



FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

MARCH 2021

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

SEE ALSO...

-  facebook.com/1stlu
-  instagram.com/1stlu
-  twitter.com/1stlu
-  youtube.com/1stlu
-  1stlu.org/cal
- [#faithalive365](https://twitter.com/faithalive365)

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



I'VE BEEN ON more than a few road trips in my life. As a kid, I remember driving from northern Illinois to Orlando. For my Youth Gathering, it was a 24-hour drive from Medford, WI, to New Orleans. A few years ago, I led our family on the well-worn path from our area to Yellowstone and back.

Of the 35 hours in the car for that round trip to Yellowstone and back, do you know what hour was the worst for me? The same hour that was the worst in every other road trip I have ever taken: the last one. Anticipation and excitement grow with every hour that passes as we make our way to our destination. Along our return, there may still be a couple new things to see or do. But by the end of the journey, in that last hour, all anybody wants to do

is GET THERE already. There is no slower hour of a big road trip than the last one.

Being separated from each other as we remain church at home, we could metaphorically divide COVID-time into 'hours' of a road trip. Not that any of it was something I've ever looked forward to! My bucket list never included, "Christmas Eve parking lot worship." But leading a church through COVID-time has felt like a long, hard trek. And, I think the worst 'hour' is now upon us: the last one.

It seems that the month of March is when a lot of us, especially our most vulnerable, will be vaccinated against COVID-19. Our COVID Advisory Panel feels very hopeful that the time truly is approaching when our church can

Continues on page 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



I WAS SAD going into Ash Wednesday, missing you all and missing the rituals of the day whose meaning is made stronger by your presence. It was so strange, even after 11 months, to stand staring at empty pews just beyond the camera. I was sad going to sleep on Ash Wednesday, happy to have seen some of you in person, but it still wasn't quite right.

A friend of mine recently reflected on a Lenten season after a year of Lent. Which this past year has been, really. A year of fasting, a year of life in a minor key, a year where little has felt normal, life during a pandemic is a life lived never quite knowing what the next day will bring. Even with most of us settling into new routines, it seems like just when we get the hang of that new routine, we find ourselves having to adjust once again because there is new

information to be had. I find myself quite resistant to a "normal" Lent this year. I am not fasting from anything, and I am not "adding" something. This past year has done enough of both of those to last for a while. What my heart desires the most is to rest, to rest in God, to trust in God more deeply so that, in my sadness or my quasi-routinized life, or my tiredness, or my joy in creating, or my amazement at the animals that walk past my window, I know peace. So I will rest this Lent, I will rest in God's grace as I pray and as I read, I will rest in God's grace as I listen and as I speak, I will rest in God's grace as I work and as I play. I will rest. And in the resting, I suspect I will see God more clearly and the Holy Spirit will show up to stir my heart with reminders of Jesus' words and actions.

Continues on page 2

Use this month of March to go deep. Go deep into your feelings of frustration and anxiety, also noticing your hope and gratitude.

begin reopening safely. Our Peer Ministry group, confirmation and some other small groups will begin to meet in person, indoors in March. The 'last hour' before we start worshipping together again inside our beautiful sanctuary is upon us. It promises to feel especially LONG.

Easter is April 4. Spring is right around the corner. Our patience is always thin this time of year. This year, though, is special. Here's my pastoral suggestion: engage in Lent. Use this month of March to go deep. Go deep into your feelings of frustration and anxiety, also noticing your hope and gratitude. It has been a really long 12 months. But the dawn seems to be coming. And in the midst of our impatience, God is still present among us, sustaining us in surprising but real ways. Worship with us each Wednesday at 6:15, either in our parking lot or online. Worship with us Sundays, either online at 8:00 or in the lot at 10:30. Read the "Again & Again" daily devotional. Pray daily. Journal your

prayers with God. Whatever connects with you, do it! Spend less time away from God's mercy and return to the good news that you are not alone; that you do not have to save the world yourself; that you do not have to be God, because God is God for you. What a relief.

I encourage you to finish this pandemic strong! Because, on the other side of it, our church will live into a New Creation... again. I am actually kind of excited for that!

Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org

This active resting means being actively in prayer, using the tools I have been given to enter into a deeper relationship with God.

This resting isn't a passive resting, though. Practically speaking, I still have to work and live and stuff, so I won't be laying in bed every day. This active resting means being actively in prayer, using the tools I have been given to enter into a deeper relationship with God. To write my prayers down and weave them into the prayer wall I have been gifted with. To reflect on the words of others each morning as I set my intentions for the day. To take a word and allow it to shape conversation with my family so that together we can ponder what God is doing. Throughout it all is woven a giving over, a bending and a deep desire to rest in whatever God reveals.

Perhaps as we continue to journey toward Easter, you would consider that after this year of Lent, God is inviting you into a time of rest from what is burdening you so that you may find peace.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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)



2021 SMALL GROUPS

Weekly Groups:

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Bi-weekly Groups:

Dorcas Circle

Knitters

Monthly Groups:

Drawing from the Well

OWLs
(Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Elizabeth Circle

READINGS FOR MARCH

Wednesday, Mar. 3: Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35

Sunday, Mar. 7: John 2: 13-22

Wednesday, Mar. 10: Luke 15: 1-32

Sunday, Mar. 14: John 3: 14-21

Wednesday, Mar. 17: Luke 16: 19-31

Sunday, Mar. 21: John 12: 20-33

Wednesday, Mar. 24: Luke 18:31-19:10

Palm Sunday, Mar. 28: Mark 11: 1-11

Monday of Holy Week, Mar. 29: John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week, Mar. 30: John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week, Mar. 31: John 13:21-32

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for March. 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.

Direct Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members can direct Choice Dollars to thousands of nonprofits, including First Lutheran and Sugar Creek.

Visit 1stlu.org/thrivent
or call 1.800.847.4836.



Let's thrive.  Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

FAITH ALIVE! U

First offers courses for all ages to explore, question and learn about your faith. Presented via Zoom.

CREATIVITY

Pastor Karyn
Sunday, Mar. 14, 6pm

Being created in the image of God is a phrase that we Christians say a lot, but what does that mean, really? Join Pastor Karyn as we explore creativity as an innate gift from our creator using theology and brain science and paint. There will be supplies provided for this Faith Alive! U so send an email to bridget@firstlu.org if you intend to attend.

Zoom ID: 876 4004 2360
Passcode: 080265

For confirmation students, high schoolers and all adults.

Drive-in Worship!

SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

Weather permitting, the Sunday 10:30am worship services will be a drive-in worship service, so we can gather together (even if we are in our cars) and give praise to our God! Worship will include communion.

Reservations required; to reserve a spot for your vehicle at this service, sign up at 1stlu.org/SunDrive.

Trouble with SignupGenius? Contact the office, and we can take care of it for you: office@firs1tu.org / 608.783.2236.

HOLDEN EVENING UNDER THE STARS WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15PM

Through all of Lent, join us for Holden Evening Prayer under the stars. Weather permitting, the 6:15pm services during Lent will be a drive-in worship service. Worship will include communion.

Reservations required; to reserve a spot for your vehicle at this service, sign up at 1stlu.org/lentin.

Trouble with SignupGenius? Contact the office, and we can take care of it for you: office@firs1tu.org / 608.783.2236.

In addition to the drive-in worship service, we will also premiere a pre-recorded service of Holden Evening Prayer, also at 6:15pm, at 1stlu.org/live.

MAKE WORSHIP HAPPEN!

Worship assistants make these worship services happen! Help in the parking lot, signing families in, handing out worship bags, and directing and parking cars.

Sign up at 1stlu.org/servin.

LENT SCHEDULE

Each Wednesday throughout Lent...

- 6:15pm Drive-in Worship: Holden Evening Under the Stars. Weather permitting; registration required. More details to the left.
- 6:15pm Pre-recorded premiere of Holden Evening Prayer worship at 1stlu.org/live.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- **Palm Sunday, Mar. 28**, worship live stream at 8am, including premiere of Holy Week pageant and tentative outdoor/drive-in worship at 10:30am
- **Monday, Mar. 29**, worship at 6:30pm
- **Tuesday, Mar. 30**, worship at 6:30pm
- **Wednesday, Mar. 31**, worship at 6:30pm
- **Maundy Thursday, Apr. 1**, worship at 6:30pm
- **Good Friday, Apr. 2**, worship at 6:30pm
- **Sacred Storytelling Worship, Apr. 3**, worship at 5:30pm
- **Easter Sunday, Apr. 4**, tentative outdoor/drive-in worship at 6:30am, worship live stream at 8am, tentative outdoor/drive-in worship at 9am, 10am & 11am

The office will be closed at noon on Friday, Apr. 2 and all day Monday, Apr. 5.



Summer Produce CSA

This summer First Lutheran will be a pick up location for the Small Family Farm CSA (community supported agriculture), on Wednesdays, 11am-6pm
Price increases April 1
More info: 1stlu.org/csa

Make Worship Happen!



Help in the parking lot, signing families in, handing out worship bags, and with directing and parking cars.

Sign up at 1stlu.org/servin

BIBLE READERS

READ 2 KINGS IN 12^{ISH} DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Tuesday, Mar. 2.

READ PHILIPPIANS IN 3 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Monday, Mar. 8.

READ ISAIAH IN 14 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Wednesday, Mar. 10.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS IN 8 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Thursday, Mar. 11.

READ ROMANS IN 15 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Tuesday, Mar. 23.

READ HOSEA IN 3 DAYS!

Pastor Stanton will introduce this book to Bible Readers starting Thursday, Mar. 25.

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



Peer Ministry is an amazing opportunity for our young adults here at First Lutheran. It trains and equips them to have the skills to deal with the tough situations that confront our youth in today's world.

They learn how to welcome those who are hurting, listen with empathy, and communicate in clear ways. Peer Ministry grows leaders who can continue to help and serve in their everyday life.

*Meeting most Sundays,
Feb. 28–May 19
7pm in the narthex*

More info: 1stlu.org/peermin

Questions?

Contact jason@firstlu.org.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT



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 held our 2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign to Change Lives through Faith Formation. This campaign focused on increasing giving so we can financially support three very important initiatives to Change Lives. The three initiatives are pandemic relief for Sugar Creek Bible Camp (\$25K), lowering the cost of faith events (\$10K) and hiring a Faith Formation Director (\$25K). Thank you for reviewing the videos and mailings sent out. These initiatives will be highly successful with increased giving to our general fund. By Sunday, Feb. 21 we

have received over 125 statements of intent with increases totaling \$50,000! If you have already indicated your intent to increase giving, thank you. If you are still contemplating an increase, please prayerfully consider continuing all or a portion of the contribution you have made to the capital campaign. Please declare your intent to increase online or return the statement of intent card you received in the mail. With only \$10K more of intent to be received, we are excited by the prospect of the Lives we can Change by meeting our goal.

General fund update: Giving for operations (not including the capital campaign and preschool) for January was \$63,618. If we divide the year's budget into twelve equal parts, that means January's revenue points to another year when we'll meet our

revenue budget. For comparison, in January of 2020, we received \$35,627 over four Sundays. January 2021 had 5 Sundays. Even with the discrepancy in Sundays, 2021 is beginning stronger than 2020. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. Please consider regular giving via Simply Giving to provide the resources to expand our ministry to Change Lives. If you are already participating in Simply Giving, thank you. To enroll, call the church office or sign up at .

Capital campaign update: It is also great to report we have received \$1,148,000 of the pledged income for the "Our Church + Our Time" capital campaign and the "Above & Beyond" appeal. Contributions are still coming in. Thank you to everyone who has already completed their pledge. We are looking forward to receiving the remaining pledges to complete the asbestos abatement in the educational wing, purchase the bus and build a sign. 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 monthly and is looking for members. For meeting times and Zoom information, contact Pastor Stanton.

Faithfully submitted,

The Finance and Stewardship Committees

First Lutheran Church - Onalaska Blood Drive

Be a Beacon of Hope

MAY

20

THURSDAY

12:30–5:30pm

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

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

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

For appointments call Diane Shuda at 608.386.4270 or visit 1stlu.org/blooddrive

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE UPDATE



THE FIRST LUTHERAN Foundation Fund supports organizations in the larger community and also those that are part of First Lutheran Church's own mission outreach. Included in the latter category is the First Teen Clothes Closet, which was established in 2012 as both a mission to serve youth in need in our community and as a volunteer opportunity for the youth in our congregation.

Located in Trinity Lutheran Church in La Crosse, where the Closet can provide a "one-stop shop" alongside Trinity's Children's Clothes Closet, food pantry and Monday night meal ministry, the First Teen Clothes Closet provides clothing, shoes, accessories and toiletries for pre-teens and teens in the greater La Crosse community at no cost. It is staffed and led entirely by volunteers who collect, sort and teen-approve gently-used clothing donations, shop for needed new items (such as undergarments) and toiletries, and host open-shopping nights and private appointments. The Closet is funded almost entirely through grants from a variety of community organizations and the First Lutheran Foundation Fund is blessed to be one of those grant providers.

Our foundation provided funds in 2020 to continue the Closet's annual effort to provide teens with new athletic shoes, suitable for gym classes, before the beginning of each school year, in cooperation with a similar effort by the Children's Closet. Though this last year prevented the traditional block party and shoe distribution event, the Teen Closet still provided more than 60 pairs of new shoes to teens

through outreach to the Boys and Girls Clubs in La Crosse and individual appointments at the Closet. The year before, this project distributed nearly 150 pairs of new shoes to teens in need.

There is little doubt the need remains as high or higher as it was prior to the pandemic.

While the Closet did close for three months at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been accepting private appointments since June 2020 and is looking forward to the time when it is again safe to restore the Monday night open shopping hours to all teens in need. In 2019, the Closet served more than 250 unique individuals, many of whom visited the Closet seasonally. While the numbers in 2020 dropped to only 62 different guests due to the closure and changes in how shopping opportunities are hosted, there is little doubt the need remains as high or higher as it was prior to the pandemic.

The generous gifts of our past and present members have allowed for grants to be made to mission efforts like the First Teen Clothes Closet, reaching out to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community. 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!

SPRING AHEAD IN MARCH

Daylight Savings begins at 2am on Sunday, Mar. 14, so make certain to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

The pastors are considering baptisms on an individual basis. The next baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Apr. 3, 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 by Sunday, Mar. 28.*

MABEL ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available. **Completed applications are due no later than 3pm on Thursday, April 15.** Students may apply if they will graduate from high school in the spring and have plans to pursue post-secondary education. The application includes writing an essay and completing a worksheet that reflects the student's involvement in church activities. Application forms are available at 1stlu.org/scholarship.

NEW-MEMBER SOCIAL

By choosing to become a member, individuals and families commit to being part of a shared mission. People who would like to become members of First Lutheran are typically invited to a social at Red Pines where you would get to know more about First and the staff in a relaxed atmosphere. When gathering in such a way is safe, we will celebrate our new members in this way. For now, please let us know if you are interested in membership. One of

our pastors will connect with you to find out how we may best be church together in the months and years to come. Call our office for more information. *Call our church office at 608.783.2236 or email office@firstlu.org.*

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.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- **Otto Robert Pollex**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- **Dorothy Every**

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Debbie Cassel

- Music Fund: Beverly Fuhrman

In memory of Sig Rudser

- Organ Fund: Ellis & Judy Stetzer
- Music Fund: Beverly Fuhrman
- Undesignated: Nancy Beguin, Florence Overgard

In memory of Dorothy Every

- Church Bus Fund: Bonnie Smith
- Music Fund: Ellis & Judy Stetzer
- Illuminate the sanctuary stained-glass window: Curt Jacobson, Marion Jacobson
- Sugar Creek Bible Camp: Marilyn Bott, Lee & Yvonne Cade, J. Michael & Cindi Carney, K.R. Czechowicz, Bev Davis, Bev & Bob

DiNicola, Neil Duresky, Gregory & Pamela Hutson, Leroy, Margaret & Micki Kile, Vernon Kjos, Joan & Mike Mulrine, Deloris Osweiler, Annette Sherry, Dave & Barb Skogen, Catherine Smith-Ohm, Andy Wedwick

- Undesignated: Michael Barth, Jamie & Christina Baumgart, Nancy Beguin, Randy & Lauri Berg, Jon Berns, Roy & Lisa Black, William & Linda Carley, Carol Chroninger, Randy & Judy Eddy, Freddy & Marsha Korneta, Gary & Theresa Koszarek, James & Pamela Kowal, Gloria Kubiak, Robin & Casey Lundgren, Ruth Lundgren & family, Carol Peterson, Mark & Shirley Sacia, Brian & Noel Stephan, Paula Stephens, Judy & Merrill Wachter

HOSPITAL REMINDERS

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

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

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.



FIRST LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

Preschool Update

It is First Lutheran Preschool registration time! If your children are ready for preschool or you know someone with preschool age children, please consider the amazing preschool right here at First Lutheran. We are passionate about early childhood education! We have worked hard to develop a rich curriculum which makes learning fun as well as offer a variety of classes to meet our parents' needs. Contact us today for more information.

Open house tours will be available daily March 1-19 by appointment. Preschool registration begins March 22. Call or email us today for more information!



**What parents are
saying about
First Lutheran
Preschool...**

Having my children attend First Lutheran Preschool has been the most positive experience for both us and parents and my kids as students. The staff goes above and beyond making our family feel part of a community. They strive to create a supportive family environment where everyone is welcome and loved. Since my children have gone there they have grown more confident and respectful. Thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI

54650 608.779.4504 •

preschool@firstlu.org

Preschool Director: Melissa Rolbiecki

4K Teacher: Beth Miller

Preschool Assistant Teachers:

Marci Leppert, Tracy Stoll

CONFIRMATION

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

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes
continue online

Wednesdays, 7pm
Gr 8-9 Small Groups

Sunday, Mar. 14, 6pm
Confirmation Elective
Faith Alive! U: Creativity

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 last 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.

Kindergarten: Lord's Prayer

Sunday, Feb. 28: parents only via Zoom

Sundays, Mar. 7 & 14: parents/guardians with children via Zoom

Sunday, Mar. 21: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

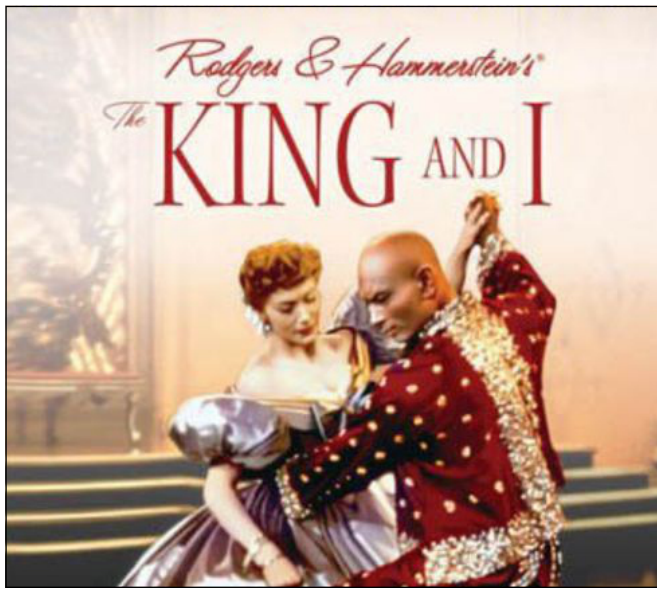
Grade 5: Communion

Sunday, Mar. 21: parents/guardians with children via Zoom

Wednesday, Mar. 31: children baking bread

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 1: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

*Families will be emailed the Zoom link from the pastors
in the week prior to class.*




OWLs

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

It may have been cold outside but that didn't keep the OWLs from hooting in February. For "A Night Out at Home," we traveled to the southern hemisphere for an evening of romance, comedy and fun through the movie *South Pacific*. We had a great time seeing the scenery and hearing the music. Our virtual potluck gave us all an opportunity to catch up and learn how to make "cocoa bombs." Thank you to Laura Liudahl for teaching us how to make some delicious treats.

Getting bored at home, looking for a way to challenge the brain and have some spirited competition with friends? Look no further than the OWLs March Virtual Potluck. After our usual fellowship, we will have

another rousing game of "What's That?" We had great fun the last time we played, and this time will be new categories. Put on your thinking cap, rev up that memory and come prepared for fun and conversations. **The virtual potluck will be on Wednesday, Mar. 17, at 1pm on Zoom.** Information for the Zoom meeting will be sent out before the event. If you need help connecting to Zoom, contact Brian Narveson at 630.816.5917.

After having a fantastic trip to the South Pacific in February, we are now preparing for an amazing leap across the globe to the kingdom of Siam. We will visit Siam through the visual and musical masterpiece *The King and I*. It features Yul Brynner's Academy Award-winning performance, an unforgettable Rodgers and Hammerstein score and brilliant choreography. It tells the true story of an English woman, Anna Leonowens (Deborah Kerr) who comes to Siam as a school teacher to the royal court in the 1860s. Relive the hit songs of "Hello, Young Lovers," "Getting to Know You,"

"Shall we Dance" and many others. This escape to paradise will be **the next edition of "Our Night Out at Home," which will take place on Thursday, Mar. 25**, cocktails and conversation start at 6:30pm on Zoom with the movie starting about 7pm. The Zoom connect information will be sent out before the event. If you would like to attend but are not on the OWLs email list, contact Brian Narveson (bcnarveson@gmail.com) or 630.816.5917.

Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing everyone in March.

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.

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, Mar. 13, 9:30am



Contact Bridget for info: bridget@firstlu.org



SUMMER REG NOW OPEN!

With safe practices in a beautiful setting, your children can have a fun and meaningful faith-filled outdoor adventure this summer!

Reg online: SugarCreekBibleCamp.org



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

2021 Upcoming Events

FAMILY GETAWAY CAMPS

Had enough winter?
Ready to get outside and explore God's beautiful Creation?
Have we got a weekend for you!

Come enjoy a Spring adventure with FUN, faith-building activities designed for the whole family at one of our Spring Family Getaway Camps! Our dynamic staff will host your family and lead games, crafts, hiking, evening programs, worship campfires, horseback or pony rides, and more!

Bring your grandparents! Bring your grandkids!
We welcome all family groups!
Housing limits apply based on number of beds in cabins or rooms.

Rest assured, all COVID-19 protocols remain firmly in place.

Masks will be required in all shared indoor settings (not personal housing) and any gatherings wherein social distancing is not possible.





2021 SPRING SESSIONS

March 26-28 – Friday to Sunday

April 23-25 – Friday to Sunday

Contact camp for more info and to register:
www.sgrcreek.org • camp@sgrcreek.org • 608.734.3113

MARCH AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																
28 Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed, lifted u... 9:15 AM Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer - Zoom	1 Preschool Open House Tours 7 PM AA - FS	2 Bible Readers Begin 2 Kings 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom	3	4 1 PM Lent Small Group 7 PM Women of the House	5 7 PM AA - FS	6																																																																																
7 Blessing Accountants 9:15 AM Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer - Zoom	8 Preschool Open House Tours Bible Readers Begin Philippians 1 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	9	10 Bible Readers Begin Isaiah 7 PM Stephen Ministry - Zoom	11 Bible Readers Begin 2 Corinthians 1 PM Lent Small Group 7 PM Women of the House	12 7 PM AA - FS	13 Daylight Savings Begins Toni... 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well																																																																																
14 9:15 AM Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer - Zoom 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Creativity	15 Preschool Open House Tours Deadline for Newsletter 1 PM Elizabeth Circle - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	16 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom 6:30 PM Property Management Team 7 PM Executive team	17 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 1 PM OWLs Virtual Potluck - Zoom	18 1 PM Lent Small Group 7 PM Women of the House	19 7 PM AA - FS	20																																																																																
21 Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer, li... 9:15 AM Gr 5 FBB: Communion - Zoom	22 8:30 AM Preschool Reg: opens to currently enrolled families 9:30 AM Preschool Reg: opens to church members 10:30 AM Preschool Reg: opens to community 1 PM Knitters & Crocheters - Zoom 7 PM AA - FS	23 Bible Readers Begin Romans 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 7 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	24	25 Bible Readers Begin Hosea 1 PM Lent Small Group 6:30 PM OWLs Watch Party: The King and I - Zoom 7 PM Women of the House	26 7 PM AA - FS	27																																																																																
28 Palm Sunday Premiere of Good News Pageant	29 6:30 PM Worship  7 PM AA - FS	30 1 PM Dorcas Circle - Zoom 6:30 PM Worship 	31 4 PM Gr 5 FBB: Communion (bread baking, child only) - Zoom 6:30 PM Worship 	1 Gr 5 FBB: Communion, lifted up... Maundy Thursday 1 PM Lent Small Group 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship  7 PM Women of the House	<p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</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											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		
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Easter Flowers

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

Please complete the information below and return it to the office no later than **Sunday, Mar. 28.**

Please print clearly.

In honor of:

In memory of:

Gift given by:

Those who donate may take home a pot of flowers after the last service on Easter Sunday, or pick one up from church during office hours the following week. Thank you!



weekly events for **MARCH** at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Live Stream Worship
9:15am Lent Small Group - Zoom
10:30am Drive-in Worship
7:00pm Peer Ministry - NX

TUESDAYS

1:30pm Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men
6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn
6:15pm Drive-in Worship
6:15pm Premiere of pre-recorded Holden Evening Prayer
7:00pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups
7:00pm Lent Small Group

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.

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

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..... Young Youth Director beth@firstlu.org
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Jerry Yushta Assistant Custodian

MUSIC STAFF

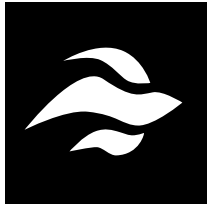
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Todd Saner Senior Choir Director & Contemporary Music Coordinator todd@firstlu.org

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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



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LUTHERAN**

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Live streaming at 1stlu.org/live
Sundays 8am & 10:30am drive-in
Wednesday 6:15pm drive-in



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

edition: March 2021

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GOOD NEWS

MARCH 2021



GOOD news

2021 Online Holy Week Pageant

**Premiering on Palm Sunday
March 28**

ALSO INSIDE

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SCHOLARSHIPS

#faithalive365