



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS! APRIL 2019

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www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



It was the last weeks of my sabbatical and I was winding down my solo day at Disneyland when I wandered into a shop and saw the figurine titled, "Self Portrait". I walked away, tears in my eyes and then found myself right back at the display case, overcome with emotion. There in front of my eyes was what sabbatical had been for me: seeing once again my creator reflected in me. It was a powerful moment for me, there in the store in one of my favorite sacred places. So many things had led me to that moment, that realization of what

the Spirit had been doing in my heart and mind during my months away.

It all began in a studio in Bozeman, MT, where I learned how to spin and weave. The reason I chose weaving as one of the first forms of art I would try was because it provided a more intense external process than painting or drawing. Little did I know that it, along with working with clay, would be the way the Spirit would begin to speak to my heart.

The message I heard, over and over as I worked with the wool and then yarn, was S L O W D O W N!!! I had to learn to breathe and connect to my body as I spun. It was the most amazing experience when everything clicked, pulling me totally into that moment. One straying thought that took my focus from coordinating my hands and foot and eyes resulted in a mess.

Pottery was the other art form I learned and practiced while in Bozeman. I had the great privilege of learning from Carl Sheehan, a working potter and teacher best known for his work with Yellowstone National Park. He was the most patient teacher I have ever worked with, calmly coaching me as I tried hard not to mess up.

Words I often heard from him, you wonder? Well, S L O W D O W N was the front runner at the beginning and then "don't be so timid" became a

Continues on page 3

LENT

*Wednesdays,
through April 10*

11:00am Lenten worship

11:45am Light lunch in narthex

6:15pm Lenten worship

HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday, April 14,
worship at 8:00am & 10:30am**

Pancake breakfast,
no Sunday School nor Confirmation

**Monday, April 15
worship at 6:30pm**

**Tuesday, April 16
worship at 6:30pm**

**Wednesday, April 17
worship at 6:30pm**

**Maundy Thursday, April 18
worship at 12:15pm & 6:30pm**

**Good Friday, April 19
worship at 12:15pm & 6:30pm**

**Sacred Storytelling Worship
April 20, worship at 6:30pm**

**Easter Sunday, April 21
worship at
7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:45am,
No Sunday School nor Confirmation**

*The office will be closed at noon on
Friday, April 19 and
all day Monday, April 22.*

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

CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUE SHOOTINGS

March 15, 2019



Dear Church,
Today we awoke to the devastating news of the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We join in mourning for the people who were killed and wounded, for their families, for the first responders and grief counselors, and for all whose lives have been shattered today. We know that God is present in the midst of their suffering.

We know that our own Muslim neighbors here in the U.S. are also experiencing grief and fear. Many will wonder whether it is safe to attend Friday prayers today. These are not the kinds of questions that any of us should have to ask ourselves as we seek to live out our religious commitments. Yet, devastatingly, this is also a reality that binds us together as people of faith. As I wrote last November in the wake of the Tree of Life shooting: "Hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh" – and now these mosques in New Zealand.

Together with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners, we stand shoulder to shoulder in condemning hatred, bigotry, racism and violence whenever and wherever it occurs. We do so because all people are made in the image of God. Therefore, as an act of neighborly love, I urge you to reach out to your Muslim neighbors today and in the days to come to ask how you might offer solidarity and support – joining whenever possible with other ecumenical and inter-religious neighbors.

**Together with our
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inter-religious
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in condemning
hatred, bigotry,
racism and violence**

I leave you with the words of Psalm 16:1: "Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge." This is my prayer – for our Muslim neighbors, for the people of Christchurch, and for all who mourn and are afraid. May we see in this devastation the possibility to be Christ's presence with our neighbors in this world – to be present in their suffering and to be partners in God's justice and peace.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
✉ bishop@elca.org 🐦 @ELCABishopEaton

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READINGS FOR APRIL

Wednesday, April 3	1 John 4:18-20
Sunday, April 7	John 12:1-8
Wednesday, April 10	Mark 1:35
Sunday, April 14	Luke 19:28-40
Sunday, April 14	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Monday, April 15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday, April 16	John 12:20-36
Wednesday, April 17	Matthew 21:1-17 or John 13:21-32
Thursday, April 18	Matthew 26:17-30 or John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday, April 19	Matthew 27:27-61 or John 18:1-19:42
Saturday, April 20	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
Sunday, April 21	Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
Wednesday, April 24	Romans 6:1-11
Sunday, April 28	John 20:19-31

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for April. 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.

Annual Giving

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

theme as we finished the pieces. Not only was I finding myself having to reconnect to my body but also to my heart as I claimed my own power to continue to shape the clay. I learned that I can be bold and sometimes I will make a mistake, but there is almost always a way to fix it.

As I traveled in Europe, I found myself drawn to the ways they practiced relationships, mainly the time they chose to spend sitting with their family and friends and connecting, especially over coffee or tea or beer. I found myself adapting quite easily to the longer, slower meals and the habit of taking time in the middle of the afternoon for a cup of coffee or tea and a pastry. During my time in Jerusalem this became my habit; each day at 2:00 I would go to the cafe, order some coffee and a nibble of something and sit with myself and journal. It was during this time that all that I had experienced came together in meaningful and powerful ways. I had reconnected to my body and my soul, and finally my heart and head were catching up. So, while I drank less coffee on sabbatical than I did in normal life, sitting down with a cup of coffee each day became the most important experience I had. I was sad when it was time to head back to the States, unsure what I would encounter as I began to ease my way back into real life, but I had a few more weeks before I had to worry about that.

My grandfather, George A Brown, was a professional photographer and his art hangs in our family homes and in buildings across southern California, where he worked. I remember my mother trying her hand at photography when I was younger, and I was fascinated by everything that goes into making a photo an art piece. When I learned that a childhood friend, who

**I spend my life
helping people see
and know God as a
god who loves them
beyond a doubt and
is always as close
as their breath,
but I had forgotten
that for myself
somewhere
along the way.**

is now a nature photographer, led photography workshops and they occurred in Death Valley National Park, I knew I had to go to one while on sabbatical.

By this point I was two thirds of the way through my sabbatical and was finally in California. I could not have imagined anything more being revealed to me, and yet the Spirit surprised me, again. My 5 days in Death Valley with 10 strangers were the most profound days of my sabbatical. Not only was I able to spend a great deal of time outside in an amazing part of the world, being creative (and, of

course, being told/encouraged to slow down and look around me), but I was also with people who only knew me as Karyn, friend of Michael and amateur photographer. I had connected again to my body and, by this point, my heart, and now I got to try being wholly me with this lovely group of people. Friends were made, laughing and crying and snark all ensued. It was beautiful.

So there I was, in a store at an amusement park, overcome with emotion because in front of me was a mouse painting a picture of the one who created him. I am sure, even though she was incredibly gracious, the store clerk thought I was a little strange. But see, I spend my life helping people see and know God as a god who loves them beyond a doubt and is always as close as their breath, but I had forgotten that for myself somewhere along the way. The gifts of sabbatical, of slowing down, of making time for reflection and prayer, the remembering of my heart, spirit, body and head led me to know that greatest gift of my sabbatical: the gift of remembering that I am loved beyond a doubt and my creator is always as close as my breath.



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

LENTEN GUIDED MEDITATION

Sundays, 6pm, throughout Lent. This group explores a variety of guided meditations and other contemplative prayers each week throughout Lent. Both men and women are welcome! Come for one session or for many. Led by Carla Stanton in the Fireside Room.

LENTEN VISIO DIVINA

Mondays, 6pm, throughout Lent. This small group will gather throughout Lent to learn the practice of Visio Divina, or divine seeing. Using visual art and a guided process, we will deepen our understanding of God and enrich our prayer lives. Open to all. Led by Pastor Karyn in room 207.

LENTEN PRAYER LABYRINTH

As part of your Lenten meditations First Lutheran invites you to walk a prayer labyrinth. Available **every Friday in the narthex during Lent, 9am–7pm.**

WALK THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

All are welcome to walk the stations of the cross around our neighborhood. The Stations of the Cross are representations of the path Jesus bore on his way to the crucifixion. They involve Jesus enduring suffering, insults, moments of support, and relay the intense sacrifice that Jesus undertook for human salvation.

Participants will take turns reading short scripture, and/or carrying the cross. Led by Glen Vilim. Meet in the narthex, be prepared to walk slowly for several blocks around First Lutheran's neighborhood. **Saturday, April 13, 6:30–7:30pm.**



As members of First Lutheran Church and through our financial gifts, we commit to bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Through

our unique place in our community and the size of our congregation, we are able reach out to people of all ages to make more disciples of Christ. Part of our outreach is to maintain our facilities to provide a safe and welcoming environment to the congregation and community groups that use our buildings. Our excellent custodial staff is augmented by an energetic group of volunteer men and women known as the Sunshine Boys and Girls. They meet once a month to help with cleaning, maintenance and decorating around the church. If you enjoyed the amazing Christmas decorations, you can thank them for the hours put in putting them up and taking them down. Our miles of carpet get cleaned by them several times a year. They are a dedicated group, each putting in at least 3 hours a month to help maintain our church. Thank you to the 20+ individuals who participate at least sometime during the year. While the financial contribution has never been measured, the saving would be significant.

At the end of February, we have received nearly 95% of the budgeted general fund income through February. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity. The number of families enrolled in Simply Giving is a big reason for our financial success. We are very close to having half of our families using this convenient way to support God's work through First Lutheran. Thank you to everyone enrolled. If you have not enrolled in this easy and convenient way to grow our outreach and change more lives, you

Sunshine Boys & Girls

Sunshine Boys & Girls help
with outdoor or indoor projects
on the 2nd Thursday of the month
NEXT: April 11, 9am
Rolls and coffee are supplied to
replenish your reserves!

can do so on the website at 1stlu.org/ giving or stop by the church office.

Capital Campaign update: If you have noticed workmen in the halls recently, they are finishing up the new fire alarm system and have completed improving our WiFi system. This will make our buildings safer and provide better WiFi to all areas. It is great to report we have received over 57% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. Thank you for continuing to meet your pledge. Full financial details are available by request in the church office. We welcome everyone to attend a finance committee meeting. We meet every month, on the second Wednesday at noon. The coffee is free, but bring your own lunch. The

Stewardship Committee meets once a month and is looking for members. For meeting times, contact Pastor Stanton.

*Faithfully submitted,
The Finance and Stewardship
Committees*

CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PLEGGED DOLLARS:

\$1,035,269

GIFTS RECEIVED:

\$575,666

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

HVAC CONTROLS

ED BUILDING ROOF

PARKING LOT REPAIRS

TREES: REMOVED & REPLACED

WIFI UPGRADE

COMING SOON:

SMOKE ALARM SYSTEM

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

2019 Upcoming Events

Due to so many of our area's schools having so many snow/cold days and changing their ending dates, Sugar Creek is canceling all of its week 1 on-site camps (June 9-14) and have rescheduled JAM camp and FARM camp to June 30-July 2, for a much-reduced rate of \$225.

The updated schedule is also on the website: www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org.

One more Spring Youth retreat coming up!

For 3rd-5th graders, Sat. April 13 – Sun April 14. Register online today!

We encourage everyone who uses social media to like Sugar Creek's Facebook page to receive regular updates such as the ones mentioned above.

- April 4-7 **CRAFT RETREAT** *(for women)*
- April 13-14 **3rd-5th Grade Retreat**
- April 18 Fireside Dinner Theatre Bus Trip – *Menopause-The Musical*
- June 17 Golf Tournament – **Viroqua Hills Golf Course**
- June 30 – July 3 Family Camp Session 1
- Aug 11-14 Family Camp Session 2
- Aug 15-17 Grandparent-Grandchild Camp
- Aug 15-17 Parent-Child Horse Camp
- Aug 26-Sept 5 NORWAY TRIP – hosted by Sugar Creek
- Sept. 7 **Annual Auction, 5K Trail Run or Walk, Craft Fair**
- Sept – TBA DOOR COUNTY Bus Tour
- Sept. 26-29 **CRAFT RETREAT** *(for women)*
- Oct. 2 Fireside Dinner Theatre Bus Trip – *The Buddy Holly Story-Musical*
- Oct. 4-6 **6-8th Grade Retreat**
- Oct. 7 *Yesterday's Youth (Senior Day Event)*
- Oct. 11-13 SCBC Women's Retreat
- Oct. 26-27 **3rd-5th Grade Retreat**
- Nov. 8-10 **High School Retreat**
- Nov. 14 Fireside Dinner Theatre Bus Trip – *A Christmas Story-The Musical*
- Nov. 19 **Pioneer and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**
- Nov or Dec -TBA NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS Bus Tour
- Nov. 21-24 **CRAFT RETREAT** *(for women)*
- Dec. 9 *Yesterday's Youth (Senior Day Event)*



Caring for Creation

"We are stewards, not masters of Earth.
Each of us has a personal responsibility to care for
the precious gifts of God's creation"

Pope Francis

Do you have a passion for sustainability?
Ideas for how we at First Lutheran can become an
"eco-congregation"?

A desire to be a good steward to our land?
Please join our new small group that aims to move toward being
a more eco-friendly congregation.

This group is open to all ages, & the meeting time is TBD!

Please contact Jenn Wiesjahn for more information:
jjk2880@yahoo.com • 608-397-6897

Love God ~ Love Mother Earth



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

Please complete the information below and return it to the office no later than **Sunday, April 14.**

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!*

Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser

April 14, 9–10:30am

Anyone going on a trip/
camp this summer can help
work to raise money

*Sign-up to donate or serve
at 1stlu.org/PalmSun*



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.



RESURRECTION HOPE



I hope and pray for many things all the time. I hope and pray for my daughters, my husband, my friends, my co-workers, my church, plus many other things. I hope and pray for good spouses for my daughters, a good work environment for my husband, that my friends will have all that they need, my co-workers have energy to do all that God has called them to do and that my church may show the love of Christ to one another and to all who come to visit us. These are just a few of my hopes and prayers; sometimes my prayers are very specific, sometimes general, but my hope is always grounded in God's will for those I pray for.

My greatest hope and prayer for my church is that each person coming into our church will be cared for and loved as God loves them. I hope that those of us who have been coming to worship here will know God's love and show that love to the stranger among us. I hope that our warm welcome of greeting to those we don't know will show our love for God and God's love for others. My hope is that every member of our congregation will be a welcomer to those around us. It could be as simple as welcoming those sitting in front of or behind us in the next pew. It could be welcoming those who are sitting across from us in worship, or we could stay in the narthex greeting and helping those coming into our building. My hope is that no one leaves worship and our church feeling they were never welcomed by us.

My hope for this church may be out there for some people, but for me this hope is as real as the hope we have in

the resurrection. Resurrection hope is real because the resurrection of Jesus has already taken place. Because we are confident in this resurrection, we can then be confident to welcome others into God's love. This living hope of the resurrection of Jesus is ours to share with others, not because of what we have done, but because of what God has done for us. As I Peter 1:3 says, "by his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." How can we not be welcoming people in light of the resurrection hope that we have.

As we live in this resurrection hope, we can put aside our fears and be welcoming people. We can welcome people into the resurrection hope that we have by being friendly and smiling, greeting those we don't know along with people we do know. This place would ring with welcoming greetings to one another, with laughter and with hugs or high fives, but this can't be accomplished with just a few of us. We need everyone's help to do this, in the sanctuary, in the narthex, while serving coffee and as we usher. My hope is that each one of us will take the time and greet someone we don't know and someone we do know. If we all are greeters, then everyone will be greeted.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

SUNSHINE BOYS & GIRLS

The Sunshine Boys meet at First Lutheran on the **second Thursday of the month at 9am** to help with outdoor or indoor projects. Rolls and coffee are supplied to replenish your reserves! Dues are free!

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer! **Friday, Apr. 26, at 9am**, to assemble the May newsletter. See you there!

ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Churchwide Assembly (CWA), the triennial gathering of voting members from around the entire ELCA, is meeting this year in our own state... at the Wisconsin Center in **Milwaukee, August 5-10**. YOU are invited to consider attending the 2019 CWA as a volunteer; approximately 600 volunteers will be needed to serve as ushers or greeters, provide tech support, etc. Learn more about specific volunteer positions at 1stlu.org/cwa.

HELPING HANDS

If you need help with small jobs around the house or if you need a couple of meals or groceries delivered, just go to the "Helping Hands" board by the nursery and make out a slip with a description of what you need help with and your telephone number. Then anyone who thinks they can help can take the slip and call the number to work out the details. This ministry is open to all in need of help AND to those who can provide the help. There is no set group of "helpers" so we need involvement from all who can be a blessing to someone else. Thanks!

WELCOME BASKETS

Welcome baskets are a way to welcome a new neighbor into your neighborhood. The baskets are a gift bag tied with a bow and are filled with goodies from church and from our community. They are available to sign out at the Resource Center across from the church office.



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

EVENTS

Sign up for most events happening at First Lutheran on our website at 1stlu.org/signup

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

Sat., June 1, 8:45am–5:30pm, at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran, Westby. Rostered leaders, youth leaders and volunteers, or anyone who is working with youth in our churches are invited and encouraged to receive this certified training. Learn strategies to help support youth who are struggling with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Cost: \$10. Contact Elise Hynek at youth@immanuel-lc.org to register

DRAWING FROM THE WELL

Next get-together: Sat., April 13, 9:30–11:30am at the house. This group is for women of First and the greater La Crosse area seeking to support one another in their spiritual growth. We gather together once a month on Saturday mornings to be with each other, enjoy a breakfast, and develop a deeper relationship with one another. Our bible study will be from Gather, gathermagazine.org. We will use the bible study from Gather for the remainder of 2019. If you don't want to buy a subscription, contact bridget@firstlu.org.



Chicken Dinner

**Thur, April 25, 4–7pm
at the American Legion**

731 Sand Lake Road Onalaska, WI

Tickets are available for sale through April 17, from youth doing fundraising or in the office, M–F, 8am–4pm.

Meals cost only \$9! And most importantly, you support youth going on mission trips and to Sugar Creek Bible Camp!

Dinner will be available for pick up at the American Legion in Onalaska.

NEW THIS YEAR: This will be for dinner only; meals will not be sold over the lunch hour.

FOR YOUTH:

You can pick up ticket packets to sell in the office, at mission trip meetings or during Middle School Youth Group on Sundays.

Ticket packets are due back by Thursday, April 18.

Youth will earn \$5 toward their trip/camp for every ticket sold!



THANK YOU to all the generous donors! Our Closet is filled to the top, with our only real needs being:

- Athletic shorts for both guys and girls
- Toiletries.

Please consider these other wonderful options for donating your gently-used clothes in the coming weeks: Good Steward Shop, Salvation Army, New Horizons Shelter, Women's Clothes Closet at Our Savior's Lutheran, Men's Closet at the Catholic Charities Warming Center, or the Rootin Crown shops in Onalaska, La Crosse and Holmen.

NEWSBOYS UNITED

MICHAEL W. SMITH

TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER

THURSDAY, MAY 9

AT THE LA CROSSE CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Apr. 6, at 10am** in the narthex for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism.

To register or ask questions call the church office, 608.783.3326.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

First Lutheran has, once again, offered to be a pick-up site for CSA boxes of produce from Small Family Farm in La Farge. Though deliveries won't start until June, you can buy a share now. For info about products, prices and schedules, go to smallfamilycsa.com, or ask for a flier in the office.

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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Virginia Mullikin

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Darrell Benrud

- Designated for Church Bus Fund: Arnie & Nancy Holthaus
- Designated for Organ Fund: Faye Holthaus Gardner
- Designated for Skogen Music Fund: Carol Skoy
- Designated for American Cancer Society: James Steinbrink
- Undesignated: Richard & Carol Brandau, Jo Ann & Robert Kranig, Russell Lee Jr.

In memory of Virginia Mullikin

- Designated for OWLs: Phyllis Bey

In memory of Ruth Mahlum

- Designated for Organ Fund: Faye Holthaus Gardner

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Each month, First Lutheran gives thanks for gifts offered to designated funds. If you plan to make a special gift to First, consider these options. Currently, we are gathering funds for:

- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Lutheran World Hunger
- Youth Fund (supports campers & mission trippers)
- Helping Hands Fund (for First members in need)
- Samaritan Fund (for non-members in need)
- Halos Project
- Seminarian Fund
- Sugar Creek Bible Camp
- The Property & Grounds and the Music & Worship Teams also have wish lists. Contact Pastor Stanton to inquire how your gift to either Team could support the ministry of First Lutheran.

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.

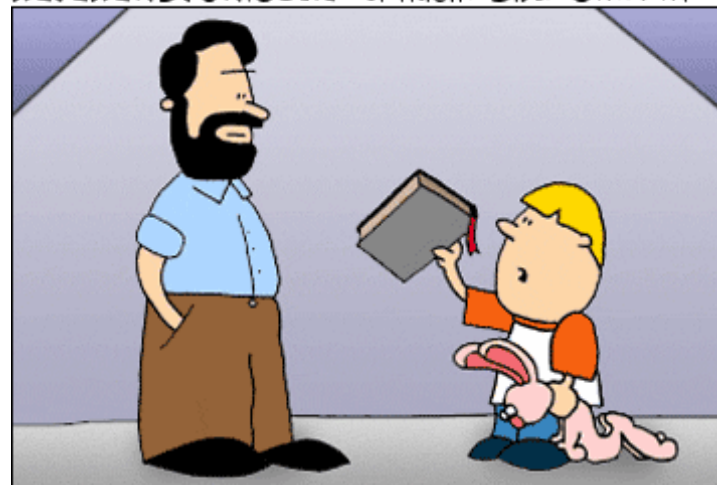
To subscribe to either one and to cancel the delivery of this paper copy, simply visit 1stlu.org/subscribe and fill out the online form, or contact the office at office@firstlu.org.

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

To have your announcement in the weekly announcements pages handed out each weekend, send it to announcements@firstlu.org, or give it to Andy in the office. Deadline for the weekly announcements is always noon each Wednesday.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



04-13-2006

DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE



OWLs OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Despite the large amount of snow and bad weather, the OWLs managed to have a great time in March. A large contingent attended the Beach Boys Tribute concert, preceded by a tasty dinner. For the potluck, our fantastic cooks provided many delectable delights prior to a fantastic presentation by Pastor Karyn about her sabbatical.

April is the time of year we begin wandering on regional adventures. This April is no different. On **Friday April 5, the OWLs**

will venture to Rochester, Minnesota. After a fine lunch at a local establishment, we will board the Rochester Trolley for a private Rochester City & Mayo Historical Tour. We will travel on a heated enclosed vintage red trolley for a narrated city tour featuring Rochester's top sites and attractions, including the Mayo historical sites! Explore the early years of the world-famous Mayo Clinic, while experiencing the homes and lives of pioneering doctors on this relaxing, entertaining and informative narrated trolley tour! We will meet at the church at 9:45am on Friday, April 5. Cost of the tour is \$20, and lunch is on your own. Please let Brian Narveson know by Thursday, April 4, if you plan to attend. You can contact him at 630-816-5917 or owls@firstlu.org.

The April potluck is Wednesday, April 17, at noon in the Narthex. Following the lunch,

we will have an exciting presentation in the Fellowship Hall by Jerry Bonsack, a local photographer and adventurer. Jerry will give us a presentation of stories, plus photos and videos he took during last year's volcanic eruptions in Hawaii. He hired a helicopter and flew over many of the lava flows. You won't want to miss this one.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in April.

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 of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!



PRESCHOOL

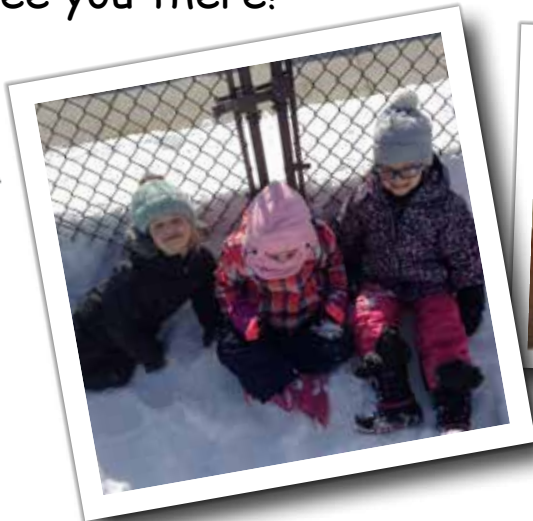
UPDATE

It's 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've worked hard to develop a rich curriculum that makes learning fun as well as offer classes to meet our parents' needs. Contact us today for more information. Only a few spots left!!!

Call or email us today for more information!

Mark your calendars for **Springfest on Sunday, May 5, at 3:00pm**. We will have the preschoolers singing, followed by an ice cream social and silent auction. Hope to see you there!

Delissa



What parents are saying about First Lutheran Preschool...

We could have not picked a better school for our daughter. All the teachers are great and welcoming! Our daughter loves going to school.

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

Sunday School

April

Sunday School will meet on the following Sundays:

April 7 & 28

Sunday School will NOT meet on the following Sundays:

April 14, Palm Sunday: *We invite everyone to attend the*

Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser between services

April 21, Easter Sunday: *we wish everyone a blessed Easter!*

Faith Building Blocks

GRADE 5: COMMUNION

Sunday, Apr. 7, 9:15am: parents/guardians with children

Wednesday, Apr. 17, 4pm: child only, baking bread

Thursday, Apr. 18, 6:30pm: Faith Building Block
lifted up in Maundy Thursday worship during Holy Week

Throughout the year, each age group will have a special "Faith Building Block" session in which parents or special adults are asked to attend class with their child on Sundays at 9:15am, sharing in conversation and growing together in faith. The session lasts for three weeks, and afterwards, children will have a presence in worship in celebration of the Faith Building Block they have learned.

New registrations welcome any time of the year!

Contact Sunday School Superintendent Beth Miller at sundayschool@firstlu.org or stop in the Sunday School office in room 206.

Parents Gathering for Lent

In the midst of daily life, planning something meaningful to do with our family during Lent often gets lost.

This year at First, we hope to help people plan for Lent using the resource *Holy Solitude*. We have created some resources for families of all types to use to prepare and to walk through Lent with intention.

In addition, we have planned several gatherings of parents of Sunday School age kids to get and share ideas on ways to live into holy solitude as a family.

Our next gathering will be on April 7, 9:15am, during the Sunday School hour in the Phillip Room, and will focus on how to prepare for Holy Week.

YOUNG YOUTH EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

AND **LEGO** BUILD!



Sun, Apr 7, 6pm in the Narthex

Please RSVP to beth@firstlu.org

CONFIRMATION

Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and
theologically sound

1stlu.org/confirmation

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

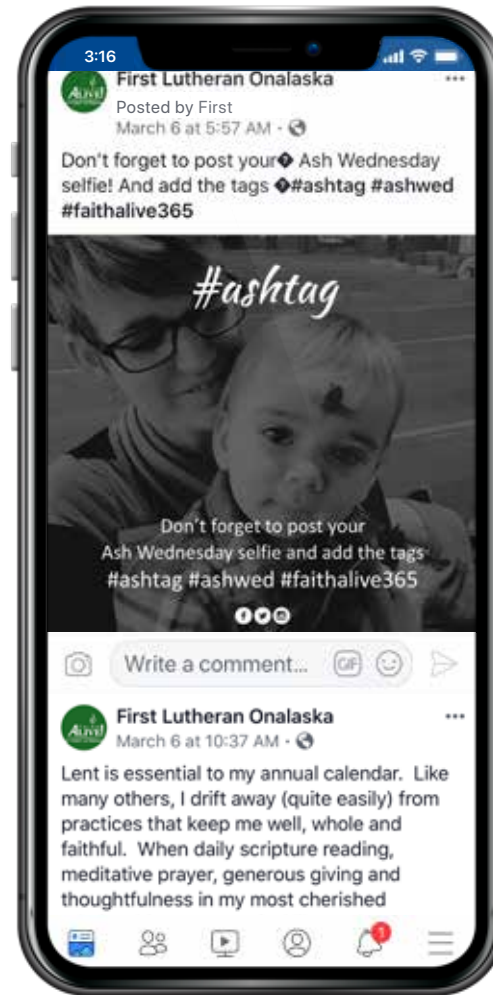
Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups
Wednesdays, 7pm
except Apr. 17

Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes -
Rm 207 & FS
Sundays, 9:15am
except Palm Sunday Apr. 14
and Easter Sunday Apr. 21

Faith Alive! U:
Image of God
(elective opp.)
Sunday, Apr. 7, 6pm



Popular on social media...



Share your #faithalive365
experience and find out
what God is up to
at First Lutheran and
in the church around the world
by following us on
Facebook • Instagram • Twitter



FAITH ALIVE! U

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

Image of God

Carla Stanton
Sunday, Apr. 7, 6pm

In your mind's eye,
what does God look like,
feel like, sound like?
Where do these feelings
or impressions come
from? How may they
be helpful or perhaps
harmful? Carla Stanton
is a certified spiritual
director and will facilitate
a conversation and
multiple experiences
meant to help us name
and claim our own image
of God.

Youth Fundraising Opportunities for Spring 2019

Funds may be used for upcoming mission trips and sugar creek camps



Pancake Breakfast: April 14th All youth who serve, will receive equal funds

Sign up online to serve with Sign up Genius by following the link below; or access through First Lutheran's website (available after 3/15).

Food donations are needed, and youth can raise funds by working at the breakfast; sign up for both at 1stlu.org/palmsun.

Chicken dinner sale: Tickets will be available to sell **March 17th** and can be picked up in the church office, at mission trip meetings or during youth group on Sundays. Sale ends April 17th and Dinner will available for pick up at the American Legion in Onalaska on **April 25th from 4pm-7pm**. Youth will earn \$5 for every ticket sold towards their trip! To donate food items or to sign up youth to serve at the chicken dinner, go to 1stlu.org/chixdin.



April 14th thru May 5th **Bug Spray Sale:** 50% of sale goes towards youth funds. Information packet will be available to pick up from church office, at mission trip meetings, or at youth group on Sundays.

Finally, every **Wednesday before service and Sunday after both services** you can sell script cards with a portion of the proceeds will go towards your fundraising efforts. Sign up available at the link below and First Lutheran's web page. 1stlu.org/scriptable. Youth selling bug spray need to turn order forms in, **with the money**, to the church office by Sunday, May 5. Checks should be made out to First Lutheran. Youth can pick up their orders in the church office on May 15.



Questions about fundraisers can be directed to Andrea Dombroski by phone or text 608-790-5631 or email dombroski22@hotmail.com

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE

The high school mission trip is heading to San Francisco this summer! To support our kids, all members of First Lutheran are invited to take part in the Easter Basket Raffle! Either...

- 1) Donate a basket:** Before April 3, you purchase items and organize a basket centered on a theme of your choice (see possibilities below). Drop your finished creation at the office.
- 2) Buy tickets!:** Tickets will be sold **April 7-14** (Palm Sunday). You do NOT need to be present to win.

Thank you for supporting our high schoolers!

BASKET IDEAS:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Baby toys | (everything yellow) | • Italian dinner |
| • Date night | • Man's basket | • BBQ |
| • Movie night | • Dog basket | • Car cleaning |
| • Game night | • Camping | • Chocolate Galore |
| • Gift cards | • Baking | • Money tree |
| • Sundae Kit | • Easter | • Sports |
| • Take me out to the ball game | • Crafts | |
| • Box of sunshine | • Gardening | |
| | • Spa | |

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP MEETING

The middle school youth going on the mission trip to Duluth from July 21-26 will have their next planning meeting on **Sunday, April 14, at 11:45am**, in the Mary Room.

A light lunch will be provided. Contact volunteer chaperon Karissa Grunden with questions: call or text 608.790.2590

MABEL ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now available. Completed applications are **due no later than 3pm on Monday, 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 or in the church office during office hours, M-F 8am-4pm.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 4K FBB: lifted up in worship 9:15 AM Gr 5 FBB: Communion 5 PM Graduation Milestone Recognition Dinner - FH 6 PM Lenten Guided Meditation	1 6 PM Visio Divina - Rm 207 7 PM AA - FS	2	3 11 AM Worship	4 Office Closed (Staff Training) 10:30 AM Lenten Small Group w/ Laurie Berg - House 7 PM Women of the House	5 9 AM Lenten Prayer Labyrinth 9:45 AM OWLs Fly to Rochester Trolley 7 PM AA - FH	6 10 AM Baptismal Prep - NX
7 9:15 AM Gr 5 FBB: Communion 9:30 AM Coffee Hosts Quarterly 9:30 AM Parent's Gathering For Lent - Phillip Rm 6 PM Eggstravaganza! & Lego Build - NX 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Image of God - FH 6 PM Lenten Guided Meditation	8 6 PM Visio Divina - Rm 207 6:30 PM Hospitality Leadership Team - NX 7 PM AA - FS	9 1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX 4 PM Worship & Music - NX 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry - MR	10 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 11 AM Worship 12 PM Finance Team Mtg	11 9 AM Sunshine Boys & Girls 10:30 AM Lenten Small Group w/ Laurie Berg - House 7 PM Women of the House	12 9 AM Lenten Prayer Labyrinth 7 PM AA - FS	13 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group - House 6:30 PM Walk the Stations of the Cross
14 Bug Spray Fundraiser Begins No Sun School & Confirmati... Palm Sunday 8 AM Palm Sunday Breakfast 11:45 AM Middle School Mission Trip Planning Mtg - MR 11:45 AM Easter Basket Raffle 6 PM Lenten Guided Meditation	15 Newsletter Deadline 1 PM Elizabeth Circle - Beverly's Home 2:30 PM Springbrook Wrshp 3 PM Deadline for Mabel Anderson Scholarship Applications: 3PM 6:30 PM Worship 7 PM AA - FS	16 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership 6:30 PM Worship	17 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 12 PM OWLs Potluck - NX 4 PM Gr 5 FBB: Communion (bread baking, child only) 6:30 PM Worship	18 Deadline for Chicken Dinne... 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 12:15 PM Worship 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 6:30 PM Worship Gr 5 FBB lifted up 7 PM Women of the House	19 12 PM Office Closes at Noon 12:15 PM Worship 6:30 PM Worship 7 PM AA - FS	20 6:30 PM Worship
21 Easter Sunday No Sun School & Confirmati... 7:30 AM Worship 9 AM Worship 10:45 AM Worship	22 Office Closed 7 PM AA - FS	23 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	24	25 4 PM Chicken Dinner Fundraiser 7 PM Women of the House	26 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM AA - FS	27
28 9:30 AM Visitor Follow up Quarterly	29 7 PM AA - FS	30	1	2 7 PM Women of the House	<div> <div>MARCH</div> <div> <div>12</div> <div>345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>MAY</div> <div> <div>1234</div> <div>5678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031</div> </div> </div>	

weekly events for
APRIL
at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship, *see p. 1 for Easter worship times*

9:15am Sunday School, *except not on Apr. 14 & 21*

9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Class, *except not on Apr. 14 & 21*

9:15am Parent Share - UR, *except not on Apr. 21*

9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee Small Group - MR, *except not on Apr. 14 & 21*

10:30am Worship, *see p. 1 for Easter worship times*

5:30pm Middle & High School Youth Groups - FH, *except not on Apr. 21*

TUESDAYS

8:30 am Parent Share - UR

9:00am Quilters - FS

1:15pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Bells Practice - Sacristy

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - House

6:30am Coffee w/o Pastor Karyn - Panera, Onalaska

5:30pm Prayer Shawl Knitters - NX

6:15pm Worship, *except 6:30pm on Apr. 17*

7pm Choir Practice - SN

7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups, *except not on Apr. 17*



Baptismal
Preparation
Sat, April 6
10am–Noon



Parents Gathering
for Lent
Sun, April 7
9:15am



Faith Alive! U:
Image of God
Sun, April 7
6pm



Eggstravaganza
& LEGO Build
Sun, April 7
6pm



Walk the
Stations of the Cross
Sat, April 13
6:30pm



Palm Sunday
Breakfast
Palm Sun, April 14
8–10:30am

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.*

facebook

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

Blessing

Church Workers

Sunday, Apr. 7



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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Wednesday 6:15 PM

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)



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

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Bridget Crave Director of Small Group Ministry bridget@firstlu.org
Kathryn Pedretti Director of Hospitality kathryn@firstlu.org

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 Young Youth Director beth@firstlu.org

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Jerry Yushta Assistant Custodian

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Marci Leppert Preschool Assistant Teacher
Tracy Stoll Preschool Assistant Teacher

VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Larry Schreiner President
Aaron McDonald Vice President
Jennifer Wiesjahn Secretary
Brandon King
Diane Shuda
Nancy Beguin
Shaun Gibbs



410 Main Street
Onalaska, WI 54650
608.783.2236
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday 8:00 AM
10:30 AM
Wednesday 6:15 PM



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.
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**FAITH
ALIVE!**
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2019

INSIDE

**HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE**

**FAITH ALIVE! U:
IMAGE OF GOD**

**CARING FOR
CREATION**

#faithalive365