



GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2017

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

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

*You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep
My faith will stand*



It was last summer when Pastor Stanton suggested the book *Sabbath As Resistance* as our Lenten study. It wasn't far into this small yet packed book that

I knew I would be challenged by the 6 chapters and that it would take courage to keep going, that it would require trust in the Spirit to take me to the places where I need to go to grow in my faith and understanding of scripture. As I made my way deeper into the book and my own reflection, I found God waiting with a gentle hand as

new truths were revealed and my faith was strengthened. You see, I was sure I had it figured out, my life was good and I was doing a fair job of managing my time and life. God reminded me that while life is good, there is something better for me and for the world. Rest that is deeper than my usual. Rest that goes beyond the physical and moves into the emotional and spiritual.

*And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine*

There have been days as I allow the assertions of Bruggeman's to roll around

Continues on page 2

GUEST MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HOWE

HOW WAS YOUR SABBATICAL?



As you can imagine, this is a question I have heard a lot in the past two months. I returned from my 3-month sabbatical on September 26, and as people

have greeted me warmly, they want to know **HOW WAS IT?! WHAT DID YOU DO??**

They want to know how the adventure went!

The question is often asked in a space of time that doesn't allow for the long answer, so the only socially appropriate answer is, "GREAT!" and, more importantly, "THANK

YOU!" "Thank you" is not just for the question or interest but for the sabbatical itself; the gift of 3 months to disconnect from work and all its accompanying stressors.

The whole point of not working is so that one can rest. People have asked me, "are you feeling rested?" While we go out of our way to make **PLANS** for our sabbaticals about the things we will **DO**, the professed hope of sabbatical is rest. Sabbath/Sabbatical rest

Continues on page 3

Save the date!

Sun., Feb. 12 11:45am

All members are invited to

First's Annual Potluck!

We will eat together and our kids will play together, all while the adults share our greatest faith stories from the past year. God is doing all kinds of things at First Lutheran, so our Annual Potluck will be a celebration of what has been and a look ahead to what will be.

We will also be voting on a change to the church constitution regarding lay rosters.

See page 6 for more details.

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

**The book
Sabbath as
Resistance...
has the power to
transform who and
what we are as
individuals and as a
faith community.**

as individuals and as a faith community. If we are brave together. If we are willing to let the Spirit be our guide and take to places we may not expect. If we wonder and dream together of God's kingdom in Onalaska where all know love and safety and have enough.

*Spirit lead me
where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper
than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior*

Life at First is good. We do a fair job of balancing things. But God has something more for us. Will you join me in exploring this short yet packed book and growing in our faith and understanding of God together? Small groups will be formed, and Wednesday nights during Lent will center around the themes in the book. Let us gather and read and see what God has in store for us.

my head and heart when only the promises of God sustain me. I am challenged to look deep and wonder and hope. To wonder how I spend not only my money but also how I spend my time reflects my faith and my trust in God. There in the midst of the wondering is God's grace and guidance and love through scripture, through friends and through you all as we worship together.

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide
Where feet may fail
and fear surrounds me
You've never failed
and You won't start now*

Now my prayer has been for our church as we explore this book that is so much more than the day of Sabbath. This book has the power to transform who and what we are



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

2/1	Wednesday	Matthew 5:1-12
2/5	Sunday	Luke 7:1-17
2/8	Wednesday	Matthew 5:13-20
2/12	Sunday	Luke 7:18-35
2/15	Wednesday	Matthew 5:21-37
2/19	Sunday	Luke 7:36-50
2/22	Wednesday	Matthew 5:38-48
2/26	Sunday	Luke 9:28-45

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for February. Readings used during worship are determined by the pastors on a weekly basis, and therefore are subject to change.

You can also view this list online and subscribe to receive them as an email at 1stlu.org/readings.

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.

The truth is I am a product of a culture that tolerates rest as a necessary evil instead of what it actually is: a worthy and life giving activity.

is based on the story of creation in scripture. God worked for six days and then set aside a seventh for no work, because on that day, God rested.

Our human lives are engineered by God in a rhythm of activity and rest. We sleep at some point (maybe a few) during every 24 hour cycle. Our bodies are programmed to rest, but our lives are not. My life certainly isn't. Sabbatical taught me that I'm not very good at resting. It exposed the lie that I've told myself about not resting: I would rest if I just had the time. We tell ourselves there is not enough time, and that's why we don't rest. But on sabbatical, time was abundant, and that logic fell apart pretty quickly.

The truth is I am a product of a culture that tolerates rest as a necessary evil instead of what it actually is: a worthy and life giving activity. So when given three months to rest, I struggled a bit with feelings of being inconsequential, unimportant,

invisible, wasteful, useless, selfish. It reminded me of conversations I've had with newly retired people whose sense of life and worth are entangled with their job or profession. In our consumer society we are obsessed with productivity, and we see ourselves as cogs in the machine where arbitrary results drive us to use ourselves and others in the pursuit of more, more, more. Production is what justifies our right to breathe the air and take up space.

The most important book I read on sabbatical was *Sabbath as Resistance*, by Walter Brueggemann. It might be one of the most important books I've ever read. In fewer than 100 pages, Brueggeman exposes all of our misunderstandings about rest. Drawing on many stories of scripture he reminds us that resting is faithful. Rest is a proclamation of trust in God who gives us worth, and not in our own work or value assigned by the world's standards. To embrace rest is to participate in God's life that unapologetically delights in all creation.

But rest is a challenge, especially rest without accompanying guilt. Rest resists our culture by making time our friend instead of the enemy. Rest calls us to let go of control and helps us lay ourselves in God's strong and gentle hands. Rest is a practice, and I encourage you to practice it daily and weekly, not just every 15 years or so when a sabbatical rolls around. Breathe the air and take up space because God says you are good and you are loved and you are mine. We need no other reason. Thanks be to God.

Time for a nap....

Pastor Libby Howe

*Dir. of Evangelical Mission / Assistant to the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod
assistant@lacsosseareasynd.org*

This article was originally posted in the December 2016 issue of the La Crosse Area Synod Coulee Courier.



2016 COUNTDOWN

A few numbers our congregation should feel good about:

215: Guests served at the First Teen Clothes Closet and through partnerships with other agencies

12: Communities from which guests came, including as far away at Coon Valley, Blair and Sparta

481: Pants, skirts and shorts distributed

444: Shirts, sweaters and hoodies handed out

60: Jackets and coats given to those in need

130: Pairs of shoes

We anticipate being just as busy in 2017, and your support is an important part of our ability to serve these young people, including young moms, teens with disabilities, and families falling on hard times and through the cracks.

First Teen Clothes Closet team,

*Lori Lunney
Shari Hegland
Bridget Crave
Tina Nelson*

www.firstlu.org/clothescloset
facebook.com/1stteencloset
closet@firstlu.org



La Crosse Area Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Path to Reformation

June 12 – 21, 2017

Led by Rev. Dr. Anne M. Hokenstad



Discover your roots as a Lutheran in the footsteps of Martin Luther. Time spent in the castles and countryside of Luther's Germany will help your faith tradition come alive. My visits to Germany have strengthened my faith and renewed my understanding. It will do the same for you. I hope you can join others from our synod on this great excursion.

Bishop Arends

Led by Rev. Dr. Anne M. Hokenstad



Pastor Anne Hokenstad, currently an intentional interim pastor in the La Crosse Area Synod, is serving the De Soto-Freeman Lutheran Parish. She is a life-long Lutheran who enjoys engaging conversations about how Lutherans see God working in the world. She is a former High School German Teacher and German Theological tutor for seminarians. In 1987, Pastor Hokenstad traveled to southern Germany and lived in Neuendettelsau for six weeks, honing her language skills and traveling in Germany, Italy, and Austria. She has a deep appreciation for Martin Luther's life, writings, and teachings. She is looking forward to dusting off her language skills, finding a German yarn store to add skeins of wool to her stash, walking the roadways of Luther's life, and experiencing the food, music, and gifts of the German people. Pastor Hokenstad currently lives in La Crescent, MN with her husband, Arvid Nielsen, two English Springers, and one wayward cat.

Please contact Janet Melby with questions:
(608) 782-6109 | jrhmelby@yahoo.com

TOUR COST

\$3,299 per person from La Crosse, based on double occupancy

Register online now at

www.regonline.com/061217MELB

or complete and return the printed registration form.



JUNE 2017

12, MONDAY Departure from the U.S.

The day of departure has arrived! We'll meet in La Crosse and travel by chartered motorcoach to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where we'll check in for the overnight, transatlantic flight. Our adventure is beginning!

13, TUESDAY

Arrive Frankfurt, Mainz, Bad Homburg

After changing planes in Iceland, we'll continue to Frankfurt and arrive in the afternoon. Welcome to Germany! Following customs formalities, we'll board the waiting motorcoach and travel to Mainz to visit the Gutenberg Museum, home to two editions of the world-famous Gutenberg Bible. Our day concludes north of Frankfurt with a welcome dinner and a night of well-deserved rest. (D)

① Erfurt

② Buchenwald

③ Gutenberg Museum, *courtesy Pedelecs*

④ Castle Church Theses door, Wittenberg

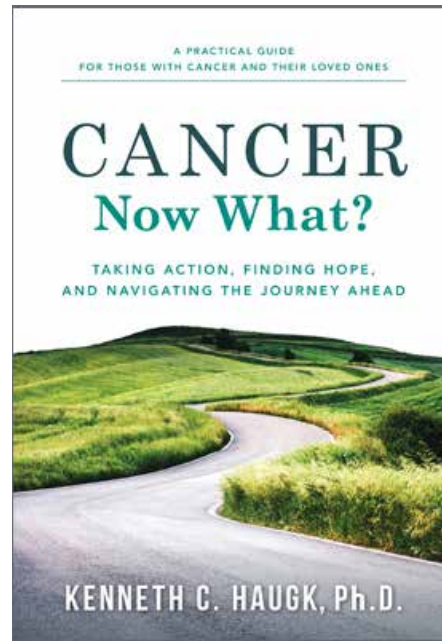
⑤ St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Weimar

Cover from top left: Wartburg Castle, statue of Martin Luther in Wittenberg, Luther's room in Wartburg Castle.

We have a new book in the resource center that many of you may find valuable, *Cancer—Now What?* by Dr. Kenneth Haugk the founder of the Stephen Ministry Program. First Lutheran congregation member and Stephen Minister Randy Nedrelo recommends the book.

Randy says: "In writing this book, Dr. Haugk and his staff interviewed over 2,000 people who experienced cancer in a personal way. They compiled these experiences into a wonderful resource for anyone that is experiencing cancer either themselves or through a loved one. It is a practical guide that covers topics from how to tell your family that you have cancer to what questions to ask the doctors and where to learn more about your disease. Also, the book explores the strong emotions that people experience after hearing that they have cancer. There even are chapters about spiritual concerns and feeling angry with God. It's easy to read and filled with quotes from the numerous people who contributed to this book."

Please stop by the Resource Center outside the church office to buy a copy. See Bridget Crave if you have any questions about the Resource Center.



Our theme this year, "The Time of your Life" will be developed further during Lent, when we will read together, *Sabbath as*

Resistance - Saying No to the Culture of Now by Walter Brueggemann. You are encouraged to join a small group, read the book, and attend Wednesday evening worship, where the sermon will help us explore this topic and what it means to us personally.

"Discussions about the Sabbath often center around moralistic laws and arguments over whether a person should be able to play cards or purchase liquor on Sunday. In this book, popular author Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. Importantly, Brueggemann speaks to a 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more and drink more. Brueggemann shows readers how keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. He offers world-weary Christians a glimpse of a more fulfilling and simpler life through Sabbath observance."

Small group sign-ups are available on 1stlu.org/signup. Sunday mornings and evenings, Wednesday evenings before and after worship and daytime opportunities are available.

Bridget Crave
Director of Small Group Ministry
bridget@1stlu.org

2017 Small Groups

Weekly Groups:

Courageous Men

Coffee with
Pastor Karyn

Parent Share

Sunday Morning
with Coffee

Monthly Groups:

Creative Circle

Grief Group (daytime)

Grief Group (evening)

Rebekah Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle



**Community
CONVERSATIONS**

**Noon on the 3rd Wed. of each month
at English Lutheran Church**

Gathering people whose passion for
community justice is rooted in diverse faith
traditions, and strengthening our community
by engaging citizens in thoughtful, theological,
non-partisan and non-political conversations
about local economic and social issues.

RSVP at interfaithleaders.org

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, February 4, 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.

NOTICE: AMENDMENT VOTE TO FIRST LUTHERAN'S CONSTITUTION

At our Annual Meeting and Potluck being held on **Sunday, February 12, at 11:45am**, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, you will have an opportunity to vote for amending our constitution to reflect the changes adopted at the 2016 ELCA churchwide assembly held last August in New Orleans. The primary changes in the ELCA Model Constitution, as stated from the Secretary of the ELCA, Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, relating to the merging of the three lay rosters into a Roster of Ministers of Word and Service. Pastor Boerger recommends that these provisions should be added to each congregation's constitution even if the congregation does not currently have under call a person on one of the lay rosters.

To help facilitate a timely annual meeting, we are providing you with the adopted amendments to the constitution on our website at 1stlu.org/amend. Please bring any questions you may have to the annual meeting. We can address these items during the discussion period of the motion.

NEW-MEMBER SESSIONS

By choosing to become a member, individuals and families commit to being part of a shared mission—and in one way, answer Jesus' call to "come follow me." We get to know you, and can more easily provide you with ministry opportunities and invitations to offer your gifts to the rest of this family of faith. People who would like

to become members of First Lutheran are invited to a three-week introduction to the church, presented in a small-group setting. The group will meet on these Sundays in 2017: April 30, May 7 & 11. Please call the church office at 608.783.2236 to sign up.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- Bailey Alexis Eitland

WEDDINGS

God's blessings to...

- Heather Pintz & Nick Walters

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Glenn Wenzel

STAINED GLASS LIGHTING

First has created a designated fund for lighting the large, Christ the Shepherd, stained glass window in the sanctuary. Seed money has been donated in memory of Charlotte Hougom. If you would like to contribute to the fund, go to 1stlu.org/give.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Sylvan Mahlum

- Undesignated: Ruth Mahlum

In memory of Clayton Every

- Undesignated: Craig & Amy Every

In memory of Joyce Kolb

- Undesignated: Nancy Beguin
- Skogen Music Fund: Dave & Barb Skogen

In memory of Henry "Red" Wittenberg

- Undesignated: Irv Wittenberg
- Piano Fund: Dave & Barb Skogen, Beverly Stuhr, Joyce Holthaus, Roland & Janeane Solberg, Pamela Wolfert,

Gaylord & Esther Dolphin, James & Diane Wittenberg, William & Laurie Riordan

In memory of Beverly Baum

- Fellowship Hall Fund: Robert & Virginia Matysik, Sara & Lyn Larkin, Timothy & Tamara Franzini, Robin & Paul Klipp, Eileen Haldeman, Todd & Tammy Olson, Gerald & Kathy Sagen, Dave & Bonnie Kondelka, Mike & Sue Wrobel, Dave & Janet Baum, Doug & Kathy Dengel, James & Sandra Carlson, Marlene Wood, Betty & Lenny Ambrose, Kenneth & Sheryl Davis, Kent Stephan, Denny & Carla Loring, Dan & Krista Bergman, Grace Hall, Dave & Barb Skogen, Harvey & Ann Morley, Larry & Connie Hampton, Jean Herlitzka, Ocean & Amy Morley, Phyllis Bey, Jane Wahlwend, Francis Brown, Doris Baum, Ellis & Judy Stetzer, Bobbie Skelly, Lynette & Greg Pederson, Steve & Mary Jo Netwal, Gary Baum, Kent & Steph Manglitz, Mike & Peggy Gaffney, Michael & Ann Richgels, Juanita Hamblen

In memory of Malita Raymond

- Piano Fund: Dave & Barb Skogen
- Youth Fund: Paul & Donna Roe, Robert & Jo Ann Schoenborn, Kenneth & Delores Smith, Mark & Terry Wroldstad, Daniel & Rita Netwal, Rodney & Louise Peterson, Larry & Ruth Olson, Richard Hougom, Leland & Kathleen Sage, Gerald & Marcella Horman, Anne Cadd, Dolores Johnson, Thomas & Barbara Johnson, John & Louise Anne Peterson, Kathryn Schroeder, Arnie & Nancy Holthaus, Barb Burrell, Kay Risberg, Gary Skogen, Pete & Annette Sherry, Eugene & Vera Coleman, Judy Larson, Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling

In memory of Marcellus & Louise Sherry

- Teen Clothes Closet: Wayne & Karen Sherry, Olin & Arlette Knudsen, Gary & Marsha Vance, Michele & Jay Shotzko and boys, Brian Sherry and Penni

Thank you for the following gifts:

- Music Fund: Bev Fuhrman
- Special Music Fund: Castle Realty

THANK YOU

Thank you to our custodian, Mike Peper, and all the ladies who helped at the fourteen funeral lunches we had in 2016. We really appreciated your help.

REINHART

First would like to thank Reinhart Food Service and salesman Mike Balding for their generous gift of a used Fetco commercial coffee maker. This unit was installed in the fellowship hall kitchen, and it would have cost us \$1,800 new. In receiving this gift, we have agreed to use only Reinhart coffee in both of our large units. Reinhart will also repair both units for the cost of parts only.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL SUMMER PROGRAMMING IS OPEN!

Your child or grandchild can have an amazing new experience this summer with the caring staff and beautiful creation of Sugar Creek! Now is the time to register, before your desired week fills up. Popular programs fill up fast! Register today to reserve your spot!

WINTER FUN DAYS!

Feb. 12, 26, 1–5pm

These fun afternoons at Sugar Creek includes snow tubing (they have the tubes), cross country skiing, ice skating, broom ball, snow shoeing, relaxation by the fire, hot chocolate, good food, and fun with friends! Bring the whole family! Call or email to make your reservation. Cost \$7.

CRAFTER'S RETREAT

February 2–5

Calling all stampers, scrappers, quilters or whatever your craft! Get away for a weekend dedicated to working on your craft and enjoy some of our programming like campfires, devotions, worship, and more. We'll give you half of an 8 ft table, plenty of good food and a place to lay your head. Just bring yourself, bedding, toiletries and all your supplies. We'll have morning and evening devotions and a worship service on Sunday. Cost and registration form at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org.

COUPLES' RETREAT

February 10–12

Enrich your relationship with your spouse and enjoy some quality time together at Sugar Creek. You will share in some wonderful meals, fun activities, and a program designed to strengthen your relationship. Saturday evening includes a lovely, candlelight supper!

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

March 17–19

Attend as a youth group, bring a friend, or just come and join in the fun! This high energy retreat will be filled with great music, faith-building time, and lots of surprises, & hopefully some extreme snow fun! Retreat starts at 7pm Friday and end at 1pm on Sunday.



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

EVENTS

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



DRAWING FROM THE WELL

Next retreat: Sat., February 11, 8:30am–1:30pm

It is no secret that we are a people who juggle many things at the same time. It is also no secret that those moments when we can step out of our normal routines and spend some time with others for a few hours or a few days provides for us a time of renewal and refreshment. The spiritual discipline of retreat is one that is often overlooked and underused. Yet it is by far one of the most powerful.

First Lutheran invites all women to participate in this discipline, where we will explore the idea of wellness. These meetings are on the second Saturday of the month, from 8:30am–1:30pm, and you can participate in all or part of it.

Contact Pastor Karyn for more info: karyn@firstlu.org.

FIRST'S ANNUAL POTLUCK!

Sunday, February 12, 11:45am

All members are invited to First's Annual Potluck, where we will eat together and our kids will play together, all while the adults share our greatest faith stories from the past year. God is doing all kinds of things at First Lutheran, so our Annual Potluck will be a celebration of what has been and a look ahead to what will be. Save the date so you can share in the fun!

We will also be voting on a change to the church constitution regarding lay rosters. See p. 6 for more details.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

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 30 months 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 9!** Call or email First Lutheran Preschool Director Melissa Rolbiecki with any questions: 608.779.4504 / preschool@firstlu.org

Check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/flponalaska

CALLED BY NAME



As a mom, many times I was called Sarah's mom or LeAnn's mom. I really didn't mind and I still don't mind being associated with my daughters. Still, it is nice to be called by your name and not a title. It's also nice to call someone by name and be able to introduce people to one another by name. I really feel bad when I don't remember someone's name or think I should know it but the name will not come to mind. Names are so important, and I am so glad God helps me to remember as many names as I do. I know I couldn't do it without him. Remembering new names takes me a while and I most always need to be reminded a couple of times before names stick in my brain. That is why name tags are so helpful at church. We can more easily remember others' names by putting a name and a face together when we only see a name printed somewhere. God calls us each by name, so I feel it's so important to do the same.

God called many into doing the work he had for them, some of them he even changed their name like Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter and Saul to Paul. Names are a big thing with God. Isaiah 43:1 says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; and called you by name, you are mine." Names connect us to one another. I know I feel a greater connection with someone when I know their name. When we call each other by name, it makes it so much easier to get to know someone.

Isn't it nice to be called by your name? I know some of us have been called by the wrong name. I think we all have. Sometimes we correct them, sometimes we just let it slide, and some people get really upset if you don't call them by the right name. But most of us feel good when someone does remember our name and calls us by name. In the third letter of John it says, "Greet the friends there, each by name." Would it not be nice during the sharing the peace to greet

**Names connect us
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each other by name, saying "Peace be with you, Mary", or "God's peace, Richard." Then we won't have to be scared to get out of our pew and greet others across the aisle or a few rows back, because we can read their names and greet them properly.

I want to thank each of you who so graciously made your name tags this last month and Diane and Gary, who will be my helpers putting the name tags in alphabetical order in the cabinet. My hope is as we begin to call each other by name, we will be reminded that God has called each of us by name and that we are redeemed and loved.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

SERVE @ WORSHIP!

Sign up for the following & more at the Welcome Center and on your phone or computer at 1stlu.org/serve

STILL NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY:

- Acolytes
- Coffee servers
- Communion servers
- Nursery helpers
- Ushers
- Puppeteers

SUNSHINE BOYS

The Sunshine Boys meet at First Lutheran on the **first 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!
Wednesday, February 22, at 9am,
to assemble the March newsletter.
See you there!

**stephen
MINISTRY**

If you know of someone
who needs a caregiver,
speak with
Pastor Karyn or call the
church office.





FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

UPDATE

Spring is just around the corner and that means 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 a variety of classes to meet our parents' needs. Contact us today for more information. Better yet—attend our Open House and see for yourself!

OPEN HOUSE: Join us for our Open House on **March 9th from 4:30-5:30**. Come meet the teachers, check out the classrooms and find out how to register.

Thank you to everyone who supports the preschool and supports our mission of teaching God's love to the children.

Relissa



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

We really love that all the teachers are so caring, loving and genuine. We feel very blessed that our daughter has had such a positive start to her education and looking forward to the same for our son.

First Lutheran Preschool
410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650
608.779.4504 • preschool@firstlu.org
Preschool Director: Melissa Rolbiecki
4K Teacher: Megan Colgan
Preschool Assistant Teachers:
Marci Leppert, Carrie Markos

imagine!

YOUNG
YOUTH
GROUP

If you are in 2nd–5th
grade then
this is your club!

Contact
Katie Everson at
katie@firstlu.org,
608.786.4826
for information or with
questions!

All are welcome!

Sugar Creek Winter Fun Day!!!!

Pray for warm, sunny winter weather and embrace our Wisconsin winter with some outdoor fun and have wonderful faith-filled fellowship while we do it. This is a family event!!

It will take place on Sunday, February 26, at Sugar Creek. We will leave after church (second service) and return around 6pm. Come on out for an afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides and more!! They have tubes, snow shoes and broom ball equipment. Bring your cross country skis and/or ice skates. Come for a wonderful family outing. They will have warm drinks, good food (dinner is included) and a toasty fire ready for you! The cost is \$5/person.

RSVP at 1stlu.org/YY or katie@firstlu.org.

I hope you can make it!

Blessings

Katie Everson



New registrations welcome
any time of the year.

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

SUNDAY, FEB 5

- 8:00AM 3- & 4-YEAR OLDS
SING AT 8AM WORSHIP
- 9:15AM 4TH GRD FAITH BUILDING
BLOCK: APOSTLE'S CREED (2ND
MTG, PARENTS/GUARDIANS &
CHILD) - FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 9:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY, FEB 12

- 9:15AM 4TH GRD FAITH BUILDING
BLOCK: APOSTLE'S CREED (3RD
MTG, PARENTS/GUARDIANS &
CHILD) - FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 9:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY, FEB 19

- 4TH GRD FAITH BUILDING BLOCK:
APOSTLE'S CREED,
LIFTED UP IN WORSHIP
- 9:15AM FAITH FAMILIES EVENT
W/ SUGAR CREEK -
FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUNDAY, FEB 26

- 9:15AM FROLIC! - RM 102
- 9:15AM KINDERGARTEN FAITH
BUILDING BLOCK: LORD'S PRAYER
(1ST MTG, PARENTS/GUARDIANS
ONLY) - FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 9:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

GO N I F I R M A T I O N

Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and
theologically sound
Contact Tina Nelson at confirmation@firstlu.org
Events subject to change; up-to-date info at
firstlu.org/confirmation

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Wednesdays

7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups

Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22

5pm 10 Commandments - Fireside Rm

Sundays

9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes

Sundays, February 5, 12, 19, 26

9:15am Lord's Prayer - Thomas

Monday, February 13

7pm Holy Week Creative Team -
Fellowship Hall

Sundays, February 19, 26

6:30pm Being a Faithful
Public Servant

Tuesday, February 21

6pm Faith and Movies -
Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 24

8am Outdoor Ministry

Sunday, February 26

9:15am Social Media and Faith -
Sanctuary

UPCOMING Youth events

Middle School Youth Group

**Sunday, February 5
noon–2pm**

Come for a time of spiritual devotions, candle-lit singing, fellowship, and games. Lunch also provided.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Every Sun., 6:30–8:30pm in the Mary room. Come for a time of spiritual devotions, candle-lit singing, fellowship, games, and plenty of snacks!



Praise Band

**Leads worship
Sunday, February 19**

Come join us for Sugar Creek Sunday while the High School Praise Band leads us in camp songs. It's a Sunday for the whole family!

Practicing Sundays, 5–6pm



Contact Tina with any questions:
tina@firstlu.org / 608.792.2112



OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Despite the cold, the OWLs had a fun and heart-warming January. Many of us attended the new movie *La La Land* after a great lunch. Our potluck featured Pastor Ron Nowland, who gave a very interesting presentation on “Where Angels Come From.”

Our February potluck will continue with the theme of angels. Many of us have either been touched by an angel or been an angel to someone else. For our program, we will be the program. Everyone should bring a story about either how they have been touched by an angel or have found themselves being an angel to someone else. If you have a special angel symbol in your life (a piece of jewelry, a Christmas angel, a piece of art) please bring it to show. Our potluck will be on



the usual **3rd Wednesday, February 15, in the narthex at noon.**

The February outing will revive the always fun OWLs Friday Night Out. We will meet at the church at **4:30pm on Friday February 24** and travel to a special restaurant (to be announced later) for a great dinner. After dinner and hopefully dessert, we will venture to the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse for its annual musical. Remember the fabulous presentation of *Singing in the Rain* last year? This year's musical is Stephen Sondheim's “Company.” The play is about a confirmed bachelor, Robert, who, on his 35th birthday, contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks and even a wedding, his friends explain the pros

and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Robert is forced to question his adamant retention of bachelorhood during a hilarious array of interactions. Great music and laughs for all. Tickets for seniors are \$16, and dinner is on your own. Tickets go on sale Monday, February 20 at 1pm. I plan to be in line at the box office at that time. If you plan to attend, please contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org or call at 608-526-9700 by noon on February 20.

I hope to see everyone in February.

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.



Baptismal Prep
Sat, February 4
10am–Noon



Sip n' Paint
Thur, February 9
6:30–8pm



First's Annual
Potluck
Sun, February 12
11:45am–1pm



High School
Valentine Lock-in
Fri, Feb 17, 8pm–
Sat., Feb 18, 7:30am



Sunday School
Faith Family Event
Sun, February 26
9:15–10:15am



Young Youth
Winter Fun Day
Sun, February 26
11:45am–6pm



Ash Wed Worship
March 1
11am



Preschool Open
House
Thur, March 9
4:30–5:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST

Use these QR Codes to quickly add our upcoming 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.



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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Jennifer Wiesjahn Secretary
Shaun Gibbs
Larry Schreiner
Diane Shuda
Paula Skoy



AT FIRST LUTHERAN
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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FAITH
ALIVE!
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

HIGH SCHOOL

Valentine's lock-In

ALSO INSIDE
**ANNUAL POTLUCK
& VOTE TO AMEND
CONSTITUTION**



#faithalive365