

DECEMBER
2023

Why Wait?!

PEACE NOW

PEACE ON EARTH, AND GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL!

First Lutheran goes to great lengths to prepare for and to celebrate the birth of Immanuel: God-with-us. Young people and their families decorated hundreds of cookies. Dozens of carolers brought songs and greetings to five long term care facilities nearby. Our youngest kids told the story at a Christmas Program, while our older kids had a party to celebrate together. None of them came close, of course, to having as much fun as our OWLs (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) as they set a new attendance record at the recent potluck. From hanging lights to arranging the nativity sets, our family of faith has been making special efforts to be together... and to prepare for tonight! Christmas Eve is a story that gathers us all in, and as much as "We Build Community" is our theme in 2023, we thank God you have made yourself a part of that community this Christmas Eve.

May this time of worship, fellowship and communion truly be a reminder of the peace of Christ for you and yours.

Pastor Stanton & Pastor Karyn



FIRST
LUTHERAN

FAITH ALIVE! U

Join others for an afternoon of exploring, questioning and learning about your faith.

The Faith Alive! U Weekend Workshops takes place **Sunday, Jan. 7 from 11:30am-2:30pm**

Lunch and childcare provided

Confirmants: attendance at this event counts toward one of your yearly confirmation electives

The following workshops will be offered twice, providing the opportunity to take in two workshops

Churchwide Happenings and YOU!

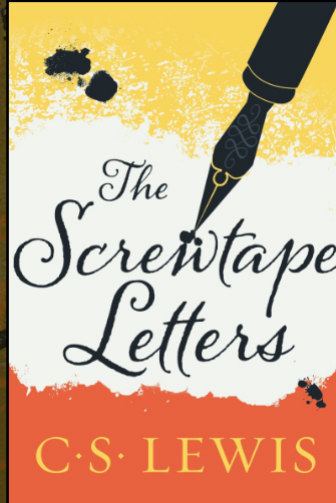
Joel Miller

Human Trafficking

Heidi Svee, of New Horizons

Sabbatical Experience

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz



C.S. Lewis, on his way out of church one Sunday, had an idea for a book about the forces of evil. That book was *The Screwtape Letters*. Join Pastor Karyn on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm, Jan. 3-Feb. 7 to explore this timeless classic, a sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the unique vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis gives us the correspondence of the wordly-wise devil to his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man.



To join this book study, email Pastor Karyn at karyn@firstlu.org

We will utilize a lecture series put together by the C.S. Lewis Institute, that highlights the central themes and underlying issues, which will lead us to a clearer grasp of C.S. Lewis' insights into how the forces of evil work against human beings.

WE WELCOME ALL
WE BUILD COMMUNITY
WE SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR

ALL are welcome here.

ALL are loved here.



Faith webs

Ideas for January...

Pray for one another.

Sit with each other in worship or at coffee hour.

Share any sports or activity calendars with each other so you can attend each others extracurricular activities.

Send high school students good luck cards for finals week.

Make a pot of your favorite soup and share it with your faith web.

Attend winter fun days at Sugar Creek! *(see below...)*

Volunteer together; one idea... make a meal together for the 3rd or 4th Friday at the Warming Center *(more info at 1stlu.org/warm)*

It isn't too late to join a Faith Web!

Learn more at 1stlu.org/webs.

Small Groups

Courageous Men

- Wed., 6am, Fireside Rm
- For men

Generally do DVD-based studies with a participant guide.

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

- Wed., 6:30am, narthex
- Open to all

Study topics vary.

Drawing from the Well

- 2nd Sat., Sept.–May, 9:30am,
usually at the house
- For women

Gathering to be with each other, enjoy a brunch, and develop a deeper relationship with one another.

Grief Support Group

- 3rd Thur. of the month,
10am in the Upper Rm,
led by Carla Stanton

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

Women's Circles

Join us for prayer, for service, for joy!

- Dorcas Circle: 2nd Tues. 1pm
at church
- Elizabeth Circle: 3rd Mon. 1pm
in members' homes

Parent Share

- Sun., 9:15am, Upper Rm
- For parents/guardians/
grandparents

Share what's happening in your life. It's a tough job. Don't do it alone.

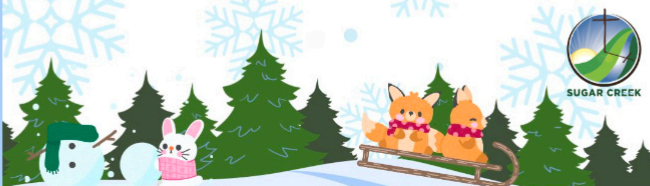
SUGAR CREEK

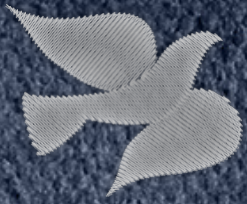
WINTER FUN DAYS!

JANUARY 14 & FEBRUARY 4, 2024, 1:00-4:00 PM

Snow or no, it's a go! Sledding, tubing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and all sorts of outdoor winter fun.

Equipment is provided or you can bring your own.





FIRST TEEN CLOTHES CLOSET

The First Teen Clothes Closet is a ministry of First Lutheran Church, housed at Trinity Lutheran in La Crosse.

In October we had 58 shoppers! Over 796 items taken.

CURRENT NEEDS:

teen style winter coats
winter boots, hoodies (L/XL/2XL/3XL)
athletic pants (L/XL/2XL/3XL)

Other than those items, the teen clothes closet is full and is not accepting donations of other items right now.

Last but not least: Our First Teen Clothes Closet has been chosen for Altra's Impact Award! Thank you to Altra Federal Credit Union for the \$7,500 award, and a big thank you to all who work to bring this impactful ministry to our neighbors!

Education

Baptism Classes



Parents who wish to bring their children for baptism or adults who wish to be baptized are asked to attend a baptism class. **The next baptism class is Saturday, February 3, at 10am.** To register or ask questions call the church office at 608.783.3326 by Monday, Jan. 31. Min. attendance required: 2 families.

Sunday School

Classes meet for ages 3 years old to 5th grade.

Classes meet Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am, starting up again on Sunday, Dec. 31, by celebrating a birthday party for Jesus!

To register or for more info visit 1stlu.org/SunSchool.



Confirmation

Confirmation classes for 6th- & 7th-graders meet on **Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am**, starting again on Sunday, January 7. Confirmation for 8th- & 9th-graders meets on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm** in small groups, starting again on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

To register or for more info visit 1stlu.org/confirmation.

First Lutheran Preschool

First Lutheran Preschool provides developmentally appropriate early-childhood education in a warm, child-centered, Christian environment. We offer Christian preschool sessions in the morning on Mon/Wed/Fri, Tue/Thur and Monday-Friday for ages 2 years old and up. We are also a partner with the Onalaska School District, and we are a site for the 4-year-old preschool (4K). 4K runs Monday-Friday in the morning and includes busing. In addition, there is Lunch Bunch Monday-Friday.

Take a tour at our open house on Thursday, March 14, 4:30-5:30pm!

Call or email First Lutheran Preschool Director Melissa Rolbiecki with any questions: 608.779.4504 / preschool@firstlu.org



FIRST LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

Check us out on Facebook:
facebook.com/flponalaska

Peer Ministry

Peer Ministry is a great way for our 10th graders to learn about how to deal with any situation that arises, large or small. It makes handling conflicts simple and equips them to be better listeners and be welcoming to all those around them.

Meeting most Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm at the house, starting Jan. 10. Questions? Contact jason@firstlu.org.



Membership

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. 18, 6pm**, where you will get to know more about First and the staff in a relaxed atmosphere.

Call our office for more information at 608.783.2236 or email office@firstlu.org.

Bible MATTERS

Are you looking for the connection between scripture and everyday life?

Join Pastor Karyn for a year-long journey through the lectionary (our schedule of readings)

Monday evenings, 7-8pm meeting in the narthex

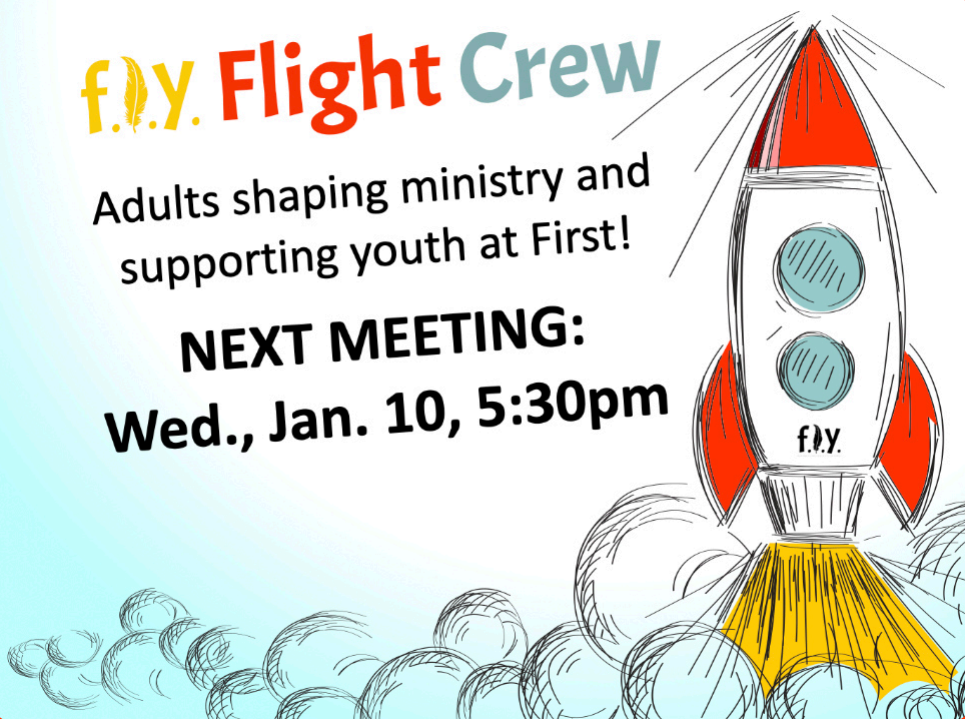


Questions? Contact karyn@firstlu.org

f.ly. Flight Crew

Adults shaping ministry and supporting youth at First!

NEXT MEETING:
Wed., Jan. 10, 5:30pm



CONNECTION CARDS help the staff keep in touch with the needs of members and visitors alike. Please fill out a card, complete with prayer concerns and anything else you'd like the pastors to know. Hand it to an usher on your way forward for communion, or place it in the offering plate. Thanks!

MEMBERS: please use this card to update any contact info that may have changed in the past 12 months.

Connection Card

Today's Date: _____	Contact Information: <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor/Guest info
I am / we are... <input type="checkbox"/> Communing member(s) <input type="checkbox"/> First time visitor(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Second time visitor(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat visitor(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in membership <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran <input type="checkbox"/> Guest(s), member of... _____	Name(s) _____ Street _____ City _____ Phone (mobile preferred; members please include) _____ E-mail _____
Congregation _____	

Filling out one card per family is sufficient. Please hand this card to an usher as you go forward for communion, or place it in the offering plate.

SERVING:

Pastor Jason Stanton, Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
 Organ/Piano: Gabe Hicks, Guitar/Vocals: Todd Saner, Bass: Troy Birdsong, Elec. Guitar: Dick Daleki, Drums: Jim Knutson, Keyboard: Brian Renkas, Vocals: Elizabeth Motz

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 2PM

Greeters: Rob & Evan Nelson, Randy & Roxann Nedrelo, Shaffner family Ushers: Larry & Marilyn Schreiner, Phyllis Bey, Bob Dean, Mark Koenig, Eli Nelson Light bearer: Quinn Darveaux, Pollert family, Skoy-Evenson family, Emery & Bo Miller Reader: Judy Johnson
 Communion servers: Judy Johnson, Randy Nedrelo, Joel Miller, Paula Skoy & Travis Evenson, Sandi Thompson-Melby Bread baker: Peggy Daleki Livestream director: Andrew Stutesman
 Projectionist: Jared Schaffner

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 4PM

Greeters: Runde family, Barb Skogen Ushers: Bob Dean, Renkas family, Dave Skogen Light bearers: Nicolai family, Sue Bodenschatz, Lunney family, Linda Green, Schmidt family
 Reader: Meredith Hink Communion servers: Mary Nicolai, Tina Buchal, Sue Bodenschatz, Linda Green, Carla Stanton, Mary Every Bread baker: Peggy Daleki Projectionist: Kevin Loos

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 6PM

Greeters: Donna Bossman, McDonald family Ushers: Marilyn Schreiner, Al & Sandy Hutson, Ben & Sam Bossman Light bearers: Sue Bodenschatz, Kathryn & Perry Pedretti, Bridget Crave, Zieba family Reader: Aaron McDonald Communion servers: Aaron & Beth McDonald, Terry Lee, Sue Bodenschatz, Bridget Crave & Glen Vilim Bread baker: Peggy Daleki Projectionist: Larry Schreiner

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 11PM

Greeters: Jennifer Wiesjahn, Michelle Logan Reader: Tami Tooke

MONDAY, DEC 25, 10AM

Ushers: Kathleen Olson Reader: Tami Tooke Communion servers: Tami Tooke

GRAPHIC CREDITS

Corner ribbon: PSDgraphics.com

CHRISTMAS CONTINUES

Worship on Christmas Day is at 10am. But did you know Christmas isn't just one day in the church, but a season? Christmas worship continues on **Wednesday, Dec. 27**, with worship at 6:15pm, and **Sunday, Dec. 31**, with worship at both 8am and 10:30am. Join us as we continue to sing many favorite Christmas hymns!

OFFICE CLOSURES

The office will be closed at the following times in the coming weeks...

- Closed all day, Monday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)
- Closed all day, Monday, Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)
- Closed all day, Monday, Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Sunday School

Sunday, Dec 31

- 9:15am Sunday School Birthday Party for Jesus!

Sunday, Jan. 7

- 9:15am Sunday School

Questions regarding Sunday School?

Visit 1stlu.org/sunschool.

UPCOMING: DEC. 25–JAN. 9

MON 25	CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) 10:00am Christmas Worship 7:00pm AA - FS
TUES 26	1:30pm Staff Mtg 3:30pm Knitters & Crocheters - NX 5:00pm Bells Practice - CR
WED 27	NO GR 8 & 9 CONFIRMATION SMALL GROUPS 6:00am Courageous Men - FS 6:15pm Worship
THUR 28	7:00pm Women of the House - UR/NX
FRI 29	7:00pm AA - FS
SUN 31	NO GR 6 & 7 CONFIRMATION CLASSES 8:00am Worship 9:15am Parent Share - UR 9:15am Sunday School: Birthday Party for Jesus! 10:30am Worship
MON 1	NEW YEARS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) 7:00pm AA - FS
TUES 2	9:00am Quilters - FS 12:30pm Blood Drive - NX 1:30pm Staff Mtg 3:30pm Knitters & Crocheters - NX 5:00pm Bells Practice - CR
WED 3	NO GR 8 & 9 SMALL GROUPS 6:00am Courageous Men - FS 6:30am Coffee With Pastor Karyn 10:00am Springbrook Worship 12:00pm Hot Chocolate for Community 6:15pm Worship
THUR 4	8:30am Sunshine Team 7:00pm Women of the House - UR/NX
FRI 5	7:00pm AA - FH
SUN 7	8:00am Worship 9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Confirm Classes - FS 9:15am Parent Share - UR 9:15am Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair (1st Mtg, parents/guardians only) - FH 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Faith Alive! University
MON 8	7:00pm Bible Matters - NX 7:00pm AA - FS
TUES 9	9:00am Quilters - FS 1:00pm Dorcas Circle - UR 1:30pm Staff Mtg 3:30pm Knitters & Crocheters - NX 5:00pm Bells Practice - CR

ROOM KEY:

CR = Choir Room FBB = Faith Building Block FH = Fellowship Hall
 FS = Fireside Room MR = Mary Room NX = Narthex
 SN = Sanctuary TR = Thomas Room UR = Upper Room

For more info, visit our website at www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

READINGS

Sunday, Dec. 24: Luke 1:26-38

Monday, Dec. 25: John 1:1-14

Wednesday, Dec. 27: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

NURSERY AVAILABLE

Members and visitors: our nursery is available for children newborn through age 4. The nursery is staffed Sunday mornings during and between services, and on Wednesday evenings during service and programming. **Please bring your diaper bag.** It will also be staffed during some church events and will be advertised as such when available. We hope you take advantage of our services while here at First.

HOSPITAL REMINDERS

For Gundersen: be sure to alert the hospital of your church affiliation when they ask and they will then release your name to us when we call.
For Mayo/Franciscan Healthcare: it is important that you or a family member contact us directly at the church office: 608.783.2236. Mayo does not give out information regarding who is hospitalized.

Christmas Giving

In this season of gift giving to family friends and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider your gift to First Lutheran.

In 2023, increased giving will bless First to gift \$10,000 to Safer Families for Children, another \$10,000 to Lutheran World Relief to support those suffering from the Ukraine war, \$10,000 to host special music at First, and \$10,000 to provide hospitality to our neighbors.

To make a one-time donation using your credit card, or to set up re-occurring giving, use your mobile device and browse to 1stlu.org/give, or scan the code below.

You can also donate to @firstlu using Venmo; include "Christmas donation" in "What's this for?"

Questions?
Contact the church office at 608.783.2236 or office@firstlu.org to learn more. And thanks!



Support the ministries of First Lutheran
Give online at 1stlu.org/give
or on Venmo @firstlu
(please add note in "What's this for?")



Flowers

*Thank you to all who donated the flowers
adorning our sanctuary this Christmas season*

Garry & Sandy Andersen

In honor of: Pamela & Scott
Johnson, Dave & Paulina
Andersen

In memory of: Myron & Beulah
Hollander, Dan & Elsie Andersen,
Tom & Randy Hollander

Peter & Judi Barsness

In honor of: Our children,
grandchildren & great
grandchildren

In memory of: Harris & Grace
Barsness, Dylan Marshall

Doris Baum

In memory of: Friedel & Anton
Fitzner

Nancy Beguin

In honor of: Son Al Beguin family -
Al, Catherine, Jessica, Emily,
Sarah; son Erik Beguin family -
Erik, Kimberley, Zane, Blaise, Billy
In memory of: Parents John &
Helen Doerring; brothers Keith,
Robert & Ramond Doerring; sister
Joanne Kramer

Sharon Branvold

In memory of: Parents Mary Ellen
Nelson & Rev. Robert Nelson

Ed & Barb Burrell

In memory of: Parents Len & Bev
Olson; daughter-in-law Lisa
Dutton; friend Shirley Stuart

Terry & Judy Butzman

In memory of: Our brother Ron,
sister Mary Hefti and nephew
Michael Sanding

In honor of: Our grandchildren
Madelyn & Molly Gregg, and
August & Franklin Butzman

Deb Carlson, Danielle &

Josh Sharko, Theo & Will

In memory of: Arlin Carlson

Robert Dean & Bev Larson

In memory of: Our mothers,
Virginia Dean and Ruth Dyer

Bob & Bev DiNicola

In memory of: LeRoy & Charlotte
Hougom, Jim & Shirley DiNicola,
George Allen Hougom, Peyton
Lee Erling Hougom

Diane Engebrecht &

Marie Tutlewski

In memory of: John Engebrecht,
Steve Polzin, Marty McCowan,
David Tutlewski, Tuffy & Toddy
Engebrecht, Leona Gilbertson

The kids

In memory of: Clayton & Dorothy
Every

Linda Green

In memory of: Gary Green, Midge
Anderson, Russell Anderson,
Belva Green

Diane Haga

In memory of: Tharon Russell,
Eleanor Russell, Lynn Haga

The Hink family

In memory of: Beverly Rohde,
Barbara Zondag, Beth Hink

Dustin & Marissa Honeck

In memory of: Rick & Cheri Fraser
In honor of: Raela Honeck

Tom & Meredith Hougom

In memory of: Our granddaughter
Madelyn Payne, Todd Lofald

Larry & Lori Hougom

In memory of: Peyton Lee Erling
Hougom, George Allen Hougom,
LeRoy Sr. & Charlotte Hougom,
Gary Olds

In honor of: Cody & Sidney
Hougom, Colton Hougom &
Lauren Davy, Nancy Olds

Dave & Sheila Hougom

In memory of: Parents Leroy & Charlotte Hougom, Pete & Joan Winkler; grandparents Lawrence & Alice Hanson, Myron & Izro Hougom, Paul & Edith Winkler, Jerome & Dorothy Bubb; brother George Hougom; nephew Peyton Hougom

In honor of: My wife, Sheilah, our sons Brandon & Noah, and our families

LeRoy & Wanda Hougom

In memory of: Our parents LeRoy & Charlotte Hougom, Joseph & Darlene Johnson, and brother George Allen Hougom
In honor of: Our sons and family Jason, Kelly and Ivy Hougom, and Tyler, Jenny, Valarie and Lucas Hougom

Judy Johnson

In memory of: My husband Roger
In honor of: My family

Janice Klein

In memory of: Wendy Klein, Skip Klein

Arlette & Olin Knudsen

In memory of: Christine Knudsen Sebranek

Carol & Gordon Knudson

In memory of: Bill Grayburn
In honor of: Grandchildren Alex, Emma, Dana, Signe and Morgan

Michelle Logan, Gus & Indiana Hauser

In memory of: Jim & Barb Logan

Ryan & Charlie Mackeben

In memory of: Grandpa Mike Klein

Diane Martinek

In memory of: Steven Martinek, Kenneth Heizler, Dar Kaufmann

Randy & Roxann Nedrelo

In memory of: Erik Nedrelo, Larry Schulner, Jack Schulner, Ron & Joan Nedrelo

Le Roy Niedfelt

In memory of: Neta Niedfelt

Nancy Olds

In memory of: Gary Olds, Peyton Lee Erling Hougom, Don & Cleo Card, Erma Olds, Bob & Mary Williams, Lawrence & Jennie Olds

In honor of: Larry, Lori, Colton, Cody & Sidney Hougom, Jennifer & Tanner Olds, Paul, Pam & Tucker Petersen

Bonne Olson

In memory of: Hazel & Paul Fidika, Scott Bjorge, Tim Hotlestad, Steven Fidika

Kathryn & Perry Pedretti

In memory of: Our parents Ladd Huber, John & Lorraine Pedretti
In honor of: Our granddaughter Reagan

Jen Peterson & Geri Johnson

In memory of: Gary Pratt, Regina Pratt, Anita Johnson

Clay & Ginny Pollert

In honor of: Family: Ryan & Jill, Noah and Raina Pollert, Alicia & Dan, and Clayton Sommers, Ross & Terra, Asher and Harper Pollert
In memory of: Friend Linda K. Jensen

Greg & Linda Prairie

In memory of: Our parents
In honor of: Our children & grandchildren

Cherie & Dave Rohde

In memory of: Lee & Carol Jacobson

Mary Schleiffer & Jim Schleifer

In memory of: Robert & Virginia Rude, Lawrence & MaryAnn Schleifer

Larry & Marilyn Schreiner

In memory of: Wes & Mary Paulus, Larry & Georgia Schreiner

Carol Skoy

In memory of: Jay, Alee & Gary
In honor of: Paula, Travis & Greg

Paula Skoy & Travis Evenson

In memory of: Our babies Jay & Alee, Paula's dad Gary
In honor of: Our parents, Carol, Sharon and Darrel

JoAnn Sprehn

In memory of: My husband Ronald
In honor of: Our children Melissa, Jonathan & Matthew, our grandchildren & great-grandchildren

Bill & Patty Thompson

In memory of: Bob & Esther, Elmer & Doris

Ardie Van Riper

In memory of: Don Van Riper, J.D. Van Riper

Tim & Karla Weihrouch

In memory of: Our parents Walt & Phyllis Weihrouch and Edwin & Leona Zietlow

Carol Wenzel

In memory of: Glenn Wenzel

Bonnie Withrow

In memory of: Irv & DeLoris Hippe, Ileen Withrow

Pam & Roger Wolfert

In memory of: Megan Bye, Catherine Wolfert, Dorothy Delazzari, Charley & Helen Riek, Martha Riek, Lula Rahn, Bill Sterling

Mike & Karen Woods

In memory of: Chuck & Orpha Woods, Connie Woods





WARMING CENTER

Lutherans are covering shifts and meals
the 3rd & 4th Fridays Nov. 1–Apr. 30

NEXT: Jan. 18

Learn more and sign up:
1stlu.org/next



Contact Bridget for info: bridget@firstlu.org

Monday Night Community Meals

The Monday Meals at Trinity Lutheran serve over 100 meals each week, and is supported by several churches, including First Lutheran. Kids are welcome and encouraged to help. Tasks include sorting and bagging food, putting food in trays, trays in bags, washing dishes, etc on site at Trinity. They are still serving the food to-go only but might switch to in-house meals, which will require more help to clean up and wash dishes. We would also LOVE help planning and making the main entree.

The Hunger Task Force can supply most of the food.

You can help by preparing food, or serving and cleaning up. The event is held at Trinity Lutheran, 1010 Sill Street, La Crosse.

Upcoming Mondays for 2023:

**Feb. 19, Apr. 29,
Sept. 9 and Dec. 9**

If you have questions or want to learn more, contact bridget@firstlu.org.

**Sign up at
1stlu.org/next**

Parents' Night Out

Bring your children for an evening of FUN with the middle and high school youth, while parents get a chance to get out or stay in!

ALL are welcome! You do not need to be a member

NEXT: Friday, Jan. 26

Ages: Birth–12 • Cost: Free will donation

Money raised will help the middle and high school youth with their 2024 mission trip, Bible camp and ELCA Youth Gathering

Time: Registration begins at 4:45pm till 5:30pm followed by dinner and activities till 8pm (parents may pick up earlier if needed)

Activities include face painting, games, and activities!

Questions? Contact karyn@firstlu.org

First Lutheran Onalaska Blood Drive

Giving Warms the Heart

January

2

TUESDAY, 12:30–5:30pm

Walk-ins welcome,
appointments encouraged:
schedule at 1stlu.org/next

Remember to bring a mask & ID



Questions? Contact Diane Shuda: 608.386.4270



BECOMING A BETTER LISTENER



Dynamics of preaching for non-preachers. What should be the listener's criteria for a good sermon? This course explores preaching not for the purpose of learning to preach but for the vocation of listening. It aims to help the student understand the dynamics of preaching to empower the congregant in partnering with the preacher to make a more effective sermon.

Thursday Nights 5:30 pm on ZOOM
Presenter: Pr. Nile Sandeen



WHAT THE HELL?

Presenter: Pr. Libby Howe



An exploration of hell: how it is talked about in the Bible, as well as the historical, literary & religious thought that informs our contemporary conceptions of it. We will also explore hell's social function related to the human need for justice for un-righted wrongs and unhealed wounds.

La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology
Thursday Nights 7-8:20 pm on ZOOM
JAN 18 & 25 & FEB 1 & 8

Register for the above courses by emailing office@lacrosseareasynod.org

Join *today!*

 **RAMSEY**
FinancialPeace
UNIVERSITY

- Learn to pay off debt fast
- Save more money
- Build lasting wealth

Start the new year off right
Resolve to change your future by joining the
Financial Peace University class at First

Class starts Sunday, Jan. 21
Sign up today at 1stlu.org/next

 **RAMSEY**
FinancialPeace
UNIVERSITY

CONFIRMATION

GRADES 6 & 7

- There are no Grade 6 & 7 Bible classes on Sunday, Dec. 31.
- Classes resume Sunday, Jan. 7.

GRADES 8 & 9

- There are no Grade 8 & 9 small groups on Wednesday, Dec. 27 nor Jan. 3.
- Small groups resume Wednesday, Jan. 10.

ATTENTION! SEEKING NOMINATIONS

The Vision & Leadership Team will be electing leaders at the annual meeting, February 11. Two current members are willing to serve a second term, while a third has reached their term limit. If you or a member you know is interested in serving, please talk to Pastor Stanton, email jason@firstlu.org or complete a nomination insert which will be added to the announcements at worship on January 7 and 14.

The Vision & Leadership Team will compile a list of all nominations at their January 23 meeting. That list will then be presented along with the annual report on January 28. No more nominations will be received after January 23. A V&L Job description is available upon request in the church office.

SING!

The next performance will be for Palm Sunday, and rehearsals start on **Wednesday, Mar. 13, at 7pm** in the sanctuary. The Senior Choir is open to all people ages 12 and up. There is no audition and no formal training required, just a desire to enhance worship through the beauty of music! *Full schedule and sign up at 1stlu.org/choir. For more info contact Todd Saner at todd@firstlu.org.*

Volunteer APPRECIATION Party

A Warm Thank You!

January 21, 11:45am–1pm

Why? To thank everyone
for being Christ's hands and feet!

Questions? Contact kathryn@firstlu.org



Merry Christmas from all of us at First Lutheran!

*All of this and more on the web at
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org. See also:*

- 📘 facebook.com/1stlu
- ✉ x.com/1stlu
- 📷 instagram.com/1stlu
- 📺 youtube.com/1stlu
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- 📅 1stlu.org/cal

Share your faith alive experience! Tag us @1stlu!