



FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

DEC. 2020 / JAN. 2021

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

SEE ALSO...

facebook.com/1stlu

instagram.com/1stlu

twitter.com/1stlu

1stlu.org/cal

pinterest.com/firstlu

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

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



MY FAMILY IS going to increase our giving to First Lutheran's General Fund in 2021. For three years we have made two separate monthly gifts to our church: \$870 per month to support the General Fund and \$100 per month to support the "Our Church + Our Time" capital campaign. We are fortunate enough to not **need** that \$100 to come back into our family's monthly spending budget. So, we will be increasing our General Fund gift to \$970 per month.

Why am I telling you this? For two reasons: 1) Because too many of us consider money to be a forbidden topic of conversation, which gives money a certain power over all of us. For some, talking about their wealth feels almost as vulnerable as talking about sex or a long held secret that makes them feel

guilty. Money and possessions, though, are spoken of in Scripture more than 800 times. As your pastor, I am called to talk about money with you. "To those whom much is given, much is expected." And I know, many of us have been given much! 2) I want you to consider joining my family and me—if you have been as fortunate as we have—in substantially increasing your gift to First Lutheran's General Fund in 2021. Perhaps that means you carry over at least some of what you were regularly gifting for the capital campaign. Or you may choose to increase by a dollar a day. I trust you'll know what works for your budget.

In February, we will vote on a budget at our annual meeting that no longer needs to include mortgage

Continues on page 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



*Love has come
a light in the darkness,
love shines forth
in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has
come to proclaim it;
hear how their song
of joy proclaims it:
Love! Love!
Born unto you a Savior.
Love! Love!
Glory to God on high!*

LOVE HAS COME is my favorite Christmas carol. The ways that it encompasses the power of Immanuel with the

beauty of the melody just sings directly to my soul.

I have been thinking a lot about love, more than I ever thought I would. I have been thinking about love as concrete ways I live out my faith. In the midst of a pandemic, civil unrest and an ugly election cycle, standing up for love is hard work. The forces of selfishness and power have been working triple time to drown out the song of those who follow Jesus and live in the way of love.

I am reading the book *Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry and I

Continues on page 2

First Lutheran is poised to grow in every way, especially among the youth and young families of Onalaska.

payments! Hallelujah! It will be an ambitious budget that meets the moment, but also prepares our church for a brighter and younger future. I want to hire a Faith Formation Director in the second half of 2021, when—we hope—in person meetings and events will be 'normal' again. This full time staff position will attend primarily to our kids and their families, but will also serve singles, elders and everyone else through special events, learning opportunities and lots of Christian FUN. Since becoming Senior Pastor here in 2011, we have had a difficult time financially supporting a staff that includes a position like this. It is time for us to get over that hump! And 2021 is the year to do it.

First Lutheran is poised to grow in every way, especially among the youth and young families of Onalaska. We

have a unique, genuine and powerful message of grace that young people hear almost NOwhere else! The entire Onalaska community could be strengthened through our church and our authentic message that "All Are Welcome." To fulfill this ambitious vision, I will be folding my 2018-2020 capital campaign giving into my 2021 offerings. I invite you to prayerfully consider joining me.

Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

comes along and puts wind in our sails of faith. Hope is the energy that keeps us going when the gravity of reality would otherwise defeat us. But while faith and hope are necessary for a full life, they're not a guide for life. They don't tell you what to do. That's love's job. Love tells you how to direct the energy of outrageous faith. If hope and faith are the wind and sails, love is the rudder. It's God's GPS.

I don't know about you, but hope seems to be a light breeze of late. Or perhaps my sails of faith haven't been trimmed quite right. Either way, it seems to me that it is in short supply. Yet, faith and love would tell me that hope is there for those who love Jesus, who gather together (whatever that may look like) to love and support one another and in that hope is born and fear and despair is kept at bay. Love, the act of loving each other and loving God give us the hope we need.

As we enter a new church year, we will be reminded again and again that

love has come. A love that changed the world, a love that has the power to change our world. A love that pulls us out of ourselves and into service for others. This year, more than ever, the words of the carol sing the promise that we all so desperately need: Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

am deeply struck by his characterization of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13, "and now faith, hope and love abide... and the greatest of these is love." Bishop Curry says: To live full lives, together, we need faith, hope and love—but of these, love is the most important. Faith is another word for trust. Faith dares us to believe that in the end, love wins. We can't see it, but we believe it anyway. Then hope

First Lutheran Church
410 Main St.
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650
608.783.2236
Fax: 608.783.3741
office@firstlu.org
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your announcement in the monthly newsletter, send it to newsletter@firstlu.org, 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)



Christmas at First Lutheran

Nov 30 Christmas Caroling:
Deadline to sign-up for lending your voice for caroling in 2020; contact karyn@firstlu.org.

Dec 4 Sugar Creek Drive-Thru, Road to Bethlehem:
3:30–6pm; call 608.734.3113 by Dec. 3 to let them know you're coming.

OWLs Watching Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir:
6:30pm, via Zoom.

9 Christmas Pageant
Deadline: Last day for participants to upload videos. Questions? Contact beth@firstlu.org

ELCA Stars & Promises Christmas Concert:
7pm at facebook.com/Lutherans

12 Gingerbread House
Deadline: Submit entries to karyn@firstlu.org. Voting takes place Dec. 13-19 at facebook.com/1stlu.

13 Gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree are due

16 OWLs Christmas Party:
1pm, via Zoom.

Premiere of Online Christmas Pageant:
at 1stlu.org/live during 6:15pm worship.

20 Gingerbread House Winners Announced!

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long:
5pm at 1stlu.org/live.

21 Blue Christmas Worship: 5pm at 1stlu.org/live.

24 Christmas Eve Worship Times & Location:
To be determined.

RESPONSIBLE & SAFE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Every year, members of First sing carols with our neighbors at local assisted living and nursing homes. While it is not possible for us to go into the nursing homes this year, we can still sing carols for the folks there. If you are interested in lending your voice to the carolers, email Pastor Karyn at karyn@firstlu.org for instructions by Monday, Nov. 30.

SUGAR CREEK DRIVE-THRU: THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

On **Friday, Dec. 4, 3:30–6pm**, head to Sugar Creek for a drive-thru Advent experience! Journey through the Advent story visiting live action worship stations offering carols, scripture, prayer, and the chance to visit real nativity animals. Covid safety precautions in place. This is an all outdoor event, so dress appropriately for the weather, and please bring a mask for carols. Start your journey **any time from 3:30–6pm**. Free will offering for the ministry of Sugar Creek, as well as non-perishable item donations welcome to benefit local food pantries. *Please call 608.734.3113 by Dec. 3 to let them know you're coming.*

STARS AND PROMISES CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING PETER MAYER

On **Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7pm**, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett. This concert is a gift to you this Advent season. It is a way for ELCA World Hunger to say thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. The concert is free and will premiere at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://facebook.com/Lutherans), with a live chat so you can engage with the audience, ELCA staff and Peter Mayer himself. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world. Register now to receive a free, exclusive Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event! We hope to see you there!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Calling all members! It is time to step away from the screens and get your creative juices flowing! This year, since we can't decorate and distribute cookies together, we are having a gingerbread house contest. Entries can be emailed to karyn@firstlu.org **by Dec. 12**. You can make your gingerbread house from a kit or scratch or a combination of both. Have fun! Be creative! Then send a picture with you name to karyn@firstlu.org. Voting will happen on FaceBook from **Dec. 13-19**, and the winners will be announced on **Dec. 20**.

FIRST LUTHERAN'S ONLINE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

First Lutheran will premiere our 2020 online Christmas pageant at 1stlu.org/live **during 6:15pm worship on Wednesday, Dec. 16**. For those participating in the production, videos need to be **uploaded by Dec. 9**. *Questions? Contact Beth Miller, at beth@firstlu.org.*

Continues on page 4

Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to give a rose in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate for our Christmas Eve services, you may do so by filling out the form and return it to the church office. Cost is \$5 per rose.

Order deadline is December 13.

Please print clearly

Your name and phone number:

I would like a rose in **memory** of:

I would like a rose in **honor** of:

✂ CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG

On **Sunday, Dec. 20** we will host a live, online Christmas carol event! Grab a warm beverage, put on your favorite Christmas sweater and join Todd, Gabe and other musicians at 5pm at 1stlu.org/live as we sing our favorite Christmas carols!

WHAT IS FIRST LUTHERAN DOING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE?

That is a very good question. The answer is we don't quite know yet. For several months now we have been committed to figuring out a way to have in-person worship, safely. There have been ideas developed and then put aside as the situation with the pandemic changes and then new ideas brew. We are still committed to worshipping in-person, we just don't quite have the plan D details ready to announce just yet. As soon as we know, we will make sure you know! Until then, be well, be kind, Christ is with you. ~
Pastor Karyn

WARMING CENTER

Warming Center volunteers are still needed. Whether you want to work a shift at the Warming Center, or provide a meal for the guests, there are still open spots to volunteer. Area ELCA members have committed to staff the first two Fridays of each month. You can sign up at 1stlu.org/warm, or contact bridget@firstlu.org



Gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree should be wrapped and have a tag on the outside with the code that is on the SignUp (found at 1stlu.org/givingtree).

Gifts need to be turned in to First Lutheran by Sunday, Dec. 13.

Questions? email bridget@firstlu.org

21 DAY CHALLENGE



FIGHTING RACISM isn't a one and done event, it's an ongoing process. It takes about 3 weeks to form a new habit, so Dr. Eddie Moor, Dr. Marguerite Penick-Parks and Debby Irving developed the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge to help all of us develop self-awareness and intentionality to effect social change. A year ago, many of us read Debby Irving's book *Waking Up White* and some participated in small group discussions during Lent. Whether you were part of that book read, or not, you are invited to be a part of the 21-day challenge.

Starting Jan. 18, for 21 days you will be invited to either watch a short video, or listen to a podcast, or read an article and reflect. The entire schedule, with links to each day's resources, will be posted on our website and daily reminders will be posted on Facebook. The 21-day challenge is appropriate for teens and all adults. Whether you are a seasoned anti-racist ally, or the whole topic of racism just makes you uncomfortable, this 21-Day Challenge is for you. I hope you'll join us.

Bridget Crave
Community Impact Director
bridget@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

Quilters Still Need Supplies

Even though the quilters aren't meeting at the church, they can still use supplies for quilts they're working on. That includes fabric (cotton), thread, sewing notions, and sheets and pillow cases (used is fine, but they should be clean and in good condition). You can drop off donations at the church on weekdays.

stephen MINISTRY®

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

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

While Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) did not send volunteers for the 2020-21 program year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they plan to resume sending volunteers next year in August 2021. Applications will be open from Nov. 1, 2020, to Jan. 15, 2021. The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults (ages 21-29) into a year-long international journey of service. If you, a friend, a church family member would be interested in such a journey, go to elca.org/yagm and begin the application process.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 21-16) 12-26-2011
HERE'S A GIFT RECEIPT FOR THE MYRRH IN CASE YOU HAD WANTED OTHER PERFUME

**FAITH
ALIVE! U**

Introduction To Enneagram

**Spiritual Director,
Carla Stanton
Sunday, Dec. 6, 6pm**

The Enneagram is one way we can discover more about our inner self and the ways we respond to the world around us. In this introductory course explore which of the 9 types you might be and learn how each type responds in times of joy and times of stress.

Prior to this course each participant is asked to take a brief online assessment, at 1stlu.org/assess.

*Zoom ID: 876 4004 2360
Passcode: 080265*

For confirmation students, high schoolers and all adults.

READINGS FOR DEC.

Wednesday, Dec. 2:
Daniel 6: 6-27

Sunday, Dec. 6: Mark 1: 1-8

Wednesday, Dec. 9:
Joel 2: 12-13, 28-29

Sunday, Dec. 13:
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Wednesday, Dec. 16:
Isaiah 61: 1-11

Sunday, Dec. 20: Luke 1: 26-38

Wednesday, Dec. 23:
Luke 1: 26-56

Sunday, Dec. 27: Luke 2: 22-40

Sunday, Jan. 3: John 1: 1-18

Wednesday, Jan. 6:
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday, Jan. 10: Mark 1: 4-11

Wednesday, Jan. 13: Luke 3: 1-22

Sunday, Jan. 17: John 1: 43-51

Wednesday, Jan. 20:
Luke 4: 14-30

Sunday, Jan. 24: Mark 1: 14-20

Wednesday, Jan. 27: Luke 5: 1-11

Sunday, Jan. 31: Mark 1: 21-28

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for December. 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.

**FAITH
ALIVE! U**

Reconciling in Christ: What Other Congregations Have Learned

**Aubrey Thonvold,
Exec. Director
Reconciling Works**

Sunday, Jan. 10, 6pm

Join us to hear the stories of congregations who have and are doing the work and discussing how to becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. Aubrey is a lifelong Lutheran who is committed to work centered in justice and equity for LGBTQIA+ people and their families within religious and faith communities.

*Zoom ID: 876 4004 2360
Passcode: 080265*

For confirmation students, high schoolers and all adults.

READ 1 KINGS IN 12 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers **starting Wednesday, Jan. 13.**

READ 2 CHRONICLES IN 6ISH DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers **starting Tuesday, Jan. 19.**

READ PROVERBS IN 11 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will be introducing this book to Bible Readers **starting Friday, Jan. 22.**

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



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

Christ. This Changes Lives! In the month of January, we will hold our 2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign to Change Lives. This campaign will focus on increasing giving so we can financially support 3 very important initiatives to Change Lives. The 3 initiatives are Pandemic Relief for Sugar Creek Bible Camp, creating a fund to Grow Participation in Faith Events and hiring a Faith Formation Director. During each week in January, every member will receive multiple communications explaining each of these initiatives. Thank you in advance for reading them. These initiatives will be highly

successful when we increase our general-fund giving. As you learn about them in the coming weeks, please prayerfully consider continuing a portion of the contribution you have made to the capital campaign. The objective is to increase total general fund giving by \$60,000 for these three life-changing initiatives

General fund update: Giving for operations (not including the capital campaign and preschool) as of Oct. 31, 2020 was \$473,255. Budgeted receipts were \$485,962 leaving a deficit of \$12,707. With continued generosity in December, we can finish the year without a deficit. Please consider regular giving via Simply Giving to meet this goal and provide the resources to expand our ministry to Change Lives. If you are already

participating in Simply Giving, thank you. To enroll sign up at 1stlu.org/giving or call the church office.

Capital campaign update: It is also great to report we are approaching the receipt of \$1,000,000 of the pledged income for the capital campaign to date. In addition, we have already received declarations of intent and contributions of close to \$200,000 toward our **Above and Beyond** finish of the capital campaign, which has a goal of \$230,000. Thank you to everyone who has already declared their intent. Thank you to everyone who has generously given and committed to both the original campaign and Above and Beyond. We anticipate receipt of all funds from both campaigns by the end of the year. 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 and Zoom information, contact Pastor Stanton..

Faithfully submitted,

The Finance and Stewardship Committees

CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PLEGGED DOLLARS:

\$1,058,518

GIFTS RECEIVED:

\$1,017,534

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

MORTGAGE BURNED

HVAC CONTROLS

ED BUILDING ROOF

PARKING LOT REPAIRS

TREES REMOVED

WIFI UPGRADE

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

3 AC UNITS REPLACED

SANCTUARY AUDIO UPGRADE

SANCTUARY ROOF

FOUNDATION UPDATE



THE FIRST LUTHERAN Foundation Fund is proud to be able to help support ELCA organizations that are continuing the work of First Lutheran Church. One such worthy and deserving organization is the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry members knit the shawls for all baptisms at First Lutheran, including infants, children and adults. They are gifted to all couples married at First. And they are gifted to anyone in the community who is suffering grief, illness, loss, or any other need. The funds given to the Knitters and Prayer Shawl Ministries help with supplies for the group. Our knitters and prayer shawl group meet once a month, on the second Monday at 1:30pm, currently via Zoom.



The generous gifts of our past and present members have allowed for grants to be made to places like the Prayer Shawl Ministries on behalf of First Lutheran Church. If you would like to give a gift to First's Foundation, you can do so easily by sending a check to First Lutheran Church and designating it for the Foundation.

Thank you and God bless!

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Reports will be available
Sunday, Jan. 31

All members are invited to
First's Annual Potluck!
Sun., Feb. 14 11:45am
location to be determined

Year-End Donations

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep First Lutheran in mind. You can make a tax-deductible, year-end donation on our website at 1stlu.org/give.

GIFTS THAT GROW THE CHURCH, FIGHT HUNGER AND TRANSFORM LIVES.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS CATALOG

[ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://elca.org/goodgifts)

Help communities respond to COVID-19

Soap and sanitation supplies
page 15

Christmas gifts that make a difference
Give animals
page 4
Give clean water
page 8
Grow the church
page 19
Help in the U.S.
page 22



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

Gifts for
the person who
"has everything"
ELCA Good Gifts
elca.org/goodgifts



CONFIRMATION

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

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes
continue online

Wednesdays, 7pm
Gr 8-9 Small Groups
No small groups Dec. 16-Dec. 30

Sunday, Dec. 6, 6pm
Confirmation Elective
Faith Alive! U: The Enneagram

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 1:30pm
**Tentative Confirmation Sunday
for youth in tenth grade
(postponed from October)**



Sunday School

FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

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

Grade 2: What's Fair

Sunday, Jan. 3: parents/guardians only via Zoom
Sundays, Jan. 10 & 17: parents/guardians with children via Zoom
Sunday, Jan. 24: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship
*Families will be emailed the Zoom link from the pastors
in the week prior to class.*

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The pastors are considering baptisms on an individual basis. The next baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Dec. 5, at 10am** for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism. *To register or ask questions call the church office at 608.783.3326.*

NO WORSHIP ON DEC. 23 & DEC. 25

While worship plans for Christmas Eve were yet to be finalized before we went to print, it has been decided that in order to allow better preparations for Christmas Eve, there will be no worship — neither in-person nor live streamed — on Wednesday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 25.

OFFICE CLOSURES

The office will be closed on these days in December and January:

- Thursday, Dec. 24 at noon
- Friday, Dec. 25
- Thursday, Dec. 31 at noon
- Friday, Jan. 1
- Monday, Jan. 18
- Wednesday, Jan. 20

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

If you have received a birthday postcard from First in the last several months and still have it, bring it into church Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm and pick up a small gift. Remember to ring the doorbell on the left side of the doors and Tamara will be happy to help you.

SNOW BIRDS

Are you heading out? Travel safe! And please let us know if you'll be spending the winter somewhere else. If we know your seasonal address, we can keep in touch by sending you the monthly newsletter. *Call or email the office with your winter address: 608.783.2236, office@firstlu.org.*

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- **Vernell Quall**
- **Jon Bichel**

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of **Laura Jean Adams**

- Undesignated: Beverly Kiesling, Mary Ryan

In memory of **Steve Evert**

- Undesignated: Scott Evert, Thomas Evert

Thank you for the following gifts:

- Teen Clothes Closet: from Immanuel Lutheran WELCA, Caledonia, MN

HOSPITAL REMINDERS

For Gundersen: be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask, and they will release your name to us when we call.

For Mayo/Franciscan Healthcare: it is important that you or a family member contact us at the church office: 608.783.2236. Mayo no longer lets churches know who is a patient at their hospital.

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 each 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.**

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.

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, Dec. 12, 9:30am



Contact Bridget for info: bridget@firstlu.org



OWLs

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

The OWLs virtual potluck in November was full of fun and laughter. In addition to getting caught up with everyone's Thanksgiving plans, we watched a great video on "Christmas in Norway" and played a rousing game of Tribond.

For December, we are going to start the month with a longtime OWLs tradition. We are all looking forward to a FRIDAY NIGHT OUT while STAYING IN. Traditionally the OWLs go out for dinner and a Christmas concert. This year we will do our best to create that experience virtually. On **Friday, Dec. 4, at 6:30pm we will all meet on Zoom**

for desserts and cocktails. Grab you favorite Christmas sweet and a beverage of choice for a delightful evening. The conversation will focus on our favorite Christmas Foods. At about 7pm we will virtually attend "Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir" This is a wonderful Christmas concert that takes place in the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway. Find a comfortable chair and relax with an evening of conversation and fun. Zoom information will be sent out to the OWLs mailing list a few days before. If you would like to receive the OWLs emails, please call Brian Narveson at 630.816.5917 or email owls@firstlu.org.

Later in December, the OWLs Christmas party is always considered the social event of the season. We are not going to let the Christmas fun be affected by the pandemic. We will meet virtually on Zoom to share thoughts on Christmas, play "Who is most

ready for Christmas" and a variety of fun-filled Christmas games. This not-to-be missed event will take place at **1pm on Wednesday, Dec. 16, on Zoom**. As per tradition, wear your favorite Christmas sweater for the group photo. Brian has a large monitor and can capture everyone's photo. The Zoom information will be sent out a few days before the party. Please contact Brian Narveson at 630.816.5917 if you need help connecting using Zoom.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

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.

DECEMBER AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on p. 14

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 29 Gr 1 FBB: 10 Commandments, lif... 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream ✚ | 30 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 7 PM AA - FS | 1 | 2 6 AM Courageous Men 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 8:30 AM Clothes Closet Planning Meeting 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom | 3 | 4 3:30 PM Sugar Creek Drive-Thru: The Road to Bethlehem 6:30 PM OWLs Watch Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS | 5 10 AM Baptismal Prep - Zoom | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Introduction to Enneagram - Zoom | 7 7 PM AA - FS | 8 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom | 9 6 AM Courageous Men 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Stars & Promises Christmas Concert feat. Peter Mayer - Facebook | 10 | 11 7 PM AA - FS | 12 Gingerbread House Deadline 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gingerbread House Voting - Facebook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Christmas Giving Tree Gifts Due 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream | 1:30 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 6:30 PM Foundation Team 7 PM AA - FS | Deadline for Newsletter 6:30 PM Property Management Team 7 PM Executive team | No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 6 AM Courageous Men 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 1 PM OWLs Virtual Christmas Party - Zoom 6:15 PM Worship & Christmas Pageant | | 7 PM AA - FS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 Gingerbread House Winners Ann... 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream 5 PM Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long | 21 5 PM Blue Christmas Worship ✚ 7 PM AA - FS | 22 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 7 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg | 23 No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 6 AM Courageous Men 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn | 24 Christmas Eve (worship TBD) Office Closes at Noon | 25 Christmas Day Office Closed 7 PM AA - FS | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 8 AM Worship Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Live Stream | 28 1:30 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS | 29 | 30 No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 6 AM Courageous Men 7:30 AM Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn 6:15 PM Worship Live Stream | 31 Office Closes at Noon | <table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="7">NOVEMBER</td> <td colspan="2">JANUARY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> </table> | | NOVEMBER | | | | | | | JANUARY | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 11 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 17 | 18 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | 30 | 31 |
| NOVEMBER | | | | | | | JANUARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | | 24 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

JANUARY AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>DECEMBER</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 31</p> | <p>FEBRUARY</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</p> | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | <p>No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> <p>6 AM Courageous Men</p> <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> | <p>Office Closes at Noon</p> | <p>New Years Day (office closed)</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| <p>8 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p> | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | | <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> <p>7 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom</p> | | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>9:30 AM Drawing from the Well</p> |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| <p>8 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>6 PM Faith Alive! U: Reconciling in Christ</p> | <p>1:30 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom</p> | <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> | | <p>Deadline for Newsletter</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>9 AM The Doctor and The Apostle (Book Discussion w/ Pr Karyn) - Zoom</p> |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| <p>8 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p> | <p>21 Day Challenge Begins</p> <p>Office Closed (Martin Luther Kin...)</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>7 PM Executive team</p> | <p>Office Closed (Inauguration Day)</p> <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>12 PM Finance Team Mtg</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> | | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| <p>Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair, in worship</p> <p>8 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p> | <p>1 PM Elizabeth Circle</p> <p>1:30 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg</p> <p>7 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg</p> | <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> | | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| <p>Annual Reports Available</p> <p>8 AM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Live Stream</p> | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | | <p>7:30 AM Coffee With Pastor Karyn - Zoom</p> <p>6:15 PM Worship Live Stream</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> <p>7 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom</p> | | <p>7 PM AA - FS</p> | <p>10 AM Baptismal Prep - Zoom</p> |

weekly events for

DECEMBER

at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship Live Stream

9:15am Sunday Mornings with Coffee - Zoom

10:30am Worship Live Stream

TUESDAYS

1:30pm Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - Zoom

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Zoom

6:15pm Worship Live Stream

REVELATIONS

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

THE REVELATIONS OF KATHRYN



READING: *Unashamed*

By Christine Caine. I love her personal stories, and that the journey of becoming unashamed didn't happen overnight.

THE REVELATIONS OF KARYN



LISTENING TO: *It Was Said*

A podcast that explores 10 speeches that changed the course of history. These have given me hope and a good sense of our history as a nation.

Hope Through History

A podcast that examines the most trying times of our country and the leaders that led us. It reminds me over and over again that when we all work together, there is little that can stop us.

READING: *Love is The Way*

By Bishop Michael Curry. I am only 2 chapters in and already I am challenged and uplifted and holding tightly to hope as Bishop Curry tells his story and the story of those who loved him throughout his life.

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.

The Facebook logo is displayed in white on a blue background.

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and follow us @1stlu

STAFF DIRECTORY

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 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 608.783.2236 office@firstlu.org
Andy Stutesman Director of Communications & Marketing andy@firstlu.org
Dave Nichols Building Maintenance & Grounds Custodian Supervisor 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 8am & 10:30am
Wednesday 6:15pm



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FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021



2020 Online Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:15pm Worship

ALSO INSIDE

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

INTRODUCTION TO ENNEAGRAM

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

21-DAY CHALLENGE

#faithalive365