



FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS!

MAY 2023

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

SEE ALSO...

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INSIDE

- 2 Message from Pastor Stanton
- 3 Easter Season Study: Gospel of Hope
Readings for May
- 4 A Letter from Ben Morris
- 5 An Introduction from Vicar Kathryn, Part 2
- 6 Finance & Stewardship Report
- 7 Message from Kathryn
Serve & Give
- 8 Announcements
- 9 Preschool Update
- 10 Confirmation
Sunday School
- 11 Vacation Bible School
Parents' Night Out
Blessing Graduates
Peer Ministry Commissioning
- 13 OWLs Post
- 14 Sugar Creek
- 15 Calendar, Weekly Events
- 16 Revelations
- 17 Staff Directory

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

IT IS SOLVED BY WALKING



ST. AUGUSTINE ONCE said, "Solvitur ambulando."

Solvitur ambulando: "It is solved by walking."

I am positive that

Augustine didn't know all the brain science behind why walking helps our body think better, but he knew there was something there. It is solved by walking. I wonder if that was behind some of the thinking the two disciples walking home had that day the women found the tomb empty. After everything that had happened in Jerusalem over the last few days, perhaps a walk home would be the best thing to do. Clear their heads, figure out what is next, get a chance to sleep in their own beds for a bit. It all sounds so lovely in the midst of impossible grief. Let's go for a walk.

I love this story of Luke's for so many reasons. I love that the disciple's grief is on display, reminding us that even those who were close with Jesus grieved because they were ordinary human beings. I love that Jesus meets them where they are at and even though he chastises them for not believing, he still walks them through it one more time. I love that it is the ritual of breaking bread together that opens their eyes to who their companion is. I love that they are able to feel the Holy Spirit, even though she hasn't technically been given yet. I love that their first thought is, we gotta go tell everyone what just happened. In this story we glimpse God's steadfastness, Jesus' love and a community honoring each other as they make their way through tragedy and grief. Solvitur ambulando. Solvitur civitas.

This way of being, set forth by Jesus, has challenged me for as long as I can remember, which is why, for the past 10 years or so, I have been studying human behavior. The last decade has been a deep dive into what makes us

**Workshop:
You, Me, Us:
Being Human
Together**

**May 10, 17, 24
7pm**

**To attend email
karyn@firstlu.org**

humans so human. That paired with a deep appreciation for scripture and the ways our ancestors have lived faithfully, has created in me a glimpse into how we can be beloved community.

I invite you to join me in my quest to be a better human by joining a 3 week workshop I am calling: *You, Me, Us, Being Human Together*. During these three weeks we will explore our personality, how we can strengthen our relationships, why values are important and how our family history impacts who we are. **We will gather on May 10, 17 and 24 at 7pm.** You can sign up by sending me an email at karyn@firstlu.org. This is a workshop for any person in any kind of relationship, not just for those folks who are coupled. My hope is that this workshop is one way we can solvitur ambulando. Together.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org



ELCA LUTHERANS ARE spiritual descendants of reformers. From Martin Luther in the 1500's calling for the church to stop

selling indulgences, to our own grandparents calling for the ordination of women in the 1960s, our ancestors in faith have practiced ongoing discernment regarding how the fruit of God's Spirit is feeding the Church for its work in the world today. In 2023, First Lutheran lives more fully into this reforming tradition by seeking to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. (for the sake of the world)

It's been nearly ten years since First dug deep into the questions surrounding same gender unions, then marriages. We used resources like "Journey Together Faithfully", an ELCA Study on Sexuality that fostered conversation centered in Scripture and Tradition. By 2015, the congregation authorized its pastors to officiate at same gender weddings and by 2019 the Vision & Leadership Team was prepared to create a Reconciling in Christ Task Force who would lead a process for the congregation to consider becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church. That process required listening sessions, Bible studies and lots of face to face conversations that promised to be challenging, but fruitful. The Shutdown, however, threw a wrench in the timeline of that process. Only by the Fall of 2022 did the RIC Team feel ready to present a Welcome Statement for the congregation to consider and recommend a special congregational meeting where the whole church could joyfully endorse that statement to be used on our website, in our announcement pages and as a guiding light for all our ministry teams in their work.

On **Sunday, May 21**, First Lutheran will have **one joint worship service at 9am**. Within that time of worship, we will call to order a congregational meeting that simply asks for all our voting members to support a welcome statement that says, "We Welcome All", "We Build Community," and "We Serve Our Neighbors." Yes, it says more than that, but those three core values provide the primary categories for our welcome.

The idea, here, is for the members of First Lutheran to move beyond efforts at being 'nice' to whoever walks through the doors, or 'tolerant' of all sorts of people. Stories like the Good Samaritan call us to go out of our way to go the extra mile in caring for our neighbor. And stories like the Ethiopian eunuch being baptized by Philip at a roadside puddle call us to claim ALL people as our neighbors.

Welcoming, building community and serving neighbors is nothing new for First Lutheran. Generations of faithful Christians have done this kind of work from First for over 150 years. What is new is using these core values to guide us in our efforts to reconcile with people who have too often been left out, remained uncared for, or have been outright harmed.

The LGBTQIA+ community, people of color, people with handicaps and indigenous peoples are just some of the groups whom the church has at times actively judged as sinners, or questioned their worth as children of God. Being an RIC church will provide intentional opportunities to both confess past wrongs and live into a future that receives the gifts of people, communities and partnerships that we no longer want to ignore. In becoming an RIC church, we give up nothing. We seek to gain new friends, new siblings in Christ and claim more of the gospel

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message for our church and extend that good news to our community.

Endorsing the Welcome Statement to become an RIC church is the end of a process, but the continuation of an ongoing identity at First Lutheran. We are indeed the spiritual descendants of reformers. In May of 2023 we continue that tradition. I pray our descendants are blessed by our reconciling works. May the mercy, love and peace of God be with us always.

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

2023 SMALL GROUPS

Weekly Groups:

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)

READINGS FOR MAY

Wednesday, May 3: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Sunday, May 7: John 14:1-14

Wednesday, May 10: 1:1-17

Sunday, May 14: John 14:15-21

Wednesday, May 17: Romans 3:28-30, 5:1-11

Sunday, May 21: John 17:1-11

Wednesday, May 24: Romans 6:1-14

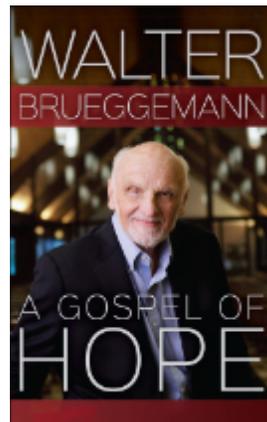
Sunday, May 28: John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Wednesday, May 31: Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:14-39

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for May. 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.

EASTER SEASON STUDY



A Gospel of Hope, by Walter Brueggemann, encourages readers to embrace the audacity required to live out one's faith. Join Pastor Stanton as he offers a 2–3 minute online reflection each weekday rooted in Walter Brueggemann's wisdom on topics ranging from anxiety and abundance to partisanship and the role of faith in public life. Find this study on our YouTube and Facebook channels, through the end of May.

FAITH
ALIVE! U

Embracing Awkward Conversations

Rev. Libby Howe
Sunday, May 7, 11:45am

In this workshop, we will explore how to have conversations about things that matter—often those "hot topics" that people avoid. You will gain some clarity about how your faith informs both what you believe and how you choose to express those beliefs. You will learn some strategies for how to approach and navigate tough conversations in ways that strengthen connections instead of pushing others away.

*Lunch and childcare
will be provided.*

March 27, 2023



SIBLINGS IN CHRIST of the La Crosse Area Synod,

In the summer of 2014 while serving as an associate pastor in Metro-Detroit, I felt a rumbling of the Spirit. After a period of discernment I started my paperwork and filled out our trusty MP. On that form of many sheets there was a little box, "College/Campus." Serving in a campus ministry had always been a dream.

And as I checked that box, a voice in my head assured me that it was a pipe-dream. The La Crosse Area Synod was not even on my radar. Come Fall, I was sitting at our building for an interview. In January 2015, I was driving through a blizzard to move to a new house, in a new town, in a new synod, for a new call, in campus ministry.

I have served in this ministry for eight years. The entire time, I have been surrounded by your love and support, as this is the "Little Synod that Does." Time and time again, campus ministry had needs, and you all made sure they were met. This synod supports campus ministry.

And now, I have again felt the rumbling of the Spirit, calling me to new things, things that I currently can't quite see. And so, I will be ending my call as your campus pastor at the end of the Spring semester, May 31st. And somewhere, someone else is listening to the Spirit, and filling out their MP. And they are staring at "College/Campus" and they are circling it (you circle it now, it's no longer a box), and wondering what the future holds.

Campuses are dynamic places, with students matriculating, transferring, and graduating. Students try out things, see what moves them and readjust. Faculty and staff come and

go. Campus ministry reflects this reality. The only constant at LUMin for the past 80 plus years has been God's abiding presence and the love and support of congregations and people. Because of the constant flux of campus ministry, every staff transition is a hiccup, and every new person called into the role rebuilds from the ground up. This transition period will be critical, as the Synod Staff and the LuMin board do the work of listening to the Holy Spirit and preparing the ministry for its new staff. Your support is vital.

So in my departure I am asking you to join me in the following:

- **Pray:** for the current students, the board and Synod Staff, the future leader of LuMin and our campuses.
- **Give:** by giving generously in a transition period you will help the ministry continue during the transition, and set up a solid foundation to the person God is calling to lead LuMin in its next chapter
- **Tell:** If the work of LuMin or any campus ministry has been important in your life, talk about it. Let people know that as the church navigates this transitional moment that campus ministry is a key part of how our church thrives.

Thank you so much for these past eight years. It has been my deep honor and privilege to serve as campus pastor. I am excited to see where God is leading LUMin next.

In Christ,

Pastor Ben

WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?

A reflection from the first few months of Vicar Kathryn Thompson's internship as a chaplain resident in the hospital.



THERE IS NO space like that of a hospital room—all is quite literally stripped away and we are at our most vulnerable. News of a life-altering or life-ending

diagnosis, a sense of loss after surgery, chronic or extreme pain, an emergency that will change things forever: the hospital is a place of the unexpected and inevitably a place of suffering. And it is most certainly a place where God's presence is most poignant. Because God gently but urgently clamors for presence with the suffering, bringing us close to the cross. Our cries in these life-changing moments are echoes of Jesus' cries: "Why oh God have you forsaken me?" God is comfortable with us asking the hard, pointed questions and asking them directly. Despite what we feel in moments of doubt, suffering, or hopelessness, God is not silent because God's presence, even if quiet, is not silent in our hearts. There is one way that we know this in our tradition.

We know this because of transformation: God's redeeming work through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This transformation is accessible to us as God's beloved children. We, too, experience moments of transformation in our life, often born out of moments of suffering, doubt, or hopelessness. Often born out of moments of great vulnerability. In Jesus's ministry with and to the vulnerable, we hear very consistent and necessary messages, messages that we carry through our faith but often need reminders of, whether from

**God is with you.
In your vulnerabilities,
in the mundane,
in the relationships, in
the difficulties,
in the rejoicing,
in the waiting, in the
hope, in the peace,
in the uncertainty,
in love.**

loved ones or from a stranger, from a chaplain in the hospital or our pastor.

First, peace—be—with—you. In the times of our deepest vulnerability, in our times of greatest fear and doubt, God shows up with this introduction, one that is meant to calm our hearts and open our spirits.

Second, you—are—loved. Not because of what you've done, earned, or achieved, but because you are God's beloved child. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image.

God is with you. In your vulnerabilities, in the mundane, in the relationships, in the difficulties, in the rejoicing, in the waiting, in the hope, in the peace, in the uncertainty, in love. God. Is. With. You.

May we respond to God's loving and faithful presence from a posture of prayer and a heart of compassion—for ourselves, for others and for the world.

Peace to you. You are loved.

Vicar Kathryn Thompson

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,
thru the summer**

- 10am, Upper Room

Questions? See Carla Stanton



Prostate Cancer Support

Navigating a prostate cancer diagnosis, treatment(s), and after-effects is tough and worthy of peer support.



A First Lutheran member found himself on this path and would like to make himself available for e-mail, phone or in-person conversations with anyone interested in having a friendly ear to listen and provide mutual support.

More info: 1stlu.org/next



The First Lutheran Foundation Fund Committee is excited to begin their season of giving!

Recently the Foundation was able to provide Mabel Anderson Scholarships to graduating seniors who are members and applied. Scholarship winners were announced on Sunday, April 23. This year we are thankful to Thomas Evert, who added a generous donation to the scholarship fund.

The Foundation also held an informational meeting about advanced directives/living wills on April 23, where we enjoyed lunch, learning and fellowship.

Next, we look forward to receiving requests from both community and ELCA groups. **Grant applications from worthy organizations wishing to request funds from the Foundation Fund are due by June 1.**

More information about the Foundation, the Mabel Anderson Scholarship Fund, grant applications and how you can contribute to the Foundation can be found on the First Lutheran website under the "Serve" tab, or at 1stlu.org/foundation.



Increased giving in 2022 allowed First to gift \$10,000 to the Hunger Task Force and \$10,000 to REACH, this past January.



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

Changes Lives! In the last newsletter we did not have the final numbers for 2022. I can happily report that the final accounting shows we did increase our giving over 2021 by more than \$40,000... thank you for all the ways you supported First in 2022. By meeting our goal it allowed us 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. These checks were presented to each organization during services on Sunday, January 29. Thank you for making these dreams a reality.

Thanks to all of you the January 2023 Stewardship Campaign was a huge success. We received 170 intent cards, and 114 families indicated they will increase their giving in 2023. This gives us two reasons to celebrate. The number of families increasing their giving is over the 100 goal we set as a challenge. That means two very generous people will be giving a total of \$10,000 of increased giving to the general fund. Also, the total amount of indicated increased giving exceeded our \$40,000 goal. Praise the Lord and thank you for continuing to be a generous congregation.

As a reminder we have some big dreams for 2023. When we receive \$40,000 of increased giving, we will do the following:

1. Donate \$10,000 to La Crosse Safer Families for Children
2. Donate \$10,000 to Lutheran World Relief to support their efforts to respond to millions of people affected by the war in Ukraine.
3. We want to use \$10,000 to help FLC gather people for special events around food to build community in old ways and new.
4. We also want to use \$10,000 of our \$40,000 increase to gather people at First through music.

General Fund giving at the end of March was \$166,410, a decrease of \$3,557 compared to 2022. Thank you for your continued support. Please consider regular giving via Simply Giving to provide the resources to expand our ministry to Change Lives. If you are already participating in Simply Giving, thank you. To enroll, sign up at 1stlu.org/giving or call the church office.

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

Faithfully submitted,

The Finance and Stewardship Committees



MONDAY MEALS @ TRINITY

The Monday Meals program is supported by several churches, including First Lutheran, working together to provide a free hot dinner for the north side community of La Crosse.

Each church is responsible for a specific Monday, and determines their menu, procures groceries, prepares, serves, and cleans up after the 5-6pm meal.

You can help by preparing food, or serving and cleaning up. The Hunger Task Force can supply most of the food.

The event is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill Street, La Crosse

NEXT DATE: May 8

Contact bridget@firstlu.org with questions or to learn more.

SERVE & GIVE

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

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 DATE: May 4.** Help make First Lutheran look nice! Refreshments are supplied to replenish your reserves! Dues are free! *Questions? Contact Dan at dan@firstlu.org.*

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to **Tuesday, May. 30, at 10am**, to assemble the June/July mini-newsletter. See you there!

stephen
MINISTRY®

Stephen Ministry is gearing back up to care for our members and are excited to announce a new class is forming. If you would like to find out more about this important caring ministry, join us for an **Informational Meeting on May 7, 9:15 in the Mary Room.**

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

SUGAR CREEK VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF NEEDED

There are still several openings for summer medical staff. Weeklong medical volunteers are eligible for a one week family campership. Do you have a medical background? Nurse, Physician Assistant, EMT, CNA, Paramedic, Doctor? Sugar Creek is looking for volunteers to work a week of summer camp. Duties including camper check-in on Sunday, daily medicine disbursement, homesickness, and minor first aid.

Available Weeks

- July 2-5
- July 9-14
- July 23-28

Call Greta or Stephanie in the camp office at (608) 734-3113 or email office@sgrcreek.org for more information or to sign-up for a week.

SPECIAL SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MAY 21

There will be **only one service on Sunday, May 21, at 9am**, followed by a special congregational meeting where we will vote on our new Welcome Statement, and close out the Sunday School and Confirmation year with a celebration.

GRADUATION PARTY FOR SOPHIA STANTON

Pastor Stanton's family welcomes you to congratulate Sophia at her graduation party, **Sunday, May 28 from 3:30-7pm** at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center, 1433 Rose St, La Crosse.

WORSHIP CHANGES

Some upcoming changes to worship this summer;

- **Wednesday worship will take a summer break; last service before break is May 31;** Wednesday worship will resume Sept. 6
- **Sunday, June 11:** Worship at 8am will be at First, and worship at 10am will be at Riverside Park with the synod (or at UWL Student Union if there is rain)
- **Starting June 18 thru the summer:** Sunday worship will be at 8am and 10am
- Outdoor worship at 10am three times this summer (weather permitting): **June 25, July 23 and August 27.**

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, June 3, 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, May 28. Min. attendance required: 2 families.*

NEW VISION AND LEADERSHIP MEMBER AND ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

66 members of First Lutheran attended the annual get-together/annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 5. Meredith Hougen was elected to the Visioning & Leadership team; on May 1 she replaces Derrick Knight on the board. Joel Miller was elected to the First Lutheran Foundation board; he replaces Meredith Hougen, starting immediately. Voting members also named representatives to the Sugar Creek Bible Camp annual meeting (Ann & Rob Nelson) and to the Synod Assembly in June (Ann & Rob Nelson, Michelle Logan, Indiana Hauser, Pete Kirkegaard and Sam Renkas). Members also approved the 2023 budget.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- **William Allen Matz**
- **Beckett Zane Bauman**
- **Ava Louise Housker**
- **Finnley Nora Housker**
- **Noah Nicholas Petitt**
- **Callum Isaiah Campbell**

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- **Helen Halverson**
- **Neta Niedfelt**
- **Dan Zubich**

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Sigurd Hanson

- Undesignated: Russell Lee Jr., Trygve & Karan Mathison, Michael & Alexis McViety, Vivian Sacia

In memory of Tom Skogen

- Undesignated: Elizabeth Mac Ewen

In memory of Sandy Carlson

- Undesignated: Carol Knudson

In memory of Helen Halverson

- First Lutheran Women: James & Kay Nelson
- Music Fund: Bev Fuhrman, friends of Helen Haverson
- Sugar Creek Bible Camp: Adrian & Doris Hagen
- Undesignated: Jean & Ronald Allen, Bruce & Margaret Ausderau, Nancy Beguin, Marion Bertelsen & Kris Patterson, Dennis & Lynn Borchert, Gloria Cassel, Peggy & Dick Daleki, Cindy Dietrich, Bob & Bev DiNicola, Sally Eglinton, Anita & Dave Evenson, Tom Evert, Fred & Rosanne Fibeger, Marilyn Fox, Nels Garthus & Kerry O'Brien, Scott Gilbertson & Turena Pertzsch-Gilbertson, Donna Hodson Haag, Diane Haga, Mitch Halverson, Linda Hanevold, Carol Hang, Carl Hanson, Carol Hanson, Eric Hanson, Lloyd Hoff, Scott, Tina, Emily, Grace & Sophie Johns, Dick Johnson, Kermit & Susan Jostad, Jan Klimke, Mark & Deb Koenig, Gloria Kubiak, Robert

& Kelly Lawson, Red & Barb Loken, Sandra Nelson, Dan & Rita Netwal, Steve & MaryJo Netwal, Evelyn Olson, Dale & Clara Pasell, Bette Pedretti, Kathryn Pedretti, Bruce Pertzsch, Kay Risberg, Kathy Roberts & family, Gary & Corinne Rowan, Marilyn Rudser, Mark & Shirley Sacia, Kay Schroeder, Annette Sherry, Patty & Mike Simon, Dave & Barb Skogen, Gary Skogen, Dave & Lori Stetzer, Ellis & Judy Stetzer, Joleen Stratman, Kay Taylor, David & Signe Thompson, Ardie Van Riper, Robert & Lorene Wehrenberg, Bob & Katy Wood, Anne & Jerry Yamriska

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!

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday,
August 21, 2023



4 Person
Scramble

Viroqua Hills Golf Course
1110 US Hwy 14, Viroqua, WI

2 Flights
with
prizes

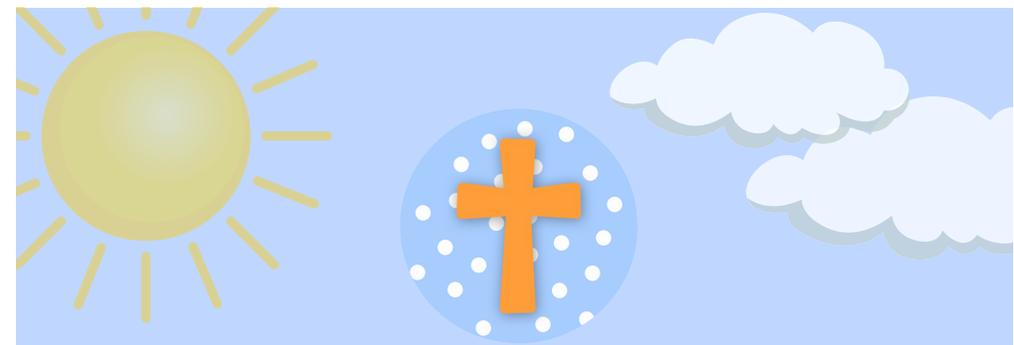
CHECK-IN
11 AM

SHOT GUN START
12:30 PM

18 HOLES

\$85/person

office@sgrcreek.org | 608-734-3113 | SugarCreekBibleCamp.org



FIRST LUTHERAN
PRESCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING FOR September!

Do you have a 2, 3 or 4 year old
that is ready for school?

Send them to First Lutheran Preschool in Onalaska.

Email Melissa for more information.

preschool@firstlu.org



GO 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, thru May 21
Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes - Fireside Rm

Wednesdays, 5:30pm, thru May 24
Confirmation Dinner

Wednesdays, May 3 & 10, 6:15pm
Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays, 7pm, thru May 24
Gr 8-9 Small Groups

Wednesday, May 24, 5pm
Confirmation Celebration



Sunday School

Last day of Sunday School:
May 21

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.

4K: The Keys

Sundays, May 7: parents/guardians with children
Sunday, May 14: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

CONFIRMATION

CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK

GOING INTO GRADE 8 IN THE FALL

Sun, June 11-Fri, June 16



Questions? Contact karyn@firstlu.org

OPERATION RESTORATION
MENDING GOD'S WORLD

Vacation Bible School • Aug. 13-17

Sign up at 1stlu.org/next

NEW DATE!

BLESSING OUR GRADUATES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 AND
SUNDAY, MAY 7
AT ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Parents' Night Out

NEXT: Friday, May 19

Reg opens at 4:45pm, Dinner at 5:30pm,
games & activities until 8pm
Ages: birth to 12 are welcome
COST: Free will donation
RSVP & VOLUNTEER at 1stlu.org/next



Questions? Contact karyn@firstlu.org

peer
ministry leadership

Commissioning
Sunday, May 21, 9am

Trinity Lutheran Church Chicken Q



1010 Sill St. La Crosse

Thursday May 18th, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

Tickets are \$12.00

Dinner includes charcoal chicken, baked beans, potato salad and a roll.

Proceeds to benefit programs at Trinity Lutheran Church Ministry.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Donations for Rummage Sale to Support Alzheimer's

OWLs member, Sharon Zimmer, has a huge goal of raising \$5,000 for EndAlz and Alzheimer's locally. To do so, she is having a rummage sale in mid-June and is asking for donations of all sorts: clothes, furniture, working appliances, toys, sports gear in good condition, etc.

*To make a donation contact Sharon:
608.783.6757 / zimmers725@gmail.com*

First Lutheran Onalaska Blood Drive

Be a Beacon of Hope

June
27

TUES, 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

OWLS

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

The OWLs have been busy having fun as we wait for warm spring weather. In March we had a great trip to visit the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN, which included a never to be missed stop at Lark Toy Store to ride the hand carved carousel. In April we had a beautiful day for a ride down to Sugar Creek for a fun day attending Yesterday's Youth.

The OWLs will begin May with our **potluck on Wednesday, May 17, in the Fellowship Hall.** As we anticipate the coming of summer let's bring some of our favorite summer foods to share. For our program we will play a couple of our favorite games. The first is "Who is Ready for Summer" with a prize for the person most ready. We will also play one of our favorites "Name that Tune" but with a new twist. With the OWLs love of Broadway musicals, the challenge will be to identify both the name of the musical and the name of the song. Join us for some great fellowship and fun.

With the weather starting to warm up in May, we will fire up the bus and hit the road for a visit to the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa. Vesterheim's exhibitions explore the diversity of American immigration through the lens of the Norwegian-American experience and highlight the best in historic and contemporary Norwegian folk and fine arts. USA Today named Vesterheim one of "ten great places in the nation to admire

American folk art." At the time of our visit there will be 3 special exhibits never seen before. An exhibit about Herbjorn Gausta, one of Norway's best know artists, an exhibit of "Dolls, Playing with Identity" which features Norwegian costume dolls and a photography exhibit by National Geographic photographer Erika Skogg, the photos depict the lifestyle, celebrations and traditions of Scandinavian-American communities throughout the Midwest. If we can sign up 15 people we can have our own overview tour of the museum. **This not be missed adventure will take place on Monday, May 22. We will meet at the church at 8:30am.** We will stop on the way to Decorah for a quick break and have lunch at a local restaurant while we are there. Cost of the museum is \$10, lunch is on your own. If you would like to be part of this fantastic adventure, please let Brian Narveson (owls@firstlu.org or 630-816-5917) know by Sunday, May, 21.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in May.

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.





Enrollment
Now Open

JUMP INTO SUMMER!

At Sugar Creek Bible Camp

SIGN UP TODAY SugarCreekBibleCamp.org

- 17 Unique Programs
- Christ Centered
- Grades K - 12
- Adventure
- Family Camp
- Outdoor Fun

2023 BUS TOURS

Aug. 12: Mackinac Island, MI

Sept. 22 Fireside Dinner Theater

Nov. 3 Fireside Dinner Theater

Nov. 6-10 Branson, MO

Christmas Shows



Contact camp for more info & reg:
www.sgrcreek.org • 608.734.3113



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

2023 Upcoming Events

SUGAR CREEK WORK WEEKEND

We have a wide variety of projects for any skill set and level of ability. Come with your family or by yourself and enjoy the blessing of serving others by making Sugar Creek Bible Camp ready for summer camp season! Help play a part in building, cleaning, arranging and preparing the camp's buildings, trails, and equipment for a safe and busy season ahead. Paint, garden, stain, clean cabins, do trail work, wood chip, build fences, split and stack firewood, move sheds, lay shingles, and more. Many hands make light work! Enjoy Sugar Creek hospitality and hearty meals all day **Saturday, May 6**—or you can stay over Friday night and be ready to go bright and early Saturday morning. Friday night lodging and Saturday meals are FREE for volunteers at this event! RSVP: office@sgrcreek.org or call 608.734.3113. Let us know how many people are coming and whether or not you need housing for Friday night, and what meals you will attend on Saturday. Lodging reservations are on a first come, first served basis. We are so grateful for the many hands and hearts who volunteer in myriad ways for the ministry and missions of Sugar Creek Bible Camp! Work will start around 9am Saturday morning and go into the evening. You are welcome to come for some or come for all!

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS...

- August 21 - Annual Golf Outing
- September 9 - Annual Quilt Auction & Fall Festival
- September 28-October 1 - Women's Craft Retreat
- October 2 - Yesterday's Youth
- October 6-8 - Middle School Youth Retreat

Contact camp for more info and to RSVP for all events:
camp@sgrcreek.org • 608.734.3113

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>APRIL</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p> <p>7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9a Quilters - FS</p> <p>1:30p Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30p Knitters & Crocheters - UR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Recognize Grads in Worship</p> <p>10a Springbrook Worship</p> <p>5:30p Confirmation Dinner - FH</p> <p>6:15p Confirmation Class - FS</p> <p>7p Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30a Sunshine Team</p> <p>7p Women of the House - UR</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7p AA - FH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Volunteer Work Weekend @ Sugar Cre...</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Recognize Grads in Worship</p> <p>9:15a 4K FBB: The Keys - FH</p> <p>9:15a Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes - FS</p> <p>9:15a Stephen Ministry Info Mtg - MR</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School</p> <p>12p Faith Alive U! - Having Difficult Conversations - Rev. Libby Howe</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:45p Monday Meals @ Trinity</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p> <p>7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9a Quilters - FS</p> <p>10:30a Staff Meeting</p> <p>1p Dorcas Circle - UR</p> <p>3:30p Knitters & Crocheters - UR</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10a Ona Terrace Worship</p> <p>12p Finance Team Mtg</p> <p>5:30p Confirmation Dinner - FH</p> <p>6:15p Confirmation Class - FS</p> <p>7p Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> <p>7p You, Me, Us: Being Human Together</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7p Women of the House - UR</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30a Drawing from the Well - NX</p>
<p>14</p> <p>4K FBB: The Keys, lifted up in worship</p> <p>9:15a Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes - FS</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Deadline for Jun/Jul Mini-Newsletter</p> <p>1p Elizabeth Circle</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p> <p>7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9a Quilters - FS</p> <p>10:30a Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30p Knitters & Crocheters - UR</p> <p>5:15p Personnel Team Mtg</p> <p>7p Vision & Leadership Team Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10a Grief Support Group - UR</p> <p>10a Ona Terrace Worship</p> <p>12p OWLs Potluck - FH</p> <p>5:30p Confirmation Dinner - FH</p> <p>7p Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p> <p>7p You, Me, Us: Being Human Together</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7p Women of the House - UR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4K Graduation</p> <p>4:45p Parent's Night Out - FH</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Classes, Last Day</p> <p>Peer Ministry Commissioning</p> <p>Sunday School, Last Day of Classes - SN</p> <p>10a Congregational Mtg & Celebration</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:30a OWLs Fly to Vesterheim in Decorah, IA</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p> <p>7p Bible Matters - NX</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9a Quilters - FS</p> <p>10:30a Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30p Knitters & Crocheters - UR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Confirmation Small Grps, Last Day</p> <p>5p Confirmation Celebration - FH</p> <p>7p You, Me, Us: Being Human Together</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7p Women of the House - UR</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Pentecost</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day (office closed)</p> <p>7p AA - FS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9a Quilters - FS</p> <p>10a Assemble Mini-Newsletter - NX</p> <p>10:30a Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:30p Knitters & Crocheters - UR</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Foundation Grant Deadline</p> <p>9:30a Sunshine Team</p> <p>7p Women of the House - UR</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7p AA - FH</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30</p>

weekly events for

MAY

at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Parent Share - Upper Rm

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

REVELATIONS

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

THE REVELATIONS OF JASON



WATCH: Welcome to Wrexham

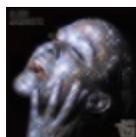
on Hulu. I love a good story. Make it a story about sports; tell it in a multi-episode documentary, and I am IN. But this is no typical sports story!

Be prepared to get emotional about how two movie stars (Ryan Reynolds & Rob McElhenny) seek to transform an old Welsh mining town... through its ancient local soccer club that has stunk for too long. And it's a true story!



READ: Lord of the Flies

Finished "Lord of the Flies" (I read it in solidarity with my son, Andrew). When Ralph weeps for the end of innocence, I was reminded of my own Freshman year. What a classic!

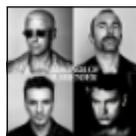


LISTENING TO:

Such Pretty Forks in the Road

As one who came of age in the 90s, I came across the latest offering from Alanis Morissette, *Such Pretty Forks in the Road*, from 2020. I couldn't believe 1) how much her voice took me back in time and 2) how GOOD this new album is. My favorite is *Ablaze*. Anyone with kids will end up crying as they listen to that one.

THE REVELATIONS OF ANDY



LISTENING TO: Songs of Surrender

U2 released this album in March, a collection of their hits, but reworked with bare instrumentation, the lyrics out in front. I've always appreciated how Bono can speak about spirituality while wrapping it in a pop song, but I never noticed it in the song *Until the End of the World*. I just heard it as part of the soundtrack to the movie of the same name. But on this album, with the lyrics rising to the top, I see how it could be the story of Judas. Had me appreciating the song even more.

CALENDAR KEY

CR = Choir Room

FBB = Faith Building Block

FH = Fellowship Hall

FS = Fireside Room

LG = Lounge

MR = Mary Room

NX = Narthex

SN = Sanctuary

TR = Thomas Room

UR = Upper Room

Events subject to change; up-to-date information at 1stlu.org/cal

Subscribe to our Google calendar at 1stlu.org/calsub

Use the QR Codes to quickly add these events to the calendar of your smart phone or tablet.

Tips: focus the code, hold the device still, try various distances, & use good lighting. Need a scanning app? Try www.scan.me.

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Share your Faith Alive moments!
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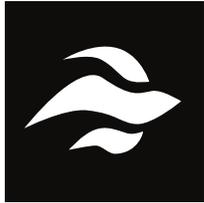
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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Wednesday 6:15pm



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GOOD NEWS
MAY 2023

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCOME STATEMENT**

WE WELCOME ALL.

God DELIGHTS in the beautiful diversity of humankind and UNITES us through the love, grace and forgiveness of Jesus. We CELEBRATE God's creation in all its forms and the inherent worth, dignity and giftedness of people of all abilities, ages, cultures, classes, races, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

WE BUILD COMMUNITY.

The Holy Spirit EMPOWERS us to be a community of disciples COMMITTED to individual and communal practices of listening, learning, forgiveness and reconciliation. Together, we work for the restoration of relationships, pursue racial equity and affirm those who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination.

WE SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR.

Jesus GUIDES us in ways of nonviolence, healing and peacemaking. We PROCLAIM God's relentless, widening welcome and deepening love for all. We INVITE you to join us as we walk with Jesus toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect.

ALL are welcome here. ALL are loved here.

#faithalive365