**Amanda Goodenough  
Sunday, Jan. 12, 6pm**

Cultural humility can enhance communication, foster trust, deepen connections, and improve outcomes when interacting across differences. In the bigger picture, it's a process that can radically transform organizations. Attendees will engage in racial identity reflection, gain a deeper understanding of individual and group membership, and practice cultural humility along the way.



CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PLEGGED DOLLARS:

\$1,058,518

GIFTS RECEIVED:

\$720,939

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

HVAC CONTROLS

ED BUILDING ROOF

PARKING LOT REPAIRS

TREES REMOVED

WIFI UPGRADE

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

3 AC UNITS REPLACED

SANCTUARY AUDIO UPGRADE

COMING SOON:

EXTERNAL SIGNAGE



**First Lutheran is able to change lives, and members lives are changed. New stories will be coming. Watch for them!**

through First Lutheran is carried out as intended. Thank you to everyone enrolled. Our enrollment grows monthly. If you have not enrolled in this easy and convenient way to grow our outreach and change more lives, you can do so on the website at [1stlu.org/giving](http://1stlu.org/giving) or stop by the church office.

Capital Campaign update: Planning is underway for replacement of the sanctuary roof once the weather allows. It is great to report we have received over 68% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. Thank you for continuing to meet your pledge. Full financial details are available by request in the church office. We welcome everyone to attend a finance committee meeting. We meet every month, on the second Wednesday at noon. The coffee is free, but bring your own lunch. The Stewardship Committee meets once a month and is looking for members. For meeting times, contact Pastor Stanton.

*Faithfully submitted,*

*The Finance and Stewardship Committees*



AS MEMBERS OF First Lutheran Church and through our financial gifts, we commit to bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Through our unique place in our community and the size of our congregation, we are able to **Change the Lives** of people of all ages and make more disciples of Christ. A primary way we communicate our successes and opportunities is through stories. The video stories presented in September and October started an exciting venture in storytelling. A story-telling group has been formed to create and build a library of stories about how we Change Lives and how members Lives are Changed because of First Lutheran. They will be delivered in a variety

formats for your enjoyment and contemplation. Everyone loves a story. New ones will be coming often, be on the lookout. Thank you for your continuing contributions that make these wonderful stories possible.

Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. You recently received a letter and RSVP card for you to indicate your increased contribution for 2020 to **Change Lives**. Thank you to everyone who returned the RSVP card. We have received 136 cards out of a potential 600, so please return the card during worship, mail to the church office, or fill out online at [1stlu.org/rsvp](http://1stlu.org/rsvp). It is also a great time to consider using Simply Giving, which is a big reason for our success in **Changing Lives**. Many families use this convenient way to ensure their support of God's work



# WELCOMING THE SAVIOR



AFTER MY SURGERY in November, I felt so welcomed and loved by all those who greeted me the following Sunday. I received hugs and lots of whispered "You're in our prayers." It was so nice to be welcomed in such a loving and meaningful way. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the prayers and "you got this, girl" that I heard from so many of my church family.

As we get into this Christmas season, let us take time to reflect on the reason for this wonderful time of year. Let us welcome Jesus into our lives by welcoming those around us. We might be entertaining angels without even knowing it, as it says in Hebrews 13:2 "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." I hope each of you slows down after worship and says "hi" to someone you may not know by name. If you are brave enough to

introduce yourself to someone who's new to you, ask someone to stay for coffee and then sit with them at a table. These are just a few ways to welcome those around us.

As we begin to think about the coming year, which seems to come so quickly, I would like to invite you all to our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Jan. 26 at 11:45 am in the fellowship hall. This is a way the staff says thank you to all our volunteers. I hope you will come and enjoy food, games and fellowship on a cold January day. I will have a sign up available at the welcome center the beginning of January.

Thank you for the gifts you share with us and may you have a blessed Christmas.

*Kathryn Pedretti*  
Director of Servant Ministries  
kathryn@firstlu.org

A Warm Thank You!

## Volunteer Appreciation Party

**January 26, 11:45am-1pm**

Why? To thank everyone  
for being Christ's hands and feet!

RSVP at the  
Welcome Center or  
call the church at  
608.783.2236  
by January 22



# GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

## SUNSHINE BOYS & GIRLS

The Sunshine Boys and Girls meet at First Lutheran on the **second FIRST Thursday of the month THIS DECEMBER, at 9am**, to help with outdoor or indoor projects. Rolls and coffee are supplied to replenish your reserves! Dues are free! Currently, the January meet-up is scheduled for the **second Thursday, Jan. 9 at 9am**; it will be posted in the announcements and online if changed.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR "COME FOR SUPPER" ATTENDEES

Come for Supper at Our Savior's in La Crosse is asking for your help. They will be purchasing winter gloves and personal hygiene items to distribute to supper guests for Christmas. If you are interested in helping finance the purchase of these gifts, checks for any amount may be sent to Our Savior's Lutheran (612 Division St, La Crosse, WI 54601). Make sure you designate your gift to "Come for Supper." Thank you!

## COME FOR SUPPER

First Lutheran is assisting with Come for Supper on **Tuesday, Jan. 28**, at Our Savior's in La Crosse. First Lutheran will help with food donations and volunteering to serve and clean up. The sign-up sheets will be available at the Welcome Center. *Call Gloria Kubiak if you have questions: 608.498.2762.*

## BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Who knew a bell could provide so much hope! Please volunteer to ring those bells for the major Salvation Army fundraiser. The two-hour shifts help feed the hungry, shelter a family, provide support for those in need. There are still many open spots at the 22 sites around town. *To find a kettle near you, register at RegisterToRing.com or call 608.782.2126.*

## NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer!  
**Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 9am**, to assemble the February newsletter. See you there!



The meeting time and place for Stephen Ministers has changed to the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, from 7-8pm, in the Fireside Room.

If you know of someone who needs a caregiver, speak with Pastor Karyn (karyn@firstlu.org) or call the church office (608.783.2236).

## HELPING HANDS

If you need help with small jobs around the house or if you need a couple of meals or groceries delivered, just go to the "Helping Hands" board by the nursery and make out a slip with a description of what you need help with and your telephone number. Then anyone who thinks they can help can take the slip and call the number to work out the details.

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10am** in the narthex for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism. *To register or ask questions call the church office at 608.783.3326 by Monday, Dec. 2. Min. attendance required: 2 families.*

## NO EVENING WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25 AND JAN. 1

On Wednesday, Dec. 25 join us for **worship at 10am** as we celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. With worship in the morning, we will not have worship in the evening. Nor will we have worship on Wednesday, Jan. 1. The office will be closed both days. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

## YAGM APPLICATION DATES EARLIER THIS YEAR

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults (ages 21-29) into a year-long international journey of service. *If you, a friend, a church family member would be interested in such a journey, go to [elca.org/yagm](http://elca.org/yagm) and begin the application process. The application window closes Feb. 15, 2020, with priority given to those who apply by Jan. 15.*

## CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the weather ever makes you wonder whether your group is meeting for their ministry, check our website, Facebook page, or update the office with your cell # and provider so that we can text you.

The staff and leadership of First intend to 'make the call' by 5pm at the latest so everyone knows what to expect. Be safe this winter!

## SNOW BIRDS

Are you heading out? Please let us know if you'll be spending the winter somewhere else. If we know your seasonal address, we can keep in touch by sending you the monthly newsletter. *Call or email the office with your winter address: 608.783.2236, [office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org).*

## WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- Remington Mae Kretschmer
- Emma Jane Nicholson

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Del Christianson

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Thank you for the following memorials:*

### In memory of Bruce Melby, Art Melby's brother

- Undesignated: Judy Johnson

### In memory of Jerry Powers

- Undesignated: Bradley & Paula Hanan

### In memory of Steve Evert

- Capital campaign: Helen Halverson, James & Kay Nelson

### In memory of Willard Halverson

- Capital campaign: Friends at First Lutheran

### In memory of John Schuppel

- OWLs: Margo Schuppel

## In honor of McKenna Everson's confirmation

- Capital campaign: Paula Skoy & Travis Evenson

## HOSPITAL REMINDERS

**For Gundersen:** be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask, and they will release your name to us when we call.

**For Mayo/Franciscan Healthcare:** it is important that you or a family member contact us at the church office: 608.783.2236. Mayo no longer lets churches know who is a patient at their hospital.

## LATEX- & NUT-FREE CAMPUS

A reminder to all members that First Lutheran is a latex- and nut-free campus. Please do not bring food containing nuts or nut butters/oils/extracts of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!

## SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your announcement in the monthly newsletter, send it to [newsletter@firstlu.org](mailto:newsletter@firstlu.org), or give it to Andy in the office. Deadline for the newsletter is always **noon on the 15th of each month.**

To have your announcement in the weekly announcements pages handed out each weekend, send it to [announcements@firstlu.org](mailto:announcements@firstlu.org), or give it to Andy in the office. Deadline for the weekly announcements is always **noon each Wednesday.**

## GO GREEN

We offer two e-mail lists for subscribing:

**First Lutheran Publications:** which includes e-mail links to our e-newsletter, so if you request to stop receiving this paper in your hands, this will save natural resources, and helps First save money on supplies and postage.

**First Lutheran Updates & Publications:** all of the above plus several updates from our website.

*To subscribe to either one and to cancel the delivery of this paper copy, simply visit [1stlu.org/subscribe](http://1stlu.org/subscribe) and fill out the online form, or contact the office at [office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org).*





FIRST LUTHERAN  
PRESCHOOL

# Preschool Update

We can't believe that the month of December is already here! The best time of the year! We love teaching the children about the birth of Jesus, the true meaning of Christmas!! Our preschoolers will be working on some special gifts for their parents. We will be having our Book Munchers, December 12, the children love having a "special" guest come into school! Have a very Merry Christmas!!



What parents are  
saying about  
First Lutheran  
Preschool...

I feel so blessed to have had this amazing first school experience for my daughter. FLP offers wonderful caring teachers who provide a safe nurturing environment with engaging learning activities, all while keeping the focus on Christ's love. It's been a perfect fit for our family!

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI

54650 608.779.4504 •

preschool@firstlu.org

Preschool Director: Melissa Rolbiecki

4K Teacher: Beth Miller

Preschool Assistant Teachers:

Marci Leppert, Tracy Stoll

## Advent Around the Table

We invite everyone to join us on  
**Sunday, Dec. 1 at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall** for this annual tradition. We will gather to create advent crafts for our homes, and costumes for the Christmas Program. Along the way we will learn more about this particular season, have great fellowship and grow in our faith as we kick off the Advent season.

## YOUNG YOUTH: COOKIE DECORATING

**Saturday, December 14, 4pm**

Come to the Fellowship Hall to decorate Christmas cookies to be handed out when we go caroling on Sunday! Parents are welcome, even encouraged, to attend this cookie decorating event!

## Sunday School

**Sunday, Dec. 15, 9:15am**

Sunday School, Rehearsal for Christmas Program

**Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6:15pm**

Sunday School Christmas Program  
Reception to follow

**Sunday, Dec. 22 & 29**

No Sunday School

## Faith Building Blocks

**Grade 2: What's Fair**, in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Jan. 5: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Jan. 12 & 19: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Jan. 26: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship



**Grade 4: Apostles' Creed**, in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Jan. 26: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Feb. 2 & 9: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Feb. 16: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship



Questions? Contact Sunday School Superintendent Beth Miller at [sundayschool@firstlu.org](mailto:sundayschool@firstlu.org) or stop in the Sunday School office in room 206.

## Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 15, at 4pm**

Gathering first in the sanctuary for a Christmas hymn sing with treats.

At 5pm loading buses & spread Christmas cheer around town!

Returning around 6pm for a potluck feast!

*Sign-up at [1stlu.org/caroling](http://1stlu.org/caroling).*





**Meeting  
Wednesdays at 7pm  
in December & January  
except Dec. 18, 25  
and Jan. 1**

*Peer Ministry is an amazing opportunity for our young adults here at First Lutheran. It trains and equips them to have the skills to deal with the tough situations that confront our youth in today's world.*

*They learn how to welcome those who are hurting, listen with empathy, and communicate in clear ways.*

*Peer Ministry grows leaders who can continue to help and serve in their everyday life.*

*Meeting most Wednesdays,  
November-May*

*More info: [1stlu.org/peermin](http://1stlu.org/peermin)*

*Questions?*

*Contact [jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org).*

# GO N E F I R M A T I O N

Events subject to change; up-to-date info at [1stlu.org/confirmation](http://1stlu.org/confirmation)

Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and theologically sound

# SPRING SEMESTER CONFIRMATION REG

## Grade 9

Mon-Fri, Jan 13-17

## Grade 8

Mon-Fri, Jan 20-24

### UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Sundays, 9:15am  
**Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes**  
except Sundays, Dec. 22 & 29

Wednesdays, 7:00pm  
**Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups**  
except Wednesdays,  
Dec. 18, 25 & Jan. 1

Sunday, Dec. 8, 6:00pm  
**Faith Alive! U:  
Public Service as a Christian**

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 5:00pm  
**Confirmation Cls:  
Spiritual Practices**

Sunday, Jan. 12, 6:00pm  
**Faith Alive! U: Cultural Humility**

Mon-Fri, Jan. 13-17  
**Gr 9 Spring Semester  
Confirmation Registration**

Mon-Fri, Jan. 20-24  
**Gr 8 Spring Semester  
Confirmation Registration**

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 5:00pm  
**Confirmation Cls: Art as Prayer**



# YOUTH GROUPS

Grades 6-12 gather together on the following Sundays for meal and fellowship from 5-5:30pm (with exceptions, as noted below...)

## December 1

Come early and help "teen approve" for the clothes closet

## December 8

Attending community meal and Faith Alive! U

## December 15:

BAKING COOKIES and caroling!

## December 22:

No youth group

## December 29:

FIRST EVER YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN!  
Escape rooms, dancing, basketball match ups, movies, and lots of FOOD!  
Starts at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall, ends December 30 at 9am.  
Bring your air mattress and sleeping bag, but DON'T PLAN TO SLEEP!

## January 5

Youth Group

## January 12

Attending community meal and Faith Alive! U

## January 19:

Spend the day on the snow hill!  
Where: Snow Hill VanRiper Park  
Sledding Hill Onalaska  
When: 11:45am meet in the fellowship hall for lunch and then head to the hill; will return to church at 3:30pm  
What to bring: Parent permission slip found on First Lutheran website, weather appropriate gear, and your favorite sled

## January 26:

Youth Group

## Christmas Shopping Day Out

Bring your children for an evening of FUN while parents get a chance to get out or stay in with the Middle and High School Youth "Date Night Fundraiser"!

ALL are welcome!  
You do not need to be a member.

Ages: Birth-12  
Cost: Free will donation.

Money raised will go to help the middle and high school youth with their 2020 mission trip

### TWO DATES!

#### Saturday, Dec. 7

Registration begins at 7:45am til 10am followed by activities and a light lunch at 11am. Event goes til 12:30pm (parents may pick up earlier if needed)

#### Friday, Dec. 13

Registration begins at 4:45pm til 5:30pm followed by dinner and activities till 8:30pm (parents may pick up earlier if needed)

Activities include face painting, activities, and games!

Wrapping of presents available in the Narthex at both events.



## Parent Date Night Out

Bring your children for an evening of FUN while parents get a chance to get out or stay in with the Middle and High School Youth "Date Night Fundraiser"!

ALL are welcome! You do not need to be a member.

### Friday, Jan. 17

Ages: Birth-12 Cost: Free will donation.

Money raised will help the middle and high school youth with their 2020 mission trip

Time: Registration begins at 4:45pm till 5:30pm followed by dinner and activities till 8:30pm (parents may pick up earlier if needed)

Activities include face painting, games, and activities!

Middle School



High School

# YOUTH GROUPS



Questions? Contact volunteer Youth Ministry Administrator, Andrea Dombroski: 608.790.5631  
MHyouth@firstlu.org.





# OWLS

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

The OWLs recently had two outstanding adventures. The first was to our local Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, followed a week later by a wonderful tour of the Maywood Mansion in Rochester decorated for Christmas. We came home with many ideas for decorating.

The OWLs start December with a trip to Sugar Creek Bible Camp for the Christmas version of Yesterday's Youth. The morning program will be presented by the Vesterheim Museum, starting with a "Year of Holidays" featuring Norwegian mural artist Sigmund Aarseth, followed by a "Norwegian Christmas Virtual Experience." Lunch will be a delightful Norwegian-style Christmas

meal complete with meatballs, lefse and more! Don't worry: They have never served us lutefisk. After lunch, a lively musical program will be led by The DisChords with Christmas classics, old-time favorite tunes and a sing-a-long. They are not to be missed. **This marvelous festive outing will leave the church at 8:00 AM on Monday, Dec. 9.** Cost of the day is \$10, including the coffee and rolls we get on arrival. If you plan to attend, contact Brian Narveson at 630.816.5917 or owls@firstlu.org by Sunday, Dec. 8.

The Yesterdays Youth will be great, but the social event of the season is the World-Famous OWLs Christmas Potluck. This event is known for its fabulous food, great fellowship, fun games, wonderful gift exchange and a large array of Christmas goodies. **This fantastic event takes place in the Narthex on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at noon.** The gift exchange is optional. Please

bring a gift if you would like to receive a gift. The gift theme this year is "My Favorite Christmas Socks." Bring something purchased or handmade that shows Christmas spirit. Please keep the value of the gift to less than \$10. We also ask all who can to bring a few Christmas goodies to share in addition to your potluck dish. This will serve as our desserts for December. If you have a favorite Christmas sweater or outfit, please wear it on this festive occasion. Looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

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*The OWLs are a group at First that welcomes anyone, First Lutheran members or not, who are 55+. For information or to ask questions, contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org. A reminder for all potlucks that First Lutheran is a nut-free campus. Please do not bring food containing nuts or nut butters/oils/extracts of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!*

## EVENTS

Sign up for most events happening at First Lutheran on our website at [1stlu.org/signup](http://1stlu.org/signup)

### DRAWING FROM THE WELL

Next gatherings: **Sat., Dec. 14 and Jan. 11, 9:30–11am, in the Upper Room.** This group is for women of First and the greater La Crosse area seeking to support one another in their spiritual growth. We gather together once a month on Saturday mornings to be with each other, enjoy a breakfast, and develop a deeper relationship with one another. Come and get to know other women of the church, or renew friendships. *RSVP to [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)*

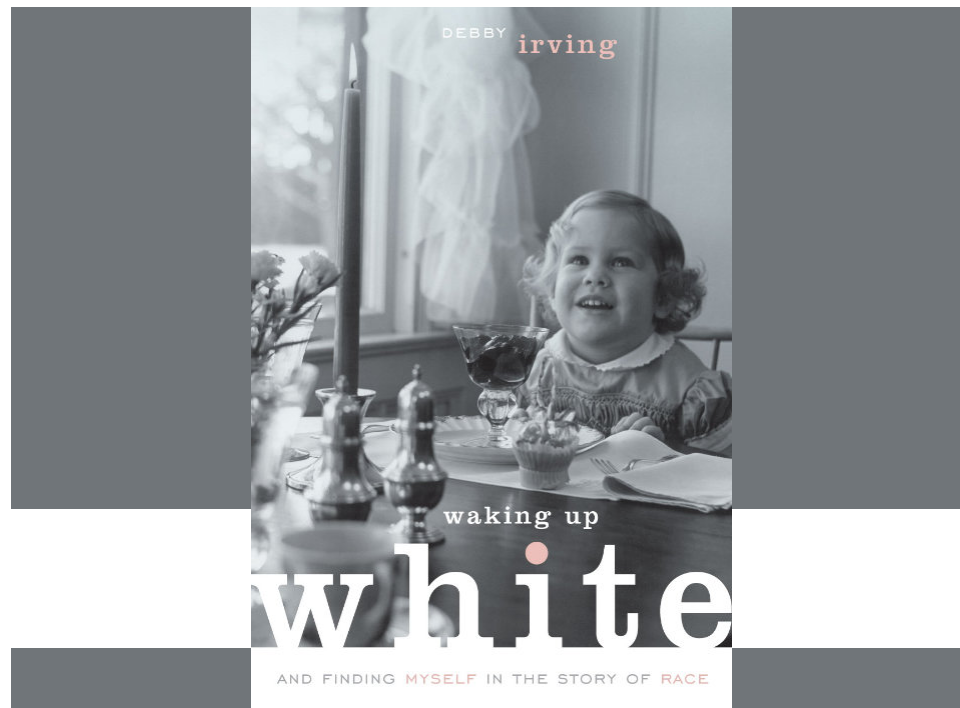


## SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

### 2019–20 Upcoming Events

Dec 9	Yesterday's Youth (Senior Day Event)
Jan 12	Winter Fun Day (1-5pm)
Jan 24-26	High School Retreat (9-12th grades)
Jan 26	Winter Fun Day (1-5pm)
Feb 9	Winter Fun Day (1-5pm)
Feb 16	Sugar Creek's ANNUAL MEETING – 2pm
Feb 23	Winter Fun Day (1-5pm)
Feb 27-Mar 1	SCBC Craft Retreat (for women)

Contact camp to RSVP for all events:  
[camp@sgrcreek.org](mailto:camp@sgrcreek.org) • 608.734.3113



### WAKING UP WHITE IS THE NEXT CONGREGATION READ

The congregation will read *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving this winter. Irving's mission is to transform confusion and anxiety about racial injustice into curiosity and action. "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed if it is not faced" James Baldwin.

Why are we talking about race, you might wonder. Jesus commands us to "love one another" (John 13:34). We have to face the truth that racism continues in our country and in our community and that is not love. As part of a larger La Crosse-area effort to develop a healthier multicultural community, there are many organizations, school districts, governmental agencies reading this book as well. Later in 2020, it will be a La Crosse library-based community read. **Copies of the book are available in the church office now and will be available before and after worship starting Dec. 11;** the cost is \$10. You are encouraged to start reading after Epiphany (Jan. 6), making notes, keeping a journal even and then join a small group during Lent for discussion.



# First Lutheran Onalaska Blood Drive

Be a Beacon of Hope

**January** MON, 12:30–5:30pm  
**20** Walk-ins welcome,  
appointments encouraged:  
schedule at [1stlu.org/blooddrive](http://1stlu.org/blooddrive)  
Remember to bring ID



Questions? Contact Diane Shuda: 608.386.4270



## CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS

Dressy dresses (not prom dresses)  
for girls to wear for an event coming up Dec. 8,  
especially in XL and larger sizes.

Also, COATS! Our rack has only one or two coats  
in each size, and none in XL or larger.

Hats, gloves, scarves, and, as always, hoodies  
are also needed.

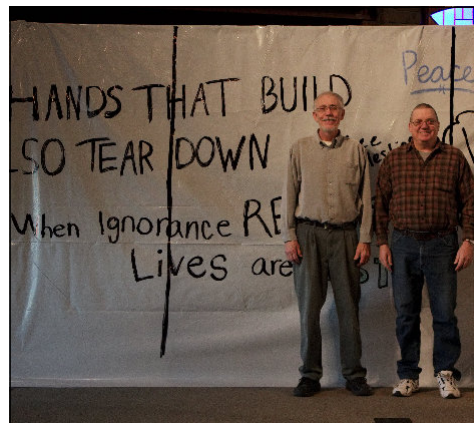
*Items may be dropped off in the bins  
in the main entry way*



## BLESSINGS TO MIKE PEPER!



Since Jan. 16, 2006, Mike Peper has faithfully served First Lutheran as Lead Custodian. During Mike's time here, tile floors were buffed, HVAC units were replaced and rooms got painted—just to name a few of the hundreds of projects that were done. But Mike did not understand his work to be only about the buildings and grounds. Mike understood his work to be a ministry, and he was right! That's why he thought up creative ways of meeting decorative challenges in the sanctuary (think of hanging 1,000 birds from strings!). That's why he spent quality time with the Sunshine Boys. And it's why he'd come to the building in the wee hours after an alarm sounded or after a snowstorm blanketed the walkways or whenever else we needed him.



Mike's official last day serving First is Dec. 31. Hopefully, I'll have a couple opportunities to say this in person for myself, but I hope all our members and friends of First Lutheran make time to thank Mike for his 14 years of faithful service. He and his wife, Mary, look forward to spending even more time with their beloved grandkids, and who can blame them? May God bless them for many years to come! Happy retirement, Mike!






*Jason*  
Pastor Jason Stanton  
[jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)

# DECEMBER AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on p. 18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																						
1 4K FBB: The Keys, lifted up in worship 9:15 AM Advent Around the Table - FH	2 7 PM AA - FS	3 9 AM Quilters - FS 11 AM Funeral for Del Christianson 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy	4	5 9 AM Sunshine Boys & Girls 1 PM Small Group - Lauri Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR	6 7 PM AA - FH	7 7:45 AM Christmas Shopping Day Out - FH 10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX																																																																						
8 Christmas Giving Tree Gifts Due 9:30 AM Coffee Hour Shoppers Mtg 5:30 PM Faith Alive! U Community Meal - FH 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Public Service as a Christian - SN	9 8 AM OWLs Fly to Sugar Creek for Yesterday's Youth 7 PM AA - FS	10 9 AM Quilters - FS 1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy	11 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 5 PM Confirmation Cls: Spiritual Practices - FS 7 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - FS 7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team	12 1 PM Small Group - Lauri Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR	13 4:45 PM Christmas Shopping Night Out - FH 7 PM AA - FS	14 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group - UR 4 PM Young Youth Cookie Decorating																																																																						
15 Deadline for Newsletter 4 PM Caroling	16 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 2:30 PM Springbrook Worship 7 PM AA - FS	17 9 AM Quilters - FS 9 AM Naomi's Circle 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Property Mngmt Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership	18 No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups & Peer Min 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 12 PM OWLs Potluck - FH 6:15 PM Worship & Christmas Program	19 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 1 PM Small Group - Lauri Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR	20 7 PM AA - FS	21 5 PM Blue Christmas Worship																																																																						
22 No Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes No Sunday School	23 7 PM AA - FS	24 Christmas Eve (office closes at noon) 2 PM Christmas Eve Worship 4 PM Christmas Eve Worship 6 PM Christmas Eve Worship 11 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups & Peer Min Office Closed 10 AM Christmas Worship	26 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR	27 7 PM AA - FS	28																																																																						
29 No Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes No Sunday School 5 PM Middle & High School Youth Lock-in! - FH	30 ... Middle & High School Youth Lock-in! - FH 7 PM AA - FS	31 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy	1 New Years Day (office closed) No Evening Worship No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups & Peer Min	2 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR	<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>				1	2				3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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# JANUARY AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day (office closed) No Evening Worship No Gr 8 &amp; 9 Small Groups &amp; Peer Min</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 PM AA - FH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 AM Dementia Reimagined Book Discussion- Pr Karyn's home</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair - FH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 AM Quilters - FS 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10 AM Ona Terrace Worship  12 PM Finance Team Mtg 7 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - FS 7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 AM Sunshine Boys &amp; Girls 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group - UR</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair - FH 9:30 AM Coffee Hosts Meeting 5:30 PM Faith Alive! U Community Meal - FH 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Cultural Humility - SN</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Gr 9 Confirmation Registration 7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 AM Quilters - FS 1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX 4 PM Worship &amp; Music Team - NX 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5pm Deadline to Submit Survey Re... Deadline for Newsletter 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship  12 PM OWLs Potluck - FH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:15 PM Date Night Out 4:45 PM Parent Date Night - FH 7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair - FH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Gr 8 Confirmation Registration 12:30 PM Blood Drive - NX 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 2:30 PM Springbrook Worship  7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 AM Quilters - FS 9 AM Naomi's Circle 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision &amp; Leadership</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Annual Reports Available Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair, lifted up in wor... Sugar Creek Sunday 9:15 AM Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed 9:15 AM Sunday School Sugar Creek Sunday - SN 11:45 AM Volunteer Appreciation Party - FH</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 AM Quilters - FS 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC 5:15 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - FS</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5 PM Confirmation Cls: Art as Prayer - FS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group - UR</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX</p>

weekly events for

# DECEMBER/JANUARY

at First Lutheran

## SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Sunday School, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

9:15am Prayer Shawl Knitters - NX, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

9:15am Sunday Mornings with Coffee - MR, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

9:15am Parent Share - UR, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

9:15am High School at the House, *except Dec. 22 & 29*

10:30am Worship

5:00pm Middle & High School Youth Groups - FH, *except Dec. 22*

## TUESDAYS

9:00am Quilters - FS, *except Dec. 24 & 31*

1:15pm Staff Meeting, *except Dec. 24*

5:15pm Bell Practice - Sacristy

## WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - House, *except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1*

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Panera, *except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1*

5:15pm Prayer Shawl Knitters - NX, *except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1*

6:15pm Worship, *except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1*

7:00pm Choir Practice - SN, *except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1*

7:00pm Gr 8-10 Small Groups, *except Dec. 18, 25 & Jan. 1*

7:00pm Peer Ministry - House, *except Dec. 18, 25 & Jan. 1*



Advent  
Around the Table  
Sun, Dec 1  
9:15-10:15am



Christmas Shopping  
Day Out  
Sat, Dec 7  
7:45am-12:30pm



Faith Alive! U: Public  
Service as a Christian  
Sun, Dec 8  
6-7:30pm



Christmas Shopping  
Night Out  
Fri, Dec 13  
4:45-8:30pm



Young Youth  
Cookie Decorating  
Sat, Dec 14  
4-5pm



Caroling  
Sun, Dec 15  
4pm

## CALENDAR KEY

CR = Choir Room

FBB = Faith Building Block

FH = Fellowship Hall

FS = Fireside Room

LG = Lounge

MR = Mary Room

NX = Narthex

SN = Sanctuary

TR = Thomas Room

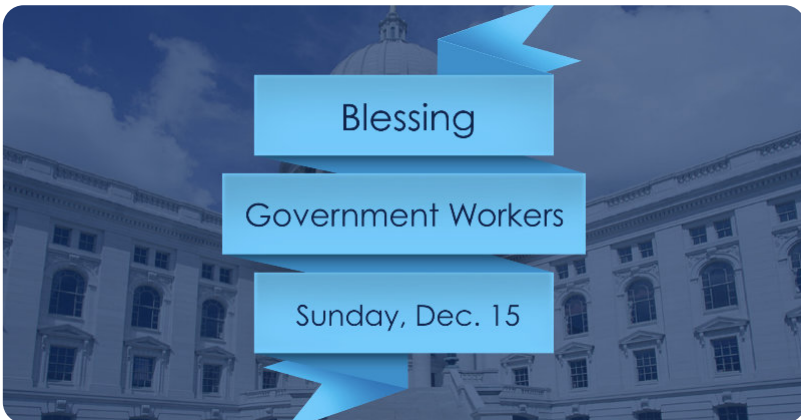
UR = Upper Room

*Events subject to change; up-to-date information at [1stlu.org/cal](http://1stlu.org/cal)*

*Subscribe to our Google calendar at [1stlu.org/calsub](http://1stlu.org/calsub)*

*Use the QR Codes to quickly add these events to the calendar of your smart phone or tablet.*

*Tips: focus the code, hold the device still, try various distances, & use good lighting. Need a scanning app? Try [www.scan.me](http://www.scan.me).*





## STAFF DIRECTORY

Jason Stanton ..... Senior Pastor .....608.386.6431 .....jason@firstlu.org  
Karyn Bodenschatz ..... Associate Pastor .....608.433.6002 .....karyn@firstlu.org

Bridget Crave ..... Director of Small Group Ministry .....bridget@firstlu.org  
Kathryn Pedretti ..... Director of Hospitality .....kathryn@firstlu.org

### YOUTH/EDUCATION STAFF

Cassie Carrell ..... Nursery Coordinator .....nursery@firstlu.org  
Beth Miller ..... Sunday School Superintendent .....sundayschool@firstlu.org  
..... Young Youth Director .....beth@firstlu.org  
Andrea Dombroski ..... Volunteer Youth Ministry Administrator .....608.790.5631 ..... andrea@firstlu.org  
Karissa Grunden ..... Volunteer Middle School Youth Director

### SUPPORT STAFF

Tamara Schonsberg ..... Office Assistant .....608.783.2236 .....office@firstlu.org  
Andy Stutesman ..... Director of Communications & Marketing .....andy@firstlu.org  
Diana Carey ..... Bookkeeper .....diana@firstlu.org  
Mike Peper ..... Head Custodian .....mike@firstlu.org  
Jerry Yushta ..... Assistant Custodian

### MUSIC STAFF

Gabriel Hicks ..... Organist .....gabe@firstlu.org  
Jim Knutson ..... Bell Choir Director .....jim@firstlu.org  
Todd Saner ..... Senior Choir Director & Contemporary Music Coordinator .....todd@firstlu.org

### PRESCHOOL STAFF

Melissa Rolbiecki ..... Preschool Director .....608.779.4504 .....preschool@firstlu.org  
Beth Miller ..... 4K Teacher .....beth@firstlu.org  
Marci Leppert ..... Preschool Assistant Teacher  
Tracy Stoll ..... Preschool Assistant Teacher

### VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Larry Schreiner ..... President  
Aaron McDonald ..... Vice President  
Jennifer Wiesjahn ..... Secretary  
Brandon King  
Diane Shuda  
Nancy Beguin  
Shaun Gibbs

## REVELATIONS

*The end of the newsletter is near,  
so here's a few things we find revealing..*

### THE REVELATIONS OF KATHRYN



**READING:**  
*The Dressmaker's Gift*  
by Fiona Valpy

### THE REVELATIONS OF JASON



**LISTENING TO:**  
*Memory Palace Podcast*  
with Nate DiMeo

I say if you have 5-10 minutes to experience a thoughtful piece of random history, this treat can make an impression on the rest of your day.

**READING:**  
*This New Ocean*  
by William E Burrows

The 50th anniversary of the moon landing this past summer inspired me to know more about how humans went from discovering flight to reaching space and beyond in less than 60 years. This book explains it all... in GREAT detail.

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Sunday 8:00 AM  
10:30 AM  
Wednesday 6:15 PM



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waking up

# white

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