

## GOOD NEWS!

### JANUARY 2018

All of this and more on the web at  
[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

SEE ALSO...

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[1stlu.org/cal](http://1stlu.org/cal)  
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[pinterest.com/firstlu](https://www.pinterest.com/firstlu)  
[#faithalive365](https://www.facebook.com/firstlu)

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



### A BRIEF TIMELINE:

- Fall 2014: First Lutheran creates a strategic plan that includes a 'goal' stating, "Conduct a capital campaign; Timeline—2018"
- Fall 2015: Vision & Leadership Team begins considering consultant firms to assist a campaign.
- Spring 2017: Vision & Leadership Team interviews three firms.
- Summer 2017: First Lutheran's needs and opportunities are identified: deferred maintenance items, debts and a desire to significantly raise the profile of the Foundation (endowment) are the main categories. James D. Klote & Associates is hired to assist with a feasibility study. Through focus groups, an overwhelming majority of participants are found to be supportive.
- October 15: First Lutheran officially launches the "Our Church + Our Time" capital campaign. John McHugh is the keynote speaker for an event that grounds the campaign in Christian faithfulness to God's mission.
- December 2017: Having completed almost 200 visits through 30 visitors and receiving 150 pledges (35 are pending), nearly \$1 million has been pledged to the campaign.

**The feedback,  
generosity  
and support of our  
congregation, in fact,  
has exceeded  
our expectations  
in many ways.**

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Maybe we should change the name of the campaign to "Still Our Church + Still Our Time." Almost everything about this campaign is not only going according to plan, it's better. The feedback, generosity and support of our congregation, in fact, has exceeded our expectations in many ways. The only 'snag' has been our pace. Fewer members have chosen to make visits than we had hoped, which is OK with me because I don't want anyone to

make visits who doesn't feel called to do so. Those who are visiting are doing a fantastic job of listening and inviting, which is the point, after all. The downside to our small number of visitors, however, is that the campaign will take longer. We hoped to be done by Christmas. We now expect to complete an every-member-visit by Easter, April 1. And if we're not done by then, we'll continue until everyone has received a call. Having done a feasibility study and a 14-week campaign with the assistance of a consultant, we are now moving into the last chapter. For those who are waiting to be visited, thank you for your patience! For those who have already received a visit, thank you for engaging in this way with your church. For those who are still discerning their gift to the campaign, I pray that you come to a place of peace and joy about whatever you decide. I continue to get excited about how the future of our congregation can move its focus away from debt and building maintenance toward service opportunities and ministry to those in need both near and far. As has been true for almost 150 years, God is with us!

Pastor Jason Stanton  
[jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)

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



# Save the date!

**Sun., Feb. 11 11:45am**

All members are invited to

# First's Annual Potluck!

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

## READINGS FOR JANUARY

1/3	Wednesday	John 1:19-34
1/7	Sunday	Mark 1:4-11
1/10	Wednesday	John 1:35-51
1/14	Sunday	John 1:43-51
1/17	Wednesday	John 2:1-11
1/21	Sunday	Mark 1:14-20
1/24	Wednesday	John 2:13-25
1/28	Sunday	Mark 1:21-28
1/31	Wednesday	John 3:1-21

*Above are the tentative readings scheduled for January.*

*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](mailto:1stlu.org/readings).*



*Coffee with  
Pastor Karyn*

**There is room for you!**

**We will be starting a new study on the  
book of Mark, beginning Jan. 3.**

**Meeting at Panera**

**Wed. mornings 6:30am**

**Great time to join! Interested?**

**Talk to Pr. Karyn or Bridget Crave:**  
**[bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)**

## 2018 SMALL GROUPS

### Weekly Groups:

Coffee with  
Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Knitters

Parent Share *(Sun & Tues)*

Quilters

Sunday Morning  
with Coffee

### Monthly Groups:

Creative Circle

Drawing from the Well

Grief Support Group

Frolic!

OWLS  
*(Older, Wiser Lutherans)*

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Rebekah Circle



# PARENT share

**Tuesdays 8:30–9:30am**  
***Childcare Provided!***

The basis for First Lutheran's  
Parent Share is simple.

As parents, we have shared experiences of joy and frustration. There is no one person who holds all the answers for 'perfect' parenting. Instead, God has given us the gift of community.

When we come together over a cup of coffee and agree to set aside our judgments, open our hearts and share our learned wisdom, we will experience the Holy Spirit's guiding hand in this journey we call parenting.

There is no lesson plan, agenda or curriculum. For our parent share, we will simply come together to pray and talk about raising our children faithfully.

Come every week, or come when you can.

*Questions? Contact Bridget at [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)*

## FAITH ALIVE! U

Join other adults for an afternoon of exploring, questioning and learning about your faith. Faith Alive University takes place **January 28 from 1–3:15pm**, following the volunteer appreciation party. You will have the opportunity to attend two 1-hour classes. Childcare will be available.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HARRY POTTER

*Led by Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz*

The wizarding world of Harry Potter is fantastical and fun, but what does it have to do with Jesus or following him? Come and find out! We will explore themes from the movies and books connecting those themes to our faith and walk with Jesus. This is a confirmation favorite. Don't let the kids have all the fun!

### BIBLE 101

*Led by Pastor Anne Hokenstad*

Get introduced, or reintroduced to the Bible. Learn about general themes that are woven through the Old and New Testaments. Overview of how the books of the Bible became to be what is called the "Canon". Discover the ways you might personally interpret Scripture. Be introduced to new ways of reading scripture by looking at the story of Jesus' Transfiguration story.

### COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

*Led by Pastor Libby Howe*

In this course you will hear about the main tenets of Judaism, Christianity (Eastern & Western), Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Taoism. We will discuss what it means for us as Christians to live faithfully in a multi-faith world, covering questions related to salvation, extremism and social justice.

### FAITH & DOUBT

*Led by Pastor Jason Stanton*

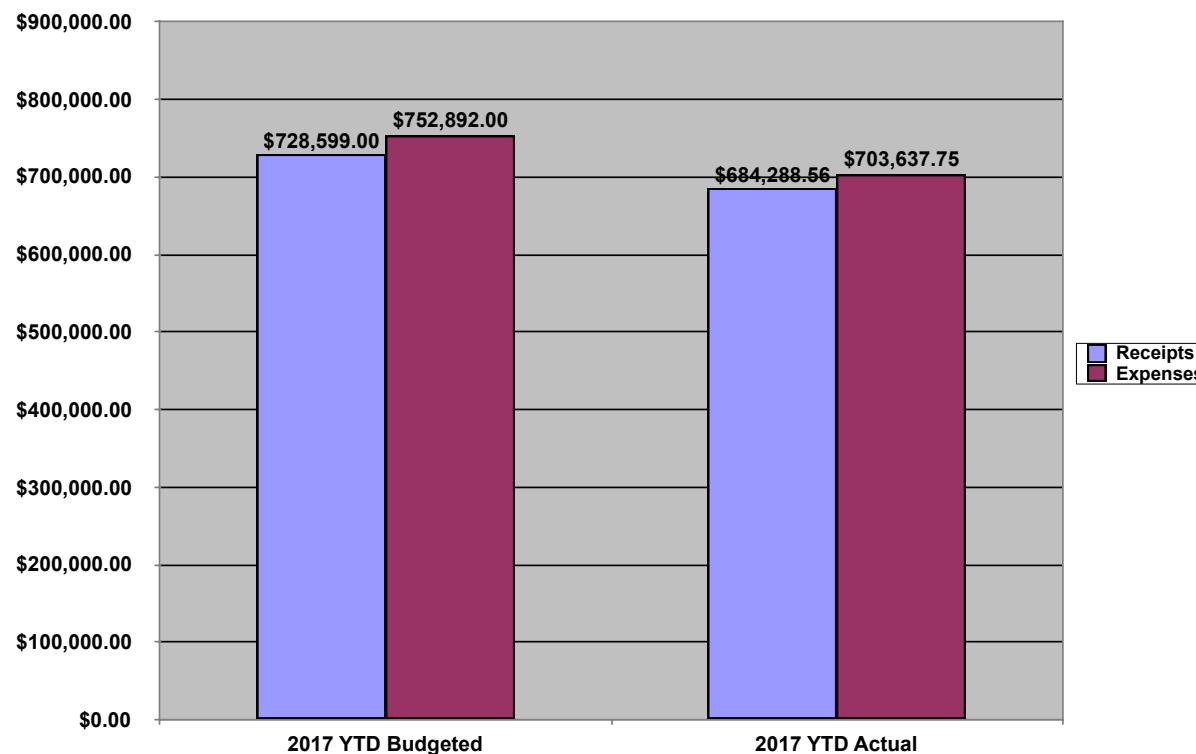
Creation, the virgin birth, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, miracles, heaven & hell... What do you have a hard time believing that you think you are 'supposed' to believe in order to be a 'true Christian'? Can a Christian have faith while living with doubt? Can a Christian have faith that thrives outside 'organized religion'? What is the role of the church in an individual's faith journey? Join Pastor Stanton for a conversation about the both/and's, the now-but-not-yets, and other complexities of a human's relationship with God.

***Sign-up at [1stlu.org/faithaliveu](http://1stlu.org/faithaliveu)***

## Annual Giving

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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT



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

Actual Receipts -  
\$684,288.56

Budgeted Receipts -  
\$728,599.00

Actual Expenses -  
\$703,637.75

Budgeted Expenses -  
\$752,892.00

Our total receipts through the end of November fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$44,310.44. Our total giving (envelope giving, debt reduction and other miscellaneous offerings) falls short of our current year budgeted amount by \$40,670.31 or 6.5%.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of November by \$49,254.25. A portion of this favorable variance is due to the timing of certain expenses.

In summary, we budgeted for a deficit of \$24,293.00 through the end of November and have realized an actual deficit of \$19,349.19.

In addition to the above noted operating receipts and expenses, we have incurred expenses associated with our Capital Campaign of \$99,754.42 through the end of November. Also, we have received actual gifts towards the Capital Campaign of \$38,667.62 through this same period. As a result of these expenses, we have borrowed on our line of credit in the amount of \$25,000

through the end of November to fund these excess expenses. As actual gifts are made in the future, the balance on the line of credit will be paid off.

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*



## REGISTRATION FOR ALL SUMMER PROGRAMMING IS OPEN!

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

## NOW HIRING

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is now hiring for 2018 summer staff! More info at [sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://sugarcreekbiblecamp.org).

## FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

*January 12–14*

Looking for a chance to spend time with your family and your friends from Family Camp? Want to make new family friends? Then this retreat is for you! Join us for this time of inspiration, fellowship and wintertime fun!

## WINTER FUN DAYS!

*Jan. 14, 28, & Feb. 11, 25, 1–5pm*

Come to camp for a wonderful Sunday afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, and more! We have the tubes and broom ball equipment. You can bring cross country skis and/or ice skates. We will serve warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch about 2:30pm of hot dogs, chili, cocoa, and more, and we'll have a toasty fire ready for you. Pre-register: 608.734.3113 or [kati@sgrcreek.org](mailto:kati@sgrcreek.org). Cost: \$7/person or \$30 immediate family.

## HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

*January 26–28*

You asked for it you got it! A retreat designed just for high school aged youth! Attend as a youth group, bring a friend, or just come and join in the fun! This high energy retreat will be filled with great music, faith-building time, and lots of surprises! The November retreat is filled with fun, fall activities! Cost: \$85 (includes 5 meals) Retreat runs from 7pm Friday to 1pm Sunday.

## MARRIED COUPLES' RETREAT

*February 9–11*

Whether you're looking for a relationship "tune-up" or simply some time away together, this retreat is for you! Enrich your relationship with your spouse and enjoy some quality time together at Sugar Creek. You will share in some wonderful meals, fun activities, and a program designed to strengthen your relationship.



## EVENTS

Sign up for most events happening at First Lutheran on our website at [1stlu.org/signup](http://1stlu.org/signup)

## DRAWING FROM THE WELL

**Next retreat: Sat., January 13, 9:30–11am, at Hackberry's.**

Join us in January for conversation and support. We'll gather at Hackberry's (above the co-op in La Crosse) at 9:30am. It's a great way to get to know women in the congregation. Questions? Contact [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto: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 mean only 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 also will 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: January 15.**



## BEFORE THE AFTER

Before the After is a planning tool to be used by anyone, any age, to outline your wishes, prepare and organize pertinent documents and eliminate possible tough decisions for your loved ones upon your death. This is a great opportunity to ask questions of knowledgeable individuals, open communication with family or friends and coordinate all your information in one place.

First Lutheran will host two sessions, **January 30, 6–8pm; and February 21 12:45–2:45pm.** The February event is the OWLS program, but all are welcome to attend. Childcare available. Please help us plan appropriately and let us know if you will need childcare.

Some people attend a meeting, do a lot of the work at home, then return for another meeting to ask questions. You are welcome to attend as many meetings as you like. Contact Bridget Crave with any questions: [bridget@firstlu.org](mailto:bridget@firstlu.org)

Registration and more info: [1stlu.org/b4after](http://1stlu.org/b4after).

DAVE RAMSEY'S

# FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

*This changes*  
**EVERYTHING!**

Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with  
Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*!  
The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just  
the first three months!



Let Financial Expert Dave Ramsey show you how to dump  
debt, budget, build wealth and give like never before!  
Financial Peace University is a DVD-based program with  
online budgeting and other resources.

Invite a friend or pay the way for the newlyweds in your life.

At First Lutheran on Sunday evenings  
February 11–April 15 from 6–7:30pm (no class on Easter)

**Sign-up: [1stlu.org/fpu](http://1stlu.org/fpu)**

La Crosse Area Synod

School of  
Theology



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

**Winter term begins Jan. 4**

Planned 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](http://1stlu.org/theology)*

## SYNOD ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

**The Hidden Power of Racism  
in Our Community**

**Thursday, Jan. 11, 9:30am–4pm**

Good Shepherd Lutheran  
4141 Mormon Coulee Rd, La Crosse

Cost: \$10, includes refreshments,  
lunch and program material

*Please RSVP the synod office by Jan. 8:  
[608.788.5000](tel:608.788.5000) or [office@lacrosseareasynod.org](mailto:office@lacrosseareasynod.org)*



La Crosse Area Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## SERVE & GIVE

# GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

## COME FOR SUPPER

First Lutheran is assisting with Come for Supper on **Tuesday, January 23**, 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!  
**Friday, January 26, at 9am**,  
to assemble the February newsletter.  
See you there!

## CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS GLOVES, HATS

We have many guests in need of warm hats and gloves — we are especially short on more masculine styles. Please consider donating cold weather gear ASAP. Many of our guests walk to and from school, which means a lot of time out in the cold. Gently used winter coats are also welcome! Thank you for warming heads, hands and hearts with your generosity!



## First Lutheran will conduct training for new Stephen Ministers starting Monday, January 15

Training will be Monday nights from 6–8pm  
and last for 20 weeks.

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care and support to people experiencing grief, divorce, cancer, job loss, loneliness, disability, relocation, and other life difficulties. First Lutheran has nine active Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders. Several of these Stephen Ministers are providing care to members of our congregation right now.

If you think that God is calling you to this type of service, prayerfully consider making this commitment.

*For more information, talk to Pastor Karyn, or Gloria Kubiak (608.498.2762). There is also a short video on the First Lutheran website at [1stlu.org/stephen](http://1stlu.org/stephen).*

*A Warm Thank You!*

## Volunteer Appreciation Party

**January 28, 11:45am–1:30pm**

Why? To thank everyone  
for being Christ's hands and feet!



*RSVP at the Welcome Center or  
call the church at 608.783.2236  
by January 24th*

## A WARM THANK YOU



The sun was shining bright and the air felt warm as people gathered for the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Rowe Park in July.

Everyone enjoyed the fiesta-themed decorations, food and beverages. The fried ice cream cake was a big hit, and many laughed watching the kids, big and small, participating in the games. The heat of the day added to the water games and whoever wanted to cool off a bit was encouraged to join in. I have such lovely memories of that warm July day and am filled with gratefulness toward God for all that our volunteers do for First Lutheran.

As I began to think about how to bring that same warmth of gathering together to say thank you to our many volunteers, I wanted to recreate that same atmosphere. The best way I could think of to do that in the middle of winter was hot chocolate. The warmth of holding a mug of it in my hands always warms me up, and drinking it makes me warm and toasty on the inside. I would like to invite you to our party January 28, from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm, so we can say thank you. We want to give our thanks to you and also to God for providing us with such a wonderful, gracious, generous congregation. As I Corinthians 1:4 says, "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." I thank God for the grace given to each of us as we live out our calling to serve one another.

Come and enjoy some hot chocolate, good warm food and maybe a game or two that everyone can play. We will have a wonderful time fellowshiping together, remembering

### What: Volunteer Appreciation Party

When: 11:45am  
Sunday, Jan. 28

Why: To celebrate  
being Christ's  
hands & feet!

to give thanks to God for all that we do for each other. We can share stories about how God has provided for our needs and how we served one another this past year. Sharing how God blessed us in our serving is another way of being in fellowship with one another. God is so gracious bringing a servant heart to all who help out at First. May we give thanks to God and to each other for the things others do sharing their gifts of service.

So as we gather for our Volunteer Appreciation Party, may the warmth of our thanks bring warmth to your heart.

Kathryn Pedretti  
Director of Servant Ministries  
kathryn@firstlu.org



- 175 bras
- 200+ pairs of underwear
- 100+ sticks of deodorant and the same number of tubes of toothpaste.

By mid-December, the First Teen Clothes Closet had hosted more than 180 guests, through individual appointments, group appointments with organizations such as Hope Academy and Project LIVE and shuttles transporting teens from the Children's Clothes Closet in La Crosse for open shopping nights.

All of these items, plus other toiletries, accessories and a healthy snack, are provided at no charge, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, other donors and the Franke Foundation, allowing us to serve those in need from Onalaska, La Crosse and Holmen and as far away as Taylor, Trempealeau and Mindoro.

Please help us continue to spread the word and reach even more teens in need in 2018. Thank you.

*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

Picture a stack of 500 pairs of pants... As volunteer hosts at the First Teen Clothes Closet, it's hard to get a real feel for the true scale of our service to our community, as we serve one family, or even just one teen, at a time. And our donors and the diligent volunteers who manage inventory keep the racks filled with items teens need, so the closet is always full.

It isn't until we tally the numbers at the end of the year that we realize just how many items flow through our doors to reach teens in need.

Imagine 500 pairs of jeans, shorts, dress pants, sweats and capris. If they were folded and stacked, each pair an inch thick, the stack would be taller than a school bus stood on its end.

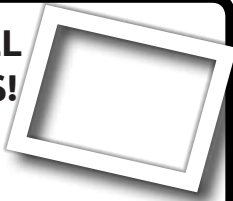
And that's just the pants and shorts. Add to that:

- 100+ dresses and skirts
- 600+ shirts, sweaters and hoodies
- Nearly 100 coats and jackets
- 120+ pairs of shoes and boots
- 200+ pairs of socks



## CALLING ALL SNAPSHOTS!

We're looking for photos from 2017: weddings, baptisms, Christmas program and ALL OTHER special events and ministries. Help us to collect and remember all the events from this past year! Email them to [andy@firstlu.org](mailto:andy@firstlu.org) or post them to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with hashtag #faithalive365.



## YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR PHOTOS

Members who had their photos taken for the new church directory and who are getting just the free 8x10 can pick up that photo in the church office — they have arrived. Drop by during the week to pick up yours.

## 2018 FLOWERS

The sign-up sheets for the 2018 flowers is on the bulletin board. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one check the bulletin board and sign up for an open week of your choice.

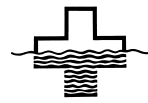
## CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the weather ever makes you wonder whether your group is meeting for their ministry, check our website, Facebook

page, or update the office with your cell # and provider so that we can text you. We'll also notify WXOW.com, news8000.com and the La Crosse Radio Group stations: 106.3, 104.9, 102.7, 100.1, and 1490 AM.

The staff and leadership of First intend to 'make the call' by 5pm at the latest so everyone knows what to expect. Be safe this winter!

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, February 3, at 10am** in the narthex for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism.

To register or ask questions call the church office, 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 **Sunday, April 15 & 22, and Thursday, April 26**. To register your family or ask questions, call our church office at 608.783.2236 or email [office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org).

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Alice Kramer

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Thank you for the following memorials:*

### In memory of Sylvan Mahlum

- Undesignated: Ruth Mahlum

### In memory of Wes Paulus, father of Marilyn Schreiner

- Undesignated: Nancy Beguin

### In memory of Pastor Herder

- General Fund: Bernice Herder

*Thank you for the following gifts:*

- Good Samaritan Fund: Naomi Circle

## 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)
- Halos Project
- Seminarian Fund

- Sugar Creek Bible Camp
- The Property & Grounds and the Music & Worship Teams also have wish lists. Contact Pastor Stanton to inquire how your gift to either Team could support the ministry of First Lutheran.

## SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

## 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](http://1stlu.org/subscribe) and fill out the online form, or contact the office at [office@firstlu.org](mailto:office@firstlu.org).



# **OWLs** OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

December was an outstanding month for the OWLs. Twenty-five of us went to dinner at Fayze's followed by a magical Christmas concert by the UWL orchestra and choral groups. The Christmas potluck was the social event of the season; sorry if you missed it.

It's hard to outdo December, but the OWLs are going to give it try. We will start January with our potluck on **Wednesday, January 17, at noon in the narthex**. If you have leftover Christmas goodies you need

to get rid of, we will help you with that. Vicar Tara Shilts will speak for our program on the topic of "Personal Death Awareness." This is an opportunity to consider our thoughts and feelings about death, the dying process and afterlife and how it connects to our faith. She has been with hundreds of people nearing and at the time of death and will share her experiences of what she has observed and heard. It will be a great chance to get to know Tara better and learn from her interesting presentation.

By the end of January, we are all ready for a change of scenery. For our outing, we will venture to the new Driftless Area Education and Visitors Center in Lansing, Iowa. The center houses 10,000 square feet of artifacts, interactive displays and expansive murals. We will begin by viewing a video on

the "Mysteries of the Driftless Area" followed by our own guided tour and explanation of the displays. After our visit, we will gather for a robust lunch at a local establishment. The grand adventure will begin at the church at **9am on Thursday, January 25**. The visitor's center is free, and lunch will be on your own. We should be back at the church by 3pm. Please contact Brian Narveson at owl@firstlu.org or 608.526.9700 by Wednesday, January 24, if you plan to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone in January.

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*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 owl@firstlu.org.*





# PRESCHOOL

UPDATE

## Happy New Year!!!

Where did 2017 go? It seems like yesterday that we were getting ready for the first day of school, and now we are planning the rest of the school year's activities. We have so many fun things coming up that we are excited about! We are going to a play at Viterbo, and Springfest is just around the corner.

December was a busy month in the preschool. We also had our second Book Munchers. We read a book about Christmas, we made an adorable snow globe ornament. It is so wonderful to see all the parents interacting!

*Relissa*



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

We are so thankful to have our daughter enrolled in First Lutheran Preschool. The teachers are caring and thoughtful and really take the time to know the kids personally. Every day our child looks forward to going to school and I recognize the positive growths she has accomplished since attending.

### **First Lutheran Preschool**

410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650  
608.779.4504 • [preschool@firstlu.org](mailto:preschool@firstlu.org)  
Preschool Director: Melissa Rolbiecki  
4K Teacher: Beth Miller  
Preschool Assistant Teachers:  
Marci Leppert, Tracy Stoll

# Sunday School

## January

**Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 9:15am:** Sunday School

**Sunday, Jan. 28, 9:15am:** Sugar Creek Sunday!

**Sunday, Jan. 28, 9:15am:** Frolic! in room 102

### Faith Building Blocks

#### GRADE 2: WHAT'S FAIR

**Sunday, Jan. 7:** parents/guardians only

**Sundays, Jan. 14 & 21:** parents/guardians with children

**Sunday, Jan. 28:** Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

#### GRADE 4: APOSTLE'S CREED

**Sunday, Jan. 28:** parents/guardians only

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

*New registrations welcome any time of the year!*

*Contact Sunday School Superintendent Beth Miller at [sundayschool@firstlu.org](mailto:sundayschool@firstlu.org) or stop in the Sunday School office in room 206.*



### Young Youth MP3 Night!

Movie, PJs, Pizza & Popcorn, for grades 3–5, Friday Feb. 9, 5:30-8:30pm

RSVP to [beth@firstlu.org](mailto:beth@firstlu.org)

# frolic

noun

*A playful action or movement.  
Cheerful, merry, or playful.*

First Lutheran Church wants to personally invite you to a special worship honoring and lifting up members of our congregation who are aged birth-three years old.

Who: Birth-three year olds and their families

What: Worship Where: First Lutheran

**When: January 14, at both worship services**

Please join us for a time focused on honoring this age group and to receive a holding cross







**Sun, Jan 14**  
**11:45am–6pm**

A family event that  
embraces the winter!  
With warm drinks, good  
food (dinner is included)  
and a toasty fire ready  
for you!

Cost is \$7/person  
RSVP to [beth@firstlu.org](mailto:beth@firstlu.org)



# GO CONFIRMATION

Events subject to change; up-to-date info at  
[1stlu.org/confirmation](http://1stlu.org/confirmation)

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

# SPRING REG ISTRATION

Go to  
[1stlu.org/confirmation](http://1stlu.org/confirmation)  
to reserve a time  
to register for  
your spring  
confirmation classes

Grade 9 registration  
**Monday, Jan. 8–Friday, Jan. 12**

Grade 8 registration  
**Monday, Jan. 15–Friday, Jan. 19**

## UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes  
Sundays (9:15am)

Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups  
Wednesdays (7pm)

Sacraments - Thomas Room  
Sundays (9:15-10:15am),  
January 7, 14, 21, 28

Winter Sugar Creek  
High School Retreat  
(for 9th graders)  
Friday, January 26 (6pm)–  
Sunday, January 28 (2pm)



# UP ( minding y u + H ) eVenTs



## Middle School Mission Trip

**To Indianapolis, IN  
July 22–28**

For youth currently in  
grades 6 & 7!

*(those in grade 8 are encouraged to  
attend the National Youth Gathering  
in Houston, June 26–July 2)*

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

**in Houston, TX  
June 26–July 2**

[1stlu.org/NYG](http://1stlu.org/NYG)

For youth currently  
in grades 8–12



## HIGH SCHOOL

## SUGAR CREEK RETREAT

**Friday, Jan. 26—Sunday, Jan. 28  
7pm (Friday)—1pm (Sunday)**

Spend a weekend in the beautiful valley of Sugar Creek Bible Camp. This retreat will be full of outdoor winter fun, learning together, good food, night games and more! Cost is \$85, and Jared will provide transportation in the church van.

## HS YOUTH GROUP!


Come to youth group and find friends, fellowship and modern worship music. We play games, dive into scripture and challenge each other to grow in our faith. Come whenever you can, and bring some friends along, too! **The High School Youth Group will start up again on Jan. 21 and will meet weekly on Sunday nights, 6:30–8:30pm, in the Mary room.**



**Contact Jared with any questions:**  
[jared@firstlu.org](mailto:jared@firstlu.org) / 605.431.3421



# JANUARY AT FIRST LUTHERAN *see also weekly events list on back*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <div>No Gr 6 &amp; 7 Bible Classes</div> <div>No Sunday School</div> 9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102	<b>1</b> <div>New Years Day (office closed)</div> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	<b>3</b> 8:30 AM First Teen Clothes Closet Mtg 6:30 PM Peer Ministry - MR	<b>4</b> 9 AM Sunshine Boys 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>5</b> 7 PM AA - FH	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair 9:15 AM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls 12 PM Capital Campaign Steering Committee Meeting - FS	<b>8</b> <div>Gr 9 Confirmation Registration</div> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>9</b> 1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX 3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX	<b>10</b> 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 6:30 PM Peer Ministry - MR 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	<b>11</b> 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>12</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>13</b> 8:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group
<b>14</b> 9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair 9:15 AM Internship Committee - House 9:15 AM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls 11:45 AM Winter Fun Day at Sugar Creek 7 PM Hospitality Leadership Team - NX	<b>15</b> <div>Gr 8 Confirmation Registration</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 6 PM Faith Alive Creative Circle - FH 6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR 7 PM AA - FS	<b>16</b> 9 AM Naomi's Circle 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	<b>17</b> 12 PM OWLs Potluck - NX 6:30 PM Peer Ministry - MR	<b>18</b> 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>19</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 AM Gr 2 FBB: What's Fair 9:15 AM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls 6:30 PM High School Youth Group	<b>22</b> 6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR 7 PM AA - FS	<b>23</b> 12:30 PM Blood Drive - NX 4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Peer Ministry - MR	<b>25</b> 9 AM OWLs Fly to Driftless Area Education & Visitors Center 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>26</b> <div>High School Sugar Creek Retreat </div> 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM AA - FS	<b>27</b> <div>CPR Training</div>
<b>28</b> <div>Gr 2 FBB, lifted up in worship</div> 9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102 9:15 AM Gr 4 FBB: Apostle's Creed 9:15 AM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls 9:15 AM Sugar Creek Sunday - SN 11:45 AM Volunteer Appreciation Party 1 PM Faith Alive U	<b>29</b> 6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR 7 PM AA - FS	<b>30</b> 6 PM Before the After - FH	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Peer Ministry - MR	<b>1</b> 9 AM Sunshine Boys 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<div> <div>DECEMBER</div> <div> 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 </div> </div> <div> <div>FEBRUARY</div> <div> 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 </div> </div>	

weekly events for  
**JANUARY**  
at First Lutheran

**SUNDAYS**

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Sunday School &  
Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes  
9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee  
Small Group - NX  
9:15am ParentShare - UR  
10:30am Worship  
6:30pm High School Youth Group

**TUESDAYS**

8:30am ParentShare - UR  
1:15pm Staff Meeting  
5:30pm Bells Practice - Sacristy

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00am Courageous Men - FS  
6:30am Coffee w/ Pastor Karyn -  
Panera, Onalaska  
6:15pm Worship  
7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups  
7pm Choir Practice - SN



Sugar Creek  
Winter Fun Day  
Sun, Jan 14  
11:45am–6pm



Volunteer  
Appreciation Party  
Sun, Jan 28  
11:45am–1pm



Stephen Ministry  
Class Begins  
Mon, Jan 15  
6–8pm



Faith Alive! U  
Sun, Jan 28  
1–3:15pm



Sugar Creek  
High School Retreat  
Fri, Jan 26–Sun, Jan 28

**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](http://1stlu.org/cal)*

*Subscribe to our Google calendar at  
[1stlu.org/calsub](http://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](http://www.scan.me).*





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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

SUBMITTING NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

First Lutheran is a congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)



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

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Andy Stutesman	Director of Communications & Marketing		andy@firstlu.org
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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
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	



410 Main Street  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
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[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.  
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To stop delivery: email [andy@firstlu.org](mailto:andy@firstlu.org) or call office at 608.783.2236

**FAITH  
ALIVE!**  
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS

JANUARY 2018

## FAITH ALIVE U

ALSO INSIDE:

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE  
FROM PASTOR STANTON  
CONFIRMATION SPRING REG  
FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY  
STEPHEN MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY**

#faithalive365