



FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2021

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

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- [#faithalive365](https://twitter.com/faithalive365)

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



IN JANUARY, I assembled First Lutheran's "COVID Advisory Panel". The panel consists of five First Lutheran members and me. Dr. Jennie Kleven, Dr. Paul Molling, Rick Cornforth, Tim Smaby and Sheri Betz serve the community as health care providers, elected officials and a small-business owner. Together, we intend to meet weekly on Sundays to consider the current status of community spread, distribution of the vaccine, the impact felt by local hospitals and what guidelines are being offered by our county, state or federal governments. Things can change quickly. This group's day to day work lives keep up with those changes. Thank you to all five of them as they offer their personal expertise and perspective to an ongoing crisis.

And thank you to all our members who continue to remain committed to our work as a church. None of us has ever lived through a pandemic before. And although we represent different levels of risk tolerance, making some of us more anxious than others to gather indoors in person, I genuinely appreciate your willingness to honor First Lutheran's decision to stay safe at home, worshipping online and carrying on with small groups, confirmation, faith building blocks and more *online*. It is NOT ideal. I look forward, greatly, to our return to indoors in-person worship, especially. But as Dr. Molling said at our first meeting, "We've done our due diligence for ten months. We need to stay patient." He also mentioned that health care workers are "getting beat up on the floors." I don't want First Lutheran to contribute in any way to the burdens faced by our health care providers. I don't want to meet now, just when national numbers are higher than ever and the vaccine is so close to the arms of our most vulnerable. In light of the facts, data

**We all need to be even more open to the ways we can be church for and with each other.**

and expertise of our panel, it does not look like they will recommend in-person indoor worship anytime soon.

So, here's my pastoral question: Can we continue to learn to be the church without gathering? Even after a critical percentage of us are vaccinated, things will not be 'normal' for a very long time in this post-COVID world. First Lutheran will need to learn how to serve, learn and grow in new imaginative ways. Online worship, online Bible learning, devotions, Faith Alive! U courses, critical faith conversations... they're all still happening. In this new church world, we all need to be even more open to the ways we can be church for and with each other. In Christ, we're creating something new again!

Toward the end of each week, I will provide a video e-mail that will get blasted to other social media as well. It will include a brief update from the COVID Advisory Panel and any information about upcoming happenings at First. Please open them so that you can continue to engage in ministry for the sake of the world around us. Keep Faith Alive!

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



One thing 2020 taught me is to slow down and pay attention. To wonder and to be curious about what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives and our world. As 2020 came to a close, I wondered about 2021 and how I would grow in my faith. The conclusion I came to was that there could be no better way to enter 2021 than to ground myself in the love of God and open myself to the Spirit through something as simple as a word? For several decades now, churches have been practicing the giving of "star words" at the time of Epiphany. Businesses are even joining in! Having a word of intention for a year is quite the thing now. It was quite serendipitous that the materials we were using for Advent included "star words". I looked forward to what word would come my way.

Power. My star word for 2021 is Power. I am perplexed and fascinated and not a little terrified of this word that has been given a place of prominence in my life for the next 52 weeks.

I have been asked quite a bit about what we do with "star words" once we get them. "I have this word. Now what?" is often how it is phrased. The first thing I do is to simply sit with it. Let it roll around my soul for a little bit, tell my trusted circle about it and what it is evoking. I write down what is coming to me as the word floats in and out of my consciousness.

Then I put it where I can see it. I will put it on the mirror in my bathroom, at my bedroom desk, in my office. I will spend some time doodling around the word, creating some art and then put that somewhere. I have been known to wear a bracelet or a ring with the word or phrase that I am using to help focus my thoughts (another way to talk about star words). I do this because science

**The Spirit has brought us this far with grace and love and has blessed us with so much, let us eagerly seek her leading as we enter 2021.**

tells us (and my own experience) that when we start thinking about something, placing it into our consciousness, we start seeing it in more places. I remember when I was thinking about buying a new car. I loved the Equinox and I thought it was pretty unique, but don't you know it, as I was looking online at the Chevy website and dreaming about my new car I started to see similar cars all over the place? I don't think there was a sudden run on compact SUVs all of a sudden, it was that my eyes were opened to things I hadn't seen before because compact SUVs were at the forefront of my brain.

Now that I have given the word Power some time to settle into my self, I will be taking time in the coming days to put that word where I can see it. I will also be sitting down in my art space and do some creative work with Power. I am pretty sure that I am going to start noticing what I haven't seen before,

and I am going to try to be open to what the Spirit is doing with this word. All along the way, I will be writing down what is coming to me and sharing it with my trusted circle. What I know for sure is that come December 2021, I will have a deeper understanding of myself and God, even if I am unsure of what that will be here in January. I know and trust that the Holy Spirit is present in my life and is more than capable of leading me on this journey of self-discovery.

I encourage you to join me, if you have received a star word or not. It isn't too late to ask for one! I have plenty more and would be happy to give you one—just email me at [karyn@firstlu.org](mailto:karyn@firstlu.org). You can also spend some time with the word that our leadership has been pondering for a year now and that is Welcome. What amazing things can the Spirit do as she shapes our congregation as we ponder Welcome in intentional ways? And what other things may she reveal to us as we wonder about some of the other words we have received? Dear friends, the Spirit has brought us this far with grace and love and has blessed us with so much, let us eagerly seek her leading as we enter 2021.

*Be well. Be kind. Christ is with you.*

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz  
[karyn@firstlu.org](mailto:karyn@firstlu.org)

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live streaming at [1stlu.org/live](http://1stlu.org/live)  
Sundays 8am & 10:30am  
Wednesdays 6:15pm

### 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)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## SAVE THE DATE!

All members are invited to  
First's Annual Meeting via Zoom  
**Sun., Feb. 14 9:30am**

Help us meet quorum  
from the comfort of your home!

**Zoom** Join the meeting at [1stlu.org/ameeting](https://1stlu.org/ameeting)

## Needed: Voting Members

The 2021 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly is  
June 11–13 (Friday—Sunday)  
held via Zoom

If you are interested in serving our  
synod and congregation as  
one of First Lutheran's 5 voting members,  
contact Pastor Stanton or the church office.  
It's a great opportunity to be the Church!

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



## NOMINATIONS FOR VISION & LEADERSHIP

Nominations needed! First Lutheran will elect two new members to the Vision & Leadership Team at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 14. Read the following 'job' description and consider who you could nominate for this ministry.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** As a servant to the ministry of First Lutheran Church and working in conjunction with pastoral leadership, is responsible for development of the congregation's mission and vision. Develops short- and long-term strategies for ensuring the spiritual and physical health and wellness of the congregation. Provides support to staff and congregation members to equip each member with skills to grow in faith and their own personal ministry. Send nominations to Pastor Stanton at [jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org).

## NEEDED: VOTING MEMBERS

The 2021 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly is June 11–13 (Friday—Sunday) held via Zoom. If you are interested in serving our synod and congregation as one of First Lutheran's 5 voting members, contact Pastor Stanton ([jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)) or the church office ([office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org)). It's a great opportunity to be the Church!

## ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, FEB. 14

The First Lutheran Annual Potluck and annual meeting will look different in 2021. All members are invited to attend an online annual meeting **Feb. 14 at 9:30am via Zoom** (Meeting ID: 831 2850 8237, Passcode: 892442). Put the Zoom info in your calendar right now! We will discuss reopening strategies, elect three Vision & Leadership Team members, and complete a variety of other business. Please help us meet quorum by attending, from the comfort of your own home!

## ANNUAL REPORT

An abbreviated one-page annual report for 2020 was mailed to households in your year-end financial statements. A full, more in-depth annual report may be picked up at the church office, M–F 8am–4pm or downloaded at [1stlu.org/areport](https://1stlu.org/areport).

## 2021 SMALL GROUPS

### Weekly Groups:

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

### Bi-weekly Groups:

Dorcas Circle

Knitters

### Monthly Groups:

Drawing from the Well

OWLs  
(Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Elizabeth Circle

## READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb. 3: Luke 6: 1-16

Sunday, Feb. 7: Mark 1: 29-39

Wednesday, Feb. 10: Luke 7: 1-17

Sunday, Feb. 14: Mark 9: 2-9

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17: Luke 9: 51-62

Sunday, Feb. 21: Mark 1: 9-15

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Luke 10: 25-42

Sunday, Feb. 28: Mark 8: 31-38

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for February. 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).

### ***READ GALATIANS IN 5 DAYS!***

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers  
**starting Monday, Feb. 8.**

### ***READ ECCLESIASTES IN 2 DAYS!***

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers  
**starting Friday, Feb. 12.**

### ***READ 1 CORINTHIANS IN 14 DAYS!***

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers  
**starting Monday, Feb. 15.**

These studies are for ANYone who can read, 3rd graders to our eldest friend; members and acquaintances far far away. Use whatever Bible you'd like! Follow Pastor Stanton's daily guides on Facebook or YouTube, and if you'd like the daily video guides emailed to you contact Pastor Stanton at [jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)

**FAITH  
ALIVE! U**

*First offers courses for all ages to explore, question and learn about your faith. Presented via Zoom.*

## TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

**Sarah Hennessey, FSPA**  
**Sunday, Feb. 21, 6pm**

Mental health issues are increasing for all of us right now, especially teens. What are some practical ways that we can do in our daily lives that will increase resilience and decrease distress? We will explore mindfulness and self-care through breath exercises, affirmations, and meditation, focusing on practices accessible to teens.

Zoom ID: 876 4004 2360  
Passcode: 080265

*For confirmation students, high schoolers and all adults.*



## Summer Camp 2021: *Back in the Saddle Again!*

**Sugar Creek is excited** to be back with world-class summer camp programs for youth next summer! As vaccines are delivered nationwide, safety practices are honed, medical knowledge increases, and the camp program and facilities are adapted, the camp is confident in moving forward with plans for summer Bible camp. Youth and families need camp more than ever before.



By the very nature of programs at Sugar Creek, the camp is, in many ways, even safer than schools during a pandemic since we keep youth in small groups and run camp activities in the open, fresh, outdoor air. In addition, more than 100 pages of new ACA COVID-19 safety practices are – and will continue to be – in place for next summer.



As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, youth *desperately* need real connections in life and in faith. Kids need to be lifted up in ways that only happen in safe, small-group adventures at Bible camp. Leadership, life-long faith, healthy relationships, self-confidence – these are gifts you give your children and grandchildren with time at Sugar Creek.

It's time for those gifts to arrive again. Register for wonderful, safe outdoor adventures in real Christian community. Mindful of guidelines from medical authorities and best practices, Sugar Creek is eager for the Bible camp communities to see, and be, the light at the end of the tunnel.

We're "back in the saddle" and on our way to a safe, fun, faith-centered Summer Bible Camp in 2021! Registration is now open on the camp website: [sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://sugarcreekbiblecamp.org).




## Summer Produce CSA

This summer First Lutheran will be a pick up location for the Small Family Farm CSA (community supported agriculture), **on Wednesdays, 11am-6pm**  
Price increases April 1  
*More info: [1stlu.org/csa](http://1stlu.org/csa)*

## Drawing from the Well

For women of First and the greater La Crosse area seeking to support one another in their spiritual growth.  
Meeting on Zoom for fellowship & study.  
**NEXT: Saturday, Feb. 13, 9:30am**

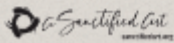


Contact Bridget for info: [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)

A LENTEN  
DEVOTIONAL



Art, reflections, &  
poetry for the  
season of Lent



## Lent Small Groups Starting Feb. 17

Using the Lenten daily devotional booklet from Sanctified Art, small groups will meet weekly to engage in conversation around the week's readings and for fellowship. All groups will meet via Zoom.

**Sign up at  
[1stlu.org/lentsmlgrp](https://1stlu.org/lentsmlgrp)**

You are encouraged to make notes, or journal as you read through the devotional to facilitate conversation during your once a week meeting. *Questions? Contact Bridget at 608.790.7432 or [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org).*

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT



WITH OUR NEW status as a debt free congregation, we now bring total focus on bringing people into a relationship with Jesus

Christ. This Changes Lives! In the month of January, we held our 2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign to Change Lives through Faith Formation. This campaign focused on increasing giving so we can financially support three very important initiatives to Change Lives. The three initiatives are pandemic relief for Sugar Creek Bible Camp, lowering the cost of faith events and hiring a Faith Formation Director. During each week in January, you received multiple communications explaining each of these initiatives. Thank you for reading or viewing them. These initiatives will be highly

successful with increased giving to our general fund. If you have already indicated your intent to increase giving, thank you. If are still contemplating an increase, please prayerfully consider continuing all or a portion of the contribution you have made to the capital campaign. Please declare your intent to increase at [1stlu.org/intent](https://1stlu.org/intent) or return the statement of intent card you received in the mail, before Feb. 14. The objective is to increase total general fund giving by \$60,000 for these three life-changing initiatives. We will announce the results of the campaign on Celebration Sunday, Feb. 14.

General fund update: Giving for operations (not including the capital campaign and pre-school) for 2020 was \$600,761. The congregation's generosity and a PPP loan from the

early part of 2020 allowed First Lutheran to meet all its financial commitments. Thank you to everyone for your generosity during this most unusual year. Our general fund giving was remarkably close to what was received in 2019. Please consider regular giving via Simply Giving to provide the resources to expand our ministry to Change Lives. If you are already participating in Simply Giving, thank you. To enroll call the church office or sign up at [1stlu.org/giving](https://1stlu.org/giving).

Capital campaign update: It is also great to report we have received \$1,085,000 of the pledged income for the capital campaign and the Above and Beyond campaign. Contributions are still coming in. There are \$200,000 in pledges that remain to be filled. Thank you to everyone who has already completed their pledge. We are looking forward to receiving the remaining pledges to complete the asbestos abatement in the educational wing, purchase the bus and build a sign. Full financial details are available by request in the church office. In normal times, we welcome everyone to attend a finance committee meeting. We meet every month, on the second Wednesday, at noon. The stewardship committee meets monthly and is looking for members. For meeting times and Zoom information, contact Pastor Stanton: [jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org).

*Faithfully submitted,*

*The Finance and Stewardship  
Committees*



THE MABEL ANDERSON Scholarship is awarded by First Lutheran's Foundation Committee. The committee awarded nine scholarships

to area high school seniors for the 2019-2020 school year. These students were: Joshua Peyer, Jillian Reitzel, Jacob Breiling, McKenzie Marcon, Elizabeth Peterson, Nathan Alberts, Hunter Robison, Brooke Visker and Nick Pica.

As part of the scholarship application each student submits an essay sharing where they are planning to continue their education, what they plan to study and how their involvement in the church has helped them prepare for their continued education.

In a past newsletter article, three of the recipients were highlighted. This month we are featuring McKenzie Marcon, Elizabeth Peterson and Nathan Alberts. Information about the remaining three recipients will be shared in a future article.



McKenzie Marcon stated she was planning to attend Edgewood College in Madison, with a double major in special education and

elementary education. First Lutheran helped McKenzie learn values that are necessary traits of a special education teacher, such as compassion, empathy, service, patience, love and acceptance. Looking back at the 2016 mission trip to West Virginia, McKenzie stated: "From this trip, I learned that every person has a story or battle that they're fighting, so treat every person you meet with the same amount of compassion and respect."

**Scholarship applications now available at [1stlu.org/scholarship](http://1stlu.org/scholarship)**

**Deadline: 3pm, April 15**



Elizabeth Peterson wanted to go to a religious school and chose Viterbo University with plans to major in business administration and minor in marketing. She credits First Lutheran with helping her learn the importance of helping others. In her essay Elizabeth wrote: "I am excited to take what I have learned from our church into this next chapter of my life and grow as a person."



Nathan Alberts chose to attend Viterbo University with plans to become an elementary school teacher. Nathan found his involvement in church, including ushering, helping in the nursery and attending confirmation small groups, helped him with skills that will be important in his career as a teacher. He shared: "I am extremely grateful for all of the different things I did in church because they helped me become a better and more social human being."

Thank you to these students for your involvement with the church. We wish you the best!

## CROSSING GUARDS

The Onalaska Police Department has immediate openings for permanent and on-call school crossing guards. Shifts usually are 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon. For information about the job and the pay, contact Sgt. Tim Berg: 608-392-0284 or [tberg@onalaskawi.gov](mailto:tberg@onalaskawi.gov).

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The pastors are considering baptisms on an individual basis. The next baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Apr. 3, at 10am** for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism. *To register or ask questions call the church office at 608.783.3326 by Sunday, Mar. 28.*

## NEW-MEMBER SOCIAL

By choosing to become a member, individuals and families commit to being part of a shared mission. People who would like to become members of First Lutheran are typically invited to a social at Red Pines where you would get to know more about First and the staff in a relaxed atmosphere. When gathering in such a way is safe, we will celebrate our new members in this way. For now, please let us know if you are interested in membership. One of our pastors will connect with you to find out how we may best be church together in the months and years to come. Call our office for more information. *Call our church office at 608.783.2236 or email [office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org).*

## OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed Mon., Feb. 15.

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Thank you for the following memorials:*

### In memory of Deborah Cassel

- ELCA World Hunger: Gloria Cassel

### In memory of Elaine Odemoe

- Undesignated: Troy & Shary Birdsong, Paul & Mary Robinson, Bonnie & Marvin Tranberg, friends & family of Elaine & Richard Odemoe

### In memory of Joyce Weiss

- Undesignated: Shirley Lappin

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Elaine Odemoe
- Duane Hammer
- Sig Rudser

## NEW MEMBERS

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

We extend a warm welcome to our new members of First Lutheran.

- **Amy & Jon Peterson, Brock and Paige**

## 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.

December 29, 2020



DEAR SIBLINGS IN CHRIST, My time of serving as Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod has come to an end. So, I am taking this opportunity to thank you. It has been an honor to serve as your bishop, to represent you throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and beyond. It has been a pleasure to serve with you in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed. And, while it has been challenging at times to lead us through difficult times, changes in our church, and a pandemic, I have always been aware of your prayers for my work, for our work, for Christ's work. Thank you for your efforts, your gifts, and your prayers.

One does not serve in this office without making mistakes and stepping on toes. I ask your forgiveness where my words and actions have hurt you. My intent has always been to build up the Body of Christ. I know this has also been your calling.

On January 1st I lose the title of the office and retain the title I have been called to carry for over 39 years, that of pastor. Pastor Chris Boerger will start his work as your interim bishop. You will find him to be more than capable, accessible, and a servant of the church. He has served as Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod and as the General Secretary of the ELCA. He has also been my good friend for the last 12 years. I know you will give him and his spouse Dede a warm welcome.

In June you will elect the fourth called bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod. I know you will select a good servant and leader. The election will be in my prayers.

So, I return to thanks with a huge thank you to the staff of the La Crosse Area Synod office. For 12 years five of us served together – Pastor Libby Howe, Melanie Timmerman, Deb Wold, Alice DaFoe, and myself. At the end of this past August we thanked Deb and wished her well in retirement. Brianna Iverson has come on board and joined the solid and constructive work these people do on your behalf. Add to them all the volunteers who serve and I am overwhelmed with thanks.

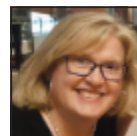
Thank you all for candid and constructive meetings in synod work and in your fellowship halls. Thank you for raising up great candidates for ministry – some of the best people I have had the opportunity to know. Thank you for supporting work to feed our local hungry folk as well the hungry throughout the world. Thank you for the opportunity to proclaim God's goodness in your pulpits. I have great memories of you, of colleagues in the greater church, of siblings in Christ in Ethiopia, Peru, the Czech Republic, and beyond. Thank you for healthy and hearty laughter as we share joy in Jesus. Thank you.

I pray the Lord will bless you richly and use you greatly in the years to come.

*Peace and blessings,*

Bishop Jim Arends

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVE WELCOME FOR ALL



ON JAN. 7 AND 9 several members of First participated in a training sponsored by ReconcilingWorks (RW).

ReconcilingWorks is a para-church organization that helps our ELCA congregations live more fully into the vision of being inclusive of ALL people, particularly LGBTQIA+ people. On the same weekend nearly 40 households participated in a Faith Alive! U event on Sunday evening with the executive director of RW, Aubrey Thonvold, to hear more about the congregational process to become a "Reconciling in Christ" or "RiC" Congregation in the ELCA. That designation is specifically for congregations who have done intentional work over a substantial time (6 mos.—2 years on average) to commit themselves to practices that loudly proclaim God's unapologetic affirmation of people of all gender and sexual identities. For most of the Christian church's history, LGBTQIA+ people have experienced devastating spiritual and emotional harm from people in Jesus' name. To become an RiC congregation is to become aware of this history, how it perverts the teachings of Jesus in Scripture, repent of the harm we have done and choose a future that joins in God's mission to heal, or reconcile, the wounds our ignorance and fear has perpetuated.

The team leading this initiative includes Rhonda Bryhn, Libby Howe, Ann Nelson, Megan Richason, Brian Renkas, Pastor Karyn and Pastor Stanton. Each of us feels called to this work because of people we know and love, relatives and friends who are LGBTQIA+. Not only that, as a group, we

want to be part of creating a culture at First that is honest about its own needs to learn and grow, repentant when God shows us a new way and trust that God has more for us than what we have already known and seen. While there is an "end" result to the process that will culminate in a public statement of welcome, the process is more important than the result. We are excited to engage in conversations with you about your hopes and fears related to this work. But first we invite you to prayer: Pray for us and for our congregation as we begin this together. Pray for all those in our world who have not heard an unapologetic message of love, grace and acceptance that is the unique witness of Jesus and his people. Pray that we grow day by day in our relationship with Jesus...to see him more clearly, love him more deeply and follow him more nearly.\* Stay tuned to First's website, worship announcements and social media for more updates and opportunities to engage. And remember, Jesus is with you and loves you ALL the time, No matter what!

*Peace,*

*Libby Howe*

Member of First, Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod  
[assistant@lacrosseareasyhod.org](mailto:assistant@lacrosseareasyhod.org)

\* *FUN FACT: you might recognize those words as lyrics of the song "Day by Day" from the 1973 musical Godspell, but did you know they were originally written by a 13th century Englishman, Saint Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)? Cool, huh!*



# CONFIRMATION

Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and theologically sound  
Events subject to change; up-to-date info at [1stlu.org/confirmation](http://1stlu.org/confirmation)

## UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes continue online

Wednesdays, 7pm

Gr 8-9 Small Groups

No small groups Ash Wed., Feb. 17

Sunday, Feb. 21, 6pm

Confirmation Elective

Faith Alive! U: Teen Mental Health

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 1:30pm

Tentative Confirmation Sunday for youth in tenth grade (postponed from October)



## Sundayschool

### FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

Throughout the year each age group has a special "Faith Building Block" session in which parents or special adults are asked to attend class with their child. Most sessions lasts for four weeks. The first class consists of parents/guardians connecting with a pastor. Classes two and three are for the child and their parents/guardians to attend together, sharing in conversation and growing together in faith. The fourth and final week, the Faith Building Block is lifted up in worship in celebration of what the students and families have learned about.

#### Grade 4: Apostles' Creed

Sunday, Feb. 21: parents/guardians with children via Zoom

Sunday, Feb. 28: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

#### Kindergarten: Lord's Prayer

Sunday, Feb. 28: parents only via Zoom

Sundays, Mar. 7 & 14: parents/guardians with children via Zoom

Sunday, Mar. 21: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

*Families will be emailed the Zoom link from the pastors in the week prior to class.*



# OWLs

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

In February the OWLs enjoyed "A Night Out at Home" watching the Broadway musical *Pippin* over Zoom, safely in the comfort of our own homes. We started the evening catching up and discussing our favorite movies and plays. It was great to see all who attended.

The OWLs were all in favor of continuing our evening get-togethers. It was decided that in February, we will continue "A Night Out at Home" with a viewing of the 1958 movie of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. A tender romance, an immortal score

and enchanted South Sea splendor are set against the dark backdrop of a world at war in this lush and passionate musical classic. At the heart of *South Pacific* is the love story of a naive young Navy nurse and an older French plantation owner who meet on a U.S.-occupied South Sea island. The score is as breathtaking as the tropical setting—"Some Enchanted Evening," "Bali Ha'i," "There Is Nothin' Like A Dame," "Younger Than Springtime" and more. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *South Pacific* ranks among the most celebrated of Rodgers and Hammerstein's acclaimed musical masterpieces. **The festivities begin at 6:30pm on Thursday, Feb. 11.** We will begin with conversation and start the movie about 7pm. Grab a glass of wine, a comfortable chair and be ready for an evening of enchantment. Zoom

information will be sent out a few days ahead of time.

In addition, the OWLs will have a **Virtual Potluck on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 1pm** on Zoom. For our main program Laura Liudahl will give an enlightening program on how to make "Cocoa Bombs." As most of you know, Laura is a profession baker and master of everything sweet to eat. Come learn how to make something that will thrill your taste buds and delight your eyes. Zoom information will be sent out a few days before the potluck. If somehow you missed it call Brian Narveson (630-816-5917). Brian will also be glad to help you get connected to Zoom. Hope to see everyone in February.

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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](mailto:owls@firstlu.org).*

# FEBRUARY AT FIRST LUTHERAN *see also weekly events list on back*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																				
31 Annual Reports Available 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream	1 7 PM AA - FS	2 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom 7 PM COVID Advisory Panel Q&A	3 Reg for Lent Around the Table Box Bible Readers Begin 1 Thessaloni... 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups	4	5 7 PM AA - FS	6																																																																																																																				
7 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 6 PM 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge Reflection - Zoom	8 Bible Readers Begin Galatians 1 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	9	10 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom	11 6:30 PM OWLs Watch Party: South Pacific - Zoom	12 Bible Readers Begin Ecclesiastes 7 PM AA - FS	13 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well																																																																																																																				
14 8 AM Worship Live Stream 9:30 AM Annual Meeting - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream	15 Bible Readers Begin 1 Corinthians Deadline for Newsletter Officed Closed (Presidents' Day) 1 PM Elizabeth Circle - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	16 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom 7 PM Executive team	17 Ash Wednesday No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 11 AM Ash Wed Live Stream 12 PM Ashes Drive-THRU 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck 6:30 PM Ashes Drive-THRU	18	19 7 PM AA - FS	20																																																																																																																				
21 8 AM Worship Live Stream 9:15 AM Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 6 PM Faith Alive U! - Teen Mental Health	22 1 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	23 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 7 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	24 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups	25	26 7 PM AA - FS	27																																																																																																																				
28 Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed, lifted u... 8 AM Worship Live Stream 9:15 AM Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream	1 7 PM AA - FS	2 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom	3 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups	4	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY</b></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</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> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARCH</b></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></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	31																							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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weekly events for

# FEBRUARY

at First Lutheran

## SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

10:30am Worship

## TUESDAYS

1:30pm Staff Meeting

## WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom

6:15pm Worship

## REVELATIONS

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

### THE REVELATIONS OF JASON



#### WATCHING: *Battlestar Galactica*

It's an oldie from 15+ years ago, but a goodie. It's less about the outer space stuff than questions about what does it mean to be human.



#### READING: *Rising Strong*

By Brene Brown. As one who sometimes struggles with recognizing my own feelings, this book helps to forge better self-awareness habits.

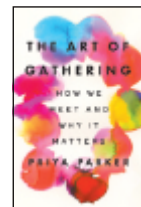
### THE REVELATIONS OF KARYN



#### LISTENING TO:

#### *David Tennant Does a Podcast With...*

One of my favorite actors, who played my favorite Doctor, chats with a wide variety of folks from Jim Parsons to Stacey Abrams to Dame Judi Dench.



#### READING: *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*

By Priya Parker. I have just begun this book, and as a person that LOVES to gather with people (and is starving for gatherings of people right now) I look forward to learning more about how to do so well.

### THE REVELATIONS OF BRIDGET



#### WATCHING:

#### *All Creatures Great and Small*

On PBS Sunday nights. It's about a young veterinarian joining a practice in England. He's an outsider, and knows the latest science and many of the farmers don't trust him, at first. I read the book as a middle or high schooler, as did my parents and several siblings.

## 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).*

# facebook

Share your Faith Alive moments!  
Tag them #faithalive365  
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## STAFF DIRECTORY

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Jennifer Wiesjahn ..... Vice President  
Diane Shuda ..... Secretary  
Brandon King  
Derrick Knight  
Michelle Renkas  
Nancy Beguin



**FIRST  
LUTHERAN**

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Live streaming at [1stlu.org/live](http://1stlu.org/live)  
Sundays 8am & 10:30am  
Wednesday 6:15pm



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

edition: February 2021

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FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021



ALSO INSIDE

**ANNUAL MEETING, FEB 14**

**LENT & HOLY WEEK INSERT**

**ASH WED LIVE STREAM & DRIVE-THRU**

**LENT SMALL GROUPS**

#faithalive365