

GOOD NEWS! SEPTEMBER 2017

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www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



What if First Lutheran no longer had a mortgage payment? What if we had a Foundation (endowment) that is able to generate \$50,000 per year rather than \$12,000 to \$15,000? What if we gathered enough financial resources to address all the deferred maintenance issues that have accumulated in the last ten years?

In the past month I have had conversations with area church leaders about addressing the needs of the homeless in our area. They don't just

need financial support. They need an address and a phone number as they make applications for work. How could we partner with area organizations who seek to provide temporary housing?

In September, First Lutheran will host our first pastoral intern in a long time: Tara Shilts. Tara and her family are already members here at First Lutheran, and she already serves as a deacon at Gundersen Lutheran in their Clinical Pastoral Education Department. Having completed the vast majority of her coursework in

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



What does it mean to live "By Heart"? This has been the question that has been rolling around my head, framing my experiences for the last few months as we prepare for this 500th anniversary of the reformation. If we are always being re-formed, as is the characteristic of the Lutheran church, how are we doing that? Reformation requires the heart to be involved, along with the mind and the soul. Jesus tells us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mark Allen Powell would say if

we want to change our heart, change where your treasure is—teach your heart something different. So what does it mean to live "By Heart"? Does it mean that I am a "bleeding heart" or that I have a "hard heart"? Does it mean I give all my money and worldly goods away? Does it mean I am fickle or stubborn? As I ponder these questions that stem from my original question of what this means, I realize that none of these are going to get me to the, pardon the pun, heart of the matter. Instead, I turn to Jesus once again as

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FIRST FEST on main!

Fun, food, music & fellowship!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 11:30AM-1PM

INSIDE

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

Don't miss your chance(s) to listen and speak out at a Focus Group meeting!

preparation for ordination, her seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago has provided a simplified path for her as she works toward the completion of her degree. Tara will preach one Sunday a month and serve First ten hours a week for the next year, which will give our congregation a taste of what it's like to be a teaching congregation. How could First partner with seminaries who seek healthy places for their seminarians to do their internships in the future?

First Lutheran already supports Lutheran Social Services, our area Campus Ministry, Sugar Creek Bible Camp and our La Crosse Area Synod quite well. But each of these organizations is always at the mercy of institutions like First, many of whom are in steep decline. A few months ago, the synod asked for help in collecting money for a new car, as their staff (our Bishop and Assistant to the Bishop) put a lot of miles on every year traveling around the synod. What if we could have given a substantial gift? Campus Ministry is asking for help to pay off their own mortgage? How fun would it be to offer the gift that puts them over the top? I was at Sugar Creek for family camp in August. Their pool house had

simply been painted and received small repairs and it looked like new! A little can go a long way at camp. Just think what a lot could do!

As we enter a new program year at First in September, I am thrilled with our new staff members, excited about the prospect of an all-member visit this fall and very curious to see what fruits the efforts of our leadership bear. Freed from mortgage payments, maybe we could join other area ELCA congregations and buy a house for those who need that temporary address. Maybe Tara Shilts will be the first of a long line of interns as we embrace a new identity as a teaching congregation. Maybe we can help the most dynamic ministries in our area do their work with fewer concerns about funding.

In September, we'll be asking many 'what-if's?' and listening to your dreams as well so that we can keep becoming the church to which you want to belong. Don't miss your chance(s) to listen and speak out at a focus group meeting. Those will definitely happen Sundays, Sept. 3, 10, 17 after each and every worship service as well as Wednesdays after worship Sept. 6 and 13. These focus group meetings will happen at other times, too—keep an eye out—but the after-worship times are certain. Please make every effort to attend a focus group meeting and bring your Faith Alive! dreams!



Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@firstlu.org

WELCOME!

September is like New Year's at First as a new program year launches "By Heart" (that's our theme for 2017–2018). And a lot of who we are and what we do is being renewed by very gifted people stepping into some key positions among our staff.

- 1. Welcome Jared!** Jared Oelke has spent the last four summers at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, the last two primarily with high schoolers on riverboats. He is one year from completing a degree in Servant Leadership at Viterbo. A native of La Crosse and a life-long Lutheran, Jared will serve as our Youth Director beginning Sept. 5. He is musically inclined, deeply connected to both Sugar Creek (obviously) and the La Crosse Campus Ministry, and our youth director call committee was thrilled to extend Jared an invitation to grow our middle and high schoolers in their faith journeys.
- 2. Welcome Beth!** Beth Miller was already serving First as our Sunday School Superintendent. This fall she adds the Young Youth Event Coordinator responsibilities (one group for age 4 to grade 1 and another group for kids in grades 2-5) as well as creating events for parents and families to learn together how to raise a child in faith. This 20-hours-a-week position is a perfect fit for Beth's gifts and passions. Beth is also serving our Preschool as the 4K teacher this fall, so she will have her hands and feet in many pies.
- 3. Welcome Tara!** Tara Shilts and her girls, Sophie and Wendy joined First Lutheran in spring 2016 soon after returning to the area to serve Gundersen Medical Center as a chaplain educator in training. She works with their clinical pastoral education (CPE) and has already been consecrated as a diaconal minister in the ELCA. That means she is on the clergy roster and has graduated from seminary (at LSTC) and served in the capacity of Word and Service — ordained pastors serve the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Tara means to complete her journey toward ordination this year by participating in an internship at First, which means she will sit in on many meetings, help lead worship on Sundays and reflect on how God is at work through parish ministry.

Thank God for raising up new leaders at First!

I consider what it means to live "By Heart": love. More specifically, love God and love neighbor and love neighbor as you do yourself (which was recently pointed out to me that we leave that part out too often). I know this would shock you that I end up here, not at all. Loving God and loving my neighbor as I do myself have become for me the most challenging and life giving way to consider the commandments. To live "By Heart" is to live a life of love—to follow Jesus in such a way that my life is characterized by the love I show to all people.



I have spent the last two weeks surrounded by family. First in Atlanta, GA with friends and colleagues. These people are my chosen family, those folks who I have known and loved over the last 15 years, who have been with me through some of the toughest and most wonderful times. I don't do enough to nurture all these relationships, but I was reminded once again that this time away with them to talk about life and ministry and love are important and life giving. Living "By Heart" means being attentive to the relationships in my life that give me life and remind me I am loved, especially



those relationships with people who are willing to help me stretch and grow.

Secondly, I traveled to Polson, MT where I joined my mother's side of the family for a reunion. These people are my given family, those folks who know me better than anyone because they knew me back when. The ones who love me no matter what and who accept my quirkiness because of that love and because we are family. Even as new people have been brought in, they are accepted openly and with love. It was so good to become reacquainted with my cousins and to love on their kids. It was a challenge to balance my needs with the needs of the group, to find compromise and flexibility as we tried to pack as much as we could into 7 days. It was a week full of so many wonderful things. Living "By Heart" means being attentive to the relationships in my life that give me life and remind me I am loved, especially those relationship with people who love me no matter what and walk this journey of life with me from beginning to end.

In the midst of this family time away came the news of rally and counter-rally in Charlottesville, VA on Saturday, August 12. Friends, it is heartbreaking

to be reminded that great hate and evil still exist in this world. That people I love and admire are considered less than because of the color of their skin. In the wake of such things all I wanted



to do was be with my community of faith. I wanted to sit with those who I sit with each Sunday and wail and mourn and ask for forgiveness and plan and pray. Living "By Heart" means living within a community of faith that challenges and loves me as we work to be faithful followers of Christ, who will encourage me as I speak out against hate, who will remind me to be brave in my preaching and teaching and will love me when I fail. Oh, how I longed to be with you in those early moments of Sunday morning as I read the news. So much so that I had hoped to go to church in Polson, but missed worship because while I was up "early" it was vacation early, not normal life early.

Finally, to live "By Heart" means to work for justice and peace for the sake of the whole human race. Never has there been a time like this in my lifetime. Never have we, the followers of Jesus, the church been so needed.

Our love, our compassion, our mandate to serve is the voice and the life that this country needs in this moment. It will mean putting our livelihoods in jeopardy as we speak truth to power. It will mean putting our lives on the line as we stand with people of color as they demand the justice they long deserve. It will mean possibly losing everything as we come face to face with our own privilege. None of this is going to be easy, but whoever said it was supposed to be easy? Living "By Heart" is living the way Jesus asked us to, it means taking to heart and into our bodies and souls the truths that Martin Luther revealed to us: that we should love God and love our neighbor so that everyone has their best life now.

This theme for the year, "By Heart" sounds so lovely, but in fact will challenge us to be intentionally faithful in all things. What areas do you need to be attentive to this year? Where is your personal challenge to live "By Heart"? Regardless of where that may be, together, as a family of faith, surrounded by those who will love us and encourage us and challenge us and forgive us it is possible to overcome these challenges and live more faithfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karyn".

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Sometimes first aid isn't a bandage, CPR or calling 911.

Sometimes, first aid is YOU.

A young person you know could be experiencing a mental health challenge. [Learn an action plan to help.](#)

Dates offered: Sept 13, Feb 17 (Select one date only)

Time: 8:30-4:30 pm (Lunch provided)

Where: La Crosse location
Register for details

Instructor: Diana DiazGranados, MSW, MPH

Cost: FREE



About the Instructor:
Diana DiazGranados works for Better Together, a La Crosse county behavioral health grant funded by the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program. She is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor and an Onalaska resident.

Take a course.
Save a life.
Strengthen our community.

Send an email today to register:

diana@lacrosseconsortium.org

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8-hour public education program which introduces participants 18 years of age and older to recognize the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

For more information: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org

FROM HOPELESSNESS TO HOPEFULNESS

A Benefit Presentation and Social

Monday
September 11, 2017
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres at 4:30 p.m.
Presentation 5:15 p.m.



\$7.00
Tickets available
at the door

FEATURED PRESENTER

Carolyn Colleen (Bostrack), PhD, Best Selling Author, Speaker, Program Manager, shares her journey from hopelessness to hopefulness. Through her own learnings she inspires people to face their fears through a powerful system that helps you transform your life in the face of adversity 5 minutes at a time.

PROGRAM

Come, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a non-alcoholic drink after work.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
420 West Ave. S., La Crosse, WI 54601

This is a **benefit event** for the Church Women United **scholarship fund** which assists women to further their education at Western Technical College.

For further information call: Mary 608-782-7013



Coulee Region Ringers
European Tour July 2018
to Germany and France

Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity to join the La Crosse area bell choir to **tour Europe from July 17-27, in 2018!** Stay with host families in Germany and France on this wonderful 11 day trip. The choir will play 3-4 mini concerts, but mostly will enjoy the sights and sounds of these two magnificent countries. The trip is not filled up yet with ringers, but you can go even if you don't ring!

Ringers and all who are interested should contact jim@firstlu.org or 608.498.8829 for more information about this amazing chance to visit Europe!

PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES

Printed professional portraits endure for generations

Be a part of our upcoming photography event.

Be yourself. Classic, casual, musical, sporty, fun – it's up to you!

Make it special. Bring meaningful items and special people too!

Share your story with family and friends. Portraits are great gifts.

Each family receives a complimentary 8x10 and a free directory for participating! You will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits for yourself, family and friends.



Sessions run from Oct. 11–21
Schedule yours today at
1stlu.org/lifetouch

Lifetouch
Connecting You through
Family Photography

Funeral Lunch Teams

THANKS to Bev Manske for organizing teams for years. God's blessings as you settle into your new home in the Twin Cities.

HELP is needed as Carol Peterson takes over this service. She wants to compile an updated list of women and men willing to serve.

QUALIFICATIONS:

A few hours of your time to get tables ready, set out food, serve beverages, eat and clean up

A spirit of helpfulness

A smile! 😊

BENEFITS:

Saying "no" when your calendar is already full

Getting to know others

Hearing thanks from grateful family members

Experiencing the joy that comes from serving others

CALL Carol Peterson, 608.779.4649, if you want your name on the list of those willing to serve, or if you have questions.

Thanks!

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

9/3	Sunday	6:23-29; Luke 7:36-50
9/6	Wednesday	Matthew 16:21-28
9/10	Wednesday	Matthew 18:15-20
9/10	Sunday	Genesis 1:1—2:4a
9/14	Wednesday	John 3:13-17
9/17	Wednesday	Matthew 18:21-35
9/17	Sunday	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14
9/24	Wednesday	Matthew 20:1-16
9/24	Sunday	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for September. 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.



Proudly present the
life & music of
Theodora Cormanton

Thur., Sept. 7, 7pm

Our Saviors
612 Division St
La Crosse, WI

More info:
608.781.3666

Blessing of the Backpacks

**First Fest Sunday
September 10**

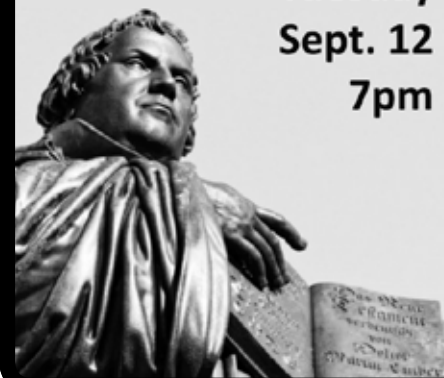


Martin Luther

The Idea that
Changed the World

Playing on PBS

**Tuesday
Sept. 12
7pm**



COFFEE CONNECTION



I love watching our coffee hour, seeing people interacting with one another, talking, laughing, joking. There's a table where one group always gathers, with the group members fluctuating throughout the year. We have others who float from table to table talking to almost everyone. We have some who sit quietly by themselves over in the couch area, and, of course, there are our coffee hosts going to each table filling coffee cups and enjoying getting to know those they serve. Our coffee hour is a wonderful time to talk to those you know and to get to know others you don't know.

Our coffee hosts make this possible. They get the treats, coffee, and juice ready for all to enjoy. These coffee hosts have a ministry that is very valuable, for what better way to get to know one another than over coffee, juice and treats. This ministry is not only to serve others by filling coffee cups, but also to engage in conversations or to allow conversation to continue without interruption by having to get up and refill your coffee. Our coffee hosts create an atmosphere for connections with one another to be made and grown. When we connect with one another, relationships begin and we feel engaged in the community of our church. We could not begin to do this without our coffee hour time. As we connect, we start to see Jesus revealed in those we converse with over our coffee just as Jesus revealed himself

many times to the disciples over meals. He broke bread and made himself known to two of his disciples, after he joined them on the road to Emmaus. Jesus ate with everyone, tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, families, friends and the disciples. As we share our lives with one another, we will begin to see Jesus and allow him to move through us more and more.

As you join us for coffee hour, thank our coffee hosts for the ministry they provide for us to connect with one another. Invite those you know and those you just met to have coffee with you and begin to connect with one another. On each of the tables, we will provide a coffee connection trifold with helpful questions to begin conversations with one another. If you need more intimate conversations, look for the high table and chair area by the couches. A coffee cart by the welcome center will be available to fill coffee cups and add creamer. I hope everyone will enjoy the improvements along with the wonderful treats we have on Sunday, and a huge thank-you to the gracious coffee hosts who minister to us as we connect with one another.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

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!

COME FOR SUPPER

First Lutheran is assisting with Come for Supper on **Tuesday, September 26**, at Our Savior's in La Crosse. First Lutheran will help with food donations and volunteering to serve and clean up. The sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center. Call Gloria Kubiak if you have questions, 608.498.2762.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer! **Thursday, September 28, at 9am**, to assemble the October newsletter. See you there!

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.

SING!

Do you like music? Do you enjoy singing, even if it's in the shower? Do you appreciate the power of music in worship? Then put all of these things together and join the First Lutheran Senior Choir! The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the sanctuary, starting September 6. All are welcome! For more info contact Todd Saner at todd@firstlu.org.

RING!

Are you open to trying something new? Join the fun—ring bells! This group performs once a month. We welcome widely varied musical backgrounds. No experience necessary! We'll begin with the basics and learn to work together. Musical ability is a skill that can be taught. Do you want to be involved? We rehearse Tuesdays at 5:30pm in the sacristy, starting September 5. For more info contact Jim Knutson at jim@firstlu.org. Ring 'dem bells!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

EXPERIENCE THE SMALL CATECHISM IN A NEW WAY



Whether you memorized the Small Catechism as a confirmand many years ago or, like me, grew up with a different faith tradition and have never studied the Small Catechism, this is a great chance to explore the catechism and how it can fit in your daily life. Our resource, *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, a new 7-session church-wide study will help you explore Luther's Small Catechism in a new way.



The book we will use, *By Heart*, is complete with annotations and commentary on the text of the Small Catechism with Biblical and historical context connecting you with Luther's life, the church's faith and our lives together today. This is also a great chance to meet other members and learn from and share with each other.

Small groups will meet days, nights, and weekends from **October 1 through November 12**, so pick a time that works best for you and join in the conversation.

Bridget

Bridget Crave
Director of Small Group Ministry
bridget@firstlu.org

2017 Small Groups

Weekly Groups:

Courageous Men

Coffee with
Pastor Karyn

Parent Share

Sunday Morning
with Coffee

Monthly Groups:

Creative Circle

Garden Group

Grief Support Group
(daytime)

Grief Support Group
(evening)

OWLS
(Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Rebekah Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

FIRST TEEN CLOTHES CLOSET UPDATE

VOLUNTEER HOSTS NEEDED



With the new school year upon us, the First Teen Clothes Closet's schedule is getting busy. We are in need of volunteer hosts, especially for Monday evenings when we shuttle teens from Trinity Lutheran's Children's Clothes Closet. Go to 1stlu.org/closethelp to choose a shift you can work. If you have never volunteered before, or need a refresher course, contact Bridget Crave at bridget@firstlu.org, or another one of the steering committee members. Thank you for helping us reach teens in our community!

First Teen Clothes Closet team,
Lori Lunney
Shari Hegland
Bridget Crave
Patty Shepard

firstlu.org/1stteencloset
facebook.com/1stteencloset
instagram.com/1stteencloset
closet@firstlu.org

La Crosse Area Synod

School of
Theology



An education and
discipleship ministry of the
La Crosse Area Synod-ELCA

Starting up Sept. 21

La Crosse Area Synod

School of Theology

For those who want to dig
a little deeper into what it
means to be Lutheran:
our heritage, theology,
leadership, worship &
spiritual practices.

More info & online reg at
1stlu.org/theology

FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION REPORT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Salvation Army	\$400.00
St. Clare Health Mission	\$600.00
New Horizons	\$500.00
Onalaska Food Pantry	\$600.00
Holmen Area Youth Partners	\$400.00

The Foundation/Endowment Fund was established in December 1989 upon the passing of Ms. Mabel L. Anderson. Mabel was a longtime member of First Lutheran, having been baptized and confirmed here. Her will/trust bequest a substantial sum to First Lutheran in memory of her parents Peder and Johanna Anderson. It was Mabel's wish that this monetary gift would enable further growth of our church, its ministries and stewardship within the community.

Per the Foundation's bylaws, 5% of its total assets can be spent each year towards four categories: 1) Mabel Anderson Scholarships (for graduating high school seniors); 2) community outreach, such as Salvation Army, local food pantries, and New Horizons; 3) ELCA-related missions, such as Sugar Creek Bible Camp, First Lutheran Helping Hands, and youth trips; and 4) capital improvements for First Lutheran. In the past 4–5 years, the Foundation has graciously donated more than \$10,000 towards these four categories.

Contributions to the Foundation Fund are not spent, but invested. The money is held in a couple of low-risk investment funds and money market accounts. Year after year the interest earned from this fund is used to expand our outreach and ministries. Therefore, contributions made to the fund serve as "seeds" that keep on giving. Contributions may be made through simple gifts, wills & trusts via estate planning, memorials and beneficiary through life insurance policies. Any amount is welcome and greatly appreciated.

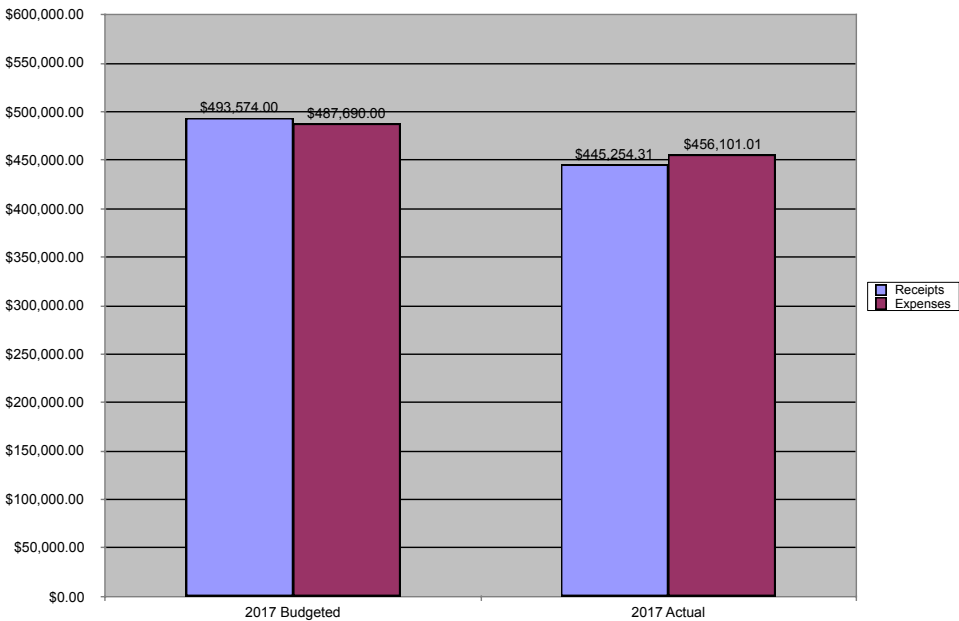
Committee members: Christine Sander, Michele Burton, Steve Lind, Meredith Hougen, Andrea Dombroski and Todd Hanson



Simply Giving

Ever get to church and reach for your checkbook or envelope and realize they aren't there? Or that you just don't carry them anymore? Automating your giving means your contributions will be received on a regular basis. Set up a recurring contribution at 1stlu.org/simplygive, and click on the "Give Now" button to get started. Questions? Contact our webmaster at andy@firstlu.org.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT



The following is a financial summary through the end of July:

- Actual Receipts - \$445,254.31
- Budgeted Receipts - \$493,574.00
- Actual Expenses - \$456,101.01
- Budgeted Expenses - \$487,690.00

Our total receipts through the end of July fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$48,319.69. Our total giving (envelope giving, debt reduction and other miscellaneous offerings) falls short our current year budgeted amount by \$34,687.88 or 8.4%.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of July by \$31,588.99. A significant portion of this is due to the timing of certain expenses.

In summary, we budgeted for a surplus of \$5,884.00 through the end of July and have realized an actual deficit of \$10,846.70.

As always, full details of this report are available by request in the church office. Also, everyone is welcome to attend a finance committee meeting—we meet every month, on the second Wednesday at noon in the Thomas Room.

Respectfully,
Finance Committee

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be Saturday, October 7, 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.

NEW-MEMBER SMALL GROUP

By choosing to become a member, individuals and families commit to being part of a shared mission. People who would like to become members of First Lutheran are invited to a three-week introduction to the church, presented in a small-group setting. The group will meet in the evening on **Oct. 22, Oct. 29, and Nov. 2**. To register your family or ask questions, call our church office at 608.783.2236 or email office@firstlu.org.

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- Harper Ann Ryan
- Greta Marie Fiegen
- Ryker William Craig

WEDDINGS

God's blessings to...

- Paige Johnson & Cody Digre
- Gena Cannestra & Jon Holthaus

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- DeVera Yonkovich

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of David Jones

- Designated for General Fund: Jon & Jane Feist, Kathleen Jones

In memory of Richard Fuhrman

- Designated for back-to-school shoes for teens: Josiah & Kathryn Bird, Carolyn & Steven Cassada, Kristin Cassada, Sarah & Brian Dresselhaus

In memory of Malita Raymond

- Designated for Youth Fund: Paul & Donna Roe

In memory of LeRoy Hougom Sr.

- Designated for Teen clothes closet: Olin & Arlette Knudson
- Designated for illuminating the stained-glass window in the sanctuary: Janice Abraham, Nancy Beguin, Dave Berger, Faye Orr Bright, Charles & Carmon Deeth, Cynthia Dietrich, James & Rejann DiNicola, Randy & Judy Eddy, Dorothy Every, Jeff & Eileen Hanson, Robert & Karen Hayter, Harry & Vicky Helfrich, Stephen & Susan Heuslein, S. & D. Hintz, Arnold & Nancy Holthaus, Tom & Meredith Hougom, Irvin Hougom, Richard Hougom, Debra & Jeffrey Jansky, Larry Johnson, Terry & Cheryl Johnson, Diana & Robert Kachel, Jo Ann & Robert Kranig, Kwik Trip, David & Terry Lee, Lloyd Mick Lee, Daniel & Rita Netwal,

Steve & Mary Jo Netwal, Cynthia Peterson, David & Anna Quamme, Jon Rude, Matthew & Rhonda Rude, Mark & Shirley Sacia, Bryce Sherry, Erling & Annette Sherry, David & Barbara Skogen, Patrick & Joan Smith, Ellis & Judy Stetzer, Nancy Thorson, Town of Onalaska, Ardith Van Riper, Pamela Wolfert, Roger & Janet Wolter, Lorin Wuensch, Sally & Rudy Wuest, and many other friends

Thank you for the following gifts:

- Back-to-school shoes: Peggy Quasius, the Rasmussen family, Delores Teale

NEW MEMBERS

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

We extend a warm welcome to our new members of First Lutheran.

- Ann Johnson
- Katie Hanson

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.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to the 44 donors that were present at the recent blood drive! Also, thanks to Carol Skoy and Judy Johnson for their help! The next blood drive is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 14**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who helped teach, lead, cook, donated time and items for VBS. Your help was greatly appreciated! The kids had a wonderful week!



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

ANNUAL QUILT & ANTIQUE AUCTION, CRAFT FAIR & FUN RUN/WALK

*Saturday, September 9
8am–1pm*

Come on down to Sugar Creek for great food, delightful fellowship, and a fabulous auction! You never know what treasure you might find on a Sugar Creek Auction: sports memorabilia, furniture, antiques, crafts, rummage items, and, of course, beautiful quilts! Come early for our trail run/walk 5k and enjoy exploring the beautiful trails that run through our valley! This year we will also host a Crafters' Fair featuring the finest of our local artisans. This day is our biggest fundraiser of the year: your support allows Sugar Creek to continue the valuable ministry! Auction starts at 10am. We hope to see you here!

CRAFTERS' RETREAT

September 14–17

Calling all stampers, scrappers, quilters or whatever your craft! Get away for a weekend dedicated to working on your craft and enjoy some fun retreat activities 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.

WOMEN'S RETREATS

October 20–22

Ladies, this retreat is just what you need: time away from the stresses of work and home in intentional fellowship with other women. Our women's retreats offer meaningful sessions with topics pertinent to today's Christian women. Come away to Sugar Creek's relaxed environment—meet other women, go for a hike, curl up by the fire with a good book, and more! Retreat includes lodging, breakfast, lunch, and supper on Saturday as well as Sunday morning meal.

2017 ADULT BUS TRIPS

- **Oct. 1-7:** Washington D.C. and Gettysburg Tour
- **Nov. 26–Dec 2:** Nashville Christmas Tour
- **Nov. 21:** Fireside Dinner Theatre: "Miracle on 34th St."

Sunday School

Sunday School Kick-Off & First Fest!

Kick-off with everyone (parents and students) and register for Sunday School on **Sunday, September 10, from 9:15-10:15am** in the sanctuary between services, and join us after second service for First Fest! Parents and students will meet the teachers, receive information, and register for their classes to get the ball rolling for an awesome Sunday School year! We invite both children and adults to bring your backpacks and work bags, so we can bless both them and you as we all start another school year!

First Day

The first day of Sunday school class is **Sunday, September 17**, with opening in the sanctuary.

Faith Building Blocks

Grade 3: Bibles

Sunday, Sept. 24: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Oct. 1 & 8: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Oct. 15: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

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.

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd, Ferryville, WI 54628
608.734.3113 • camp@sgrcreek.org • www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

*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.*

I am thrilled to be the Young Youth Director at First Lutheran Church! As I am thinking about the first part of my position I think about how busy everyone is at this time of year, school starting and transitions into a new routine. I had the opportunity to meet Lyle Griner who wrote the following... and are my thoughts exactly!

My kids are already overly busy! Why do they need one more thing at church? Psychology says our self-worth is woven from a sense of uniqueness, belonging, hope, and purpose. God wraps these into our baptismal promise. We are each uniquely gifted. We are set into a body of people called the church. Our hope is in a God and life that is never ending. Our purpose is our calling.

Here is what we offer your young youth...

- **Belonging** – Living life and faith can only be learned by rubbing shoulders with those who model and mentor it. We work constantly to create a caring, welcoming and affirming culture of relationships with faithful individuals.
- **Hope** – Your son or daughter will find an assurance of hope that will make sense of this world! Everything, everything, everything ends except the hope, faith, love, and grace the church embodies. Our young youth ministry is a spiritual place. We talk about the good and the bad of life. We enter into faith practices that help us be aware of God in our midst.
- **Uniqueness** – Your son or daughter will discover and use their gifts, as well as the reasons God created him or her! He or she will often hear the words, “We need you!” We believe God created each of us with a unique design, a set of gifts, skills and abilities. We all need to be needed. We work hard to plug in your son’s or daughter’s uniqueness throughout our church.
- **Purpose** – Your son or daughter will discover a practice and attitude of being a servant leader! We don’t just talk about ministry; we do it. Throughout the year, we participate in a number of service opportunities that are about making life better for others. We also emphasize that youth are doing ministry every day, everywhere, and in every relationship because they are with people all day long. We give our youth people skills and values that help them to love others because Christ first loved us.

Those are four big, crucial reasons.

I am looking forward to an exciting new year of Young Youth Ministry, and I hope you and the Young Youth are, too.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas, please contact me!

Gratefully,

Beth

Contact Beth Miller at beth@firstlu.org with those questions & ideas!

CONFIRMATION

Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and theologically sound
Events subject to change; up-to-date info at 1stlu.org/confirmation

CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF SEPT 13

Let's start the confirmation year off in style! Come for food, fellowship and learn what this confirmation year has in store for your kids. We will walk through the program year together and you will get a chance to meet your kid's small-group guides. 5:30-8pm in Fellowship Hall, for students in grades 8-10 and their parents/guardians.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MILESTONE

At First Lutheran, we are deeply committed to bringing the presence of God into the lives of children everywhere they go. This Middle School Life Milestone is for sixth-graders and their parents/guardians as they transition from elementary to middle school and celebrates that each child is made in the image of God. We spend our time in four weeks talking about being created in the image of God, how God is in the midst of change and ways that we can feel connected with God through spiritual practices. Here is what the four weeks look like:

Week 1, Sunday, Sept. 17

Parents/guardians and youth together

Week 2, Sunday, Sept. 24

Parents talking about spiritual practices; youth talking with a medical professional about changing bodies.

Week 3, Sunday, Oct. 1

Parents sample "Parent Share"; youth talking about spiritual practices. Parents will join their youth for the last 15 minutes.

Week 4, Sunday, Oct. 8, in worship
Blessing of life milestone.

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Grade 6 & 7 Registration
Sun., Sept. 10, 9:15am

Grade 7 Bible Class Starts
Sun., Sept. 17, 9:15am

**Grade 9
Confirmation Registration**
Mon. Sept. 18–Fri Sept. 22

**Grade 8 & 9
Small Groups Start**
Wed., Sept. 20, 7pm

**Grade 8
Confirmation Registration**
Mon. Sept. 25–Fri Sept. 29





OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

It was great to seeing everyone after our break in July. A group of 22 of us had a wonderful evening in August with dinner and the play "Steel Magnolias" in Lanesboro. Thank you to everyone who helped by driving.

Everyone likes a good story. Whether it's a play, movie or book. But one of the best experiences is listening to a talented live storyteller. In the La Crosse area, we are blessed with the premier storytelling festival in the Midwest. The La Crosse Storytelling Festival in Myrick Park is the only storytelling festival in Wisconsin. Each fall, national and local tellers and musicians present a phenomenal two-day family event. For our September outing, we will attend the festival on Saturday, Sept. 9 for an outstanding program of story tellers and musicians. Cost of the event is \$5 with \$3 off if you have a library card. We will meet at the church at **10:30am on Saturday, September 9.** Before attending the festival, we will have a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. Lunch is

on your own. We will return to the church by 4 PM. Because the restaurants like a count beforehand, please let Brian Narveson (608.526.9700 or owls@firstlu.org) know if you plan to attend by Thursday night, September 7.

For the September potluck, Brian and Mary Narveson would like to invite all the OWLs to their home at W7572 Price Ct. in Holmen (Holland) at **noon on Wednesday, September 20.** We are praying for a beautiful day where everyone can gather on the deck overlooking the Mississippi River Valley. For our program, we will focus on another type of storytelling. Mary has been a writer and fan of poetry for many years. She will share some of her favorite poems, but we also ask everyone to bring a favorite poem of yours to share with the group. It can be anything from a poem you have written, a favorite Psalm or a poem that has touched you. If you need directions to the Narvesons', they can be contacted at 608.526.9700 or owls@firstlu.org. Many

older GPS units do not know where Price Ct. is, but Google Maps can print you an excellent map. They will be glad to email you a map on request.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

*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.*

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.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Jason Stanton	Senior Pastor	608.386.6431	jason@firstlu.org
Karyn Bodenschatz	Associate Pastor	608.433.6002	karyn@firstlu.org
Tara Shilts	Vicar		tara@firstlu.org

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

YOUTH/EDUCATION STAFF

Cassie Carrell	Nursery Coordinator	nursery@firstlu.org
Beth Miller	Sunday School Superintendent	sundayschool@firstlu.org
	Young Youth Director	beth@firstlu.org
Cindy Beach	Confirmation Administrative Assistant	cindy@firstlu.org
Jared Oelke	Youth Director	jared@firstlu.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Tamara Schonsberg.....	Office Assistant.....	608.783.2236	office@firstlu.org
Andy Stutesman	Director of Communications & Marketing.....		andy@firstlu.org
Mike Peper.....	Head Custodian		mike@firstlu.org
Jerry Yushta	Assistant Custodian		
Mark Koenig.....	Assistant Custodian		

MUSIC STAFF

Gabriel Hicks	Organist	gabe@firstlu.org
Jim Knutson	Bell Choir Director	jim@firstlu.org
Todd Saner	Senior Choir Director & Contemporary Music Coordinator	todd@firstlu.org

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Melissa Rolbiecki.....	Preschool Director	608.779.4504	preschool@firstlu.org
Beth Miller	4K Teacher.....		beth@firstlu.org
Tracy Stoll.....	Preschool Assistant Teacher		
Marci Leppert.....	Preschool Assistant Teacher		

VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Larry Schreiner..... President
Aaron McDonald Vice President
Jennifer Wiesjahn Secretary
Diane Shuda
Paula Skoy
Shaun Gibbs
Todd Lofald

weekly events for
SEPTEMBER
at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee

Small Group - NX

10:30am Worship

TUESDAYS

1:15pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Bells Practice - Sacristy

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - House

6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn -
Uptowne Cafe, Caledonia St., La Crosse

6:15pm Worship

7pm Choir Practice - SN

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.



Sugar Creek Quilt
& Antique Auction
Sat, Sept 9
8am–1pm



First Fest
Sun, Sept 10
11:30am–1:30pm



Blessing of the
Backpacks
Sun, Sept 10
Both Services



Confirmation
Kick-off
Wed, Sept 13
5:30pm



Sun School &
Confirmation Reg
Sun, Sept 10
9:15–10:15am



First Day of Sunday
School
Sun, Sept 17
9:15–10:15am

SEPTEMBER AT FIRST LUTHERAN *see weekly events list on opposite page*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<p>Labor Day (office closed)</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR</p>	<p>8:30 AM First Teen Clothes Closet Mtg</p> <p>7 PM Confirmation Guide Orientation</p> <p>8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN</p>	<p>9 AM Sunshine Boys</p> <p>1 PM Grief Support Group - UR</p> <p>7 PM Grief Support Group - Gloria Kubiak's home</p>	<p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>10 AM Sugar Creek Annual Quilt & Antique Auction</p> <p>10:30 AM OWLs Fly to La Crosse Storytelling Festival</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Blessing of the Backpacks</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School Kick-off - SN</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Reg - NX</p> <p>11:30 AM First Fest!</p>	<p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>9 AM Quilters - FS</p> <p>1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX</p> <p>3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX</p> <p>7 PM Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World on PBS</p>	<p>12 PM Finance Team Mtg</p> <p>5:30 PM Gr 8-10 Confirmation Kick-off</p>		<p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 7 Bible Class - Rm 207 & FS</p> <p>9:15 AM Parent Share - UR</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>5 PM Adult Small Group Guide Training</p> <p>7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team</p>	<p>Gr 9 Confirmation Registration</p> <p>1 PM Elizabeth Circle</p> <p>6 PM Faith Alive Creative Circle - FH</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>9 AM Naomi's Circle</p> <p>5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg</p> <p>6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR</p> <p>6:30 PM Property Management Team</p> <p>6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg</p>	<p>12 PM OWLs Potluck - Narvesons' House</p> <p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p>	<p>Synod's School of Theology Begins</p> <p>10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX</p> <p>7 PM Coffee Shoppers Quarterly Meeting</p>	<p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone</p> <p>9:15 AM Gr 7 Bible Class - Rm 207 & FS</p> <p>9:15 AM Grade 3 FBB: Bibles - SN</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>Gr 8 Confirmation Registration</p> <p>7 PM Women of the House Small Group</p> <p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	<p>4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC</p>	<p>7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups</p>	<p>9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX</p>	<p>7 PM AA - FS</p>	



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

SEPTEMBER 2017



INSIDE
**FALL EVENTS
INSERT
NEW STAFF
FIRST FEST**

#faithalive365