



FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS!

MAY 2020

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



THERE WERE NO voice recorders in the 1500s, so we don't know whether Luther really said it or whether it is simply attributed to him, but here's the quote so many love, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." It is a hope-filled statement of defiance in the face of certain hopelessness. It would look foolish to the world. But... it is also an act of faith. That even amidst a 'world going to pieces' there will be a time when apples will come in handy.

In May of 2020, we stay at home amidst a world that is fracturing into pieces. Our state's politics are certainly shattered beyond any form of compromise. We have dozens of members, extended family and friends

whose jobs are broken. Many of us have been furloughed, laid off or completely let go. And although COVID-19 hasn't hit our community hard yet—well done social distancers!—the specter of a pandemic looms large over every part of life. In just a matter of weeks, the economy, public health and our way of life has been reduced. The world has gone to pieces. And it will stay in pieces for some time to come. Luther would still plant his apple tree. What do **we** do?

**We worship.** Since we began live-streaming our worship, our 'attendance' has grown. I'm not sure how to count how many people are watching us. Nobody is. But we are choosing to add up our 'peak views' from each platform and multiply that by 2.5. So, for

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

*Facebook Post, Easter Sunday, 11:03pm*

*It has been an Easter to remember, for sure. More reflections will come as rest and space for thinking do their work but tonight I'm thankful that I have a job, a warm house, people I love and who love me and that I am still inspired each day to love and care for others, by so many of you. This is a time I will point to for the rest of my life and say, "It was scary, but fear didn't win and here is why" and I will tell the stories of the people I am lucky enough to call colleagues and friends. I will tell the story of how we Eastered in the middle of a pandemic, how we were still church even when we weren't in our church buildings, how we loved our way through a crazy topsy turvy world and together made the best of it. So, tonight, I suppose I am most thankful for you all. Blessed be, dear ones. Thanks for being beautifully you. ♥*



APRIL 12, 2020, those words were from my heart. April 22, 2020, and they still are heartfelt. I have been awed by so many people who are loving their way through this unprecedented time. I think of my grandparents often, members of what is called the Greatest Generation. I wonder what they would say and think and do. I think they would be afraid but would pull on their experiences of war and tell us we do this thing together, it is the only way. We pull together, we encourage each other through the fear and we sacrifice things we never considered sacrificing—like our ability to move freely around the world, our vanity, our wealth or our way of life.

We are not a people used to having to sacrifice much. Sure, there are things we choose to go without, or there may

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**The world has gone to pieces. And it will stay in pieces for some time to come. Luther would still plant his apple tree. What do we do? We worship, we give and we serve.... And for all the ways you are helping this fellowship grow, THANK YOU.**

example, during a sermon our Facebook number (the number in the upper left corner) hits 183. Add the number of views from watching on our website, and the Twitter number and we can guess at how many people at least checked in for a moment with us. In our second Sunday we had 270 x 2.5 = 675. Palm Sunday: 271 (677). Easter: 380 (950)! Holy Week saw no service with fewer than 102 devices connected to our stream at once. If we are right, that the average device has 2.5 people watching, that's at least 255 streaming each night of Holy Week. That's incredible! When we meet in person, we don't typically see 100 individuals in our sanctuary on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

**We give.** In the first two months and two weeks of 2020—when the stock market remained near 30,000 and unemployment was at an all-time low, First Lutheran had fallen behind by more than \$20,000 when compared to 2019. In the two weeks after we suspended gatherings, it got much worse (understandably; those who are not on electronic giving had only one way of making their offering: mail, so much got delayed). But since the last week of March, while the world has thrown so many scary things at all of us, our giving has not only met budget. The Finance team expects we will put a substantial dent in that \$20,000 hole we dug in January and February. PLUS, gifts continue to stream in to the "Our Church + Our Time" capital campaign fund. In May we expect to hit \$900,000 of actual gifts received. First's total pledge is something like \$1,030,000. That means we have eight months to not only hit our pledge number but, hopefully, exceed that number by enough to finish off our final few (big ticket) projects like paying off the mortgage, resurfacing the education wing floors and building a new Main Street sign.

**We serve.** How many masks have our sisters and brothers in Christ made? How many hours have we given to the Warming Center downtown? Our neighbor to neighbor program has connectors checking in with all families to see what prayer concerns are out there; what needs do people have? We are planning to still host a blood drive. We are seeking people who don't have access to our livestream so that we can 'hook them up' (by the way... if you or someone you know needs a device or help connecting to our website so that you can engage in worship, LET ME KNOW. First's foundation has offered money to pay for devices, WiFi and

anything else that's needed so that ALL can access the stream). And we've got more ideas brewing to meet financial needs, food scarcity and more. Servant hearts are not darkened by pandemic!

The world has gone to pieces. And it will stay in pieces for some time to come. Luther would still plant his apple tree. What do **we** do? We worship, we give and we serve for starters. And for all the ways you are helping this fellowship grow, **THANK YOU.** First Lutheran will emerge (slowly) from this stay-at-home time different than we were before. And in almost every way, the difference will be improvements. All because, while the world went to pieces, we never forgot what keeps us whole: the grace and love of God.



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### 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, 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)





Many of our Lenten small groups finished discussing Waking Up White via Zoom meetings and our year round groups, staff meetings and Vision & Leadership meetings are all happening utilizing Zoom. It's so important to stay connected with others while we are staying safe at home. I encourage you to give it a try.

Zoom is a two way video conferencing system where you can both see and hear the people you are talking with. You can use your smart cell phone, tablet or computer. If you don't have a smartphone, you can still connect over the phone, but you won't be able to see everyone in the group. The organizer of the meeting will send a meeting link to the participants, as well as a phone number for folks who want to dial in. When you click on the link, you will be asked to allow Zoom to open, then you will be in the meeting. If you dial into the meeting with your phone, you will be asked to enter the meeting ID number, then you will be in the meeting.

Anyone can set up a Zoom meeting for free and the meeting can last up to 40 minutes. The church has a paid account which we use for our small groups, etc. which generally go longer than the 40 minutes. Give it a try! If you are interested in having a Zoom meeting with your "church people," contact [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org) to get connected. If you are interested in using Zoom to interact with family and friends and need help, you can contact Bridget as well.



*Bridget Crave*  
Community Impact Director  
[bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)



IN THE PAST six weeks First Lutheran has shown what it means to be church. *How* we are the church may have changed, but *who* we are as a church has not. So much continued to happen and needed to be communicated, that I completely forgot to promote in the April newsletter our move to live streaming!

So first, the how-to: A good starting point is our website. The easiest way to find our live streaming page is to **go to [1stlu.org/live](https://1stlu.org/live)**. On this page you'll find several things, but the main thing is this: you can actually watch the live stream right there, on our site. No need to have an account on another social media platform, the live stream is right there for you to watch. But part of worship is the social aspect of it, so if you do have an account on Facebook or YouTube, you might want to watch there, as you can chat with other members who are watching.

That's another thing you'll find at [1stlu.org/live](https://1stlu.org/live): a list of all the options of where to watch. Currently we are trying to broadcast to our site, to Facebook, to YouTube, to Twitter/Periscope, and to Boxcast. So not only can you use their website for watching the live stream, you can also use their apps on your phone or tablet. Some of them even have apps on smart TVs, so you could check those out as well; search for "First Lutheran Onalaska" and make certain to follow us on those platforms so you are alerted when we go live.

It's nice to have options, because some platforms don't always work, whether they are struggling to keep up with demand on a given Sunday morning, or if someone flagged our stream as "inappropriate" (that happened to us on YouTube a couple

weeks in). So if you are having issues with one platform, try another one.

In addition to watching the live stream at our usual worship times, you can also watch them on demand later in the week. Again, you have some options: previous services can be found on our site at [1stlu.org/live](https://1stlu.org/live), under the embedded video player in a list titled "Related Videos." There are also archives on Facebook and YouTube.

For a short historical rundown: we first tried a service called Castr.io until they failed to rebroadcast to YouTube (but lots of platforms were struggling that week). We then tried Restream.io. We then tried Vimeo, as they offered scheduling options. Lastly, we appear to be settling on Boxcast, which is proving to be even easier to work with. There might be a couple more changes yet, but I think we are getting close to figuring this out.

Keep in mind: the live streaming at First Lutheran is a ministry. And to that end, it will need members to help it continue. Just as we need members to lead worship by running the projection slides, we will need someone to run the video switching required for the live stream. Training will be provided; it will be a great way to serve and help First reach everyone who is out of town or who is homebound. (Which is currently all of us!)

Want to support this new ministry? The best way to do that is to support the church with your weekly or monthly giving at [1stlu.org/giving](https://1stlu.org/giving).

Question about the live stream? Feel free to contact me at [andy@firstlu.org](mailto:andy@firstlu.org).

*Andrew Stutesman*  
Communications & Marketing Director  
[andy@firstlu.org](mailto:andy@firstlu.org)



By Drew Tucker, April 23, 2020



SO YOU AND many others are now worshipping digitally because of an order from your governor to Shelter in Place, Stay at Home, Quarantine or, my

personal favorite, Hoosier Hunker Down. (Well done, Indiana.) These restrictions affect not just worship but small group meetings and Bible studies, council meetings and youth group activities. Much, perhaps most, of this life during COVID-19 is digital right now.

Soon, though, the novelty may wear off.

Now that we've been sheltering in place for a month, there's a danger of losing both our connectivity to one another and our commitment to continuing this practice in these limited ways. How can you foster feelings of connection with God, with your community and with the worship experience? How can worship remain a priority for you not just in theory but in practice?

Preparation now matters more than ever. Many congregations, when they gather, hear a leader say, "Prepare your hearts and minds for worship." Now, though, we're called beyond hearts and minds. We're called to prepare

hearths and selves, the physical spaces of our homes and the bodies we bring to digital worship. Below are five suggestions for magnifying your experience of digital worship.

First, though, a disclaimer: This isn't advice for how to create the best technological experience. There's value in the right sound settings, turning your microphone off and the like, but this is about the space in which your technology is set and how to more fully engage worship in that place.

## 1. SET (AND CHOOSE) THE SPACE

If you're having trouble feeling like you're at worship, take a look around. Are there dirty clothes strewn across the couch? Dirty dishes on the table? Garbage bags waiting to be taken out? Don't get me wrong, those are all realities in my house! But they often distract me when I'm trying to engage in reflective and attentive worship. So we've set aside our guest bedroom as a space where we don't leave messes, where we clean and organize regularly, where we try to align the feeling of the space with the purpose of worship.

Not that God needs a tidy space, but removing distractions helps us to focus ourselves more on holy purposes. If you don't have a bedroom to spare, prioritize a corner of the kitchen table or a section of the family room to set in order and prioritize worship for at least the time that you're planning to worship.

## 2. UTILIZE IMAGES

Art is a vital element of worship. Since the earliest Christian gatherings, words, images and artifacts have played central roles. Of course, the words of Scripture, both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, exemplify various kinds of linguistic art: poetry and narrative, song and prose

and advice. Soon, paintings, drawings and, eventually, icons became central parts of the church's worship.

Many elements, such as the altar and candlesticks, as well as the cup and plate (also known as the chalice and paten) of communion, contain types of decorating, from the simple to the ornate. For your own space, consider projecting or printing your favorite religious image that raises up community—an icon of Jesus and the disciples, for instance—to help focus you on Christ and his community. Consider hanging a cross and displaying your favorite Bible, open to your favorite passage.

## 3. REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM

One way to mark an entrance into worship is to splash yourself with holy water. Many churches place the baptismal font at the main entrance, to signify baptism's role as the traditional entrance into Christian community. Whenever I pass a font in the church, I dip my finger in the water and mark a sign of the cross on my head.

Consider, then, as you prepare for digital worship events, wetting your hand and marking your forehead with the cross of Christ. Do you have a favorite decorative bowl? Consider fusing the art and the baptismal remembrance by filling the bowl and bringing it into the space you've set aside.

## 4. LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD

Most churches utilize candles in some way. Originally, this was the only way to light a home at night. Eventually, candles lit large temples and then catacombs for worship. With the advent of electricity, candles became more theologically useful. The lighting of candles signified God's presence, particularly in the places where the

holiest things happened: around altars, pulpits and the font. One candle, the Paschal Candle, is lit to symbolize Christ's presence.

In your home-based worship space, light a candle to signify the presence of God with you, in your home. The warmth of the flame may remind you of God's comfort and the flickering light of God's constant movement.

## 5. SING IT LOUD, SAY IT PROUD!

Once worship begins, whether you're by yourself or with family, it can feel a bit awkward to join in litanies, to pray aloud or to sing along the way you would in the sanctuary with your church. Remember, though, that worship is inherently participatory.

So when you pray, pray with fervor. Let the words resonate from deep within you. When you sing, do it, as John Wesley said, "lustily and with good courage!" (Yes, he really said that and I agree.) Shout to the Lord with joy and passion. There's no shame in passionate worship, no matter if you're surrounded by hundreds, gathered with dozens or alone behind a screen, connected to the community through the internet.

*Drew Tucker*

Drew Tucker is the university pastor and director of the Center for Faith and Learning at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Follow him at @lutheranfriartucker on Instagram, @FriarTuckTweets on Twitter, Facebook.com/AndrewJacobTucker or his website, friartucker.com. This piece was originally published on the author's personal website, and later re-published on LivingLutheran.org.

# DOORS FAITHFULLY CLOSED

Posted on April 18, 2020



THE GOVERNORS OF Wisconsin and Minnesota have extended their Safer In Home orders. They are weathering protestors on their lawns demanding the states be reopened. They are listening to conservative members of their statehouses who want churches to be freed. And it will get worse.

We have to know our stay at home lives have made a difference. Our two states have so far avoided the spike and flattened the curve. And so we ask, "Isn't it all better now?"

No, it is not. New cases of corona virus continue. More deaths from this pandemic continue. Doctors, immunologists and researchers tell us the virus is still a clear and present danger.

Yet, church goers, spurred on by the "it's better" news are getting antsy to bring their church families back together on Sunday morning. And I am getting the question, "Will the bishop allow us to reopen our churches for worship? Or will he force us to keep things locked up?"

Well, first of all, in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America polity the bishop cannot keep congregations out of their churches. But this bishop urges, with all the authority and influence he can muster, that our congregations follow the lead of our elected leaders. To not do so is foolish in the least and unfaithful at its worst.

Unfaithful?!?!?  
YES!!!!  
As followers of Jesus, guided by the Living Word of God, we heed the leadership of our government. Unless

**We listen to the people with the learning. It is a precept of our faith that wisdom is a gift of God. Scientists tell us COVID19 is not conquered, it remains a threat.**

legal authority is demanding that we do something contrary to the will of God, we obey the law. (The Apostle Paul discusses this in a letter to the Romans.)

As followers of the Living Word, we listen to the people with the learning. It is a precept of our faith that wisdom is a gift of God. Wise and trained scientists who have spent their lives studying viral infections and pandemics speak with one voice in saying COVID19 is not conquered, it remains a threat. It would be foolish to ignore their wisdom because we "feel" things are better and we "want" our "freedom" back. As Jesus people faithfully thank God for the wisdom, meant to protect us, that is now guiding our leaders as they aim us toward health.

As followers of Jesus, God's embodied wisdom, we willingly limit our corporate worship for the sake of the least of these. Over and over again, Jesus holds up care for those in most need. Jesus now tells us to not put the vulnerable in need. We don't know who might bring the virus to worship. We don't know who might be exposed. And we don't take the chance—the foolish risk. Instead, we follow Jesus, freely practicing our faith in ways that don't need any church space. As Jesus did, we take time in scripture. As Jesus did, we set aside time to pray. As Jesus did, we tell the old, old story of God's active love in the world. We share our Living Lord with our loved ones, our children, our friends on the phone, in loving notes, on social media. We faithfully touch others with God's love at a time that we cannot physically touch others.

If this bishop could demand anything, I'd ask an end to foolish risks and selfish demands.

If this bishop could demand anything, I'd call for the faithful way. I'd call us to love the Lord our God, with all our hearts and minds and souls. I'd make sure we truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. For Jesus sake.

*Bishop Jim Arends*

Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA  
bishop@lacrosseareasynd.org



## SEW FACE MASKS

The United Way is providing direction on making face masks for healthcare workers in La Crosse.

Go to [1stlu.org/sewmasks](http://1stlu.org/sewmasks) for info, modifications to the pattern, and drop-off locations.

# First Lutheran Church - Onalaska Blood Drive

*Be a Beacon of Hope*

**MAY**

**18**

**MONDAY**

**12:30–4:30pm**

**LOCATION:** First Lutheran, 410 Main St, Onalaska, in the church narthex.

Is it safe to donate during the COVID-19 outbreak? The donation process itself poses no risk of infecting a donor with coronavirus.

Open to the public; walk-ins welcome, but due to limited occupancy, appointments are highly encouraged.

For appointments call Diane Shuda at 608.386.4270 or visit [1stlu.org/blooddrive](http://1stlu.org/blooddrive)



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La Crosse County Health Department has partnered with The Hunger Task Force of La Crosse, La Crosse's only FREE and LOCAL food bank, providing free food to 91 food pantries, meal sites and youth programs in La Crosse County alone.

The Hunger Task Force and the programs that they serve play a vital role right now in providing food to those who are struggling as the number of food-insecure people continues to increase. Many community members served by their partner programs already live paycheck to paycheck and they are seeing more area residents lose their income entirely because of COVID-19 related lay-offs.

That's why the La Crosse County Health Department is teaming up with iFeed, Rotary and Rotary Lights to hold "Food Drive Fridays," a drive-thru style food drive where donors don't get out of their vehicles.

Collections are every Friday from 11am–1pm through the end of May. (May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29). Locations include:

- Valley View Mall parking lot (by former Macy's location), 3800 Hwy 16, La Crosse
- Downtown La Crosse: La Crosse County parking lot behind the Courthouse & Law Enforcement Center, 333 Vine St, La Crosse
- Southside La Crosse: Big Lots parking lot at 3960 Mormon Coulee Rd, La Crosse

Non-perishable foods are running dangerously low at The Hunger Task Force, and with the postponement of the National Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive, they are in desperate need of canned goods for the programs they serve. Canned items needed include meats (tuna, chicken), peanut butter, soup, fruit, boxed side dishes (stuffing, rices, potatoes), breakfast items (cereal, oatmeal, etc), canned ravioli & spaghettios, pasta & pasta sauce. We believe that everyone deserves to have access to food and essentials, especially in times of uncertainty.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please follow this link: [1stlu.org/HTF](http://1stlu.org/HTF). Select the iFeed Covid-19 option.

## ONLINE OPTIONS, CANCELLATIONS, & POSTPONEMENTS

In compliance with the recent extension of Governor Evers' stay at home order, in-person worship has been canceled through May 26, including weddings and funerals. Sunday School, confirmation, and many small groups are also affected. Check our website at [1stlu.org/thisweek](http://1stlu.org/thisweek) for a full list of cancellations and postponements. Vision & Leadership will determine how we will begin to gather again.

### ONLINE

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:** Gathering via Zoom on Saturday, May 9, 9:30am.
- **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** Group will stay connected via phone calls. In-person gatherings cancelled until further notice..
- **OWLS VIRTUAL POTLUCKS:** Every other Wednesday, at 1pm. Contact Brian Narveson for details: [owls@firstlu.org](mailto:owls@firstlu.org)
- **PARENT SHARE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS:** Keeping together via their Facebook group.
- **SUNDAY MORNING WITH COFFEE:** Gathering via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9am.
- **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 Monday, May 26 (pending government orders). *Join us for worship via live streaming at [1stlu.org/live/](http://1stlu.org/live/)!*
- **DEBORAH CIRCLE:** Cancelled for May.
- **DORCAS CIRCLE:** Cancelled for May.
- **ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Cancelled for May.
- **ONATERRACE WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS:** Cancelled for May.
- **OWLS POTLUCK:** Cancelled for May..
- **PRESCHOOL:** remote learning for the remainder of the school year.
- **SUNSHINE TEAM:** Cancelled for May.

### POSTPONED OR PENDING

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

- **COME FOR SUPPER:** First Lutheran was originally scheduled to donate food and time on Tuesday, May 26. This service opportunity is tentative; watch upcoming announcements for updates.

For an up-to-date list of online options and cancellations, please visit [1stlu.org/thisweek](http://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](mailto:office@firstlu.org)

Sunday, May 3  
John 10:1-10

Wednesday, May 6  
Acts 17:1-9;  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sunday, May 10  
John 14:1-14

Wednesday, May 13  
Acts 18:1-4;  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Sunday, May 17  
John 14:15-21

Wednesday, May 20  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sunday, May 24  
John 17:1-11

Wednesday, May 27  
1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57

Sunday, May 31  
Acts 2:1-21 and John 20:19-23

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for May. 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).



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 reach out to people of all ages to make more disciples of Christ. During this pandemic, the outreach by members has reached new heights. We have more than 70 people making regular phone calls to members of the congregation to see if they are all right and if they need anything. We have 15 people running errands, picking up prescriptions or doing grocery shopping. Many members are calling elderly neighbors to check on them, make bread, get groceries or buy pizza. Our quilters and others are making masks, gowns and surgical caps. Kids

and adults are using Zoom, Face Time and Facebook Messenger to chat, play games and maybe just be silly. We are Changing Lives Together. We are enthusiastically loving our neighbor through the work the Spirit has inspired us to do. We are living out Faith Alive! each and every day. Some of it is directed and managed by the church and some of it is simply about how we have chosen to live as faithful people.

At the end of March, we have received nearly 87% of the budgeted general fund income. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. Now is an excellent time to consider taking advantage of Simply Giving to ensure our many programs are able to Change more Lives. We have found streaming services and the pastors' musings are reaching many people in need of comfort during these times. Small groups are reaching

people confined at home through Zoom. Regular giving via Simply Giving can provide the resources to make this a permanent part of outreach to Change Lives. We can achieve this objective this year with an additional \$25,000. If you already participate in Simply Giving, thank you and please consider an increase to help make this video ministry happen. If you are not a Simple Giver and support this ministry, now is a great time to join the better than 50% who participate and love seeing their wishes fulfilled with the convenience of Simply Giving. To enroll sign up at [1stlu.org/giving](http://1stlu.org/giving).

Capital Campaign update: It is great to report we have received over 82% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. It is our intent to complete this year's objectives of replacing the sanctuary roof (which is going to cost more than anticipated), replacing the educational wing flooring and paying off the mortgage. To achieve these objectives, it is essential all pledges are paid in full this year plus an additional \$100K is raised. Thank you for continuing to meet your pledge and considering an extra gift. 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 once a month and is looking for members. For meeting times, contact Pastor Stanton.

*Faithfully submitted,*

*The Finance and Stewardship Committees*



# GOD'S GOODNESS



MAY IS ONE of my favorite months. My daughter Sarah was born this month; Mothers Day and my anniversary are this month. People are

enjoying the outdoors, grilling, playing in their yards, walking, running and having graduation parties. Just a year ago, Perry and I had two weddings to attend and a graduation of a niece. We usually find time in May to camp for the first time in Bayfield, WI, with my brother and sister-in-law. This is usually a great month to connect with people and enjoy the outdoors.

This month of May is going to feel just a little different, as we are still confined to our homes, hoping we will soon have some restriction lifted to start going out. I hope that will happen sooner than later. I'm so looking forward to our worshipping together, my small group meeting in person not just in Zoom and having staff meetings in person again, enjoying each other's company. It has not been easy doing this social distancing stuff. I know that we all will be better for it, especially our older generations. But I also know that God's goodness has shown through during this time. We have seen people helping others with getting their groceries, sewing masks, giving out food and calling our members to help the church stay connected to one another. I know that when we gather again, what joy there will be as we share the goodness of all that God has done for us and for those around us.

I so hope that we will soon be freed from our self isolation and social distancing. I long to be with you all in worship, laughing during coffee hour, helping those who need help and gathering together in small groups. My

**Putting others' needs before our own is what we are called to do...  
A harvest of good will most certainly follow.**

hope and prayer is that we will not grow weary of this time of isolation, but use this time to draw closer to God. Let us be strengthened by God's love and continue to do good. As Galation 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Let us all listen to God's leading and do the good he has called us to do. Give grace to those we are closest to in our homes, pray for all in the medical field, help a neighbor in some small way or even a stranger. Putting others' needs before our own is what we are called to do. So, let us continue to do so and a harvest of good will most certainly follow.

I eagerly wait for the time we can be together and share the wonderful ways God has shown his goodness and the goodness we were able to share with others. The stories that will come out of this time of isolation, stories of God's goodness shown through his people, will be what we will remember. Thanks be God

*Kathryn Pedretti*  
Director of Hospitality  
kathryn@firstlu.org

# GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

## READERS!

We are seeking people of all ages who would be willing to be our readers each week. This would mean doing a video of yourself or family reading the assigned text and then uploading it to a google folder. If you are willing to do this, email Pastor Karyn: karyn@firstlu.org.

## PRAYERS!

Pastor Karyn is looking for people who are willing to be our pray-ers. If you are willing to offer up a prayer or let us know a way we can be praying, send me an email to karyn@firstlu.org. Thanks!

## HELP THOSE IN NEED

If you are looking for ways to help locally, go to the Ugetconnected site to find a variety of needs, from writing letters or drawing pictures to seniors, to delivering pre-packaged meals or sewing. It's hard to keep track of all the various organizations, so this is a great spot to find out how you can help. Go to 1stlu.org/needs.

## WARMING CENTER NEEDS

Warming Center has moved back to the 3rd Street Catholic Charities building. There are 22 clients continuing to shelter in place, 24/7 at the downtown location. The shelter will continue services 24 hours a day until the Safer At Home order issued by Gov. Evers ends, including any additional time beyond the end of April when they

would normally close the Warming Center. The volunteer signup at 1stlu.org/warm has been updated with their current needs. If you have any questions, please contact Nora at nknapi@cclse.org.

## SUNSHINE TEAM

The Sunshine Team typically meets at First Lutheran on the **first Thursday of the month at 9am** to help with outdoor or indoor projects. They will not meet in May however; the team will tentatively plan to gather in June on the first Thursday.

## COME FOR SUPPER

First Lutheran will TENTATIVELY assist with Come for Supper on **Tuesday, May 26**, at Our Savior's in La Crosse. Tentatively First Lutheran will help with food donations and volunteering to serve and clean up. *To sign-up call Gloria Kubiak: 608.498.2762.*

## NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

With the assembly of the June newsletter right on the heels of the governor's most recent Safer at Home order, First will play it safe one more month and leave the assembly of the June newsletter to staff. Hopefully we can meet together in June to assemble the July newsletter. Keep healthy, and stay safe!

## 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

## 50/40/10 ELCA CELEBRATIONS IN 2020

50 Years On: Half a Century of Ordaining Lutheran Women: Take time to check out this wonderfully informative website at [1stlu.org/504010](http://1stlu.org/504010), put together by a student and professor at St. Olaf College during this year of celebrating 50 years of ordaining women in our church, 40 years of ordaining women of color and 10 years of ordaining those in the LGBTQA+ community. There are photos, biographies, stories, maps, facts & figures, timeline, videos, etc.

## 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](http://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:

- Cheryl Johnson
- Lance Mihalovic

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Thank you for the following memorials:*

**In memory of Kevin Rudser, son of Sigurd & Marilyn Rudser**

- Undesignated: Nancy Beguin

**In memory of Gary Metzig**

- Undesignated: Mary Kron

## 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:

- Bernie & Patty Niedercorn
- Patty Sprang

## 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.

## THANK YOU

Marilyn & Sigurd Rudser would like to thank all the friends at First Lutheran who have given memorials and prayers for their son, Kevin, and his family. His life was cut short by a stroke at age 51. May he rest in peace.

**This pandemic was not of our choosing. What is of our choosing is how we are going to respond.**

have been a moment in our lives that felt like we were sacrificing so much for the sake of another, but truly, what I have come to realize, is those were (for the most part) of my choosing and relatively controlled and well, short-lived. This pandemic was not of our choosing. What is of our choosing is how we are going to respond. There are times when, for the sake of the whole, we are going to have to put aside our individual freedoms. There are times, for the sake of ourselves, when we will have to rely on others as we keep ourselves healthy and well.

There will be much asked of us in the coming year—whether it be staying at home, wearing masks at the grocery store, figuring out how to support our local businesses, or making our way out of a global recession (again).

In these days I find myself more and more relying on my faith to guide me through—remembering I am loved, no matter what, remembering that I am called to live for the sake of my neighbor and to trust that through it all God is present in the fear and in the joy. In the days when it appears fear and despair are digging in and planning to stay awhile, I breathe deeply and remember Easter, I remember what this Easter was like and I give thanks for all the ways God and God's people are seeing us through.

Until we are together again, dear friends, may you know God's peace and stillness, may you know God's love and hope, and in that knowing, may you choose love of neighbor over fear.



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

## MEMORIES



The ADRC of La Crosse County is excited to share with you this new endeavor to help Memory Cafe participants stay connected: they are offering memory cafés virtually! Let's stay connected and have fun—we will get through it together! **May 19, 10:30-1:30am** join us online, and come ready with your favorite pair of shoes. We will use them for our activity!! Get ready for community, fun and connection! TO REGISTER: Email [kflock@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:kflock@lacrossecounty.org) for the link to meet online. Use your computer or smartphone to join us! Call Kelsey at 608.785.5780 for help and support in setting this up. We look forward to "seeing" you!

## OUR CHURCH + OUR TIME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

**PLEGGED DOLLARS:**

**\$1,058,518**

**GIFTS RECEIVED:**

**\$875,528**

**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:**

**SANCTUARY ROOF**



THROUGH MARCH, THE people of First Lutheran have given more than \$92,000 to the capital campaign in 2020. That brings our total to \$875,528. We have spent \$409,229 on a variety of needs from smoke alarms and a new education wing roof to landscaping and better WiFi coverage. In May, I am thrilled to say that a new roof will be installed on the sanctuary! Krause Konstruction has already begun on the south side. This is the same firm who put the last set of shingles on... 35 or more years ago! Our new roof will have steel shake shingles and will look great for generations to come. Plus, as we seek to be friendlier to the environment, we'll be improving our R-value (thermal resistance... we lose a LOT of heat through that roof) by about 1000%. That's not a typo. A ten fold increase.

THANK YOU to all who have

contributed to the capital campaign. The sanctuary roof is one of the last big projects left. As we close in on our pledged amount of \$1,058,518, we will celebrate by hopefully surpassing that expectation so that we can complete the education building floors, pay off the mortgage and maybe even build a new sign on Main Street. We have the opportunity to emerge from this pandemic debt free with most big ticket maintenance items taken care of so that we can continue to serve our community. There promises to be plenty of need. Thankfully, First Lutheran has plenty of generous, caring hearts.

Pastor Jason Stanton  
jason@firstlu.org



### WANTED: PHOTOS OF SIDEWALK ART AND WINDOW HEARTS

Have you been creating sidewalk art and windows full of hearts for #happyhearthunt? Andy would like to start using images of sidewalk art and windows full of hearts as backgrounds during the live stream. Here are some considerations:

- No words
- Basic shapes (hearts, crosses, sunshine and rays, stained glass, etc.)
- Horizontal photo preferred
- Take as "straight on" as possible (avoid angled shots if possible)
- Send to [andy@firstlu.org](mailto:andy@firstlu.org)

Thanks!



The OWLs may be safe at home, but you can't keep them from socializing. In April we had three virtual potlucks on Zoom. To the left is a photo from the April 15 "potluck," which more than 20 people attended. We had a good time catching up and telling stories about Easter's present and past.

On the day I am writing this, our governor has just announced we will remain "Safe at Home" until Memorial Day. As a result, the OWLs will continue to meet on Zoom for the entire month of May. Come join us for the conversations and laughs. If you do not have a computer, you can join the meetings with a phone call. Please contact Brian Narveson at 630.816.5917 if you don't have email and would like to join the call with a regular telephone or cell phone. **Our May virtual potlucks will be on Wednesdays, May 13 and May 27, at 1pm.** The Zoom meeting ID number will be sent via email before the meetings. Let Brian know if you would like a call with the meeting ID before the date. We are looking forward to great conversation, games and stories as our journey through this time continues. Hope to see even more OWLs on future calls.

If you need any technical help with getting connected for the OWLs Zoom meetings, church services or pastor musings please contact Brian Narveson (bcnarveson@gmail.com or 630.816.5917); he will be glad to assist you.

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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.*



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>APRIL</b></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</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></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</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 AM Cancelled: Newsletter Assembly 7 PM Vision and Leadership</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom 6:30 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1 PM Lauri Berg's Small Group 3 PM Deadline for Mabel Anderson Scholarship Applications: 3PM 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 9:15 AM Sunday School - Facebook Page 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 PM Vision and Leadership</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Sunday School Spring Program 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM Drawing From the Well - Zoom</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 9:15 AM Sunday School - Facebook Page 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM Foundation Team 7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg 1 PM Lauri Berg's Small Group 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Deadline for Newsletter 7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:30 PM Blood Drive - NX 7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision &amp; Leadership Team Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day (office closed) 7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC (Tentative)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 AM Cancelled: Newsletter Assembly 1 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg 1 PM Lauri Berg's Small Group 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Parent Share - Facebook Group 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Confirmation Small Grps - Zoom</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Grp - Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 PM AA - Online</p>	<p>6</p>

weekly events for

**MAY**

at First Lutheran

**SUNDAYS**

9:00am Sunday Mornings with Coffee - Zoom

9:15am Parent Share - Facebook

10:30am Worship Live Stream

**TUESDAYS**

11:00am Staff Meeting

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom

6:15pm Worship Live Stream

7:00pm Gr 8-10 Small Groups, Zoom

Where Is God In All This?

Who/what shall we  
pray for today?

What are our questions?

What is grounding us in a time  
when everything is shifting?

Go to [1stlu.org/morning](http://1stlu.org/morning),  
First's Facebook page, or our  
Youtube Channel where

each morning,

Mon.-Sat. by 8am,

Pastor Stanton or Pastor Karyn  
posts a "morning musing."

It's a great way  
to stay connected!

MORNING

Musings

**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  
and like us at [facebook.com/1stlu](http://facebook.com/1stlu)



First now has 114 followers on Twitter (up 3 from last month), 132 followers on Instagram (up 9), and 778 followers on Facebook

(up 62). Engagement on Facebook is up 38% compared to last month. A big thanks to Kathryn Pedretti, who has been leading us in prayer at 4:10pm most every day on both Facebook and Twitter!

Once again, since not everyone is on social media, I'd thought I'd share some of the kind posts and messages we've received, both on Facebook and in our email inboxes.

*From Nancy:* The service last night was so meaningful. I especially liked hearing the youngster reading the scripture. And I thought Libby's sermon was great. And Gabe, as usual was right there with his super voice and piano. And the contrast between your "casual wear" Jason and Karyn's sharp blue dress spoke to me that "All are welcome, just as we are." The entire service was just what I needed. And, that window is beautiful!!! Every Sunday, when I'm not in choir, I look at that window and think of Jesus as The Good Shepherd. He cares for each of us. Thank you for lingering the camera on the window. Peace to all of you.

*From Phyllis:* I needed a chuckle you gave me this a.m. Hope and expectations are so much a part of life. You gave me a fresh start today and I thank you!! ♥

*From Lori:* I love you PK. Your morning musings strengthen my faith. Thank you for giving of yourself so freely. My hope is that compassion overflows to our neighbors/nation.

*From Mark:* Watching this evening from Temecula, CA. The way you do prayers on this stream is just beautiful and very touching.

*From Tina:* Thank you Pastor Jason and Pastor Karyn. I cannot begin to explain how much listening to you both is helping me through this uncertain time. God bless you both. ♥

*From Carol:* Love when Gabe plays the organ and sings!

*From Heidi:* ...Thank you Beth for helping us continue Sunday School at home!

*From Kim:* Thank you for putting into words what I have been striving for! I have been getting up extra early to have lots of time to enjoy my really good coffee before heading into work. I have re-joined the Wednesday morning Bible study and also am continuing the Sunday morning one (both through our awesome church). I have been experimenting with different types of teas and have enjoyed indulging by adding some heavy cream to my tea. I am just about to practice yoga online. All things that feed my heart and soul.

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

*From Pam:* I enjoy your informative and inspirational daily chats. This is a positive outcome of this isolation phase in our life! Thank you.

*From Joann:* I would like to thank you so much for the flower. It brought sunshine to my day. It just proves I made the right choice when I became a member of our church.

*From Mary:* Thank you! I love starting my mornings with you and Pastor Jason. We at FLC are so blessed with a staff that goes above and beyond. That I am thankful for.

*From Jan:* First Lutheran staff has done such a wonderful job putting these online worship services together. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

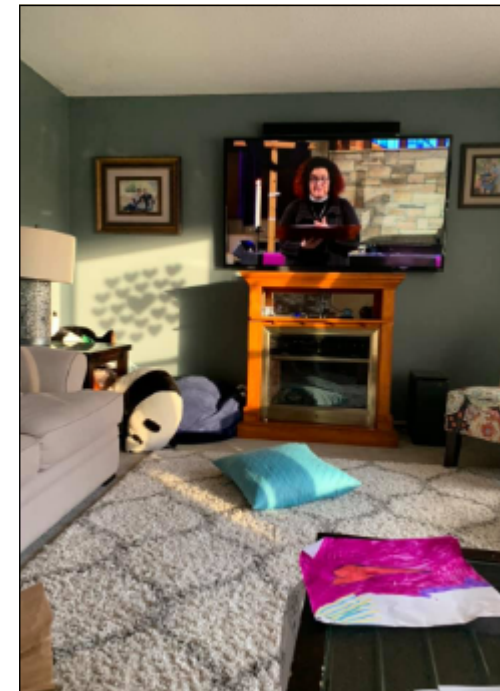
*From Mary:* Todd Saner is a gift to all of us..... ♥

*From Dianne:* David and Dianne watched from Hope Town Abaco, Bahamas ♥

*From Ann:* I enjoyed the worship service tonight. I am watching from West Union, Iowa. My home church is Victory Lutheran Church in Mesa, AZ which is a part of the LCMC Synod. My sister is Carol, a member of First Lutheran, from Holmen. My week is never complete without attending church services somewhere. But, in these trying times, We do what we have to do. I have attended your church on two occasions with Carol and her family when I was in Holmen. Thank You for tonight's message.

*Andrew Stutesman*  
Communications & Marketing Director  
andy@firstlu.org

**I enjoy your  
informative and  
inspirational  
daily chats.  
This is a positive  
outcome of this  
isolation phase  
in our life!  
Thank you.**



*From Ria:* When we were watching the service tonight, the sun shared some love with us. ♥

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

## THE REVELATIONS OF ANDY



### WATCHING:

#### SomeGoodNewsSGN

Before COVID ("BC" as Tamara puts it) my son binge-watched all the seasons of *The Office* and became a big fan of John Krasinski. The star of *The Office* and *Jack Ryan* has long wondered "Why is there not a news show dedicated entirely to good news?" and, suddenly finding himself seeking some good news, decided to highlight the good things happening throughout the world right now. You can find SomeGoodNews on Facebook and YouTube. As he ends his show: No matter how hard things get, there's always good in the world.

### LISTENING TO:

#### Coronavirus Daily by NPR

Speaking of news: supposedly 80% of Americans start their morning by consuming several hours of news, to help bring a sense of understanding to a world that seems unpredictable. I fall into that stat, by listening to podcasts. Both CNN and NPR have started daily podcasts about COVID-19, and my favorite is NPR's. Hosted by Kelly McEvers in a voice that calms my nerves, she introduces wide-ranging stories that NPR has been covering about the pandemic, from angles of science, health, politics, economics, and of course, the personal. My fav: a man at 107 and his fiancé at 100 share what they learned from the 1918 flu pandemic. Listen at [1stlu.org/1918](http://1stlu.org/1918).

## THE REVELATIONS OF KARYN



### LISTENING TO:

#### Unlocking Us by Brené Brown

This new podcast by the renowned researcher, teacher and author dives deep into what it means to be human, a wholehearted human. With wit, humor and compassion, Dr. Brown helps make sense of why we are who we are and gives us a path forward to become a deeper, truer version of ourselves. She is one of my go to people when it comes to understanding human nature and myself. She has given me the tools and the courage to live more fully into who I have been created to be. As a deeply faithful person, she intertwines her faith into her work that both honors it and leaves room for other's faith. Episodes that have been particularly helpful in the past weeks: March 20: Brené on FFTs, March 27: Brené on Comparative Suffering, and April 3: Brené on Anxiety, Calm and Over/Under functioning..



### WATCHING:

#### Bob Ross: Beauty Everywhere

Do I have to say anything? When my anxiety or stress rises or I am really tired and need to just sit, I turn on these old episodes of Bob Ross on Netflix. They are relaxing, mesmerizing and breaths of fresh air. He had pet squirrels, y'all.

## THE REVELATIONS OF JASON



### WATCHING:

#### Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Recently, we watched *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. This was a classic for my generation, plus I lived near Chicago (where the movie is set) at the time it came out. Best Gen X line: Ferris' best friend and girlfriend are talking about college: "What are you interested in?" "Nothing." "Me neither." What a terrible but true feeling for so many at 18!

### LISTENING TO:

#### Radiolab

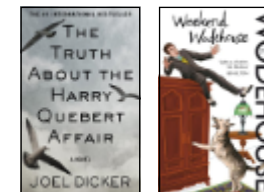
Radiolab continues to be the best podcast I know of. They did an episode on "The Cataclysm Sentence" that was quite thought provoking. "If, in some cataclysm, all of scientific knowledge were to be destroyed, and only one sentence was passed on to the next generation of creatures, what statement would contain the most information in the fewest words?" There are scientific answers, religious, moral and other kinds of answers. Quite good.

### PLAYING:

#### Throw Throw Burrito

We just received *Throw Throw Burrito* as a family game where cards are collected (try to get three of a kind) while also accumulating cards that can force players to throw a foam burrito at each other (think spoons). It's amazing how landing a foam burrito on my child's darting frame can lift my spirits.

## THE REVELATIONS OF TAMARA



### READING:

#### The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair

By Joel Dicker. I'm not a reader of thrillers, so I'm surprised I picked this up at a library book sale in the first place. But, boy, am I hooked.

#### The Week-end Wodehouse

What better way to forget about the way life is right now than by escaping into P.G. Wodehouse. This collection has some of his best Mulliner, Jeeves and Drones Club stories..



# STAFF DIRECTORY

## SAFER-AT-HOME HOURS

Jason Stanton	Senior Pastor	608.386.6431	jason@firstlu.org
Karyn Bodenschatz	Associate Pastor	608.433.6002	karyn@firstlu.org
Bridget Crave	Community Impact Director	M-Th 10am-2:30pm; Sat 9-11am 608.790.7432	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	ym@firstlu.org
Karissa Grunden	Volunteer Middle School Youth Director		

## SUPPORT STAFF

Tamara Schonsberg	Office Assistant	M-F 8am-4pm	608.783.2236	office@firstlu.org
Andy Stutesman	Director of Communications & Marketing	M-F 8am-4pm		andy@firstlu.org
Diana Carey	Bookkeeper			diana@firstlu.org
Dave Nichols	Building Maintenance & Grounds Custodian	M-F 8am-1pm		dave@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
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Brandon King	
Derrick Knight	
Diane Shuda	
Michelle Renkas	
Nancy Beguin	



FIRST LUTHERAN

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**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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



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MAY 2020



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where worship  
marches on!*

ALSO INSIDE

**BLOOD DRIVE  
FRIDAY  
FOOD DRIVES  
OWLS VIRTUAL  
POTLUCKS**

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