

GOOD NEWS! OCTOBER 2017

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

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#faithalive365

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



Thank you! to the almost 150 people who attended a focus group meeting in September. The leadership at First held ten meetings over

three weeks to determine whether it seems feasible for our congregation to move forward into a capital campaign. Whether or not you were able to attend, I hope you make time for a one-on-one conversation this month or perhaps in November with a friend from church. It is time for every member of our family of faith to address the needs of our facility, get rid of all our debt, create a reserve fund for future property needs and increase our Foundation (endowment) principle so that First can be even more generous to the community for generations to come. It is an *exciting* time at First as we meet the needs of our building, our staff and our community.

But *exciting* is almost always accompanied by *anxiety*. Inevitably, when a church talks about money,

many will express feelings of anxiety, which many times sound like anger or frustration. Each and every member will be *invited* to support the campaign. But some will hear that *invitation* as a *'command.'* So, please understand that supporting this fall's campaign is NOT required. No commands are being sent from some secret-filled back room. First Lutheran has openly discussed and planned for a capital campaign since 2014 when it was included in the

Continues on page 2

Our Church + **Our Time**

Sunday School is canceled! 6th & 7th Grade Confirmation is canceled!

Small Groups will take a break! Because it is...

Our Church + Our Time

Join us for a kickoff event where we will launch our capital campaign!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00am Brunch & Treats for the whole family 9:30am "Our Church + Our Time" Keynote Address 10:00am The BIG Announcement

After brunch, kids will play lots of games led by Youth Director Jared Oelke and Young Youth Director Beth Miller, while adults stay for the program in the sanctuary. The nursery will be staffed throughout the event. *Join us!*

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FROM PASTOR STANTON, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

...in the case of First Lutheran, for 150 years our faith has outshone our doubt.

Our excitement about where we want to go has been much stronger than our anxiety about how we will get there.

strategic plan, which was printed for every member at First.

When I think of where this church could be in 2020 as we celebrate First Lutheran's 150th anniversary, I get excited. We could have leak-free roofs, a parking lot that won't crumble any time soon, new carpet and a smoke alarm system that is worthy of our children (and up to code). Our staff could be paid for what they are worth. not simply what they are willing to take. The mortgage could be gone. And the Foundation (endowment) could start being a source of great pride among our membership because of all the large annual gifts its interest revenue could provide for local and global needs.

But on the flip side of my excitement is anxiety. What if our membership

don't agree that our staff are doing their jobs well enough to be paid well? What if people don't care about the mortgage or the needs of the building? What if our members would rather support other institutions because they don't trust/like this one for whatever reason? And what will that mean for First Lutheran's future?

Excitement and anxiety tend to be in the presence of each other like faith and doubt: like satisfaction and desire. One rarely exists without the other. But in the case of First Lutheran. for 150 years our faith has outshone our doubt. Our excitement about where we want to go has been much stronger than our anxiety about how we will get there. Among the 1,500+ members of this congregation, we have more than enough money, energy and hope to be the Church we feel called to be. I am excited to invite you to reach beyond vour anxieties so that, in 2020 we will be able to celebrate a new beginning for our mission and ministry!

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Pastor Jason Stanton jason@firstlu.org

READINGS FOR OCTOBER

10/1	Sunday	Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 28:16-20
10/4	Wednesday	Matthew 21:23-32
10/8	Sunday	Exodus 20:1-21, Matthew 5:17-48
10/11	Wednesday	Matthew 21:33-46
10/15	Sunday	Philippians 2:5-11, Mark 9:14-29
10/18	Wednesday	Matthew 22:1-14
10/22	Sunday	Psalm 118, Matthew 6:5-15
10/25	Wednesday	Matthew 22:15-22
10/29	Sunday	Romans 6:1-14, Mark 2:1-12

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for October.

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.

New Member Small Group

First has new-member groups for all who are desire to join our church family! The small group starts Sunday, October 22, 5pm

Register by contacting the office: 608.783.2236 / office@firstlu.org

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans



These words of Paul's have been echoing in my head for the past two weeks as my heart and soul try to make sense of the death of

Steve Schultz, a man I was just getting to know better, a husband to one of my closest friends, a father to one of my dearest littles. These are words from scripture, words we speak in our funeral liturgy, words I often say to those who mourn. I know these words by heart but they are more than words I have learned by rote, they are words that have settled into my heart over the years and I now lean on as I struggle to understand the death of a 39-year-old man.

Ás I stand in this place of grief and in the moment of our church life together that is the end of a summer and beginning of the fall, I am terribly thankful for the words we speak in our liturgy that have become the words I know by heart. As we enter into a year of exploring By Heart, I find myself also thankful for our theological understanding as Lutherans. These words of Paul's are to be treasured but not only because they are pretty words but because of the understanding of God, the theology, that is behind them. They remind me of promises that are so easy to forget just about any day, but most especially in times of stress or distress. That is what this year is about. Learning that happens not only in the head but also in the heart because the heart is where faith lives. The heart is the one who reminds me that Steve will be raised, just like Jesus. The heart is the one who reminds me that God has known Steve before he was even knit in his mother's womb and is written on the palm of God's hand. The heart reminds me that I am not alone in my grief and neither is Steve's family.

> In the midst of a whole host of unknowns and deep grief and the finality of death, the only thing we can do is turn to our God.

It has been a week since I wrote those opening paragraphs, and I sit in my friend's apartment in Grand Teton National Park. "I lift my eyes to hills, from where does my help come from" from Psalm 121 is what has been spoken and prayed as my friends and I deal with another unexpected death, this time of our friend Megan. Those words came so easily, being surrounded by the majesty of the Teton Range. In the midst of a whole host of unknowns and deep grief and the finality of death, the only thing we can do is turn to our God, and the ancient words spoken by our ancestors in faith who know, just as we do, that our

God is a faithful and just. This knowing comes from living our faith and speaking our own words into the world filled with grief and pain and suffering.

To do that, we need to know, by heart, our God and the words of our ancestors. To know the stories, to add our own and to trust in the communion of saints, the resurrection of dead and live everlasting. Really, By Heart is all about living in the promises spoken to us through Jesus so that we know them without even thinking about it, living By Heart means living each day as loved people.

Steve was loved, Megan was loved, countless others I have know were loved and are loved. In this season of my life. I am so thankful for them and their stories and their living as loved people that sustain me each day. Friends of First, let our lives be so characterized, that people remember and know their God and the love of that God, no matter where life takes them. Let us be the kind of people that others give thanks for our presence in their lives or the lives of their loved ones. Let us be a people, whose light so shines that others see our good works and give glory to our God in heaven.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz karyn@firstlu.org

Parish Internship Committee

A parish internship committee is being formed to serve our Vicar Tara Shilts. The committee of 5-8 people meets once a month and exists to give feedback directly to Vicar Tara in an informal, reflective way. Vicar Tara already receives critique and instruction from her supervisor, Pastor Stanton. This is your opportunity to offer leadership as we explore First's role as a teaching congregation. **Contact Pastor Stanton** if you are interested in raising up a leader in ministry: jason@firstlu.org.

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SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

2017 SMALL GROUPS

Weekly Groups:

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Knitters

Parent Share (Sun & Wed)

Quilters

Sunday Morning with Coffee

Monthly Groups:

Creative Circle

Drawing from the Well

Grief Support Group (daytime & evening)

Frolic!

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Rebekah Circle

By Heart...

- Churchwide
- 7 weeks, Oct. 1–Nov. 18
- Numerous
 times available:

sign-up in the narthex

• All are welcome Join with the rest of the congregation in a study of Luther's Small Catechism. This is a great chance to meet other members and learn from and share with each other. *Sign-up in the narthex or online at 1stlu.org/byheart*

Courageous Men

Wed., 6am, Fireside RmFor men

Generally do DVD-based studies with a participant guide.

Coffee with Pastor Karyn

- Wed., 6:30am, Uptowne Cafe
- Open to all

Study topics vary.

Parent Share

- *NEW OPTION!...* Sun., 9:15am or Wed., 9:45am, Upper Room
- For parents/guardians/ grandparents
 Share what's happening in your life. It's a tough job.
 Don't do it alone.

Sunday Morning with Coffee

- Sun., 9:15am, Sept.–May, in the Mary Room
- Open to all

Join with other adults for a weekly year-round small group that meets each Sunday in between worship services for a variety of studies. We generally watch a video followed by discussion. We also participate in churchwide studies a few times a year. This is a great way to get to know other people in the congregation, even if you can't make it every week.

Women's Circles

Join us for prayer, for service, for joy!

- Elizabeth Circle: 3rd Mon. 1pm in members' homes
- Naomi Circle: 3rd Tues. 9am in members' homes
- Dorcas Circle 2nd Tues. 11:45am lunch, 1p.m. at church
- Rebbekah Circle: Every other Wed. 9:30am at Perkins
- Deborah Circle: 3rd Thur. 9am at Panera, 10am at church



Coming together to pray and talk about raising our children faithfully Sundays at 9:15am or Wednesdays at 9:45am **Both session** in the Upper Room (201) Contact Carla Stanton for more info



THE WARMING CENTER is located at 413 S 3rd St in downtown La Crosse.

The center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold durina the winter months from Nov. 1–Apr. 30. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center.

Volunteers are needed to serve each night, November 1 to April 30

OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS

Our most significant need for volunteers is on overnight shifts from 9:00 pm-3:00 am and 3:00 am-8:00 am. These can be combined into one 9:00 pm-8:00 am shift as well. The nights that need the most help are Mondays, Wednesdays, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, and Fridays. We need 2-3 people in the Warming Center for the whole night. If you are interested in helping us fill any of these needs, email Mark Schimpf at mschimpf@cclse.org or call 608.519.8020.

WOMEN'S RETREAT Fri., Oct. 20, 7pm thru Sun. morning, Oct. 22



Relax, meet other women, go for a hike, curl up by the fire with a good book, and more!

Go to sugarcreekbiblecamp.org for event brochure and registration form

Help support our youth by using gift cards instead of cash!! A percentage of your shopping will go toward helping the youth pay for their mission trips, camp trips, and other youth ministry events. For sale in the narthex between services or in the office during weekdays, 8–4pm. More info: 1stlu.org/scrip

READINGS FOR OCTOBER



n the last five years, more than 500 teens have accessed needed clothing: casual clothes, business attire, winter jackets, summer shorts, shoes, accessories, socks, and toiletries. Since its Sept. 17, 2012, opening as Acts 20:35, what is now known as the First Teen Clothes Closet has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, Hope Academy, the Children's Clothes Closet, social workers, teachers and counselors to provide adolescents in our community with clothes they need and can feel good about wearing, thanks to our own vouth who volunteer dozens of hours to sort and approve the donations we receive.

A few numbers that illustrate the impact The First Teen Clothes Closet has— in just 8 months this year, we provided more than:

- 250 pairs of pants, capris and shorts
- 300 shirts, sweaters and hoodies
- 50 dresses
- 150 pairs of socks
- 50 toothbrushes

And 140 pair of shoes for teens and older children distributed at an annual event on the North Side of La Crosse. Our guests have come from down the street, and as far away as Winona, Minn., Independence, Sparta, and Viroqua.

This service is only possible because of the support of the faithful volunteers who give their time to host appointments, sort donations, drive the shuttle, shop for special needs and mend torn items.

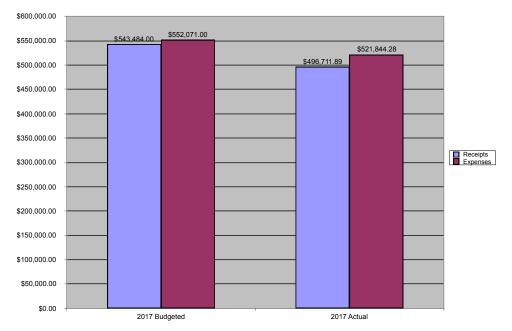
Because of your generosity we are able to provide these teens with the clothes, shoes and dignity they need and deserve. Thank you!

First Teen Clothes Closet Steering Committee Bridget Crave Lori Lunney Patty Shepard Shari Hegland

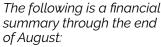
PS: We are always looking for additional volunteers interested in helping out. There are needs for individuals to sort, organize and hang donations; shop for snacks and other needs; host appointments; and drive the van for Monday night shuttles from Trinity Lutheran in La Crosse. Volunteers don't have to be members of the church—bring a friend and serve together. Contact a steering committee member or the church office if you are interested or have questions.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT







Actual Receipts -\$496,711.89

Budgeted Receipts -\$543,484.00

Actual Expenses -\$521,844.28

Budgeted Expenses -\$552,071.00

Our total receipts through the end of August fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$46,772.11. Our total giving (envelope giving, debt reduction and other miscellaneous offerings) falls short our current year budgeted amount by \$42,198.98 or 9.1%.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of August by \$30,226.72. A significant portion of this is due to the timing of certain expenses. In summary, we budgeted for a deficit of \$8,587.00 through the end of August and have realized an actual deficit of \$25,132.39.

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

FAMILY PHOTOS: A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

All Saint's Day has long been a day when the church gives thanks for all the saints, the beloved, who have died, especially in the past year. In the coming weeks, we will be asking for photographs of your beloved dead so that we can be surrounded by their witness on All Saint's Day. These pictures can be sent electronically (karyn@firstlu.org) or brought in. They will be printed as 4X6, so resolution should be such that they can be printed well from what you submitted. If your loved one was a member of our congregation and died this past year, you will receive a letter from Pastor Karvn with a special request.

All Saint's Day isn't only about those who have died but also about those who have been newly baptized. If your child was baptized this past year, you also will receive a letter from Pastor Karyn with a special request.

Please note, we will continue to use the photos submitted last year, so no need to resend those photos.

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 threeweek 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

Andrew Baumgart

WEDDINGS

God's blessings to...

- Heather Handel & David Jordan
- Krista Mortenson & Mason Clark

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 each month.

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

SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF REV. PAUL ROE

We lift in prayer the family and friends of Rev. Paul Roe, who died September 11, 2017, in Bloomington, MN. Rev. Paul Roe was pastor at First from 1962-1976. The funeral was on Saturday, September 16, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in Minneapolis. If so desired, memorials may be directed to the Paul Roe Scholarship Fund at Luther Seminary, Lutheran World Relief, or St. Olaf College. Condolences may be shared at gillbrothers.com.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of DeVera Yonkovich

- Illumination of the stained glass window: Bob & Bev DiNicola
- Sunday School: Lee & Yvonne Cade
- Undesignated: Erving Horman, Bob & Katy Wood, Judy & Merrill Wachter

Thank you for the following gifts:

• Back-to-school shoes: Jacob Breiling, Carol Chroninger, Bob Dean & Bev Larson, Elizabeth Circle, Vicky & Harry Helfrich, Peg Hickok, Larry & Marilyn Schreiner

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.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

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

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

GO GREEN

We offer two e-mail lists for subscribing:

- First Lutheran Publications: which includes e-mail links to our e-newsletter, so if you request to stop receiving this paper in your hands, this will save natural resources, and helps First save money on supplies and postage.
- First Lutheran Updates & Publications: all of the above plus several updates from our website.

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



Pep Fest

An afternoon of German food, fun, and Festivities to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Noon – 3 pm

Tomah American Legion

800 Wisconsin Ave, Tomah

Adults \$15, Children 4-12 \$8, under 4 free

Pre-registration required by October 13th with the La Crosse Area Synod office: 608-788-5000 or <u>office@lacrosseareasynod.org</u>

Sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church, Tomah, and the La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA

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**





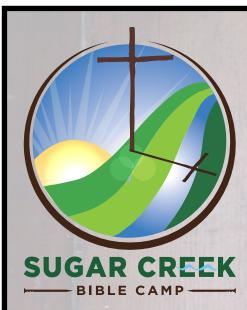


Art and Spirituality Retreat in Chicago November 17–18, 2017

Join Pastor Karyn to learn and practice Visio Divina, the spiritual practice of praying with images. The group will visit the Art Institute in Chicago in addition to other sites. You will also have some free time to shop, sight see, or rest. Traveling by van, the group will leave Friday morning, November 17, at 7:30am, returning to Onalaska Saturday evening around 10pm. Some optional group meals will be planned in advance of the retreat.

Costs including transportation to Chicago, hotel (share a double room) and Art Institute entrance fee; total cost approx. \$200. Meals will be extra. Contact Bridget Crave with questions: bridget@firstlu.org

Register online at 1stlu.org/artic



2017 ADULT BUS TRIPS

- Oct. 1-7: Washington D.C. and Gettysburg Tour
- Nov. 21: Fireside Dinner Theatre: "Miracle on 34th St."

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH

Monday, Oct. 2 & Dec. 4, 9am-3pm

Join others from the region for a day of excellent speakers, music, a great meal and fellowship with over 100 guests. Call to reserve your space!

6-8 GRADE RETREAT

October 6-8

If you've been missing camp and can't wait to come back, then this retreat is for you! Come hang out at camp with your favorite camp friends and staff for 3 days of games, hiking, Bible study, worship, campfires and all your other favorite camp activities. Retreat runs from 7pm Friday to 1pm Sunday.

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

EVENTS

WOMEN'S RETREATS

Ladies, this retreat is just what

intentional fellowship with other

women. Our women's retreats

offer meaningful sessions with

change and leaves fall, we will

and explore the theme: "Letting

Stanton, is a certified Spiritual

various exercises to discover

We will consider the things we

Come join us for a time of fun and

Creek counselors playing games,

singing songs, worshiping together

and studying the Bible. This October

retreat is filled with fun, fall activities!

Retreat runs from 1pm Saturday to

faith exploration. Enjoy time away with

vour favorite camp friends and Sugar

3-5 GRADE RETREAT

October 28-29

1pm Sunday.

Go." Our featured speaker, Carla

Director and will lead us through

where God is working in our lives.

might need to let go of in order to

make room for new growth. Go to

camp website for more info & reg.

take time to join other women

Christian women. As the seasons

topics pertinent to today's

you need: time away from the stresses of work and home in

October 20–22

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

PARENT SHARE: NOW WITH WED OPTION!

Starting October 4, join Carla Stanton, member of First, certified spiritual director and mom of three, in room 201 every Wednesday morning, 9:45-10:45am. (*The Sunday Parent Share will also continue to meet at 9:15am between Sun. worship).* For Parent Share we will simply come together to pray and talk about raising our children faithfully. Childcare is available, too, for all children who are not yet attending school.

DRAWING FROM THE WELL

Next retreat: Sat., October 14, 8:30–10:30am at Panera

This group is for women of First and the greater La Crosse area seeking to support one another in their spiritual growth. We gather together once a month on Saturday mornings to be with each other, enjoy a breakfast, and develop a deeper relationship with one another. Come and get to know other women of the church, or renew friendships. *RSVP to bridget@firstlu.org*

FAITH ALIVE! CREATIVE CIRCLE

It is a scientific fact that exercising our creative muscles has all sorts of health benefits. It is also a scientific fact that gathering with people has all sorts of health benefits. It seems our ancestors knew these two things together can only mean good things for individuals and communities, so we are bringing back the "sewing" circle with a modern twist. Enter the Faith Alive Creative Circle, a gathering of people working out their creative muscles. All are welcome to bring whatever project you are working on and enjoy fellowship while doing it. We will also have, from time to time, a shared project so that we can learn new things from each other. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month from 6-9pm in Fellowship Hall, October through May. Join us! Next meeting: October 16.



ELCA RESPONDS TO HURRICANES HARVEY, IRMA

WITH IRMA, "EVERYONE WHO'S EXPECTED TO BE A RESPONDER WILL BE A VICTIM ALSO"

By John Potter September 8, 2017



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Joseph Chu, Lutheran Disaster Response associate program director, lead a conference call with synod staff and Lutheran Social Services staff on preparation plans for Hurricane Irma.

Just as Hurricane Harvey long-term recovery efforts begin in Texas and Louisiana, Hurricane Irma threatens devastation as it moves toward Florida and the Carolinas. But even before the storms hit, the ELCA was mobilized and on the ground.

Bishops have maintained close communication with their congregations, pastors and deacons. Lutheran Social Service agencies have mobilized their networks. And Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has been in regular contact with its local affiliates.

Today, ELCA churchwide staff and representatives from partner organizations met in person and by phone to discuss collective relief efforts after Harvey, as well as what to anticipate with Irma—which has already had catastrophic effects in the Caribbean and the Virgin Islands—and how to meet the needs of the affected communities.

"This could potentially be a real blow to the infrastructure of the state and our ability to respond," said Sam Sipes, CEO of Lutheran Services Florida (LSF). "We're going to be dealing with a situation where everyone who's expected to be a responder will be a victim also."

As Irma approached, LSF, which serves nearly 500,000 people each year, has been in touch with clients to ensure that they have safety plans in place.

OPENING THEIR DOORS

Several staff members from the Southeastern and South Carolina synods reported that congregations and camps were planning to open as shelters or donation collection locations for evacuees. Congregations in Puerto Rico have opened their doors to congregations in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Southeastern Synod has been working closely with Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG) and its own disaster response coordinators along the Georgia coast. John Moeller, CEO of LSG, shared his gratitude to ELCA congregations that have offered to shelter staff and clients as the storm possibly moves inland.

GeoRene Jones, justice and advocacy ministries coordinator for the North Carolina Synod, reported that the synod had churches setting up to be shelter sites in the Charlotte area. She also said she hears from congregation members on a nearly hourly basis asking how to help.

Several staff pointed out the importance of congregations connecting with their county emergency managers if they wish to set up as shelters.

MEMBER RESPONSE

In reporting on Hurricane Harvey recovery, Jessica Vermilyea, director of disaster response for Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South), said, "It's the beginning. It will be a long journey."

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod will hold a Harvey workday tomorrow, with several hundred expected to serve.

LDR staff emphasized that members and congregations looking to donate supplies should make sure they are items that have been specifically requested. Affected members and congregations can register donation needs with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

The most effective way to donate to relief efforts for Harvey or Irma, barring a specific item request, is often through a financial gift, LDR staff said. Donation response from ELCA members so far has been "amazingly gracious," said Daniel Rift, director of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, adding, "One hundred percent of what comes in to us goes out into the field. This is a critical moment, and people are really rising to the occasion."

Congregations seeking worship resources in times of hurricanes can find them here.

CHURCH TOGETHER

Michele Hilton, assistant to the bishop for administration in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, said each of the synod's congregations along the shore had been boarded up and weekend services had been canceled. "We've not seen an evacuation as serious as this one," she said.

Hilton also reported that all of the synod's rostered ministers have shared safety plans with their congregations.

Ted Goins, president and CEO of Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC), agreed that evacuation preparations have been well-executed. "There's been more preparation and communication for this than ever before," he said, citing partnership between LSC, his synod, LDR and Upbring.

"These weather events present a degree of complexity and scale that is unprecedented," said Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "The professionalism, experience and compassion [of disaster-response staff] is remarkable. I am grateful for their efforts. But even more impressive is all of us coming together. We truly are 'church together.'"

John Potter Content Editor livinglutheran.org

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HURRICANE IRMA

SEPTEMBER 2017

Hurricane Irma was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the Atlantic. On the heels of Hurricane Harvey, the storm hit the Caribbean and southern United States, leaving widespread damage in its wake.

As a church, we're standing by our neighbors who have been affected as they begin the long road to recovery. Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliates are collaborating with community leaders and government officials to respond. Please give now to support this response.

Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose homes have

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane response \$_____ DDG0087
 Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane Irma \$_____ DDG0088
Name ______
Address ______
City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____
Email address

Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 Write *"Hurricane response"* or *"Hurricane Irma"* on your check's memo line.



ELCA.org/disaster

been devastated or who have been otherwise affected by Hurricane Irma for years to come.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Irma was not the first major hurricane with catastrophic effects this season, and it may not be the last.

To give to the hurricane response where funds are needed most, select "Hurricane response" below. To give directly to relief efforts for Hurricane Irma, select "Hurricane Irma" below.

Your gifts will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response. Give now to support survivors of disasters.



BE A HERO

First Lutheran Church-Onalaska Blood Drive

Tuesday, November 14, 2016 12:30pm - 5:30pm

Location: First Lutheran Church- Narthex of the church, 410 Main Street in Onalaska

Visit bcw.edu/firstluthona or call Diane Shuda 608-386-4270 to make an appointment.

GOD'S HANDS & FEET HOSPITALITY DREAMERS



have this daydream about welcoming all into our church, where everyone is greeted with a warm welcome, help is given when needed and

no one feels lost as they try to find where they need to go. I have a team in place to help me dream of how we can accomplish welcoming all into our church and helping worshippers get ready to worship enabling them to go out to serve others using the gifts God has given them.

The Hospitality Leadership is that team. We will conduct our first hospitality audit of our church, and then, in the next few months, come up with a plan to make our church an even more welcoming place. Our job is making sure our visitors are followup with, nursery is well staffed and safe for your youngest ones, greeters are trained and parking lot ministry is established, just to name a few. Our Hospitality Leadership Team will help me come up with a schedule to make sure hospitality is covered within our church. They will help maintain the welcome center, oversee and train our Hospitality Action Teams and maintain systems for following up with visitors and members alike. Their major responsibility is to provide guidance on ways to make our members and visitors feel welcomed and known.

As we dream about what our church can look like, we will look at all the places within our church where hospitality takes place. We will look at our parking lot, signage outside, landscaping, condition of the building etc. We will walk through the narthex, sanctuary, observing how we do coffee connection, checking Hospitality isn't just greeting at the door and having a welcome center, it includes and has a part in all that we do here at First.

out the classrooms, bathrooms, the nursery. We will look for things that most of us just pass by, and we will look for better ways to do hospitality. Hospitality isn't just greeting at the door and having a welcome center, it includes and has a part in all that we do here at First. Sometimes this seems overwhelming, but as the team works together planning for hospitality, we can do a piece of that plan little by little to improve the way we make all our members and visitors feel welcomed and known.

Thank you for those who have stepped up and are a part of this Hospitality Leadership Team. I so look forward to seeing how God will work within us and among us as we use the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit to make First a welcoming church.

Kathryn Pedretti Director of Servant Ministries kathryn@firstlu.org

SERVE & GIVE

GO AND DO LIKEWISE 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!

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer! Friday, October 27, at 9am, to assemble the November newsletter. See you there!

HELPING HANDS

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

WELCOME BASKETS

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



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



We are back to school! We are excited to welcome Beth Miller as our 4K teacher and Ms. Stoll as our assistant teacher. We are blessed to have them in our preschool!

We spent the month learning classroom routines, making new friends and becoming independent. We are looking forward to our field trip to Ferguson's Apple Orchard! And a lot more is happening in the month of October!









First Lutheran Preschoo 410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650 608.779.4504 • preschool@firstlu.org Preschool Director: Melissa Rolbiecki 4K Teacher: Beth Miller Preschool Assistant Teachers Marci Leppert, Tracy Stol

Sundasschool

Sunday, October 22 3- & 4-Year Olds Sing at 8am Worship

froljC Sun., Oct. 29, 9:15am, Rm 102

Faith Building Blocks

Grade 3: Bibles Sundays, Oct. 1 & 8: parents/ guardians with children Sunday, Oct. 15: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

3-year Olds: Praying Together Sunday, Oct. 15: parents/ guardians only
Sundays, Oct. 22 & 29: parents/ guardians with children
Sunday, Nov. 5: 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. We are under way for Sunday School! If you need to register yet, please let me know, and we can get you on the list.

What I am most excited about this year is the wonderful Sunday School teachers we have on board leading our children! Faithful adults are so important to your children's Faith Formation! It is wonderful to have a large Sunday School as we can experience the time together growing in our faith with a whole bunch of grace!



www.wearesparkhouse.org

We are using SPARK curriculum! I highly recommend that you look at the materials and even the store as you will find great gifts! If you are interested in the lesson that we are discussing each week in the classroom, I would be happy to have that available, too. It is a great way to open the discussion at home about Sunday School. Also, if you find something that would be a great addition to Sunday School or each classroom, make sure I know about it!

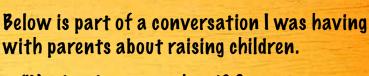
Take a look at the schedule.

If you need anything or have questions please let me know!

Gratefully,



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.



"Navigating parenthood? So many adults and children out and about are like magnets, drawn to drama, quickly joining in, echoing judgments, passing on gossip and forming negative opinions. People constantly walk this line of making choices that won't make us stand out, because if you do stand out, you'll quickly attract critics."

Parents and children alike need a sense of spiritually that can only happen when people pause, turn off the noise, move away from the screens, and have time to be aware of God with adults leading by example. I think of young youth ministry as a place where youth can come to be in an intentional culture where all are welcome, there is no judgment, and there is always grace.

Look for events coming soon! Faith Families, Service Events and Young Youth Group!

Gratefully,

If you are in $2^{nd}-5^{th}$ grade then this is your club

All are welcome

Contact Beth Miller at beth@firstlu.org for info or with questions!

stlu.org/confirmation

theologically sound

MIDDLE School Milestone

lifted up in worship October 8

Congratulations to our 6th graders and parents who spent the past 3 weeks working through the Middle School Milestone!

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL DINNER

October 25, 6–8pm

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (CONFIRMATION)!!

October 29, 1:30pm

Come celebrate with our hard-working youth as they confirm their baptism vows on Reformation Sunday.

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6 Middle School Milestone Sunday 9:15am, Oct. 1 & lifted up in worship Sunday, Oct. 8

Gr 6 Confirmation Bible Class Sundays, 9:15am, starting Oct. 8

Gr 7 Confirmation Bible Class Sundays, 9:15am

Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Apostle's Creed Wednesdays, 5:00pm October 4, 11, 18 November 1, 8

Stewardship Sundays 9:15am, October 1 & 8

Death and Dying Mondays, 4:00pm October 23, 30 & November 6

The Gospel According to Harry Potter Thursdays, 6:00pm October 26 & November 9

Sugar Creek Middle School Retreat Fri., October 6 – Sun., October 8

Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner Wednesday, 6:00pm, October 25

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, 1:30pm, October 29



My name is Jared, and I am First Lutheran's new Youth Director. I was raised in the La Crosse area

and love being able to call this place

my home. I am finishing a degree

in Servant Leadership at Viterbo University to help equip me to best

serve the faith community and beyond. My interests include hiking,

drumming, snowboarding, biking,

dancing in the rain, and baking. I

look forward to new relationships,

conversations, experiences, and

adventures in this

next chapter of my

faith. Please feel

begce;

Jared

Oelke

free to say hello!

GREETINGS

SUGAR CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

October 6–8 Friday 6pm–Sunday 2pm

If you miss camp and can't wait to come back, then this retreat is for you! Hang out at camp with your favorite camp friends and staff for 3 days of games, hiking, Bible study, worship, campfires and all your other favorite camp activities.

Contact Jared with any questions & for more information: jared@firstlu.org

SCHO YOUTH GROUP 2.0!

Every Sunday evening 6:30-8:30pm in the Mary room

Join us weekly for a time of fellowship, spiritual discussion, games and more. Come whenever you can, and bring some friends along, too!

Contact Jared with any questions: jared@firstlu.org / 605.431.3421

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS



The OWLs took great advantage of the nice weather in September. We attended the La Crosse storytelling festival on a wonderful afternoon, heard some great stories and music. We finished the month with a beautiful afternoon on the Narvesons' deck with good food and wonderful poetry.

October will begin with what promises to be a beautiful drive down the Mississippi to Sugar Creek Bible Camp to attend Yesterday's Youth. Sugar Creek has a fascinating program lined up for us. Historian Dick Campbell will do two presentations. The first is "Building the Erie Canal," followed by "The Klondike Gold Rush." We have heard Dick speak before, and he does a wonderful job making history come alive with stories and slides. After a delicious lunch, we will be entertained by the "High-Lo-Men" Barbershop Quartet and the "Just for Fun" Men's Quartet. This promises to be a program not to be missed. The date of this event is **Monday, October 2.** We will leave the church promptly at 8 AM and return by 3pm. Please notify Brian Narveson by Sunday night, October 1, if you plan to attend (owls@firstlu.org or 608-526-9700). Cost is \$10.

The OWLs October potluck will be Wednesday, October 18, at noon in the Narthex. The program is still in the planning stage; watch your email box for up to date information. Come for the food and fellowship. We always have a good time.

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.

KAYWOS

KAYWOS cloths "Klean Anything WithOut Streaks" are available for sale from the church office during office hours Mon.–Fri, 8am–4pm Proceeds help with

purchases not covered by the budget

OCTOBER AT FIRST LUTHERAN see also weekly events list on back

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
By Heart: Conversations with Luther's Sm 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles 9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone 9:15 AM Stewardship Confirmation Class	8 AM OWLS Fly to Yesterday's Youth at Sugar Creek 7 PM Women of the House Sml Grp 5 7 PM AA - FS	1:15 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	8:30 AM First Teen Clothes Closet Mtg 5 PM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls - Rm 207 7 PM By Heart Small Group - UR 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	9 AM Sunshine Boys 11 AM By Heart Small Group 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Grief Support Group - Gloria Kubiak's home	Sugar Creek Middle School Retreat	10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sugar Creek Middle School Retreat	7 PM Women of the House Sml Grp	LifeTouch Church Directory Photo Sessi				
Gr 6 Middle School Milestone, Lifted Up i 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles 9:15 AM Stewardship Confirmation Class 7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team	7 PM AA - FS	1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX 5:30 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy	12 PM Finance Team Mtg 5 PM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls - Rm 207 7 PM By Heart Small Group - UR	11 AM By Heart Small Group	7 PM AA - FS	8:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group Panera
15	16	17	18	19	20	2
Grade 3 Faith Building Block Bibles, lifted Newsletter Deadline 9:15 AM 3-Yr Old FBB: Praying Together	1 PM Elizabeth Circle 6 PM Faith Alive Creative Circle - FH 7 PM Women of the House Sml Grp 7 PM AA - FS	9 AM Naomi's Circle 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 5:30 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	LifeTouch Church Directory Photo Sessi 12 PM OWLs Potluck - NX 5 PM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls - Rm 207 7 PM By Heart Small Group - UR	10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX	Sugar Creek Women's Retreat 7 PM AA - FS	·
22 Sugar Creek Women's Retreat 8 AM 3- & 4-Year Olds Sing at Worship 9:15 AM 3-Yr Old FBB: Praying Together 9:30 AM Visitor Follow-up Meeting 5 PM New-member Session #1	23 4 PM Death & Dying Cnfrm Cls - FS 7 PM Women of the House Sml Grp 7 PM AA - FS	24 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Bells Practice - Sacristy	25 6 PM Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner 7 PM By Heart Small Group - UR 7 PM Visitor Follow-up Meeting	26 11 AM By Heart Small Group 6 PM The Gospel According to Harry Potter - FS	27 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM AA - FS	28
29 9:15 AM 3-Yr Old FBB: Praying Together 9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102 1:30 PM Affirmation of Baptism / Confirmation Worship 5 PM New-member Session #2	30 4 PM Death & Dying Cnfrm Cls - FS 7 PM Women of the House Sml Grp 7 PM AA - FS		1 8:30 AM First Teen Clothes Closet Mtg 11 AM All Saints Worship 📷 5 PM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls - Rm 207 7 PM By Heart Small Group - UR	2 9 AM Sunshine Boys 11 AM By Heart Small Group 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 4 PM A.C.T.S. Prayer Model Cnfrm Cls 7 PM New-member Session #3 - Blue Moon 7 PM Grief Support Group -	SEPTEMBER 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	NOVEMBER 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

weekly events for OCTOBER at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

Sunday events that meet between worship will not meet on Oct. 15

8:00am Worship

9:15am By Heart Sml Grp - House

9:15am Gr 7 Bible Class - FS

9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee Small Group - NX

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

12:00pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee Meeting - FS 6:30pm By Heart Small Group -Jill & Mark Davidson's Home 6:30pm HS Youth Grp 2.0 - MR

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - House 6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn -Uptowne Cafe, Caledonia St., La Crosse 9:15am Parent Share 6:15pm Worship 7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 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







Sugar Creek Middle School Retreat Fri, Oct 6–Sun, Oct 8 Baptismal Prep Sat, October 7 10am–Noon Drawing from the Well Sat, October 14 8:30–10:30am







Creative Circle Mon, October 16 6–9pm

Sugar Creek Women's Retreat Fri, Oct 20–Sun, Oct 22 Reformation 500 Pep Fest Sat, October 21 Noon–3pm



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

Karyn Bodenschatz	Associate Pastor	
		ybridget@firstlu.org kathryn@firstlu.org

YOUTH/EDUCATION STAFF

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

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Jerry Yushta	Assistant Custodian		-
Mark Koenig	Assistant Custodian		

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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	preschool@firstlu.org
		beth@firstlu.org
Marci Leppert	Preschool Assistant Teacher	-
Tracy Stoll	Preschool Assistant Teacher	

VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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



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PERMIT #15

FIRST LUTHERAN

410 Main Street Onalaska, WI 54650

608.783.2236 www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

Sunday

WORSHIP SCHEDULEiday8:00 AM10:30 AMinesday6:15 PM Wednesday

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Goa's work. Our hands. edition: October 2017



Our Church + **Our Time**

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 9AM

MORE DETAILS INSIDE