



FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

JUNE 2020

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TIME CHANGE:

Sunday worship will live stream at 9:15am during the summer, starting June 7

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



LAST MONTH MY newsletter recounted the ways we remain behaving as Church together despite not gathering in person and despite our social distancing. I said, "We **worship**", "We **give**" and "We **serve**." It continues to be true. Whether we are celebrating our Senior Class of 2020 on May 17 with a cupcake Sunday and so much more, or engage in the Pentecost Project that made May 31's service especially multi-lingual, our worship numbers remain steady. Financial giving in April was incredibly generous and brought us closer to meeting our budgeted income through four months of 2020. And we do continue to serve as you care for your neighbors, reach out to your family and oftentimes go an extra mile to keep yourself and loved ones safe. Thank

you for all the ways you continue to be the Church!

In May, your elected and called leaders sent a letter explaining how difficult it will be for us to gather in person. The safety of those who enter our buildings is our #1 concern. With that priority, it looks very realistic that many more months could pass before we reunite for worship that gathers hundreds. We continue to evaluate how we might accommodate small groups, special services and outside groups. But until Wisconsin has sustained a decrease in confirmed cases and met other gating criteria to achieve, at least, phase three of the Badger Bounce Back Plan, First Lutheran will worship via live stream and continue to innovate our way

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God."



IN MY MAY 19 Morning Musing, I shared this verse and the impact it is having on me right now. I have been deeply challenged by these words. This pandemic has not been easy on a whole host of levels, and while I am grateful for all that I have, I too have struggled with the range of emotions and reactions that have come over me as I make my way through this with everyone else. There are days when loving people seems nearly impossible. And yet, loving people is the very lens, the very ground, the very heart of everything I do or say. It is what defines me (and all followers of Jesus) because God first loved me (and everyone else) through Jesus.

That was easier to live out three months ago.

I have been studying human behavior for a while now, so I am really good at doing all the intellectual analysis as to why I am struggling or why others are behaving the way they are and usually that is helpful to me, but not right now. Right now isn't a matter of knowing, it isn't a matter of the intellect. It is a matter of how we "be", it is a matter of the heart. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that knowledge is not the end all and be all (and that is saying a lot coming from him), that knowledge must be tempered with love. Knowledge just thrown about becomes a stumbling block to others and prohibits their ability to hear or understand or want to do either of those things. So in a

Continues on page 3

Bible Bits

1. Choose your favorite Bible verse
2. Make a video including:
 - Your name
 - Name your favorite verse: book, chapter and verse
 - Read the verse
 - Tell them why is it your favorite verse
 - OR how the verse helps during "COVID-19" time....
 - Tell the Sunday School students, "God loves them no matter what!"
 - Remind them to highlight it and write your name next to it in the margin
3. Share/upload/drop it to 1stlu.org/upBB (sign-in with a Google account):

Things to remember when you create your video:

1. Make sure your phone is in the "landscape" position, that is horizontal, not vertical. This makes for a better video overall.
2. Make sure you can be heard well and that there isn't a lot of background noise.
3. Make sure what is in the background isn't too busy or distracting.
4. When you begin your video, please introduce yourself.
5. It should be no more than two minutes long.
6. When you upload it, please name your file with your name and/or verse. This will make it easier for Beth to find..

through this unique chapter. If you or someone you know could use some help with technology so that they can engage in worship and all the other content we're offering, please share their name with the church office. We want to help so that "all are welcome" to First, even if it's virtual!

We could dwell on what is NOT happening at First. We could sulk in the misery of no coffee fellowship between services, no Sunday School, no choir. We could remain frustrated and pessimistic about what this might do to our church in the long run, as though it could only be to our detriment. I, however, will not. Your staff and the Vision & Leadership Team aren't thinking about what is NOT happening. We're moving into something new. I'm not saying we're thrilled to have to recreate almost every wheel. But we do see this quarantine time as a time of opportunity when we can create some new systems, learn some new skills and BE the church in new ways. Program churches like First Lutheran can get lost in doing, doing, doing. Now that we can't do what we always did, each and every one of us is forced to re-evaluate our faith practices and how effectively we are growing in faith, hope and love.

How is your faith, hope and love going? Is it getting deeper, broader and stronger? If you're not sure how to answer that question, I've got some ideas for you! (Keep reading.)

Six days a week, Pastor Karyn and I offer a "Morning Musing" that considers, "Where Is God In All This?" (WIGIAT) We post it to our Facebook page and the First Lutheran Youtube channel by 8:00am. Kathryn Pedretti leads prayer daily at 4:10pm on Facebook. Once a week, Pastor Karyn creates a "Practicing Spirituality" post. And at some point in June, I will be inviting everyone into a daily Bible study where we read just a few chapters a day for a year. We'll get through the whole thing—together! My vision for the post-COVID church includes a healthy

For our church to thrive and grow, every single one of you will need to contribute questions, ideas and faith stories.

Let's all engage with each other even more deeply than we ever did before.

amount of daily/weekly online content from pastors and staff.

But... the Church beyond 2020 will not be driven by pastors. In a world where each person seeks to build their own unique identity, shares posts onto their own 'story' and lives a very singular life, the Church will require greater engagement from its members than passive consumers offer. Each and every member will need to share their own perspective on the One God. For our church to thrive and grow, every single one of you will need to contribute questions, ideas and faith stories.

Here's one example of what that could look like... During the last quarter of school—at home—my 4th-grader would start each and every day by watching the 'announcements' provided by her school. These were simple videos recorded by a rotation of teachers who read a script: "Good morning... today is a day ____"

the weather is... today's birthdays are... and it's National _____ Day." Then, they'd say the pledge of allegiance and sign off with, "Have a great day!" And that was it. 2-3 minutes tops. It became a ritual that acted as a portal for my daughter from non-school home time to school (at home) time.

What if we had a rotation of 200 church members at First who each recorded a simple 2-3 minute "Bible Bits" video saying, "Hello! My name is _____. I've been a member at First since _____ and I just love _____ (at our Church). Psalm _____ is my favorite part of the Bible because my _____ told me _____ when _____ happened in my life. [Read the text you chose, maybe something more about it.] Remember, God loves you and so do all your friends at First Lutheran Church where all are welcome! Have a great day!"

A daily Bible Bit would be a fun, simple ritual that could help us all get to know another person at church, open our Bibles and maybe even connect beyond what we do in person. Details on how to upload your Bible Bit can be found on the left side of this page.

Let's all take advantage of the opportunity before us to engage with each other as church even more deeply than we ever did before. I'll 'see' you online!



Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org

many people are trying to impart knowledge with love, and it is not being received well... in a time of high anxiety, you can only change how you react, behave and love.

situation like a pandemic, when our lives are so tightly bound to the lives and actions of our neighbor, we as followers of Jesus temper our knowledge with love.

If you watched or listened to my sermon on Wednesday, May 20, you heard me wrestle with what does this love look like? I know that there are many people who are trying to act in love, and their love is not being received as such. So many people are trying to impart knowledge with love, and it is not being received well. So how do we love one another in a time of high anxiety? Well, I keep finding myself going back to this one truth: We cannot will someone to change, we can only change ourselves. In a time of high anxiety, such as we find ourselves in, I (or you) can only change how I (or you) react, how I (or you) behave, how I (or you) love. For me, that means spending time asking myself, what is behind my reactions so that I can then

see others in a more generous way, so that I can love others.

There are no easy answers here, but friends, we have been preparing for such a time as this for many years, as we learned from each other and from Jesus, as we challenged ourselves to love one another even when we disagree, as we came to God over and over again to ask for forgiveness when we get it wrong. We have the tools needed to find our way through if we do it together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." has a depth and breadth to it that we have never known until this moment, and we don't always manage it, but we hold strongly to the truth that we were first loved by our God, and we don't lose that when we forget or don't quite know how to love one another. We return to that love, bathe in God's grace, and we start again.

Let us be known for the love and grace we show the world and ourselves as we make our way through a pandemic.



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

Sanctuary

**Do you ever feel overwhelmed?
Do you crave time and space to replenish?
Can you name a sanctuary in your life?**

These are just a few of the questions addressed by *Sanctuary*, a short, easy-to-read, powerful book by Terry Hershey that is great for individuals and even better for couples, families and groups of friends. After Pentecost, all members and friends of First Lutheran are strongly encouraged to read *Sanctuary* and engage in the questions at the end of each chapter. Teens would greatly benefit from this little book, too. It could be a great summer read! Each Wednesday worship throughout the summer will be rooted in a chapter from *Sanctuary*.

The book is available to purchase directly from the author Terry Hershey at terryhershey.com. He has updated his website to offer a special price: \$10 per book plus \$4 shipping.

ONLINE OPTIONS & CANCELLATIONS

The Vision & Leadership Team at First Lutheran is committed to the safety of all who enter our building. The Badger Bounce Back plan, the Wisconsin Council of Churches' "Model for Returning to Church" and recommendations from county, state and federal government continue to guide our response to COVID-19. Check our website at 1stlu.org/thisweek for a full list of cancellations and postponements. The staff and leadership are eagerly looking forward to in-person worship and other gatherings at First. When that day comes, it will be communicated in every way possible: by postcard, social media, e-mail and through our connectors. While we wait, we are thankful for a quality live stream worship experience, virtual meeting rooms online and the other creative socially distanced ways we remain connected.

ONLINE

The following events and ministries have moved to online options.

- **WORSHIP**
Join us for worship via live stream at 1stlu.org/live on Sundays at 9am and Wednesdays at 6:15pm
- **COFFEE WITH PASTOR KARYN:**
Gathering via Zoom on Wed mornings.
- **COURAGEOUS MEN:** Gathering via Zoom on Wed mornings.
- **DRAWING FROM THE WELL:**
Gathering via Zoom on Saturday, June 13, 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
- **SUNDAY MORNING WITH COFFEE:**
Gathering via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9am.
(Time may change now that worship starts at 9:15am)

CANCELLED

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

- **CONFIRMATION CAMP:**
The 2020 confirmation camp at Sugar Creek has been cancelled.
- **MISSION TRIP:** The 2020 mission trip for middle and high school youth has been cancelled.
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:**
The VBS scheduled for August has been cancelled.
- **DEBORAH CIRCLE:**
Cancelled for June.
- **DORCAS CIRCLE:**
Cancelled for June.
- **ELIZABETH CIRCLE:**
Cancelled for June.
- **ONATERRACE WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS:**
Cancelled for June.
- **OWLS POTLUCK:**
Cancelled for June..
- **SUNSHINE TEAM:**
Cancelled for June.
- **NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY:**
Cancelled for June.

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

BAPTISMAL PREP

The pastors are considering baptisms on an individual basis. *To register or ask questions contact the church office at 608.783.3326 / office@firstlu.org.*

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live streaming at 1stlu.org/live
Sundays 9:15am
Wednesdays 6:15pm

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, 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.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

May 14, 2020

Pastoral Message regarding the WI Supreme Court Safer at Home Ruling from Six Bishops

Bishop Jim Arends, Bishop Paul Erickson, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Bishop Peter Rogness

Dear friends in Christ,

On May 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court lifted the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Safer at Home extension. However, nothing has changed in our level of concern about contracting and spreading the coronavirus via worship and other gatherings in our churches.

The court decision was based on a contested legal point, and not on any change of the need for caution and safety that the pandemic has brought upon us. Counsel from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a wide range of additional medical experts, the ELCA's guidelines, and other government entities continue to stress the need for restricting all gatherings to under ten people and attendant safeguards such as distancing, masks, etc.

In the midst of confusion after the court's ruling, we ask that you remain steadfast in taking precautions to not contract or spread the virus. Please follow the counsel and recommendations stated in the May 12, 2020 ELCA document, Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship.

We in the Church need to continue to be guided by scripture, our theology, and the best scientific knowledge we can gather. We stand in unity to prioritize the safety and the well-being of all of our members as we continue in community.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop James Arends
La Crosse Area Synod

Bishop Gerald Mansholt
East Central Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Paul Erickson
Greater Milwaukee Synod

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Bishop Katherine Finegan
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Bishop Peter Rogness
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JIM ARENDS

LUTHERANS, STAY THE COURSE

Posted on May 14, 2020



YESTERDAY THE WISCONSIN Supreme Court made a ruling about the authority of a non-elected government official. Because of their ruling the existing Safer at Home order was no longer enforceable. That discussion is about laws and good order—it is not the discussion on this page.

The Badger Bounce Back plan remains Wisconsin's guide for incorporating our lives into the COVID-19 world. It provides a step by step process of reopening in light of progress made in fighting the disease. It is based on the federal plan. This process is supported by myself as the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod as well as the five other Wisconsin synod bishops who serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And it is supported by the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

I am thankful the BBB enables us as Christians to live out our calling to love God and to love our neighbors.

For now, we keep our buildings closed to corporate worship. Unfortunately Lutheran services are filled with ways to spread a pandemic. Viruses are shared in warm hand shakes and hugs as we greet and pass the peace. The virus count increases as we spend extended time together in an enclosed space, singing loudly and sharing bread and wine. For now, we won't gather. We don't know who carries the virus. We don't know who is most at risk to exposure. We wait.

Fortunately, we know that Lutherans can worship anywhere. We open our Bibles at home, pray as we drift off to sleep at night, worship together online

We miss worshipping together. But we stay the course. It's how we serve. It's how we care. It's for our God and for our neighbors' sake.

as our pastors become gifted televangelists.

Of course, we still collect offerings. Christians have a need to give. It is marvelous that many mail checks to church and engage in online giving. It is marvelous that we contribute to local groups serving those in special need. And it is inspiring to see God's people offering themselves to distribute food, coordinate blood drives, make phone connections with those who live alone and more and more—loving Jesus by loving our neighbors.

Now, as more and more people return to work, it is inspiring to see faithful people serve Jesus by protecting those around them. Masks are worn. Personal distancing is maintained. And in so doing, the neighbor is loved.

We miss worshipping together. But we stay the course. It's how we serve. It's how we care. It's for our God and for our neighbors' sake.

Bishop Jim Arends

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

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

UNDERWAY:

SANCTUARY ROOF



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, we have not been able to gather in person as a congregation. With great speed, a dedicated team allowed us to not miss a Wednesday or Sunday service by assembling the people and technology to stream live services directly into our homes. We owe a great deal of thanks to musicians, singers, pastors and the technology team for providing us with an uplifting experience every week. We also need to thank everyone who recorded prayers, readings and faith alive stories to make the experience more meaningful. Thank you to everyone for your support of the streaming ministry through your monthly giving.

Great news! In April giving to the general fund exceed budget by 28%. Even better news, it has reduced our year-to-date budgeted revenue deficit (through end of April) to only -\$3,884.56. A meaningful part of this good news is that 41 members have switched to electronic giving since the first of the year. Now is an excellent time to consider taking advantage of Simply Giving to ensure our many programs can 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 our reach to Change Lives. We can achieve this objective this year with an additional \$25,000. If you are already participating in Simply Giving, thank you, and please consider an increase to help make this video ministry happen. If you are not a Simple Giver, now is a great time to join all the

Thank you to everyone for your support of the streaming ministry through your monthly giving.

members who participate and love seeing their wishes fulfilled with the convenience of Simply Giving. To enroll sign up at 1stlu.org/giving or call the church office or .

Capital campaign update: It is great to report we have received over 84.5% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. Work on the sanctuary roof has begun. We are also aiming to replace the educational wing flooring and pay off the mortgage. Both of these can be accomplished as we look forward to all pledges being paid in full this year plus an additional \$100K being 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

FINDING REST



I HAVE THIS very large over stuffed chair in my living room where I sit in to spend time with God. I either curl up into it or drape my legs over the arm of the chair, and that's where I'm at peace. It's where I can pray my heart out, but also where I can hear music play as I do my Bible study. I also have a place away from home where I can find peace and where I'm met with God's creative work. That place is my nephew's vineyard atop a ridge in Vernon County that overlooks the farms and ridges with a 180 degree view. I can sit on the deck looking out and seeing all that God has created. It is there that I find peace and rest.

These last few month of being home and not meeting with my Bible study friends, church staff, or getting coffee with a friend catching up with each other has been hard. We've had Zoom meetings, we've talked over the phone and even talked being 6-10 feet apart, but that just isn't enough. The human contact of hugging, touching a shoulder, holding a hand, or resting your head on someone's shoulder has become so important to me. I so miss the gathering of people who care about one another, being able to share our burdens and our joys not only in words but in the active touch of being human. I must admit that I've grown weary of not being able to worship with others, welcome people into worship and to enjoy fellowship with one another.

The only thing that has sustained me over the last few months is knowing that this time of separation will not last forever. We'll be gradually gathering together, first in small groups and larger and larger as the time goes

on. During this time, I will rest in God's promises as Matthew 11:28 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." So I go to God in prayer and petitions and also in thanksgiving for all that he has provided for me during this time.

In God's goodness he sends me little bits of encouragement, like when a friend calls me, or when I get a text message from my daughters. These things energize me to continue to do what is right. We are called to do what is good and right and not grow weary in doing it, as II Thessalonians 3:13 says, "Brothers and sister do not be weary in doing what is right." God gives what each of us needs to continue, for it has been good and right for us to stay at home, protecting our elders and those who are vulnerable.

I hope you have a place in your home where you find time to be with God and a place somewhere else that refreshes your soul. Since we haven't been able to go to the vineyard, I have been closing my eyes and imagining that I am there, sitting at a small table, with a glass of wine, a cool breeze blowing over me making me feel just right. I breathe in the fresh air finding rest, thanking God for his creation and being able to enjoy it.

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!

AV MINISTRY

Our live stream set-up is starting to get into place, and the next phase involves members learning the set-up so we can continue to provide this ministry to everyone at home. We will be in need of two leaders/volunteers each Sunday: 1) to run projection (as we always have) and 2) to direct the live stream. Ideally we'd like a 2 week commitment on both Sundays and Wednesdays, the first week to lead projection and the second week to learn the live stream. *If you know someone with these gifts, or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, pass their name or your name to andy@firstlu.org.*

Wednesday, Jun 3
Acts 2:1-4;
1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Sunday, Jun 7
Matthew 28: 16-20

Wednesday, Jun 10
Genesis 2: 1-3

Sunday, Jun 14
Matthew 9:35-10:23

Wednesday, Jun 17
Jonah 1:1-2:1

Sunday, Jun 21
Matthew 10:24-39

Wednesday, Jun 24
1 Kings 19: 1-13

Sunday, Jun 28
Matthew 10: 40-42

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME CHANGE:

Sunday worship will live stream at 9:15am during the summer, starting June 7. The unscientific feedback we received was split 50/50. So, 9:15am represents a compromise which feels appropriate as we're all being asked to compromise for each other in this time of virtual church, from our music preferences to streaming rather than being in person. 9:15am is a good reminder that we're in this for each other. Not just for ourselves.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The pastors are considering baptisms on an individual basis. *To register or ask questions contact the church office at 608.783.3326 / office@firstlu.org.*

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Mae Ellen Aronson
- Yvonne Smaby

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Irene Welch

- Church bus fund: Nancy Beguin, Marilyn Fox, Nancy & Gary Olds
- Prayer shawl knitters: Gloria Kubiak
- Undesignated: Ardie Van Ripper, Lisa Wied

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 new members of First Lutheran.

- Don & Jan Ostreng

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.

GO GREEN

We offer two e-mail lists for subscribing:

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

First Lutheran Updates

& Publications: all of the above plus several updates from our website.

To subscribe to either one and to cancel the delivery of this paper copy, simply visit 1stlu.org/subscribe and fill out the online form, or contact the office at office@firstlu.org.

Sunday School

THANK YOU

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & HELPERS!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made Sunday school possible this past year! It's you who made this ministry happen, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Angie Strittmater
Jillian Rietzel
Sophia Stanton
Nicole Garbers
Michelle Wirth
Becky Runde
Cassie Carrell
Amanda DeNault
Grace Skiles

Andrea Matz
Melina Nelson
Emilee Mielke
Jenn Wiesjahn
Michelle Logan
Michael Wise
Indie Hauser
Emily Pfaff
Calison Wiess

THANK YOU CHOIR!

Thanks to all the members of the choir who dedicate their time and share God's gift of music with the congregation this past year before the COVID closure! Thanks also to director Todd Saner for his leadership! We're sorry we couldn't hear your "top 5" this May, but hopefully we'll hear you again in the fall!

Mark Abitz
Nancy Beguin
Dick Daleki
Peggy Daleki
Marlene Dewald
Kerry Jedele
Sharon Kjos
Janice Klimke
Bev Larson
David Lee
Terry Lee

Steve Lind
Lori Lunney
John Robison
Missy Robison
Scott Ryan
Jenny Saner
Tom Skogen
Carol Skoy
Steve Thomas
Katy Wood



STARTING LAST WINTER a group of faith leaders joined with the La Crosse County Aging and Disability Resource Center, ADRC, to learn about dementia in our community and discuss ways churches and other faith groups could support people with dementia and their caregivers both in worship and in the community.

You may recall that First Lutheran had committed to host a Memory Cafe in our narthex in March and June of 2020. Unfortunately, those events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Once there is a vaccine available, or another more clear way ahead to keep the more vulnerable safe in groups, we will plan to host a Memory Cafe again.

The faith leaders also identified the need for dementia respite for people with early to moderate dementia symptoms. After investigation of similar programs in other communities, the team put together a plan to start Oasis Dementia Respite. Oasis will open fall of 2020 to be offered on Monday and Thursday 11:30am–3:30pm. Oasis will offer lunch, refreshments and therapeutic enrichment activities encompassing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual sides of a person. People living with dementia often feel overwhelmingly isolated causing feelings of depression over loss of identity and control in their life. Social connections, mental stimulation and physical activity are vital to maintaining functional ability and emotional health.

The program will be hosted at First Free Church, Onalaska at no cost. The space is barrier free, handicap accessible and offers a kitchenette for our use. It would be staffed by trained volunteers, a Certified Nursing Assistant and managed through Causeway Caregivers, a nonprofit that

People living with dementia often feel isolated causing feelings of depression. Social connections, mental stimulation and physical activity are vital.

provides other dementia-related programs. The respite will be offered at no cost, or suggested donation, so that all who want to participate, can. The group is still working on funding through grants to cover the paid staff positions and some other equipment and administrative costs. If you are interested in learning more about the program for someone you know who may want to attend the respite program, or if you want to volunteer, contact bridget@firstlu.org.

If you are interested in becoming involved, but volunteering at Oasis isn't what you had in mind, there is a Dementia Friendly Community Coalition that is putting together sub-committees to work on community awareness, engaging health care, dementia friendly business, law enforcement and legal advocacy and caregiver advocacy and support. Again, if you are interested in learning more, contact bridget@firstlu.org.

Bridget Crave
Bridget Crave
Community Impact Director
bridget@firstlu.org

Coming June 8...

BIBLE READERS

Ever wanted to read the whole Bible?

Pastor Stanton will lead a year long, 5 days-a-week journey starting June 8!

For years, I wanted to lead a Bible study with people of all ages, genders and Bible study experience. But there was no good day of the week or time of day to meet. So instead of a weekly study at the church... I want to bring a daily Bible study into your internet machine. I'll post a 3-5 minute video by 5am Monday through Friday on Facebook and Youtube. If social media isn't your thing, I could also e-mail each day's video. Send me a request.

By this time next year... we will have read through the whole Bible, having read for about 15 minutes a day. We will be using a chronological reading plan where we read some Old Testament and some New Testament 5 days a week. You will be able to access the study whenever you want each day. It will mostly be just me reading your questions/comments or pointing out something interesting. Missed one? Catch up the next day or on the weekend.

But we won't jump in head first. We will gently dip our toes in the water. Before making a daily habit, we will need to examine our habits and make space for reading from Scripture every day. On the Mondays–Fridays of June 8–June 26 I will use my daily video time to help you examine your morning routines so that you may prioritize Scripture reading. Those are a must if any of us are going to succeed.

This study will be appropriate for ANYone who can read, from kids in 3rd grade to our eldest friend; members and acquaintances far far away.

Use whatever Bible you'd like.

And I'll see you June 8!

Pastor Jason Stanton
Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org



OWLS

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Hope this newsletter finds all of the OWLs safe and healthy during these unusual times. Remember the good old days, we used to all pack into the van and head out on adventures when the weather started turning warm. Andy has searched the archives for some great photos to add to this page. Don't despair, there is hope we will once again hit the road. As we learned in Isaiah, God defeats all enemies, the big and powerful and the microscopic ones. There is HOPE, but we must have patience. I have been asking God to give me patience NOW, but that, too, has required a wait.

So while we wait with hope and patience there is always OWLs on Zoom. We have

had four virtual potlucks on Zoom. In addition to getting caught up and hearing everyone's good news, we have been playing games. Brian has modified the rules of some popular games like Scatagories and Tribond so we can play them online. They require a little bit of thinking, but a great time is had by all. So if you are tired of TV and the same four walls, come join the OWLs for the next OWLs virtual potluck. The next one will be on Wednesday, June 10 at 1pm. The Zoom information will be emailed to the OWLs mailing list shortly before the meeting. If you are not on the OWLs emailing list, please contact Brian Narveson at bcnarveson@gmail.com or 630.816.591,7 and he will add you to the email list or provide connect information over the phone. You can join all the Zoom calls with just a regular phone if you do not have a computer or smart phone. If you need help figuring out how to connect to Zoom or view the church services, please feel free to contact Brian for assistance.



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.

JUNE AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
31 9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream	1 7 PM Online: AA	2	3 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream	4 7 PM Women Of The House - Zoom	5 7 PM Online: AA	6																																																																													
7 9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Worship Live Stream	8 9 AM Bible Readers (a study to read the Bible in a year) begins 7 PM Online: AA	9	10 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM HLT meeting	11 2 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg 7 PM Women Of The House - Zoom	12 7 PM Online: AA - FS	13 9:30 AM Drawing From the Well - Zoom																																																																													
14 9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Worship Live Stream	15 <div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Deadline for Newsletter</div> 7 PM Online: AA	16 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg 6:30 PM Property Management Team Mtg - NX	17 6 AM Courageous Men - Zoom 6:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream	18 1 PM Grief Support Group - Phone Tree 7 PM Women Of The House - Zoom	19 7 PM Online: AA	20																																																																													
21 9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Worship Live Stream	22 7 PM Online: AA	23	24 6:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream	25 1 PM Cancelled: Memories Community Grounds Cafe - NX 2 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg 7 PM Women Of The House - Zoom	26 7 PM Online: AA	27																																																																													
28 9 AM Sunday Morning w/ Coffee - Zoom 9:15 AM Worship Live Stream	29 7 PM Online: AA	30	1 6:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream	2 9 AM Cancelled: Sunshine Team 7 PM Women Of The House - Zoom	<p>MAY</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p>JULY</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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weekly events for

JUNE at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

9:15am Worship - live streamed at 1stlu.org/live

9:00am Sunday Mornings with Coffee - MR

TUESDAYS

11:00am Staff Meeting - Zoom

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom

6:15pm Worship - live streamed at 1stlu.org/live

REVELATIONS

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

THE REVELATIONS OF JASON



WATCHING: *The Last Dance*

I finished watching the 10 episode ESPN documentary series, "The Last Dance" about my favorite childhood team: the Chicago Bulls. What an absolute delight it was to share that story with my son who is the exact age as when I became transfixed by Rare Air (Michael Jordan). Sports documentaries can be so very good.

THE REVELATIONS OF TAMARA

THINKING ABOUT:

A radio program I listen to recently asked several people what one sentence /thought/advice they would leave for a post-apocalyptic civilization. One respondent left a scientific principle that would lead to a world of discovery and advancement. Another left a musical chord to stir creativity. I got to thinking about what my one thought would be: Think about others? Eat dessert first? Look beyond the mirror for beauty? Listen to everyone; trust no one? Your keys will never be where you thought you left them? Forgive—for your sake? Wash your hands?

THE REVELATIONS OF ANDY



LISTENING TO: *Hotel Corona*

A rabbi, an Arab, and an Israeli comedian, all with COVID19, walk into a hotel. This might sound like a joke, but it is an uplifting true story of a hotel in Jerusalem during quarantine. Listen at 1stlu.org/hotel.

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.

Preschool 2020-2021 Registration!

ages 30 months
to 5 years

Creative art projects



Working with language & literacy



Outdoor play



Lessons in mathematics & scientific concepts



HURRY!

SPACE IS LIMITED

CONTACT US TODAY!

preschool@firstlu.org

608.779.4504

Visit us online at
firstlu.org/preschool

CLASSES

Mon/Wed/Fri, 8:30-11am

Tues/Thur, 8:30-11am

Mon-Friday, 8:30-11am

Onalaska 4K, Mon-Fri,
8:25-11:05am



FIRST LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

facebook

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

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



**FIRST
LUTHERAN**

410 Main Street
Onalaska, WI 54650
608.783.2236
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live streaming at 1stlu.org/live
Sundays 9:15am
Wednesday 6:15pm



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or tablet



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

edition: June 2020

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GOOD NEWS
JUNE 2020

Sanctuary

ALSO INSIDE

- BIBLE BITS**
- BIBLE READERS**
- DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**
- WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**

creating a
space for
grace
in your life

#faithalive365