

# AUGUST AT FIRST LUTHERAN

## WEEKLY EVENTS...

**Sundays**  
9:15am Worship Live Stream

**Mondays**  
7:00pm AA - Fireside Rm

**Tuesdays**  
11:00am Staff Meeting

**Wednesdays**  
6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom  
6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom  
6:15pm Worship Live Stream

**Thursdays**  
7:00pm Women of the House - Zoom

**Fridays**  
7:00pm AA - Fireside Rm

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS...

- SUN 2 Vacation Bible School: Home Kits - First Day
- WED 5 8:30am Clothes Closet Mtg
- TUES 11 7:00pm Executive Team
- WED 12 12:00pm Finance Team Mtg  
1:00pm OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom  
7:15pm Communion Assistants Training - Zoom
- THUR 13 2:00pm Stephen Ministry - Zoom
- TUES 18 5:15pm Personnel Team Mtg
- SUN 23 10:30am Gr 6/7 Confirmation Orientation - Zoom
- TUES 25 6:30pm Vision & Leadership Team Mtg
- WED 26 7:00pm Gr 8/9 Confirmation Orientation - Zoom
- THUR 27 2:00pm Stephen Ministry - Zoom Mtg
- SUN 30 Blessing Backpacks & Devices  
Blessing Teachers, Admins & All School-Related Staff

**CALENDAR KEY:**  
 CR = Choir Room      FBB = Faith Building Block      FH = Fellowship Hall  
 FS = Fireside Room      MR = Mary Room      NX = Narthex  
 SN = Sanctuary      TR = Thomas Room      UR = Upper Room  
*Events subject to change; up-to-date info at [www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)*

## Drawing from the Well

For women of First and the greater La Crosse area seeking to support one another in their spiritual growth.  
 Meeting on Zoom for fellowship & study.  
**NEXT: Saturday, Aug. 8, 9:30am**



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



## GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

**Monday, August 17**  
 At Viroqua Hills Golf Course  
 \$75 for 18 holes

Contact camp for more info & reg:  
[www.sgrcreek.org](http://www.sgrcreek.org) • 608.734.3113




410 Main Street  
 Onalaska, WI 54650  
 608.783.2236  
[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
 Live streaming at [1stlu.org/live](http://1stlu.org/live)  
 Sundays 9:15am  
 Wednesday 6:15pm



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


edition: August 2020

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## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOE DRIVE

The First Teen Clothes Closet is committed to providing new back-to-school shoes, suitable for gym classes, to our guests later this summer. If you would like to contribute to this effort, donations may be sent to First Lutheran Church in Onalaska, 410 Main St. Onalaska, WI 54650.




**GOOD NEWS**  
 AUGUST 2020

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: HOME KITS**  
**Sunday, Aug. 2–Thursday, Aug. 6**  
 Register at [1stlu.org/VBS](http://1stlu.org/VBS) by Thursday, July 30 to receive your kit on Saturday, August 1

**ALSO INSIDE**  
 CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION  
 FIRST TEEN CLOTHES CLOSET  
 BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOE DRIVE

#faithalive365



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



WHAT CAN FAITH formation look like during a pandemic when we can't gather for in-person conversations, studies, worship or prayer?

The current moment is no different from any other chapter of our lives: either we're growing in our faith or other priorities and interests are taking the place of our relationship with God. This is a time to get creative with how we use our time to stretch our faith in ways we haven't before. That's why Pastor Karyn and I and our whole staff have created a bunch of new ways to engage with God and each other amidst COVID time.

In June, a bunch of people from First Lutheran and beyond started reading the Bible together: 5 days a week, with weekends to catch up or take a break. Each day, I assign a few chapters from the Old Testament and some more from the New. It's about 15 minutes worth of reading; maybe another 15 minutes if you want to journal or reflect at all. The goal for those who started 'on the ground floor' is to read the whole Bible over the course of a year. BUT...

**If you didn't get in right away, it's not too late!** Each time "Bible Readers" starts a new book, we will invite the whole congregation again to join us. Maybe you

**Each time Bible Readers starts a new book, we will invite everyone to join us!**

will join us just for the book of Matthew (which starts July 29 and will finish September 15). Or maybe you've always wanted to read Ecclesiastes straight through (February 12-15). The whole reading schedule is available through our website and a Google calendar is there, too, if you'd like to add it to your e-calendar.

What can faith formation look like while we are apart? Maybe it looks like picking up your Bible for 15-30 minutes a day. And don't forget, I accompany the process with a daily post for Bible Readers on Facebook and Youtube. Join us!

Pastor Jason Stanton  
jason@firstlu.org

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



I AM DETERMINED to get my newsletter article in on the day it is due. Typically my article is late because I have a hard time deciding what to

talk about, there are so many ideas running through my head. This month, there are a whole bunch of things, but not one of them is enough to fill up the space I have. So as I sit here in my home office, longing for the entertainment of baby birds being fed by a momma bird right outside my window, it occurred to me that all the things running around in my head are the things I would talk about if I were seeing you face to face. You know, those little things that make up a conversation, that tell us a little bit more about the other person, that help us feel connected. I would tell you about how Leo almost caught a squirrel this morning when it wandered onto the patio in search of the tidbit everyone else missed, all the while seeming not to notice the very large cat waiting to pounce. Or I would ask you about my little tree and the best way to care for it, and together we would be in awe of its ability to come back to life no matter how neglectful I sometimes get. Or perhaps we would lament together because we haven't had a chance to see the new little one in our family because of the virus and how Wyla Grace will be eight months soon and has yet to meet her

Auntie Karyn or Great Aunt Sue and Uncle Jeff. It's a travesty, for sure. These are the things that I miss sharing with you and I miss hearing about from you.

For sure these last five months have challenged us all in a variety of ways, and the road is still somewhat hazy ahead of us, but we know we have a way to go, but what hasn't changed is that we are still a people gathered together (virtually) by the love of God in Jesus, and just like in other times when the church could not meet together as a whole, we are finding ways to stay connected, and we know that in time, we will be together again. Until then, feel free to share your stories with me via email or Facebook or phone call, and I will continue to share mine in my musings and sermons. And know that you are missed and you are loved.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz  
karyn@firstlu.org

## FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP



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. Campus Ministries helps brings young people to Christ with fellowship, small groups, a place to study and regular services. I hope many of you viewed the service Pastor Ben and his students led for us on July 19. It highlighted some of the students and the breadth of the ministry. This ministry is possible because of our and the rest of the synod's gifts. Thank you for supporting First Lutheran and Campus Ministries.

General Fund giving (not including the capital campaign) as of June 30, 2020 was \$282,047 which is just \$8,094 short of what we budgeted through June. Thank you to the many people supporting FLC through electronic giving. Regular giving via Simply Giving can provide the resources to expand our ministry to Change Lives. If you are already participating in Simply Giving, thank you. If you are not a Simple Giver, now is a great time to join all the members who participate and love seeing their wishes fulfilled with the convenience of Simply Giving. To enroll call the church office or sign up at [1stlu.org/giving](http://1stlu.org/giving).

Capital Campaign update: It is great to report we have received over 86% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. Work on the sanctuary roof is complete, come by and take a look. 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

## MESSAGE FROM KATHRYN



AT THE BEGINNING of this staying at home for the safety of everyone, I was enjoying baking on the weekends. I work from home during the week and unlike many who have had time to bake and clean out closets during the week, I only have the weekends to do projects. I loved baking cookies and muffins and gave many of them away during the first couple of months, but lately I haven't and I've missed not only the baking but the giving away my goodies to my neighbors.

So, I've decided to bake every weekend on Sunday, giving away the treats I make. I'll have to make a plan and find recipes that will survive the heat of August. I may even want to include a note of thanks for being my neighbor, reminding them to stay safe during this time of uncertainty. The best part will be delivering the goodies, ringing or knocking on the door and walking away quickly to maintain our social distancing, hoping they come to the door so we can say hi to one another. This

worked well when the staff delivered a little something to all of our volunteers in the middle of July. If you have volunteered in the past year and we somehow missed you, please let me know by emailing me. I will get a little something to you as soon as I can!

I know sometimes I get so wrapped up in what's happening in my life, I don't always look outside myself. This is one way I get out of my comfort zone or my self-absorption to be the hands and feet of God. There's nothing better than gifting someone, showing them God's love and reminding them we are all special in God's eyes. I hope you will join me in welcoming your neighbors with God's love, giving them words of encouragement and maybe even a little something you have made.

Kathryn Pedretti  
Director of Hospitality  
kathryn@firstlu.org

## READINGS FOR AUGUST

Sun., Aug. 2: Matthew 14: 13-21

Wed., Aug. 5: 2 Chronicles 8: 12-16 and Luke 8: 42b-48

Sun., Aug. 9: Matthew 14: 22-33

Wed., Aug. 12: Matthew 19: 16-30

Sun., Aug. 16: Matthew 15: 21-28

Wed., Aug. 19: Isaiah 40: 1-5

Sun., Aug. 23: Matthew 16: 13-20

Wed., Aug. 26: Luke 9: 12-17

Sun., Aug. 30: Matthew 16: 21-28

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for August. 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).



Hope this newsletter finds all of the OWLs safe and healthy. We have had six 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. In July, we had fun hearing about and seeing photos from Brian and Mary's trip to Colorado. So if you are tired of TV and the same 4 walls, **come join the OWLs for the next virtual potluck, on Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 1pm.** The Zoom information will be emailed to the OWLs mailing list shortly before the meeting. If you are not receiving OWLs emails, please contact Brian Narveson at [bcnarveson@gmail.com](mailto:bcnarveson@gmail.com) or 630.816.5917, 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 contact Brian for assistance.

## CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

**Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Orientation**  
Sun., Aug. 23, 10:30am  
via Zoom

**Gr 8 & 9 Confirmation Orientation**  
Wed., Aug. 26, 7pm  
via Zoom

**Gr 10 Confirmation Orientation**  
Wed., Sept. 2, 7pm  
via Zoom



## READ THE BOOK OF EXODUS IN 18 DAYS!

The story of Moses! The burning bush! The ten plagues of Egypt! The parting of the Red Sea! It's all in the book of Exodus, and Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers **starting Friday, Aug. 7.** This study is for ANYone who can read, 3rd graders to our eldest friend; members and acquaintances far far away. *Use whatever Bible you'd like! Follow Pastor Stanton's daily guides on Facebook or YouTube, and if you'd like the daily video guides emailed to you contact Pastor Stanton at [jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)*

## TRAINING ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR COMMUNION

In July, First Lutheran began offering "virtual" communion. To do this well, participating households are expected to designate at least one confirmed Christian to act as "assisting minister" in their household. All designated assisting ministers are required to attend a virtual training date led by the pastors. **They will offer another training on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 7:15pm.** Sign up at [1stlu.org/training](http://1stlu.org/training). We believe God meets us where we are at... so we will celebrate God meeting us online.

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Helen Pedersen
- Helen Renstrom