

FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

APRIL 2020

All of this and more on the web at www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



IT HIT ME Wednesday night, March 11, as I was going to bed. I was 'checking the scores' of the night's NBA basketball

games when I saw the league had "suspended" the regular season because of COVID-19. I thought, "if a multi-billion dollar business thinks it's in their best interest to shut it all down, then we're all going to have to shut it all down. Even the church!"

For two months, I had followed perhaps more closely than I usually pay attention to international stories the progress of this epidemic as it bloomed from Asia and made its way to Iran and Italy. I remember the day the United States had its first confirmed case was the same day South Korea reported their's. And ever since, this pandemic has felt like a slow motion flood. It is that time of year, after all. Living on the Mississippi River, we know what it's like to dread another spring rain, knowing it will only raise floodwaters even higher, also knowing snow is still melting upriver, compounding the problem. And there's nothing we can do about it.

On Thursday, March 12, I had resolved to cancel gathered worship for that Sunday. At noon, I had a monthly lunch meeting with other area pastors. Only one other felt they needed to close that Sunday, which made me wonder, "Am I crazy? Am I overreacting?" But by Friday morning,

Continues on page 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

"Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace."
Rusty Edwards



THIS SONG, SET to the tune of "Come Thou Fount" is on the list of favorites for me and it has been carrying me these last few days. I am on

Day 7 of social distancing/isolation and yesterday I sat with my mother and my best friend and listened to Governor Evers announce "Safer At Home" (aka shelter in place) order/step up/recommendation and my fear sky

rocketed. I felt the urge to reach out to my siblings, to cuddle with my Mom, to drink, to bake, to somehow keep at bay the fear that had settled into me.

Praise the One who break the darkness with a liberating light...

This morning this song bubbled up past the fear, past the eroding hope that this won't be as bad as the experts are saying, past the disrupted routines and rhythms of my day, to offer a measure of peace. A measure of peace that comes from a deep faith in the One who imbues this world with hope and peace. A measure of peace that come from the One who over and over again walks with me, with you, through times that seem impossibly hard. A

Continues on page 4

FROM PASTOR STANTON, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

almost all of us had cancelled aathered worship.

And so began a new way of being Church: zoom meetings replace small group conversations. Live streaming worship into people's living rooms replaces gatherings of hundreds in our sanctuary. Daily posts to social media become the primary way a pastor remains pastoral.

And yet this new Church we have formed (almost instantly) is rooted in the oldest practices Christians have shared. We pray daily together, even if it is in the 'comments' section of posts! We sing and offer confession and share in an offering, even if it is done without looking another human in the eye. We show kindness to each other, from at least six feet away. And we get creative. One of our members, upon completing a course of chemo, had neighbors ring bells from his driveway!

The body of Christ is love personified. We say something like that often and oftentimes they feel no more authentic than mere words. It is in times like these, though, that our Christian claims and phrases are elevated from monotonous to profound. As we sing the Kyrie, we have never meant it more: "I ord have mercy! Christ have mercy! Lord have mercy!" When we proclaim the peace of Christ during streamed worship where we could all feel fear and desperation, those words have never felt more counter-cultural, "Peace be with you!" We are being the church.

And the staff at First Lutheran are serving you, our members and the community well, too. Each and every staff person at First has risen to his occasion. Our musicians have provided their ministry to bring beauty into an

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ugly moment. Bridget Crave had to shift the entire small group model into a new online and over the phone model. Finding people to serve the warming shelter hasn't gotten easier, either. And yet she has persisted. Tamara continues to provide her friendly and helpful presence to those who call. Dave, our custodian, is finding all kinds of little projects that have needed to get accomplished. Our preschool teachers and Beth, our Sunday School Superintendent are working to continue to teach the story to our kids. Kathryn and Pastor Karyn and I are doing our best to keep people connected. And our communications

director, Andy Stutesman has tirelessly worked triple-time to create a live stream product and SO MUCH MORE that has as good a quality as any other ELCA church in our synod and beyond.

Here's my newsletter message in a nutshell: crisis reveals truth. And this COVID-19 crisis has revealed that the people of our church continue to be the church no matter what, even now... no especially now! And your church staff continue to serve you energetically and creatively, not just to offer comfort amidst a storm, but to equip you to serve others in your household, neighborhood and beyond. Your faith and witness to Jesus is essential for SO MANY during this time. May you be given the words, the courage and the creativity to harness the power of the Holy Spirit in your relationships, now more than ever! Wash your hands,

Pastor Jason Stanton jason@firstlu.org

First Lutheran Church 410 Main St Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650 608.783.2236 Fax: 608.783.3741

office@firstlu.org www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Live Stream at 10:30AM Wednesday Live Stream at 6:15 PM

SUBMITTING NEW **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To have your announcement in the monthly newsletter, send it to 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, 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.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

- Palm Sunday, Apr. 5, live stream worship at 10:30am. We will still have palms! We encourage members who are healthy and not at risk to come pick up your palms from the church on the Friday or Saturday before April 5 (while you are out getting groceries or some other critical errand). We will have them in buckets on the benches outside the door. Then, on Palm Sunday, we hope you take a "prayer walk" through your neighborhood before worship at 10:30am. Visit 1stlu.org/prayerwalk for ways to pray along your walk.
- Faith Alive! U: Holy Week... What Does it Mean? Sunday, Apr. 5, 12:15pm online. See website for details.
- Monday, Apr. 6, live stream worship at 6:30pm.
- Tuesday, Apr. 7, live stream worship at 6:30pm.
- Wednesday, Apr. 8, live stream worship at 6:30pm.
- Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9, live stream worship at 6:30pm.
- Good Friday, Apr. 10, live stream worship at 6:30pm.
- Sacred Storytelling Worship, Apr. 11, worship online at 5:30pm. See website for details.
- Easter Sunday, Apr. 12, live stream worship at 10:30am.

The office will be closed at noon on Friday, Apr. 10 and all day Monday, Apr. 13... and really, every day until Apr. 24.;)

Easter Flowers

Your gift of \$15 to the Easter Fund will be used to purchase flowers to beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Any remaining contributions will go toward purchasing new paraments.

Please complete the information below and return it to the office no later than **Sunday, April 5.**

Please print clearly.

In honor of:

In memory of:

Gift given by:



READINGS FOR APRIL

Wednesday, April 1 John 4:4-26

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or

Matthew 27:11-54

Monday, April 6 John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 7 John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 8 John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 10 Good Friday, John 18:1-19:42

Saturday, April 11 John 19:38-42

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday, Matthew 28:1-10

Wednesday, April 15 Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, April 19 John 20:19-31

Wednesday, April 22 Acts 1:1-14

Sunday, April 26 Luke 24:13-35

Wednesday, April 29 Acts 3:1-10

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for April.

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.

FROM BRIDGET

MEMORY CAFE

As with many activities planned for March, we had to cancel our Memory Cafe at First Lutheran. Our next Memory Cafe is scheduled for June 25 at 1pm. Encourage people you know who are caring for someone with dementia to attend, if that's you, please come. We will have a sing along to some favorite songs, a light snack and visiting. Memory Cafes are a chance for people with dementia to get out and interact with others and a chance for the caregivers be a part of the community as well.

STAYING CONNECTED

Many Lent small groups connected over the internet the last half of March using a group conferencing software called Zoom. The first week my small group connected, you could feel the relief and joy everyone in the group felt at seeing each other's faces and hearing everyone's voice. As you have probably figured out by now, being able to connect with others, even if not physically, is good for heart and soul.

Year-round small groups are continuing to use Zoom so they can stay in touch

while keeping themselves safe at home. Zoom is easy to use and provides an opportunity to talk with a group of people and if users choose, see each other with the camera on your smartphone, laptop or tablet. Even if you don't have Wifi, you can connect by phone and listen and participate in the discussion. The church has purchased a license so that we can all stay connected. It's easy to use. Let me know if you want to connect with a group, and I will help get you set up.

God's Peace,

Bridget Crave

Community Impact Director bridget@firstlu.org

During the COVID-19 shut down, Bridget is working from home Mon.–Thurs. 10am–2:30pm; Sat. 9–11am

If you need assistance getting into a Zoom meeting, please call her at 608.790.7432.

FROM PASTOR KARYN, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

measure of peace that comes from the light of world that darkness cannot and will not ever overcome.

Today, hope seems far off and yet, in Jesus my hope is grounded and so it is as close as my breath. Today, I will choose to keep the fear at bay by praising our God for the steady stream of grace and hope and peace that God provides each and every day, the promise that I am never alone, even during social isolation, even when I lead worship in an empty sanctuary, even when I cannot know what tomorrow will bring, I am not alone. God walks beside me every step of the wav.

"Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God had done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one."

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz karyn@firstlu.org

#FaithAlive365

ONLINE OPTIONS, CANCELLATIONS, & POSTPONEMENTS

ONLINE

5

The following events and ministries have moved to online options.

- COFFEE WITH PASTOR KARYN: Gathering via Zoom on Wed mornings.
- CONFIRMATION: small groups have moved to Zoom meetings. Questions? Contact Pastor Stanton.
- COURAGEOUS MEN: Gathering via Zoom on Wed mornings.
- DRAWING FROM THE WELL: Saturday, Apr 11, 9:30am. Moving to Zoom meetings.
- FAITH ALIVE! U: HOLY WEEK...
 WHAT DOES IT MEAN? Sunday, Apr 5,
 12:15pm. First will hold this event online,
 possibly on Zoom. Check website for
 updates.
- FAITH BUILDING BLOCK: GRADE 5— COMMUNION: The grade 5 Faith Building Block will take place online. Contact Pastor Stanton for details.
- GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Group will stay connected via phone calls. In-person gatherings cancelled until further notice..
- MABEL ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: Wednesday, Apr 15, 3pm.
 Applicants should submit forms via email...
- PARENT SHARE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS: Keeping together via their Facebook group.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday school Superintendent, Beth Miller, will be offering videos on our Facebook page..

CANCELLED

The following events have been cancelled, either altogether or until further notice.

- IN-PERSON WORSHIP through Friday, Apr. 24 (pending government orders). Join us for worship via live streaming at 1stlu.org/live!
- BUG SPRAY FUNDRAISER: This fundraiser has been cancelled. Contact Kathryn with questions: kathryn@firstlu.org.
- CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER:
 This fundraiser has been cancelled. Families are asked to contact buyers and offer refunds. Questions? Contact Pastor Stanton: jason@firstlu.org.
- **DEBORAH CIRCLE**: Cancelled for April.
- DORCAS CIRCLE: Cancelled for April.
- ELIZABETH CIRCLE: Cancelled for April.
- LENT AROUND THE TABLE:
 Event is cancelled; watch Facebook page for posts from Sunday School Superintendent,
 Beth Miller.
- MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY NIGHTS: Cancelled through Friday, Apr. 24 (pending government orders).
- ONATERRACE WORSHIP
 ON WEDNESDAYS: Cancelled for April.
- OWLS POTLUCK: Cancelled for April..
- PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER.
- PARENT DATE NIGHT: the fundraiser for Friday, Apr. 17 is cancelled.
- PRESCHOOL: through Friday, Apr. 24 (pending government orders).
- SUNSHINE TEAM: Cancelled for April.

POSTPONED OR PENDING

The following events will be rescheduled to a later date, or cancellation is pending.

- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION:
 Originally scheduled for Saturday, Apr. 4, postponed to a later date, TBD.
- CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION: Scheduled for Wednesday, Apr 29, 6:30pm, currently as planned.
- GRADUATION MILESTONE
 AND RECOGNITION DINNER:
 Originally scheduled for Sunday, Mar 22, postponed to a later date, TBD.
- NEW-MEMBER SOCIAL:
 Originally scheduled for Thursday, Apr 16, postponed to a later date, TBD.

For an up-to-date list of online options and cancellations, please visit 1stlu.org/thisweek

For notifications make sure the office has your current contact info: address, email(s), mobile number(s), and mobile carrier Send to office@firstlu.org

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM PASTOR STANTON, FROM MAR. 24



TWO WEEKS AGO, the staff and leaders of First Lutheran decided to suspend in-person gatherings. This was in

keeping with a pandemic protocol we adopted that broke down our response into 3 stages:

- Stage 1: make changes within gathered worship like not passing the peace.
- Stage 2: no more gathered worship, but staff are still working from their offices and smaller groups may still meet.
- Stage 3: Full closure of the building to all non-essential visitors and staff.

Since then, we have cultivated a pretty darn good virtual worship experience that, between Facebook and Youtube saw almost 200 viewing groups this past Sunday. Our small groups have, for the most part, continued through Zoom meetings and Google Classroom.

Last week, we moved into stage 2.5 (it changes every day!) as staff were told to work from home, funerals and weddings were suspended and visitors were limited to couriers, and those who had called to make an appointment before coming to the church.

With Governor Evers issuing a "Safer at Home" order, we have now reached stage 3. This is the complete shutdown of the building except for an 'essential' staff person to ensure the proper function of the building, which is allowed through the order. This means all items you would hope to pick up from the church will now be mailed to you. "Christ in Our Homes" daily devotions, scrip cards, or anything else can be mailed. Just call Tamara.

Our stage 3 protocol and the governor's Safer at Home order means separation.

But we will stay connected through phone calls, worship online and prayer.

There is no stage 4! I guess that's something to celebrate. But during this time of separation and distance we are working hard to create neighbor to neighbor connections. We hope to identify dozens of connectors who will each call a handful of other families so that everyone has an opportunity to share prayer concerns or needs they have with their connector, their pastor or the whole church. Worship will still happen (online), learning will still happen (online) and prayer will grow (on our knees and all kinds of other postures).

Giving to First has plummeted amidst this crisis, though, so we do

Giving to First has plummeted amidst this crisis, so we have to keep asking for those who can to make a special gift.

There are few more important institutions to support right now than your church.

have to keep asking for those who can to make a special gift. There are few more important institutions to support right now than your church, whose sole purpose is to make sure the most vulnerable remain connected with everything they need to survive/thrive. And aren't we all feeling a bit vulnerable right now? Set up automatic giving through our website, mail your offering in or make a one time gift if you'd like. Thank you!

Companies, small business and employers of every size are making painfully difficult decisions as they consider whether or not to retain all employees. After careful consideration, First Lutheran's Vision & Leadership Team determined to retain all our staff.

Our custodian, Dave Nichols, is using this time to get some painting done as well as deep cleaning. Tamara, our office administrator, is going to work each day as she helps manage member information, receive phone calls and direct questions to the source of best answers. Bridget Crave, our Community Impact Director, is continuing to shepherd small groups into the world of Zoom meetings while also keeping her eye on the La Crosse Area for ways we may be church in these changing times. Beth Miller, our Sunday School Superintendent, is attempting to engage our kids and families through Google Classroom. Pastor Karyn and I are reimagining church altogether!

In brief, the staff at First Lutheran are hard at work shifting our focus from inperson gatherings to virtual meetings, classes and worship services. Although our tasks have changed, we appreciate the ongoing support of the community as we try to bring the good news of Jesus into the lives of those who are otherwise separated.

Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org

GOD'S HANDS & FEET

WILDERNESS WALK



IT'S ONLY BEEN a couple of weeks, and I already miss all of you so much. My heart aches to be with you, to hear your voices

and your laughter, to have our hugs and our conversations while enjoying coffee. I really miss our worshipping together, the singing, the prayers and our being together worshipping our God.

I'm so thankful for the Facebook live so we may worship together even when we are apart. I'm so thankful for Zoom meetings with staff and small groups. I'm so thankful for phone calls, text messages and all of the other ways we can stay connected through technology. This is my goal, to stay connected with as many of you as I can. I will try through e-mails to connect with the teams I oversee. I will also be doing a video and posting that to First Lutheran's Facebook page.

This feels to me like being in the wilderness just like the Israelites for 40 years. I'm thankful it only will be a couple of months. I'm hoping for 40 days, and then we will be together again, sharing the goodness of God. The joy of being together will outweigh the wilderness we are going through now. Praise be to God, who is with us in our walk no matter where that walk is.

Kathryn Pedretti Director of Hospitality kathryn@firstlu.org

SERVE & GIVE

GO AND DO LIKEWISE TO SET USES

SUNBEAM OF THE MONTH



Bonnie Smith is our "Sunbeam of the Month!" On behalf of Dave and all of us here at First, thanks for all you do for the Sunshine Team!

The Sunshine Team typically meets the first Thursday of the month at 9am to help with various projects at First. They'll be taking the month of April off, with plans to reunite in May.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

Volunteers can have the month of April off—we'll leave the May newsletter assembly to staff. Keep in touch with each other, and let's plan to see one another in May!

WARMING CENTER NEEDS

The La Crosse Warming Center is in desperate need of volunteers for their new, temporary location, even now during Wisconsin's Safer-At-Home order. Please sign up online if you are available to work a shift: 1stlu.org/warm. Other needs include: Gatorade. cleaning wipes, healthy snacks in single serve packaging, lunchables, cereal packs, chips in packs, oranges, bananas, string cheese, yogurt, paper towels, toilet paper. Drop off donations in the white bin outside labeled "Drop off donation here." New location is 1319 Ferry St., and you drop off in the back. Questions? Contact Bridget at bridget@firstlu.org.

CLOTHES CLOSET NOT ACCEPTING DONATIONS

Due to the current situation, the First Teen Clothes Closet is not accepting clothing donations at this time. Please save your gently-used clothing for when we are again open for business or find another organization that can accept your donation. We appreciate your generosity and your understanding.

stephen MINISTRY.

Stephen Ministers will continue to meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Thursdays, at 1pm, until further notice.

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

BLOOD DONATIONS

In times of crisis, we lift each other up and ensure a safe and caring place for our neighbors. Your neighbors, friends and loved ones are at an elevated risk during this latest crisis in our nation. The latest virus we are living through is very serious, but more so is the severely declining availability of blood.

We are a beacon of hope.

DONOR HEALTH & REGISTRATION:

- All donor-facing staff will have their temperature taken prior to beginning their work day
- Donors' temperatures will be taken at registration to ensure they are not elevated prior to entering donation areas
- Donors will be asked to wash hands prior to screening
- Donors will be asked if they are experiencing coughing or shortness of breath
- Donors will be asked if they have recently traveled to high-risk countries as defined by the CDC
- If any of the above is true, donors will be asked to self-defer

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

 Ensuring six feet of space between chairs in waiting areas and cafe, and between donation chairs and/or separation with medical screens

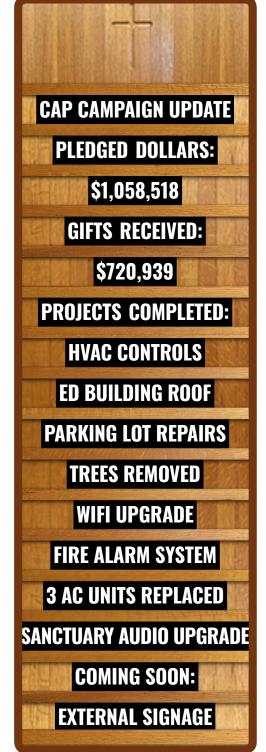
CLEANING:

 We clean all equipment, beds and other surfaces after each donor finishes their donation

We encourage all donors to make an appointment to reduce the number of people waiting at our donor centers.

Appointments for Versiti can be made at 1stlu.org/blooddrive.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT







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. During this time of national crisis we can Change Lives today by being particularly conscious of our senior members and neighbors. Because of their vulnerability to the coronavirus most have been shut up in their homes for several weeks. These are the people who have made our congregation and community what it is today. Many continue to contribute to

FLC by ushering, the Sunshine Team, quilting, knitting and other ministries. But now they stay home if at all possible. You can change a life by calling to say hello, checking periodically to see if they need anything or just saying you miss seeing them. We can all change lives here, **TODAY**, with a simple phone call.

In February, we have received 77.1% of the budgeted general fund income. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. Even though we are no longer worshipping together every week the work of FLC continues. Services are being streamed into our homes, Small Lenten groups are meeting via Zoom, our quilters and knitters are working in their homes, Sugar Creek is preparing the camp and

procuring materials, and the food pantry still needs to provide food. Our work to **Change Lives** never stops. We are excited about the great work that continues in spite the medical crisis. Your continued generous giving will ensure the excitement continues. It's easy. Send a check to the church office, sign up for Simply Giving, direct your bank to send a check weekly or monthly, or make a one-time contribution at 1stlu.org/giving. Thank you to everyone already participating in automatic giving.

Capital Campaign update: This is the third and final year of the Capital Campaign. As we look forward to everyone fulfilling their pledge by the end of 2020, we will have made great strides improving our buildings and reducing our debt. 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

BISHOP EATON ADDRESSES CONCERNS ABOUT COVID-19

3/16/2020



IN 1527 THE plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe

killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor. Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing. "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

Elzaluon la Eaten

In peace,

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

@ELCABishopEaton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MABEL ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Completed applications are due no later than 3pm on Wednesday, Apr. 15. Students may apply if they will graduate from high school in the spring and have plans to pursue post-secondary education. The application includes writing an essay and completing a worksheet that reflects the student's involvement in church activities. Application forms are available at 1stlu.org/scholarship. Applicants are encouraged to submit completed applications via email to office@firstlu.org

ONLINE DIRECTORY

During this time of "social distancing," it would be good to remind members that you can access an online directory on our website. Just head to 1stlu.org/directory to request access. Keep in mind our director of communications, Andy Stutesman, will need to create an account for you, so please allow time for turning that around.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

 Kevin Rudser, son of Sig & Marilyn Rudser

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Evelyn Hicks

· Organ fund: Nancy Beguin

In memory of Gary Metzig

 Undesignated: Denise Bolduc, Charles & Jana Schuster

In memory of Irene Welch

Undesignated: Ann Hudson

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.

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

GO GREEN

To subscribe to either our e-newsletters simply visit 1stlu.org/subscribe and fill out the online form, or contact the office at office@firstlu.org.

SundaySchool

Faith Building Blocks

Grade 5: Communion: online

The fifth-grade Faith Building Block is taking place online. First communion will be part of the celebration when we return to in-person worship for the first time!

Contact Pastor Stanton for details:

jason@firstlu.org

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 last for four weeks. The first class consists of parents/guardians connecting with a pastor and other parents in the fellowship hall; the children at this time will meet with the other pastor, learning how to worship assist. (This is for grades 1-5, Preschool, 4K and kindergarten will attend Sunday school on the first meeting).

Weeks two and three classes are for the child and their parents/guardians to attend together, sharing in conversation and growing together in faith.

The fourth and final week, children will have a presence in worship in celebration of the Faith Building Block they have learned about and participate in worship by assisting.

Questions? Contact Sunday School Superintendent Beth Miller at sundayschool@firstlu.org

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Sundays, 9:15am **Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes**Cancelled through Apr. 24
(pending government order)

Wednesdays, 7:00pm **Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups** Have moved to Zoom meetings; contact Pastor Stanton for details jason@firstlu.org

Sunday, Apr. 5, 12:15pm

Faith Alive! U: Holy Week...

What Does it Mean?

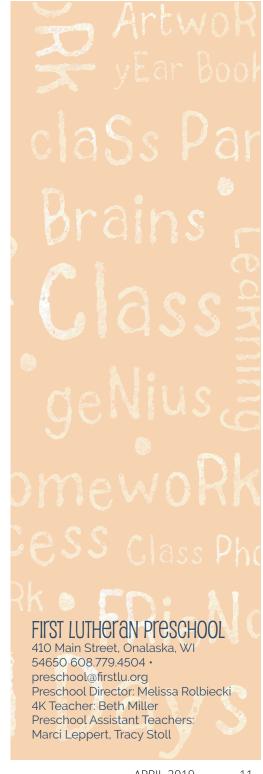
Confirmation elective opportunity;
will be available online; check
website for more details.





1277991001 TOTO CITY

Check out the preschool's Facebook page to see the work that the kids have been doing from home! And even with the shut down, First Lutheran Preschool is now enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment applications will be accepted via email. Send to preschool@firstlu.org..





OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

The OWLs had great fun visiting Lark Toys and the National Eagle Center in March before the world shut down.

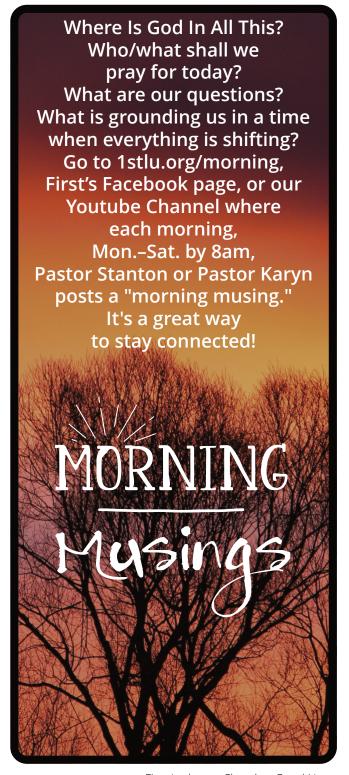
In April, there will be no OWLs meetings until public worship services continue at the church. In hope for the resumption of normal activities by the end of the month the April potluck will be tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Apr. 29. There will be no outing in April. Watch your email box and church announcements for updates as we get close to the end of April. There will be virtual potlucks on Zoom in April. They will be announced via email. You can join with an ordinary telephone. If you have questions or want to know the meeting dates, contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org or, if you don't have email, at 630.816.5917. This is a time of seclusion for our OWLs. We encourage the OWLs to call each other for social conversation and for members of the congregation to contact OWLs they know. May God bless everyone with good health.

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!









APRIL AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 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	MAY 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 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 5 PM Lent Small Group - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom Mtgs 7:15 PM Lent Small Group - Zoom	2 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 7 PM Women of the House - Zoom	3 7 PM AA - FS	4
Palm Sunday 9 AM Gr 5 Faith Building Block -Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Grp 9:30 AM Palm Sunday Prayer Walk 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 11:45 AM Lent Small Grp - Zoom 12:15 PM Faith Alive! U: Holy Week What Does it Mean? - Online	6:30 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM AA - FS	6:30 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Vision & Leadership - Zoom	8 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 6:30 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom Mtgs	Maundy Thursday 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 12:15 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Live Stream 1 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Live Stream 7 PM Women of the House - Zoom	10 Good Friday 12 PM Office Closes at Noon 12:15 PM Good Friday Worship Live Stream 6:30 PM Good Friday Worship Live Stream 7 PM AA - FS	9:30 AM Drawing from the Well - Zoom 5:30 PM Sacred Storytelling Worship - Online
12 Easter Sunday 7:30 AM Easter Worship Live Stream 9 AM Easter Worship Live Stream 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 10:45 AM Easter Worship Live Stream	0ffice Closed 7 PM AA - FS	14 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 4 PM Worship & Music Team 7 PM Vision & Leadership - Zoom	Deadline for Newsletter 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 3 PM Deadline for Mabel Anderson Scholarship Applications 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom Mtgs 7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team	16 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House - Zoom	17 7 PM AA - FS	18
19 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Grp 9:15 AM Sunday School - Facebook Page 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream	20 7 PM AA - FS	21 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 7 PM Vision & Leadership - Zoom	6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom Mtgs	23 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 1 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom 7 PM Women of the House - Zoom	7 PM AA - FS	25
9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Grp 9:15 AM Sunday School - Facebook Page 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Cancelled: Bishop Candidate Forum - SN	27 7 PM AA - FS	7 PM Vision & Leadership - Zoom	6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 12 PM OWLs Potluck (TENTATIVE) 6:30 PM Worship Celebrating 50 Years Of Women's Ordination (TENTATIVE) 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom Mtgs	30 11 AM Staff Mtg - Zoom 7 PM Women of the House - Zoom	7 PM AA - FS	2

weekly events for

APRIL at First Lutheran

NOTE: All events on the calendar are pending government orders

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Parent Share - Facebook Group

9:15am Sunday School

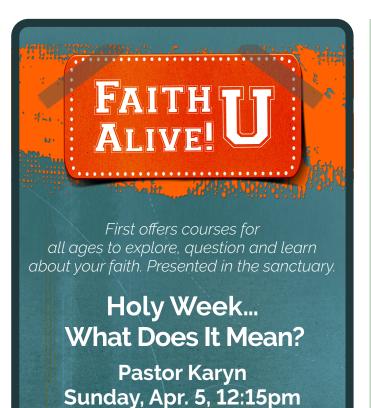
10:30am Worship Live Stream - 1stlu.org/live

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom Meeting 6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom Meeting 6:15pm Worship Live Stream - 1stlu.org/live 7:00pm Gr 8-10 Small Groups, Zoom Meetings

facebook

Share your Faith Alive moments! Tag them #faithalive365 and like us at facebook.com/1stlu



First will hold this event online on Sunday, Apr. 5, possibly on Zoom; check website for full details.

Why is Holy Week a big deal at First Lutheran? Why worship every night? And what does Maundy mean, anyway? Join Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz to consider the ways Holy Week makes sense of God's story and all our stories. Come find out why investing a little time in worship every night for one week a year could transform every other week in your year!

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

Subscribe to our Google calendar at 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.*

SHARED & POSTED



For First Lutheran, Facebook is the preferred platform for social media. We have 111 followers on Twitter, 123 followers on

Instagram, and on Facebook we now have 716 followers... up from 621 at the beginning of March. Engagement on Facebook has doubled over this past month. A big thanks to the pastors, who stepped up to embrace social media during this unprecedented time, and to take turns kick-starting our mornings with their "Morning Musings." If you haven't seen them yet, they post them both to Facebook and YouTube, and can be found on our site at 1stlu.org/morning.

Not everyone is on social media, though, so I thought I'd share some of the kind posts and messages we've received, both in social media and in our email inboxes.

From Andrea regarding Morning Musings: I so appreciate that you are taking the time to do this. William comes running to watch when he hears your voice.

From Gloria: Great job in videoing the service yesterday. It was wonderful!!!!

From Diane: Your messages always give so much comfort! Thank you very much!

From Audrey: Thank you, as always, your words, your teachings, your morning musings and sermons touch our hearts and souls.

From Sara: I'm so thankful to hear encouragement from you. It means more than all the memes and other postings I devour throughout the day as I try to cope with these days.

Shared with Pastor Karvn: Dear Pastor Karyn, I have not been able to sleep well in the midst of the storm we all are facing. Tonight however, I prayed to God to calm my heart and show me the way to serenity. As I reminded myself of the Serenity prayer, I began thinking about our church here in CA and how we were going to respond and be church... I want you to know how wonderfully blessed I was tonight or shall I say the early wee hours of the morning here in CA. My heart was touched through Word and Service. Thank you to your community and for the Leadership of your church in reaching out in new ways that bring HOPE and PEACE in uncertain times of change. My love and heartfelt gratitude goes out to you and your church.

From Mary: What a Glorious Day it will be when we all can worship in person with everyone.

From Linda: Thank you so much for this service. For those of us who live alone this is a tough road. We appreciate you!

From Jan and Tim: Thanks so much for the excellent work you are all doing. I am so grateful and impressed by all the information that you give the members. It is very comforting to know that our church Is there for us. Keep up the great work during these difficult times

From Rita: Enjoyed the service last night, thank you. ♥

From Jerad: Especially enjoy Pastor Karyn on the flute...it definitely adds to the service.

From Nancy: I enjoy [Pastor Stanton's] & Pastor Karyn's thoughts every morning. Thank you for that. Feeling connected to God & church.

From Marilyn: I enjoy your thoughts each morning. I have worshipped at your church when visiting my family. I live near Hayward. Thanks to you and Karyn. Be safe. ♥

From Trish: Thank you for a lovely and moving service. We can't wait to worship together again soon.

From John: One of the greatest gifts in my life, First Lutheran Church and the family it holds.

From Molly: I am so grateful to be able to be at this service! I moved to the Appleton area last May and have missed this place very much. 1stlu going online was a blessing in disguise from this! Thank you!

From Calison: My kids will be looking for "peek-a-boos" from God this week! Thanks for the message Pastor Stanton!

From Lori: Good morning, PK.
Continuing our Bible study via Zoom
was such a comfort to me yesterday. It
was strange at first but quickly filled a
social and spiritual need that helped for
the rest of the day. Seeing Pastor
Stanton's video yesterday, and yours
today fills me with gratitude. ♥

From Dave: We are so fortunate to have the musical talent that we have at our church.

From Margaret: I like that you and your team came up with a creative way to reach out and connect to us all in this community and beyond your congregation. Thank you. I know that I am loved and able to share comfort, compassion and kindness by being a friend, neighbor, stranger. By being present in this moment.

We've also seen a number of you posting photos of your home altars. If you haven't made one yet, do so, and keep those photos coming!





Lastly, some of you may know that Lindsey Ford from WXOW came to film a piece on all the different programs offered on Monday nights at Trinity Lutheran, including First Teen Clothes Closet. It aired on Sunday, Mar. 8. Check it out at buff.ly/3aVgimR.

Andrew Stutesman Communications & Marketing Director andy@firstlu.org

REVELATIONS: THE "WASH YOUR HANDS!" EXPANDED EDITION

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

THE REVELATIONS OF BRIDGET



LISTENING TO: Laughter Permitted

I've just started listening to a podcast called Laughter Permitted with Julie Foudy, former captain of the U.S. women's soccer team, two time World Cup winner and winner of two gold Olympic medals. She interviews trailblazers in sports about the joy and chaos of life and sports. I've only listened to a handful of episodes so far, but have enjoyed them all. I recently listened to an episode featuring Dr. Colleen Hacker, mental skills coach who shared strategies used by elite athletes that can be applied to dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus outbreak. She says to get out pencil and paper. Seriously, I thought she had good tips on positively framing our mindset and especially using laughter in dealing with stress and how to view social distancing as an opportunity.

THE REVELATIONS OF JASON







WATCHING: Frozen 2

I just watched *Frozen 2* last night. As a father of three, I've been watching Disney/Pixar movies for a while now and they did it again! It's pretty fantastic. I especially loved the spoof on 80's love ballads from Kristoff.

For real, there's an 80's spoof love ballad!

Great British Baking Show

My family are loving the *Great British Baking Show*. Not only is it fun to watch bakers do their thing and do it under pressure with judges watching, but I love the humility each participant offers, especially when they lose.

Magnanimous winners and understanding losers. It's almost like they are real people!

LISTENING TO:

I have a radio 'station' on my music feed simply called "**Bach**". Classical music calms my nerves and soul. And I think it makes interpersonal relationships go more smoothly, too, as we are in each other's space!

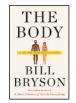
Maybe this seems in bold opposition to 'Bach' but the other music I'm re-discovering is **Led Zeppelin**, namely "Physical Graffiti". How about these lyrics from "Kashmir", "Oh let the sun beat down upon my face, stars to fill my dream, I am a traveller of both time and space, to be where I have been..." Deep.

Last Friday night my favorite band,

Cloud Cult, whose lead singer happens
to live in Viroqua, shared a live concert
with the rest of the band in their own
homes all over the country.

It was incredibly good! They unveiled
four new songs and played a few
favorites, too. I listened through my
\$3/month membership to them
through Patreon. It's a great way to
support independent artists.
Check it out.

THE REVELATIONS OF TAMARA



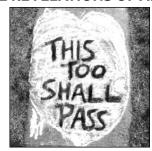
READING: The Body

By Bill Bryson. An amazing, highly readable book about your lifetime ride, from head to toe.

HAND WASHING SONGS:

I don't like singing
"Happy Birthday" twice
while washing my hands.
So I sing "I Ain't Too Proud to Beg" or
"Set Me Free, Why Don't Ya Babe."

THE REVELATIONS OF ANDY



CHECK OUT: Side walk chalk

Thankfully Wisconsin is not a state that has ordered everyone to stay indoors; though we can't go to parks, we can still go outside to go for a walk or a run. I've been noticing a lot more inspirational chalk drawings on my runs this past week, and I've been enjoying them. I'm inspired to create my own, and encourage you to do the same. It's a great way to share God's message of love to your neighborhood. So make sure to include sidewalk chalk in your next grocery list.

THE REVELATIONS OF BETH



LISTENING TO:

Unlocking Us by Brene Brown

Because Beth LOVES Brene Brown.

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	4K Teacher							
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	Preschool Assistant Teacher							
•								

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Diane Shuda	
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Shaun Gibbs	

#FaithAlive365 APRIL 2019 17

PERMIT #15

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