



FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2023

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

SEE ALSO...

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

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



REGARDING FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP and meeting ministry goals at First Lutheran, 2022 was the best of times and the worst of times. Compared to 2021, our congregation increased giving to the general fund by more than 5%. This allowed us to not only meet our obligations, like keeping the lights on, paying staff and clearing snow from the parking lot, but also two of our dreams. We cut a \$10,000 check to the Hunger Task Force and another \$10,000 check to REACH as they know how to address homelessness in our communities.

To those who shared in our church's vision to provide a meaningful gift to these efforts, I can't say thank you

enough. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart shall go," and by devoting significant treasure to these local institutions, we will develop even greater concern and compassion for both those who suffer and those who seek to serve the suffering. This is what Faith Alive! looks like.

In my November newsletter, I asked you to...

"pray for our Call Committee, pastors and staff to provide a clear faithful picture of what life in Onalaska is like and that our church is trying to grow in every way. I want this candidate to see what God is up to among us as we seek to offer wider welcome and

Continues on page 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



I LOVE DISNEY. Almost as much as I love Jesus.

The second week of January, I took a week off and visited the warm land of Florida so that I could soak in the Disney spirit with two of my closest friends.

Here is what I learned (or relearned, or had reinforced). Welcome is a practice that requires constant attention and learning. It is what Disney does best, really. When you visit one of their parks or resorts, you are not simple a visitor or consumer, you are a guest. As such, they have prepared for you in every way they can think of. Your comfort and enjoyment is their top priority. This is not the case for any other amusement park, which I saw in stark relief when I visited the other Orlando parks.

As I reflect on my time, I can't help but make connections to the work we have been doing here at First as we work toward becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We have been

leaning heavily into our core value of Welcome All, stretching ourselves to love more deeply, to welcome more widely. We have been challenging ourselves to learn new behaviors, new ways of connecting, new ways of speaking. All of these actions have made a difference in the lives of those who visit us and those who call themselves members.

On May 21, we will vote on the welcome statement you have heard in worship, seen printed in our announcements and discussed in small groups. Until then, continue to look for opportunities to practice wider welcome and deeper love and to learn more about how Jesus is calling us to grow deeper in our faith.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

FAITH ALIVE! U

First offers courses for all ages to explore, question and learn about your faith. Presented in-person in the sanctuary.

Land Use Acknowledgment Statements

Pastor Ben Morris
Sunday, Mar. 26, 11:45am

How is it helpful for a modern day institution to create and use one?

This event is intended for confirmation students, high schoolers and all adults.

Lunch and childcare will be provided.

deeper love inside our fellowship and beyond our walls. Pray with me that their time with us in November will provide an irresistible opportunity to answer God's call to serve our church for years to come. Or, another way to pray this prayer is what I've been saying since May 2021, "Thy will be done..."

Thank you for your prayers! Our interview process went extremely well and negotiations went forward in earnest. We found a great match. The candidate, our staff and Pastor Karyn & I were excited about the prospects.

And then, reality struck. Sadly, as much as our giving increased in 2022, so did our expenses, along with a couple additional circumstances we couldn't know about until the end of the year. Add it all together and as we looked into 2023's budget and beyond, it became very clear that First Lutheran has not, in fact, grown the capacity to financially support a third pastor at this time.

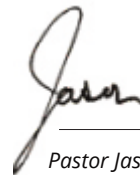
There are two things I want to say about this reality. First of all, it's frustrating. With three kids of my own, my family is among the many who know how much potential there is for a youth and family minister to do great work here. As your Senior Pastor, I know both Pastor Karyn and I have the potential to grow into fruitful new chapters of our ministry with another colleague. So, initially, this was hard to admit... AND it was also a relief. I was relieved to recognize our true financial status before issuing a call and long before someone got hurt in this process.

So... now what? The excellent work of our Call Committee shaped a job description for a third pastor and will continue to inform how Pastor Karyn and I function into the next chapter of our ministry at First Lutheran. We have spent many months now identifying ministry opportunities, from a childrens' choir to puppet ministry, young youth and middle school youth events, Peer Ministry projects, college visits to see

Look for invitations to lead a piece of our community!

members abroad, a young couple ministry, singles' ministry, more men's ministries, an increased online presence, more visitation to our elders and more. Some of these ideas are lower hanging fruit than others and all these opportunities will linger, while our staff size remains the same.

But our membership is changing. Look for invitations to lead a piece of our community! Many hands make light work and whether Pastor Karyn or I ask you to serve as a confirmation guide, organize a one-time gathering in your home or lead a Lenten Bible study, our core value "We Build Community" will become more and more true every time members of our community step up to host, engage or lead. Our model for ministry has been clarified a bit through this process. We will not be moving further into a staff led model. We will need to pursue a model where lay people have the confidence, competence and faithfulness to offer new and wonderful parts of themselves and I am excited about that! Thanks again for your prayers as we've navigated a call process that has resulted in calling our membership into greater leadership roles for the sake of every age and stage at First!



Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@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

In-person, indoors & outdoors, and live streamed at 1stlu.org/live
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30AM
Wednesday 6:15 PM

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your announcement in the newsletter, send it to newsletter@firstlu.org, or give it to Andy in the office. **Deadline for the newsletter is noon on the 15th of the preceding 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 noon each Wednesday.**

First Lutheran is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)



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



GREETINGS AND PEACE to you in the name of Love! I wanted to give you a brief introduction to myself and my involvement at First Lutheran. My name is

Kathryn Thompson and I am a seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I am in the ordination process for Word and Sacrament ministry to become a pastor in the ELCA. I have completed two years of seminary and this year is my internship year. The bulk of my internship is being done as a Chaplain Resident with Gundersen Health System. However, I also have some congregational touch points that I will complete with you at First Lutheran. I was grateful for the opportunity to help lead and preach at the Thanksgiving Eve service. I have been able to meet some of you as my family attends worship and I look forward to meeting more of you as I help with other worship services and events throughout the year.

I also wanted to provide a little bit of background about myself and how I came to answer the call to ministry. After graduating from St. Olaf college in 2010, I began my initial career of teaching as an English teacher in Minnesota. After four years there, my spouse, Sara and I moved to Decorah, Iowa. I spent one year working in higher education at both Luther College and at Northeast Iowa Community College before returning to the classroom as an English teacher at Decorah High School. I taught there for five years. Throughout my entire teaching career, I also worked part time in ministry. In Minnesota, I worked as a music director at our church. After moving to Iowa, I worked in Children, Youth and Family ministry at a UCC church and then at our home ELCA congregation in Decorah. For four summers, I also was

I'm grateful that First Lutheran is allowing me the space and support to complete my congregational touch points this year.

the director of a summer feeding program in Decorah that provided free meals to kids during the summer months.

After a few different attempts to answer the call to full time ministry as a pastor, I finally began seminary in the fall of 2020. Just a few months later, our kiddo, Greta was born. She is now two years old and enjoys playing outside, painting and chatting about most anything, but especially her pal and our beloved pet Labrador retriever, Gus.

I'm grateful that First Lutheran is allowing me the space and support to complete my congregational touch points this year. While you won't see me too often due to my full time work at the hospital, I do look forward to sharing in ministry with you at points throughout the year. You can look for future blog posts from me reflecting on my ministry as a chaplain. If you'd like to reach out to me personally, you can get in touch with the church office.

Peace to you!

Vicar Kathryn Thompson

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Matthew 6:7-34

Sunday, Feb. 5: Matthew 5:13-20

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

Sunday, Feb. 12: Matthew 5:21-37

Wednesday, Feb. 15: Matthew 13:24-43


Sunday, Feb. 19: Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, Feb. 26: Matthew 4:1-11

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for February. 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.




DEEP DIVE...
REVELATION
JAN-FEB

Pastor Stanton posts a study of Revelation every weekday morning, January–February

f [Facebook.com/1stlu](https://www.facebook.com/1stlu)
▶ [YouTube.com/1stlu](https://www.youtube.com/1stlu)

More info: 1stlu.org/readers
 Questions? Contact jason@firstlu.org





IN 2022 THE First Lutheran Foundation Committee ELCA Ministries was able to help fund the Teen Clothes Closet and the Helping Hands Fund with monetary donations to help with their missions. We were also able to contribute money to the Quilters who make the beautiful quilts and also to the group of members who knit the Prayer Shawls. Since First Lutheran was in need of either updating or purchasing new computers, the Foundation was able to help support with some funds to fulfill this need too.

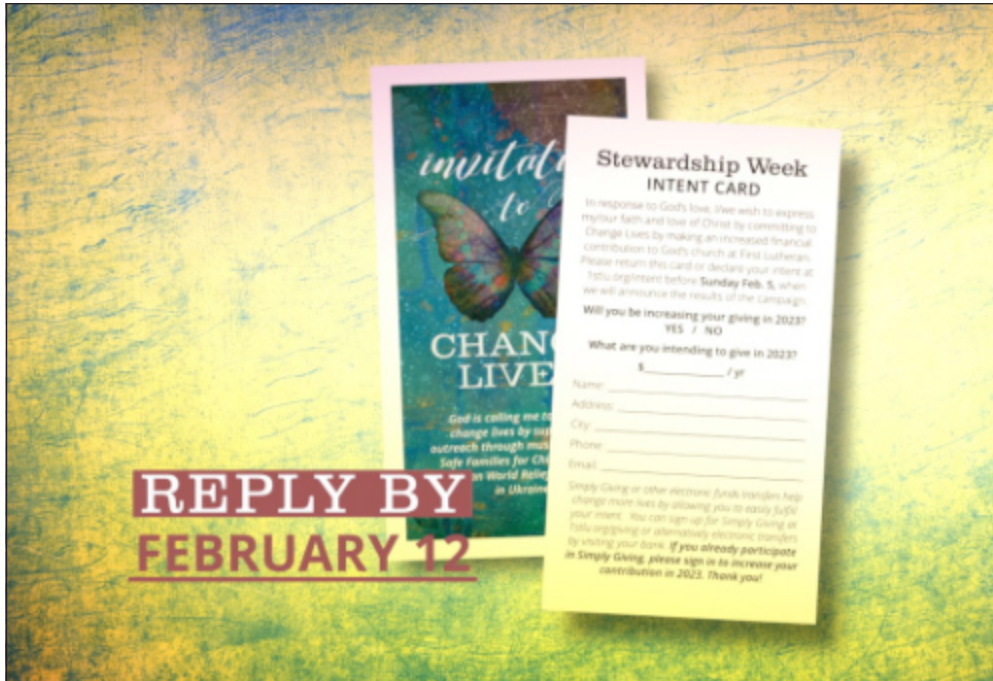
The First Lutheran Foundation is fortunate to be able to contribute to the growth of our church, its ministries and stewardship in our community. You too can "Be A Mabel" and support the First Lutheran Foundation Fund.

If your organization would be interested in receiving a grant, Grant Applications can be found online and are accepted from January through June 1 each year. For more information, go to: 1stlu.org/foundation

EVENTS

GLOBAL MISSIONS VARIETY SHOW FOR THE LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD

Sun., Feb. 19, 3pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill St., La Crosse. Come see some incredible talent in our area. Join the La Crosse Area Synod in a fundraiser for our companion synod, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. Donations will go toward assisting their mission to help Ukraine refugees.



THANK YOU FOR your continued financial support as we focus on bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. This

Changes Lives! We have successfully completed 2022. **Thank you** for all the ways you supported First in 2022.

In 2022, our giving increased over 2021 by \$34,000 (5%) which means we will cut a **\$10,000 check to the Hunger Task Force** and another **\$10,000 to REACH:** a La Crosse collaborative that supports the homeless with skills and services they need. **Thank you for making these dreams a reality.**

We have some more big **dreams for 2023** and want to share them with you. When we receive \$40,000 of increased giving, we will do the following:

1. Donate \$10,000 to Safer Families for Children. It is a family preservation movement

motivated by radical hospitality, disruptive generosity and intentional compassion to keep children safe and families together. Since 2020 48 families have been served through this local effort and all 48 remain together.

2. Donate \$10,000 to Lutheran World Relief to support their efforts to respond to millions of people affected by the war in Ukraine. Food, shelter, medical supplies and emergency cash are all needed by Ukrainians and LWR knows how to get them the help they need.
3. In 2023 we want to use \$10,000 to gather people for special events around food to build community in old ways and new. In 2022, we had our first Nosh with Neighbors event when we invited our neighborhood

teachers and staffs to First Lutheran for a catered lunch. It was so successful we hope to take this food hospitality on the road, perhaps to Gundersen, Mayo, or other schools.

4. We also want to use \$10,000 of our \$40,000 increase to gather people at First through music. Inviting special guests to lead worship and perhaps lead a concert the Saturday night before. It would provide more opportunities for fellowship, fun and something a little different for worship.

One last thing: It is good for everyone—for the church and for individual families—to complete an 'intent of giving' card. Two families in Christ at First are offering a challenge gift to the rest of our family of faith that together total \$10,000. If **100 intent cards** are turned in that show an intent to *increase* their giving, First will receive that **\$10,000** in our general fund. If you have not done so already, please remember to return or complete your intent card online by Feb 12.

4 ways to respond:

1. Return the physical card in the pre-stamped envelope mailed to you in late January.
2. Return a card to the church office.
3. E-mail Pastor Stanton with your intended gift for the year: jason@1stlu.org.
4. On our website at 1stlu.org/intent.

Faithfully submitted,

The Finance and Stewardship Committees



The 2022
Annual Report
is now available
for download at
1stlu.org/next

Limited copies available
at the church
Welcome Center

One-page reports
have been mailed out



Save the Date!

All members are invited to
First's Annual Potluck
Sun., Feb. 5, 11:45am

God is doing all kinds of things at
First Lutheran, so our Annual Potluck
will be a celebration of what has been
and a look ahead to what will be.
Save the date to be a part of the
body of Christ at First!

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP VOTING MEMBERS

Participate in guiding the future of our camp, Sugar Creek! The 2023 Sugar Creek annual meeting is scheduled for Feb. 19, at camp. Voting members are welcome to contribute their stories and perspectives to the conversation amidst reports and planning for the upcoming year. Support your camp by offering your voice and vote.

NOMINATIONS FOR VISION & LEADERSHIP

Nominations needed! First Lutheran will elect two new members to the Vision & Leadership Team at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 5. Read the following 'job' description and consider who you could nominate for this ministry. *Send nominations to jason@firstlu.org.*

POSITION SUMMARY: As a servant to the ministry of First Lutheran Church and working in conjunction with pastoral leadership, is responsible for development of the congregation's mission and vision. Develops short- and long-term strategies for ensuring the spiritual and physical health and wellness of the congregation. Provides support to staff and congregation members to equip each member with skills to grow in faith and their own personal ministry.

ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Participate in guiding the future of our synod! The 2023 La Crosse Area Synod Assembly is planned to be in-person June 9-11 (Friday evening through Sunday noon) in La Crosse. An elected voting member will need to attend the assembly & various pre-meetings. If you are interested in serving our Synod and congregation as one of First Lutheran's five voting members, contact Pastor Stanton (jason@firstlu.org) or the church office (office@firstlu.org / 608.783.2236). It's a great opportunity to be the church!

NOMINATIONS FOR FOUNDATION BOARD

Nominations needed! First Lutheran will elect one new member to the Foundation Board at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 5. Read the following 'job' description and consider who you could nominate for this ministry. *Send nominations to jason@firstlu.org.*

POSITION SUMMARY: Members of First Lutheran are eligible to serve up to two, three year terms on its Foundation Board, which meets quarterly to maintain accounts, supervise allocations and, most importantly, decide where Foundation money is granted. Four categories of recipients include: academic scholarships, community outreach, missions of the ELCA and capital improvements of First Lutheran Church.

GO AND DO LIKewise LUKE 10:37

WARMING CENTER

The Warming Center opened Nov. 1 for unhoused people, and the area ELCA churches have agreed to provide evening meals the 1st and 2nd Friday of each month, November–April. Prepare the meal in your kitchen and drop it off at the Warming Center ready to be served. Other people serve the meal, you just prepare it. You are welcome to use the Hunger Task Force for meal ingredients. **Next meals: Friday, Feb. 3 & 10.** *More info and reg at 1stlu.org/warm. Questions? Contact bridget@1stlu.org.*

SUNSHINE TEAM

The Sunshine Team meets at First Lutheran on the **first Thursday of the month at 9:30am** to help with various jobs. **NEXT: Feb. 2.** Help make First Lutheran look nice! Refreshments are supplied to replenish your reserves! Dues are free! *Questions? Contact Dan at dan@1stlu.org.*

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer! **Monday, Feb. 27, at 10am**, to assemble the Mar./Apr. mini-newsletter. See you there!



If you know of someone who needs a caregiver, speak with Pastor Karyn (karyn@1stlu.org) or call the church office (608.783.2236).

SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS FOR 2023

The sign-up sheets for 2023 altar flowers are on the bulletin board. If you would like to provide altar flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, check the bulletin board and sign up for an open week of your choice. You can also contact the church office (office@firstlu.org / 608.783.2236) to inquire about openings.

CALLING ALL SNAPSHOTS!

We're looking for photos & videos from 2022: weddings, baptisms, Christmas program and ALL OTHER special events and ministries. Help us to collect and remember all the events from this past year! Email them to andy@firstlu.org. Thanks!

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

There will be a baptism preparation session on **Saturday, Apr. 1, at 10am** in the narthex 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. 26. Min. attendance required: 2 families.*

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 invited to a social at David Reay's on **Thursday, Apr. 20, 6pm**, where you will get to know more about First and the staff in a relaxed atmosphere. *To register your family or ask questions, 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.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- **Madelyn Grace Schmidt**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- **Tom Skogen**
- **Madelyn Payne**
- **Gordon Metz**
- **Sigurd Hanson**

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Gary Olds

- Undesignated: Larry & Diane Rauser, Dan & Danielle Rauser and family, Daryl & Alissa Rauser and family

In memory of Tom Skogen

- Skogen Music Fund: Nancy Aronson, Mike & Bethany Bakalars, Randy & Lauri Berg, Kevin Bertelson, Troy Birdsong, Garnet Bratberg, Rodney & Bert Braund, Faye Orr Bright, Ed & Barb Burrell, Deb Carson, Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Dickinson, Bob & Bev DiNicola, Randy & Judy Eddy, Bev Fuhrman, Helen Halverson, Dan Hauser, Jeff, Joanne & Heather Hawthorne, Jason Hewitt, Susie Hewitt, Nancy Holthaus, Neale & Cheryl Horman, Tom & Meredith Hougen, Judy Johnson, Ron & Kay Johnson, Ed & Sharon Karlman, Kerry & Sandy Kjome, Gordon & Carol Knudson, Jim & Emily Lahti, Dave & Terry Lee,

Larry & Donna Lee, Jean Lunde & Dan Ferries, Sharon Mahlum, Greg & Kris Markworth, Trygve & Karen Mathison, Kay Nelson, Dan & Rita Netwal, Nancy Olds, Dave & Joan Oswald, Wesley & Diane Panzer, Carol Pederson, Steve & Joyce Prieur, Barb Quillin, Charles & Karen Rick, Carol, Sandy & Janet Rodgers, Donna Roe, Dan & Bonnie Roth, Bernie & Kay Sasse, Dianna Schermerhorn, Annette Sherry, Jim & Joanne Skoy, Ellis & Judy Stetzer, Lee & Dorothy Strozinsky, Sue Tabbert, Theresa Tanke & Terry Christopherson, Joanne & Charles Thoftne, Jeff & Cheryl Towner, Richard & Cathy Wittchow

In memory of Maddie Payne

- Undesignated: Dave & Terry Lee

In memory of Sigurd Hanson

- Undesignated: Janice Fink
- ELCA World Hunger: Donna Roe

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.

LATEX- & NUT-FREE CAMPUS

A reminder to all members that First Lutheran is a latex- and nut-free campus. Please do not bring food containing nuts or nut butters/oils/extracts of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!

GRIEF SUPPORT

Carrying on after the death of a loved one can be difficult and lonely. Join with others who listen and care for each other.

Every third Wednesday, NEXT: Feb 15

- 10am, Upper Rm
- 7pm, The House

Questions? See Carla Stanton



Volunteer Appreciation Party



A Warm Thank You!

March 5, 11:45am–1pm



Questions? Contact kathryn@firstlu.org

OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 16TH ~ 4:30-5:30

- ✓ Meet the Teachers
- ✓ Tour the Classrooms
- ✓ Get registration info

Call or email us for more information!

608-779-4504

EMAIL US AT:

PRESCHOOL@FIRSTLU.ORG



FIRST LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

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

Sundays, 9:15am

Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes - Fireside Rm

Wednesdays, 5:30pm

Confirmation Dinner

Wednesdays, 7pm

Gr 8-9 Small Groups

except on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22; join us for worship at 6:15pm



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.

Grade 4: Apostles' Creed

Sunday, Feb. 5: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Feb. 12 & 19: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Feb. 26: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

Kindergarten: Lord's Prayer

Sunday, Feb. 26: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Mar. 5 & 12: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Mar. 19: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

Grade 5: Communion

Sunday, Mar. 19 & 26: parents/guardians with child

Wednesday, Apr. 5, 4-5pm: child only,

baking communion bread in Fellowship Hall kitchen

Thursday, Apr. 6: Faith Building Block lifted up during the evening Maundy Thursday worship service




OWLs

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

The OWLs have had a great time since the last Newsletter. December featured a trip to Sugar Creek for great program, lunch and music. This was followed by the ever famous OWLs Christmas Party where a great time was had by all. See attached photo(s). January featured a delicious potluck followed by a trip to the movies. Never a dull moment.

We will kick off February with a potluck on **Wednesday, Feb. 15 at noon** in the fellowship hall. Our program will be a speaker from Safe Families for Children. This is one of the charities we hope to give \$10,000 of increased giving to in 2023. Come and hear about the great things

they are doing for families and children in the area.

For the outing the OWLs will return to the theatre. On **Saturday night, Feb. 18**, the OWLs will travel to the LaCroix Black Box Theatre at Viterbo University to see the talented Viterbo Students perform the Romantic Comedy "Significant Other". A romantic comedy by Joshua Harmon. Jordan Berman would love to be in love, but that's easier said than done. So until he meets Mr. Right, he wards off lonely nights with his trio of close girlfriends. But as singles' nights turn into bachelorette parties, Jordan discovers that the only thing harder than finding love is supporting the loved ones around you when they do. We will meet at the church at 4:30 and all go to dinner before the play. Cost of the play is \$20. Dinner is on your own. Tickets will be bought as people sign up. Please contact Brian Narveson (owls@firstlu.org or 630-816-5917) by Friday Feb. 17 if you would like to attend.

You can pay Brian the night of the performance for the tickets.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February. All are Welcome. OWLs is a 55+ social group. You do not need to be a member of First Lutheran to participate in their activities.

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. A reminder for all potlucks that First Lutheran is a nut-free campus. Please do not bring food containing nuts or nut butters/oils/extracts of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!



If you would like to start receiving the regular OWLs emails, just contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org or scan this QR code. We are a social group for everyone 55+ and we know how to have fun!

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

GRADES
9-12

HS Winter Youth Retreat



*Awesome, Meaningful and Powerfully Relevant
all while having fun...*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3-
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

RETREAT CENTER
7 PM FRIDAY TO 11 AM SUNDAY

- SLEDDING AND TUBING
- SNOW SHOEING
- CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Sign Up Online at

SugarCreekBibleCamp.org



\$125 PER PERSON FOR 3 DAYS OF FUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION 608-734-3113 OR OFFICE@SGRCREEK.ORG

FOR GROUPS, CHAPERONES REQUESTED

SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

Winter Fun Days

at

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Sledding | Tubing | Broom Ball
Hot Chocolate | Hot Dogs | Hot Chili

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5
12 NOON - 5 PM

Cost: \$10 per person

Children 4 and under free



608-734-3113

office@sgrcreek.org

SugarCreekBibleCamp.org

JUMP INTO SUMMER!

Enrollment now open

SIGN UP TODAY! SugarCreekBibleCamp.org

FEBRUARY AT FIRST LUTHERAN *see also weekly events list on back*

<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</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 style="text-align: center;">MARCH</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>	31	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>10a Springbrook Worship </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:30a Sunshine Team 7p Women of the House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>7p AA - FH</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>10a Baptismal Preparation - NX 6p CANCELLED: Epiphany Dinner Theater</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>9:15a Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed 11:45a First's Annual Potluck! 7p Peer Ministry - House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>7p AA - FS 7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	7	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>10a Ona Terrace Worship 12p Finance Team Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>7p Women of the House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>9:30a Drawing from the Well - NX</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>Intent Card Deadline 9:15a Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed 7p Peer Ministry - House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>4p Monday Meals @ Trinity 7p AA - FS 7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>1p Dorcas Circle - UR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Deadline for Mar/Apr Mini Newsletter 10a Grief Group - UR 10a Ona Terrace Worship 12p OWLs Pottluck - NX 7p Grief Group - House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>7p Women of the House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>4:30p OWLs Fly to Viterbo Black Box Theatre</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:15a Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed 7p Peer Ministry - House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1p Elizabeth Circle 7p AA - FS 7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>5:15p Personnel Team Mtg 7p Vision & Leadership Team Mtg</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Ash Wednesday No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 12:15p Ash Wed Worship 6:15p Ash Wed Worship </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>7p Women of the House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>4:45p Parent's Night Out - FH 7p AA - FS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed, lifted up in wo... 9:15a Kindergarten FBB: Lord's Prayer 7p Peer Ministry - House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>10a Assemble Mini-Newsletter - NX 7p AA - FS 7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	28	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>10a Springbrook Worship </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:30a Sunshine Team 7p Women of the House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>7p AA - FH</p>	4

weekly events for

FEBRUARY

at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes - Fireside Rm

9:15am Parent Share - Upper Rm

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

TUESDAYS

9:00am Quilters - Fireside Rm

1:30pm Staff Meeting

3:30pm Knitters & Crocheters - Upper Rm

5:00pm Bells Practice - Choir Rm

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - Fireside Rm

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn - Narthex

5:30pm Confirmation Dinner

6:15pm Worship

7:00pm Gr 8 & 9 Confirmation Small Groups, *except Feb. 22*

2023 SMALL GROUPS

Weekly Groups:

Bible Matters

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Knitters

Parent Share

Quilters

Monthly Groups:

Dorcas Circle

Drawing from the Well

Elizabeth Circle

Grief Support Groups

OWLs

(Older, Wiser Lutherans)

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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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 March 1
More info: 1stlu.org/csa

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Donna Bossman Secretary
Amanda Zieba
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Jason Witt
Michelle Renkas
Phyllis Bey



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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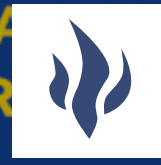
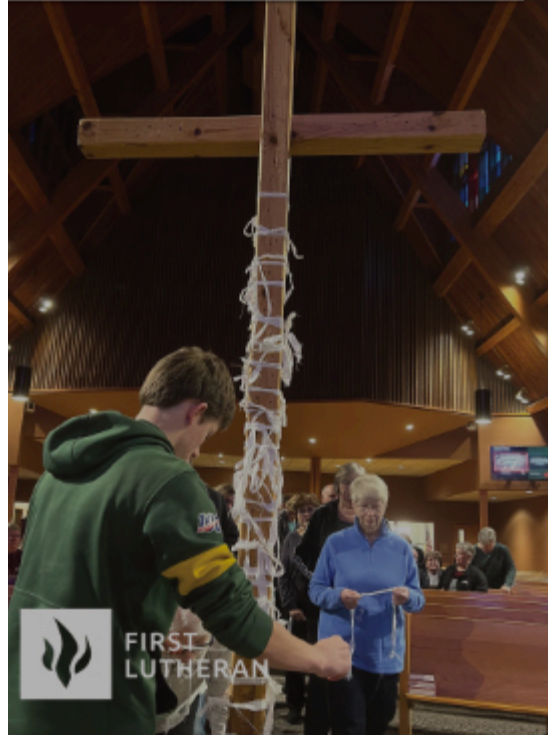
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Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

edition: February 2023

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GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023

In 2022, the Pastors and elected lay leaders of the Vision & Leadership Team named three core values

- We welcome all.
- We build community.
- We serve our neighbor.

First Lutheran is striving to engage all a faith community who are motivated in neighborliness above membership numbers, financial well-being or any other worldly way of measuring our worth.

We pray that our fellowships continue to do the difficult work of praying for those who are different than ourselves, which translates into offering thoughtful kindness and eventually advocating for justice amidst all circumstances.

ANNUAL POTLUCK Sunday, Feb. 5 11:45am

Highlights from 2022 at

Jan: Stewardship supports goal to help...
Feb: ...
Mar: ...
Apr: ...

Pastor Stanton begins first half sabbatical.

Feb: Mini-bus purchased for use in...

Mar: Lenten study: *Full to the Brim* by...

Apr: 1st Holy Saturday Dinner Theatre

Over 1,300 attend Holy Week & and over 200 view services online

Pastor Stanton begins an online...
to Facebook posts, videos every...
at our book club on YouTube

Jun: First participates in Juneteenth Riverside Park

Summer Sing Series: members favorite hymns lifted up in summer

Jan Hurrey hired as Director of Buildings & Grounds

Pastor Stanton begins second half sabbatical.

11th annual Volunteer Appreciation

Middle and high school mission Bayou Le Batre, Alabama.

Aug: Vacation Bible School "Makes V over 45 children participating & First donates 121 pairs of shoes

Trinity Lutheran's Block Party

Sept: First Teen Clothes Closet celebrates 10th anniversary!

14th annual First Fest, including 1st Mystery Dinner Theater

Oct: 20 families participate in 3rd annual First Lutheran Play Days at Sugar

Quilters create and send out 19 Lutheran World Relief

Nov: First holds Election Day of Prayer prayers on social media through and holding a special service in

Confirmation small groups participate in Operation Christmas Child, and for children in need.

Bible Matters, led by Pastor Kar studying the gospel of Matthew

Dec: Over 60 kids, with their families in the Christmas program.

Over 900 attend Christmas service and over 60 view online.

#faithalive365