

GOOD NEWS!

APRIL 2018

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

SEE ALSO...

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



Last year around this time, our Vision & Leadership Team was interviewing consultant firms who would help us with a capital campaign.

There were two basic approaches to choose from: 1) Standard fundraising approach: approach the 'big givers' of the congregation (individually) in hopes of receiving a half to two-thirds of a pre-determined 'goal'. After those initial one-on-one visits, invite everybody else (en masse) to consider a pledge of their own. The other idea was 2) Non-standard, raise-members'-engagement-with-

their-church-approach (I know it's not catchy, but it describes it well); instead of naming a 'goal' with a limited scope, create a comprehensive "needs and opportunities" list that touches every part of what our church does and who our church wants to be. The total dollar value of that list may be beyond what the congregation chooses to give at this time, but no matter how much money is pledged, important needs and exciting opportunities will get addressed. Along with this needs and opportunities list, it was suggested we make an effort to visit every family unit (not just some).

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



Nothing says something new is happening like resurrection. Resurrection defies all scientific evidence, all philosophical ponderings, all we know to be true. In our reality, dead is dead, new life may come with spring, but not in death of a person. It is in the resurrection of Jesus that we begin to see that our reality is not God's reality and that perhaps what God has for us, this new thing that is happening, could offer us more than we can comprehend ourselves. For if I am not worried so much about saving my life/soul, I may be willing to take some risk, to open myself up to this

more. I can't help thinking of the movie *Lucy*. It was by no means a good movie, in fact one of the worst I have seen, but it explores the concept of tapping into the whole of our brain and what that would do to our life in this world. What if we accessed other parts of our brain, exercised those muscles not so often used so that we could imagine God's reality where death really isn't death and life is more than we imagined? I think that is possible in some measure as we increase our knowledge of the universe by studying science and increase our knowledge of our minds as we study philosophy and increase

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Our Church ✝ Our Time

Our family of faith
will celebrate the
completion of a
VERY successful
campaign

**April 29
between
worship services**

**Every single
member is strongly
encouraged
to come!**

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

I would suggest the campaign was an enormous success... we will give more to this campaign than First has ever given to a single campaign before.

That's what I would call broad support that also runs deep.

Perhaps the most important success of the campaign, though, was learning how crucial it will be for our church to continue making visits.

In my mind, it seemed like we were faced with a decision to 1) create a realistic (small) goal that a few of our members would float or 2) cast a BIG vision for the entire congregation to support. Choosing the second option would mean the campaign would take longer and be far more difficult. Trying to visit over 500 family units is much more difficult, after all, than trying to get a couple dozen on board.

Of course, we chose the harder path and our leaders and I have never regretted it. A needs and opportunities list was created using our strategic plan of 2015 as our primary guide. A leaky education building roof, cracking parking lot and building codes have informed the list as well! In the end, meeting every part of the \$2.1 million list would triple our endowment (Foundation), rid us of all debt, create a cash reserve for the future and fix every broken/outdated thing in and around our facility. First Lutheran would be in a position to provide cost-of-living pay increases to their staff in coming years, be more generous to local and regional needs both within and outside our denomination and attend to the ongoing discipleship of our own members.

In April, it is six months since we launched the "Our Church + Our Time" capital campaign. Almost 250 personal visits have taken place. The feedback from these visits pertaining to our leadership, programming and mission are invaluable! More than 200 pledges have been received totaling more than \$1 million. Almost \$300,000 has already been given! Our family of faith will celebrate the completion of a VERY successful campaign April 29 between worship services. Every single member is strongly encouraged to come!

Some of us may see the final numbers and feel a sense of failure. Some may say, "We 'only' ended up visiting half of our membership. And we 'only' ended up receiving pledges that meet half of our needs and opportunities." Although each person is free to feel whatever they feel, let us please not judge this campaign as anything close to a failure. In fact, I would suggest the campaign was an enormous success. Our members pledged over a million dollars for a

campaign that will result in no new building(s). A campaign to enhance mission and address deferred maintenance is always harder than a fresh building campaign. And yet, we will give more to this campaign than First has ever given to a single campaign before. Also, our pledges were not 'top-heavy' where a few givers are responsible for most of the gifts. We reached \$1 million by having 67 families pledge more than \$3,600 over the course of the next three years. That's incredible! That's what I would call broad support that also runs deep.

Perhaps the most important success of the campaign, though, was learning how crucial it will be for our church to continue making visits. I will be creating a visitation team whose happy task shall be to make one-on-one visits with NO AGENDA except to connect in Christian fellowship. In these visits, visitors will ask how First is doing in meeting members' spiritual needs. We will update contact information and share the latest news from what the church is up to. But these visits will be done outside of a capital campaign context so those who feel uncomfortable talking about money can trust that our visitation team simply comes in peace; the peace of Christ.

Join us April 29 for the celebration! And look for more information in the near future about our visitation team. We will need dozens of visitors!



Pastor Jason Stanton
jason@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
(*3rd Thur every month*)

Frolic!
(*now 2nd Sun every month*)

OWLS
(*Older, Wiser Lutherans*)

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Rebekah Circle

our knowledge of spirit and we study the arts. All of these things expand our understanding of what it means to be human and I think, what it means to be created in the image of God.

So often, I find myself gravitating toward the science or philosophy, but what I have come to discover is that where it all comes together for me is when I slow down enough to pay attention to the art. That is why my sabbatical will be centered around art and connection. For those of you at the annual meeting, you heard an overview of what I will be doing those three months I am gone. As I approach the time of my sabbatical, I will spend some time talking about each component of my time away and what the sabbatical team is working on for the congregation to do during that time too. My hope is that as we are attentive to these things we can all increase our knowledge of new things and grow as human beings.

My first few weeks will find me easing my way into sabbatical. The first week will be spent at home, preparing for my long absence, getting my place ready for my parents to stay and resting. There will be no alarms waking me in the mornings, no real scheduling to each day, simply a gentle unfolding to each day as a way to get back in tune with the natural rhythms of my heart and soul and body. After a week of resting and preparing, I will head out to Bozeman, MT, where extended family live. I will spend two weeks there, enjoying the outdoors, family and well, more rest. I will also begin to explore new art mediums, mainly weaving and pottery. I am an extrovert and as such, physical activity often provides an avenue for reflection and deeper awareness. It made sense to me to dive into some forms of art that are very tactile. I have connected with two artists who will teach me and will have studio time at Bozeman's art center. While I

learn these new things, I will meet with an art therapist who will help me work through whatever churns up and help me set good habits for the rest of my sabbatical. Time with three of my littles, my cousins, aunt and uncle will round out my time, helping me ease into time away from all I know and hold dear here.

During this time, the congregation will be offered the opportunity to learn pottery, too, and there will be hikes sponsored by various groups, encouraging everyone to get outside and enjoy the natural beauty around us. The Sunday School classes will keep track of my movements by learning about Bozeman and connecting the dots of my travels on a large world map. You will be gathering around the theme *Tell the Story* and will be encouraged to use art and nature as ways to learn the your story, God's story and neighbor's story.

The fun part is, you don't have to wait! Already I have begun to make art a regular part of my life—mostly because I have discovered this hole in my knowledge and the knowledge becoming wisdom. Someone very wise told me not too long ago that to become wise, one must make room for wisdom to grow, for stillness to exist so that knowledge can be integrated into your self and become wisdom. It kinda rocked my world, this little tidbit and in such a timely way as I get ready to allow space for wisdom to grow through sabbatical time and even now, through intentional creative time. I hope you have found the thing that brings it all together for you. I would love to hear about it.



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org

Holy Week Schedule

- **Good Friday, March 30**
worship at 12:15pm & 6:30pm
 - **Sacred Storytelling, March 31**
worship at 6:30pm
 - **Easter Sunday, April 1** worship at 7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:45am.
No Sunday School nor confirmation.
- Office closed at noon Friday, March 30 and all day Monday, April 2*

READINGS FOR APRIL

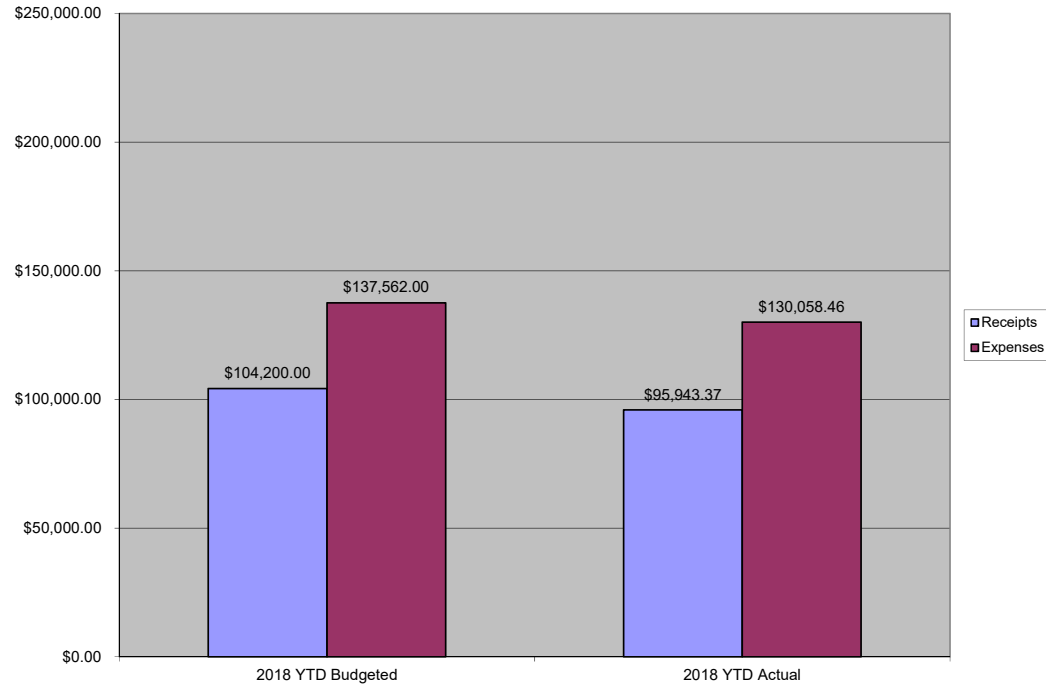
Sunday, April 1	Mark 16:1-8
Wednesday, April 4	John 20:1-18
Sunday, April 8	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday, April 11	John 20:19-31
Sunday, April 15	John 20:19-31
Wednesday, April 18	Acts 9:1-19a
Sunday, April 22	Luke 24:36b-48
Wednesday, April 25	Acts 16:16-34
Sunday, April 29	John 10:11-18

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for April. 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Lutheran Church
YTD Financial Summary
2 Month Ending, February 28, 2018



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

Actual receipts -
\$95,943.37

Budgeted receipts -
\$104,200.00

Actual expenses -
\$130,058.46

Budgeted expenses -
\$137,562.00

Our total receipts through the end of February fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$8,256.63. Our total giving (general fund and other miscellaneous offerings) fell short of our current year budgeted amount by \$7,403.99 or 8.3%. In addition, our total receipts through the end of February

fell short of the total receipts through the same period last year by \$6,857.24.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of February by \$7,503.54. The majority of this favorable variance is due to the timing of certain expenses.

In summary, we budgeted for a deficit of \$33,362.00 through the end of February and have realized an actual deficit of \$34,115.09.

In addition to the above noted operating receipts and expenses we received \$16,377.81 for our capital campaign in February and incurred expenses associated with our capital campaign of \$285.80. Cumulative receipts and expenses associated with our capital campaign through the

end of January are \$257,644.85 and \$119,037.03, respectively.

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*

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.

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!

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH

Monday, April 9, 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!

3-5 GRADE RETREAT

April 14-15

Join us at Sugar Creek for a time of fun and faith exploration. Enjoy time away with your favorite camp friends and Sugar Creek Counselors playing games, singing songs, worshipping together, and studying the Bible. Retreat runs from 1pm Saturday to 1pm Sunday.



CRAFTER'S RETREAT

April 26-29

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

2018 WISH LIST

Your gift can be tax deductible, and Sugar Creek can provide you a receipt.

- Money for climbing wall & equipment
- Canvas: new covered wagon canvas, flys for platform tents
- Vehicles in good condition: mini-vans, pick-ups, SUVs, tractor for mowing
- Money for carpet
- Horses: well-trained & gentle for the campers

EVENTS

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

DRAWING FROM THE WELL

Next retreat: Sat., April 14, 9:30-11am at Mary Cody's Restaurant

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



Chicken Dinner

Thur, April 26, 11am-6:30pm

**NEW THIS YEAR:
at the American Legion
731 Sand Lake Road Onalaska, WI**

Tickets available from youth doing fundraising or in the office,
M-F, 8am-4pm



Sunday, April 22, 2pm (bake sale noon-4pm)

Holmen High School

Tickets available at door:

Adults \$9, Ages 6-12 \$4, younger free

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



BE A HERO

First Lutheran Church- Onalaska Blood Drive

Thursday, April 5
12:30pm - 5:30pm

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

BBQ sandwiches will be served!

All attempting donors receive a coupon for 4 FREE Outdoor Water Park Passes to Mount Olympus (while supplies last).

Visit **1stlu.org/blooddrive** or
call Diane Shuda 608-386-4270
to make an appointment.

Appointments encouraged. Refreshments provided.



New-Member Small Group

First has new-member groups
for all who are desire to
join our church family!

The small group starts
Sunday, April 15, 5:30pm

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

La Crosse Area Synod

School of
Theology



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

Spring term begins April 5
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

A SPRING WELCOME



I can always tell when spring arrives in our neighborhood. People seem to be everywhere, walking their dog, jogging, riding bikes and laughter seems to fill the air. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. People pour outside from their homes to enjoy the warming weather and reconnecting with each other. It's also a great time for you to connect with neighbors you haven't met yet, and we have the perfect way to do it—a Welcome Basket.

Welcome baskets are wonderful to share with a new neighbor or someone you haven't connected with. Bring your neighbor a welcome basket from the resource center across from the office and introduce yourself by handing them the basket. This is so easy, better than making food and then wondering if you will get your pan or dish back or wondering if they have allergies. The welcome basket/bags contain a handmade dish cloth and popcorn from First Lutheran Church, business cards from local merchants and a few other items our team has collected. We hope these items will help connect new neighbors to our community and maybe even to First Lutheran Church. As you share these baskets/bags with your new neighbors, you will know that you are doing what God has called us to do—sharing what we have with others.

We have made sharing easy for you to do with a basket for a new neighbor on your street. As Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God". Just imagine what good you will do for a new neighbor by bringing

Items in the welcome baskets will help connect new neighbors to the community and help you share what we have with others

them a welcome bag from church. Sometimes a simple act of kindness can change a person's outlook. Not only could you have made their day, but you also get the satisfaction of knowing you have made a positive impact on another's life.

If you have any questions about our Welcome Baskets or where to find them, please let me know by e-mailing me at kathryn@firstlu.org. I'd love to share all about our Welcome Baskets with you.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Onalaska Holmen Food Basket particularly needs the following items: pork & beans, SpaghettiOs & ravioli, Hamburger Helper, paper towels, flour.

QUILTERS NEED FABRIC

The First Lutheran quilters need sheets (gently used) and can always use fabric. Donations may be dropped off at the church office.

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, April 27, at 9am**, to assemble the May 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 (karyn@firstlu.org) or call the church office (608.783.2236).


**KEEP
CALM
AND
TRUST
JESUS**

Monday evening April 16, 6–8pm

Another of our popular confirmation classes being offered to adults. This will be an enjoyable, relaxing and interactive class that will teach you ways to strengthen and trust in the power of your faith as well as tips to stay calm in a world that is often stressful and rushed! The class will look at specific, simple and healthy ways to deal with stress and help in relaxation.

The class will be taught by Marlene Dewald, RN, who retired in 2012. Her nursing background is in public health, home health, maternal-child health and pediatrics. She has experience and great interest in integrative health practices.

Sign-up at
1stlu.org/keepcalm.

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



Thank you to everyone who stopped by in March to learn a little more about the First Teen Clothes Closet! It is thanks to the support of our congregation, volunteers, and those who refer teens to us that we can continue to impact the lives of young people in our community.

First Teen Clothes Closet team,

Lori Lunney
Shari Hegland
Bridget Crave
Patty Shepard

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

With changing seasons, we will likely see more appointments in the coming months, and among the most-needed items we could use as donations now are:

Toiletries:
toothpaste
body wash
shampoo
conditioner
(full size)

Wallets & Purses

Swimwear

Athletic Shorts

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, April 7, at 10am** in the narthex for anyone who is considering or has scheduled a baptism.

To register or ask questions, call the church office, 608.783.3326.

NEW-MEMBER SMALL GROUP

By choosing to become a member, individuals and families commit to being part of a shared mission. People who would like to become members of First Lutheran are invited to a three-week introduction to the church, presented in a small-group setting. The group will meet in the evening on **Sunday, Apr. 15 & 22, and Thursday, Apr. 26**. 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

- Kieren Stolt Pataska
- Finley Evelyn Peickert
- Lily Mae Storandt

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Bob Smith

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Bob Smith

- Capital Campaign: Tim & Karla Weihrouch
- Organ Fund: Ellis & Judy Stetzer
- Undesignated: Tom & Linda Arlt, Howard Barlow, Cindy & Mike Bird, Janice Bolstad, Del & Phyllis Christianson, Jim & Jean Cullen, Beth Curtis, Gladys Everson, Dorothy Every, Dave & Esther Frost, Eric & Robyn Hammes, Arne & Nancy Holthaus, Jeff & Melissa Holthaus, Thomas & Bonnie Holzer, Mark Koenig, Bonnie Laxton, AJ & Marv Leisso, Bev Manske, Dan & Linda Mills, Nancy Olds, Eric & Sherri Pfaff, Jim & Darlene Pfaff, Neil & Lisa Pfaff, Gary & Kristie Roesler, Shirley & Mark Sacia, Dave Skogen, Carol & Gary Skoy, Paula Skoy & Travis Evenson, Nancy Thorson, Ronn & Sherry Trudo, Ardie Van Riper, Judy & Merrill Wachter, John Weber

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

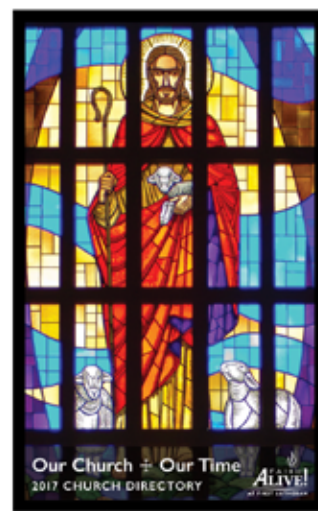
Each month, First Lutheran gives thanks for gifts offered to designated funds. If you plan to make a special gift to First, consider these options. Currently, we are gathering funds for:

- 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, 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, or give it to Andy in the office. Deadline for the weekly announcements is always noon each Wednesday.



New Member Directories Are In
Directories can be picked up while at church, or stop by the office during office hours. If you had a photo taken or submitted a photo, you get a free directory; others can purchase one for \$5.



OLDER WISER LUTHERANS



The OWLs had a hoot in March with an excellent program about SALT presented by Pastor Ron and Frieda Nowland at our potluck. The following week we ventured to Sparta to the Deke Slayton Space and Bicycle Museum and Monroe County History Museum, followed by a great lunch and

the opportunity to see the world's largest bicycle (doesn't get any better than that). See the attached photos.

In April we will turn things around a bit by starting the month with our outing. On **Monday, April 9**, we are looking forward to a beautiful ride down the river to Sugar Creek Bible Camp to attend Yesterday's Youth. The tentative program is: "Vesterheim—an Insider's Look," followed by "Sweet Norwegians"—the history of Norwegians in the Hawaiian sugar cane industry. After the program, we will enjoy a tasty lunch. The day will be completed with music by "Fiddlin' and Folk Tales"—Irish and Driftless music and stories by Andreas Transø. We are usually back at the church by about 3pm. We will depart from the church at 8am. Cost of the program is \$10 and includes lunch. If you plan to attend, please contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org or call 630-816-5917 by noon Sunday, April 8.

The OWLs potluck will be on **Wednesday, April 18, at noon in Fellowship Hall**. During

our exciting program, we will look into the rapidly developing future of virtual reality (VR) for seniors. The program will be presented by Kathy Helgersen from Simple Steps Technology. Kathy is well known in the area for her work improving the life of seniors through technology. Kathy will explain that thanks to VR, seniors no longer have to miss everyday experiences such as museums, concerts, tours and travel. Kathy will bring a VR headset to allow those who wish to experience VR. Research has also found VR is beneficial to those suffering from Alzheimer's, chronic pain, depression, anxiety and boredom. Because of costs incurred to prepare the program, a free will offering will be taken for Kathy. We look forward to seeing everyone in April.

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.



PRESCHOOL

UPDATE

It's First Lutheran Preschool registration time! If your children are ready for preschool or you know someone with preschool age children, please consider the amazing preschool right here at First Lutheran. We are passionate about early-childhood education! We've worked hard to develop a rich curriculum that makes learning fun as well as offer a variety of classes to meet our parents' needs. Contact us today for more information. Only a few spots left!!!
Call or email us today for more information!

Mark your calendars for Springfest on **Sunday, May 6, at 3pm**. We will have the preschoolers sing, followed by an ice cream social and silent auction. Hope to see you there!

Relissa



What parents are saying about First Lutheran Preschool...

The classroom is a fun and organized environment well suited for preschool development and growth. The teachers are nurturing, creative, organized, thoughtful, fun and are well suited for a preschool learning environment.

First Lutheran Preschool
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 Stoll

froljic
LITTLE STEPS. BIG FAITH.

For children birth to
3-yrs old & their grown-ups!

NEW TIME!

**NEXT: 2nd Sunday
of every month
9:15am in Room 102**

We sing, dance, & pray together;
all while learning how to
raise little Christians
in our homes!

Sunday School Upcoming

Easter Sunday, April 1: No Sunday School

Sundays, April 8, 15, 22, 29: Sunday School

Wednesday, May 9: 3yo-5th Sunday School Program during
the Wednesday night worship!

Faith Building Blocks

4-YEAR OLDS: THE KEYS

Sunday, Apr. 8: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Apr. 15 & 22: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Apr. 29: 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.

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.*

YOUNG YOUTH

A few of my favorite quotes from the past few events are, "I am free, free to be me here!" and "Wow, my children had such a great time they talked about these events for days after!" These are my favorite because I strive to create an environment of connections, relationships and acceptance! Join us at our next events!

Gratefully,

Beth

UPCOMING EVENTS...

April 15, 1 1:30am-3pm:

K-2 Park Clean Up!

Lunch together after second service
and then leaving in the van to all
Onalaska Parks to help God's creation!
Please RSVP to beth@firstlu.org

April 29, 1 1:30am-3pm:

3rd-5th Clearwater Farm

Details to come!

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

Springfest

**Preschool Concert
& Silent Auction**
Sun, May 6, 3pm

The major
fund-raiser for our
preschool.
Ice cream social &
silent auction
follows
preschooler's
performance.

peer
ministry leadership

**Meeting
Wednesdays
6:30–8pm
all through April**

Peer Ministry is an amazing opportunity for our young adults here at First Lutheran. It trains and equips them to have the skills to deal with the tough situations that confront our youth in today's world. They learn how to welcome those who are hurting, listen with empathy, and communicate in clear ways. Peer Ministry grows leaders who can continue to help and serve in their everyday life.

*Meeting most Wednesdays,
November–May*

GO N T I R M A T I O N

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

Events subject to change; up-to-date info at
1stlu.org/confirmation

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups
Wednesdays, 7pm

Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes -
Rm 207 & FS
Sundays, 9:15am
except Easter Sunday, Apr. 1

Apostle's Creed - Fireside Rm
Sundays (9:15-10:15am)
April 22, 29 May 6, 13, 20

Sacraments - Thomas Rm
Wednesdays (5–6pm)
April 4, 11, 18, 25

Seasons of the Church Year
Sunday, April 15 (12–2pm)

Art as Prayer
Sunday, April 22 (12–4pm)



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Mabel Anderson Scholarship

Completed applications are due no later than **3pm on Monday, April 23**. Students may apply if they will graduate from high school in the spring and have plans to pursue post-secondary education. The application includes writing an essay and completing a worksheet that reflects the student's involvement in church activities. Application forms are available at 1stlu.org/scholarship or in the church office during office hours, M-F 8am-4pm.



Chicken Dinner

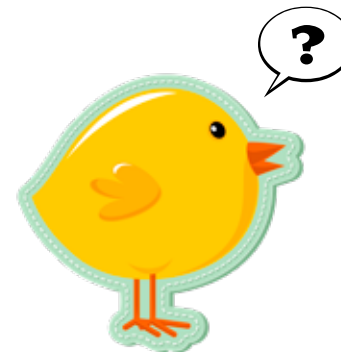
Thur., Apr. 26, 11am–6:30pm
NEW: at American Legion
731 Sand Lake Road
Onalaska, WI

Tickets now available to sell; pick up packet in church office during office hours (M–F, 8am–4pm) or contact Jared. Sign-up sheets for event help available soon.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!

Weekly on Sunday nights during the school year, 6:30–8:30pm, in the Mary room. 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!

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



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>Easter Sunday</div> <div>No Sun School nor Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes</div> <div>7:30 AM Easter Worship</div> <div>9 AM Easter Worship</div> <div>10:45 AM Easter Worship</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Office Closed</div> <div>6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5 PM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9 AM Sunshine Boys</div> <div>12:30 PM Blood Drive - NX</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7 PM AA - FH</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX</div>
<div>8</div> <div>9:15 AM 4-Yr Old FBB: The Keys (1st meeting, parents/guardians only)</div> <div>9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102</div> <div>9:15 AM Internship Committee - House</div> <div>6 PM Financial Peace University - FS</div> <div>6:30 PM Hospitality Leadership Team</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8 AM OWLs fly to Sugar Creek for Yesterday's Youth</div> <div>6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>10</div> <div>1 PM Dorcas Circle - NX</div> <div>3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX</div> <div>6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR</div>	<div>11</div> <div>12 PM Finance Team Mtg</div> <div>5 PM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls</div> <div>7 PM Monthly Small Group - UR</div> <div>8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9 AM Drawing from the Well Group - FS</div>
<div>15</div> <div>9:15 AM 4-Yr Old FBB: The Keys (2nd meeting, parents/guardians & child)</div> <div>11:30 AM Young Youth Gr K-2 Park Clean Up!</div> <div>12 PM Seasons of the Church Year Cnfrm Cls</div> <div>5:30 PM New-Member Small Group - FS</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1 PM Elizabeth Circle</div> <div>6 PM Keep Calm & Trust Jesus - House</div> <div>6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9 AM Naomi's Circle</div> <div>5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg</div> <div>6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12 PM OWLs Potluck - FH</div> <div>5 PM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX</div> <div>1 PM Grief Support Group - UR</div>	<div>20</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div>9:15 AM 4-Yr Old FBB: The Keys (3rd meeting, parents/guardians & child)</div> <div>9:15 AM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls</div> <div>12 PM Art as Prayer Cnfrm Cls</div> <div>5:30 PM New-Member Small Group - FS</div>	<div>23</div> <div>3 PM Deadline for Mabel Anderson Scholarship Applications</div> <div>6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5 PM Sacraments Cnfrm Cls</div>	<div>26</div> <div>11 AM Chicken Dinner - American Legion</div> <div>6:30 PM New-Member Social - Blue Moon</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>4-Yr Old FBB: The Keys, lifted up in wors...</div> <div>9 AM Our Church + Our Time Celebration - NX</div> <div>9:15 AM Apostle's Creed Cnfrm Cls</div> <div>11:30 AM Young Youth Gr 3-5 visit Clearwater Farm</div>	<div>30</div> <div>6 PM Stephen Ministry Class - MR</div> <div>7 PM AA - FS</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>5 PM Stewardship Confirmation Class</div> <div>5:15 PM Peer Ministry Commissioning</div> <div>8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9 AM Sunshine Boys</div>	<div>MARCH</div> <div>1 2 3</div> <div>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</div> <div>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</div> <div>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</div> <div>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div> <div>MAY</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5</div> <div>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</div> <div>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</div> <div>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</div> <div>27 28 29 30 31</div>	

weekly events for

APRIL

at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

The weekly re-occurring events for Sunday will not take place on Easter Sunday, April 1

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

TUESDAYS

8:30am ParentShare - UR

9:00am Quilting

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

6:30pm Peer Ministry - MR

7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups

7pm Choir Practice - SN



Blood Drive
Thur, April 5
12:30–5:30pm



Baptismal
Preparation
Sat, April 7
10am–Noon



Drawing from
the Well
Sat, April 14
9:30–11am



New-member
Session
Sun, April 15
5:30–7:30pm



Keep Calm
& Trust Jesus
Mon, April 16
6–8pm

CALENDAR KEY

CR = Choir Room
FBB = Faith Building Block
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LG = Lounge
MR = Mary Room
NX = Narthex
SN = Sanctuary
TR = Thomas Room
UR = Upper Room

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

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

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

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



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
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	Young Youth Director	beth@firstlu.org
Cindy Beach	Confirmation Administrative Assistant	cindy@firstlu.org
Jared Oelke	Youth Director	jared@firstlu.org

SUPPORT STAFF

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

MUSIC STAFF

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

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Melissa Rolbiecki	Preschool Director	608.779.4504	preschool@firstlu.org
Beth Miller	4K Teacher		beth@firstlu.org
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
608.783.2236
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
edition: April 2018

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**FAITH
ALIVE!**
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2018



Our Church + Our Time CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
MORE DETAILS INSIDE

#faithalive365