



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS! SEPTEMBER 2018

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www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KARYN



When you read this article, I will already be on sabbatical. However, on the day I am writing this, the calendar tells me I have 24 more days before I leave. My head is swimming with details, both of the things to be done at church and at home and those final travel details.

I have been living with the truth of what I have been told time and time again, that is, that I will still be me on sabbatical. Nothing magical happens that first day that transforms me into a better version of myself, able to be "more." So, I know this: You will be with me. Just as I carry you all in my heart and mind throughout my days, I will carry you during this time away. As I rest those first few weeks and get my hands into some clay and yarn, ideas and prayers and stories will come to me because that is usually what happens. When I am traveling abroad, gorgeous views and art and ancient cities will inspire me in the work that I do, and I will be eager to share it with you. As I explore my home state and enjoy time with family and at the beach, stories of my family and work in this place along the Mississippi will be remembered and shared. That is what it means to be community, to be a part of a people and, for me, what it means to be pastor. We are connected, all of us.

In his book *The Book of Forgiving*, Desmond Tutu says, "In South Africa,

**Who I am
and who you are
is defined by
the relationships
we have,
even when we
are separated.**

Ubuntu is our way of making sense of the world. The word literally means 'humanity.' It is the philosophy and belief that a person is only a person through other people. In other words, we are human only in relation to other humans. Our humanity is bound up in one another and any tear in the fabric of connection between us must be repaired for us all to be made whole. This interconnectedness is the very root of who we are." Who I am and who you are is defined by the relationships we have, even when we are separated. And, as I type this, I know this sounds

Continues on page 3

FIRST FEST

SUNDAY SEPT 9

11:30am–1:30pm
**Fun, food, music
and fellowship!**

**FREE AND
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**
(so invite your friends!)

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PLEGGED DOLLARS:

\$1,035,269

GIFTS RECEIVED:

\$392,059

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

HVAC CONTROLS

ED BUILDING ROOF

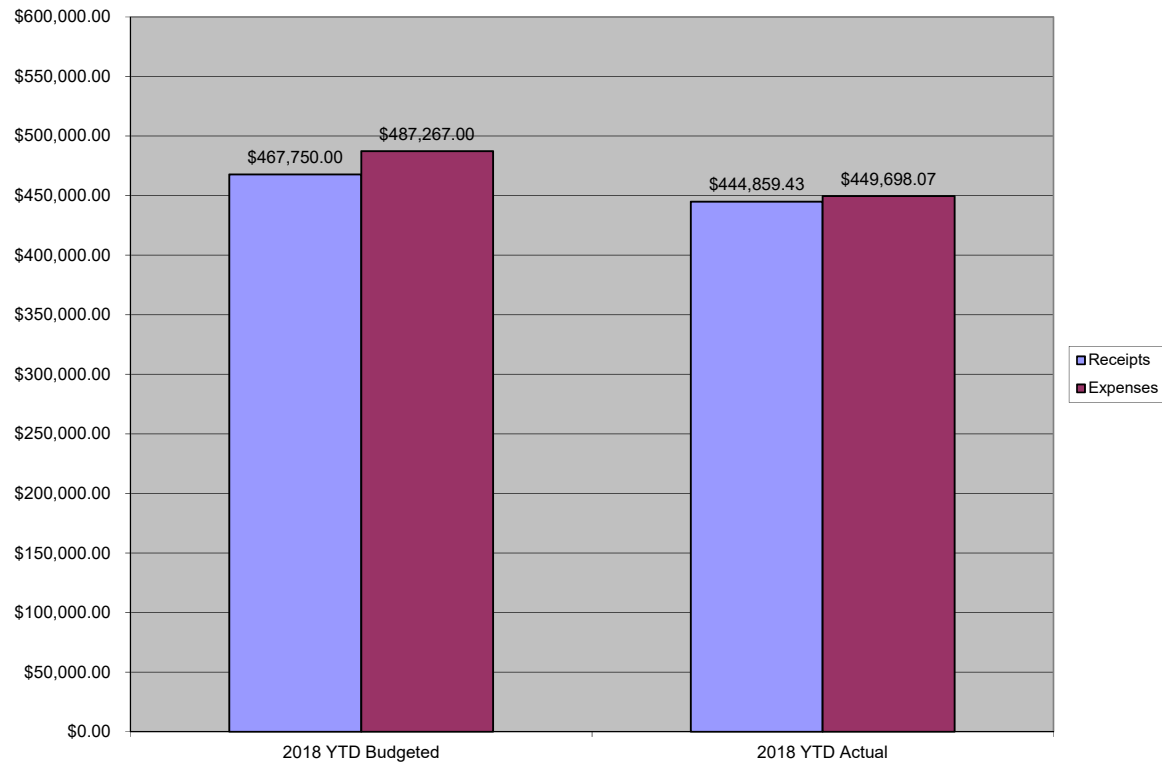
PARKING LOT REPAIRS

TREES: REMOVAL & REPLACED

COMING SOON:

SMOKE ALARM SYSTEM

WIFI UPGRADE



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

Actual receipts -
\$444,859.43

Budgeted receipts -
\$467,750.00

Actual expenses -
\$449,698.07

Budgeted expenses -
\$487,267.00

Our total receipts through the end of July fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$22,890.57. Our total giving (general fund and other miscellaneous offerings) fell short of our current year budgeted amount by \$19,537.07 or 5.0%. In addition, our total receipts through the end of July fell

short of our total receipts through the same period last year by \$394.88 or .1%.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of July by \$37,568.93. A portion of this favorable variance is due to the timing of certain expenses.

In summary, we budgeted for a deficit of \$19,517.00 through the end of July and have realized an actual deficit of \$4,838.64.

In addition to the above noted operating receipts and expenses we received \$26,447.76 for our capital campaign in July and incurred expenses associated with our capital campaign of \$3,735. Cumulative receipts and expenses associated with our capital campaign through

the end of July are \$392,059.46 and \$198,138.41, 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*

somehow wrong because we are taught to be individuals, to stand out, to be able to stand on our own two feet and not really need anyone else. That, however, is not the way humanity works when it thrives. Instead, we are connected to each other and need one another to live our fullest life. My relationship with you has shaped who I am as a person and as a pastor and that will not change while I am away.

My current favorite song, the song that would be my "walk on" music if I ever needed any, is *Rise Up* by Andra Day. I love this song because it is a powerful song about the resilience of the human spirit. "And I'll rise up. I'll rise like the day. I'll rise up. I'll rise unafraid. I'll rise up and I'll do it a thousand times again. And I'll rise up, high like the waves. I'll rise up, in spite of the ache. I'll rise up and I'll do it a thousand times again." Those words convey beauty enough, but that isn't the whole of the song. Most of the song is about how we Rise Up together, "You're broken down and tired of living life on a merry-go-round. And you can't find the fighter, but I see it in you so we gonna walk it out and move mountains... When the silence isn't quiet and it feels like it's getting hard to breathe and I know you feel like dying, but I promise we'll take the world to its feet and move mountains." In those moments of deepest despair, it is the relationships in our lives that help us out, those people who are willing to walk with us that remind us that we can walk and we can move mountains. The best part of this song though is the bridge:

*All we need all we need is hope
And for that we have each other
And for that we have each other
And we will rise
We will rise
We'll rise
We'll rise*

Friends, we rise and fall together, bound to one another by our shared humanity and that means something, especially for those of us who profess to follow Jesus. We are a people of hope, and hope is the strongest when we share it together. We give each other hope and encouragement. That is what I have experienced with you in the gifting of this sabbatical: Encouragement and hope. I am often overwhelmed by the extravagance of this time away, of the time and energy put into the grant by so many people that made all of this possible, by the grace and joy with which it was given and the support of our amazing staff.

The verse that defines how I live my life, "You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart and all of your soul and all of your mind and with all your strength... And you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31), is about our shared humanity lived out in the love of God. Together, we embark on this journey of sabbatical, exploring our shared stories of God's work in our lives and what it means that we are community as we travel different roads for a while. I look forward to when I return and we share stories together. You will be in my prayers, and I covet your prayers that this time away will be all it needs to be.

Peace,



Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz
karyn@firstlu.org



While Pr Karyn is spending her sabbatical exploring her family roots, spending some time with family, appreciating nature with photography and doing ceramics and weaving you can explore many of these same topics here at home. The Lily Grant supporting Pastor Karyn on her sabbatical will also help fund the activities we are planning, so most of the classes and workshops will be free or very low cost. Details are still being worked out, so watch the weekly announcements, our website and social media for dates and times, but here's what we're working on.

Get creative with ceramics. You will have the opportunity to either work on a pottery wheel (limit 8) or pick an already made piece and paint and decorate it (unlimited). We will gather at All Glazed Up in La Crosse. There will be events for kids and adults, and for adults only. **Offered Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6-9pm.**

Take a walk in nature and learn to really see God's amazing creation through **photographing beauty found in humility and imperfection in nature.** Bring your cell phone. No expertise required. Led by Jan Wellik, who has led similar events at the Spirituality Center.

Get started on researching your genealogy. Bill O'Driscoll from the La Crosse Historical Society will present a workshop to help you get started and learn about the resources available for learning more about your family roots. For those interested, you will be encouraged to stay connected and meet occasionally to share successes and struggles and support each other in your genealogy search. **Offered Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30-7:30pm.**

Learn more about upcoming events tied to Pastor Karyn's sabbatical at 1stlu.org or facebook.com/1stlu

Listening as a Spiritual Practice will explore practices that allow us to better listen and connect with our children, our spouses, our loved ones and our friends. We also will learn to listen to our own emotions and desires so we can be more compassionate and gentle with ourselves. This will be offered at First Lutheran on **Nov. 11, 6:30-8pm**, led by Steve Spilde from the Franciscan Spirituality Center.

Art and Spirituality is a one-day retreat. Take a trip to the Winona Museum of Art and learn and practice Visio Divina, the spiritual practice of praying with images. We will start the day learning about Visio Divina, then visit the museum together and practice slowing down and exploring how we connect personally with art at the museum. **Nov. 17, 10:30am-4pm**, beginning and finishing at First Lutheran. Led by Bridget Crave.



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

ARE YOU THE SALT OF THE EARTH?

A Benefit Presentation and Social

Monday
September 10, 2018
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres at 4:30 p.m.
Presentation 5:15 p.m.

\$7.00
Tickets available
at the door



FEATURED PRESENTER

Rev. Ron Nowland, a retired pastor and chaplain in La Crosse is a graduate of Luther College and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Doing illustrated talks is a hobby of his.

PROGRAM

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

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

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

For further information call: Mary 608-782-7013



READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday, Sept. 2	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Wednesday, Sept. 5	Luke 12:13-34
Sunday, Sept. 9	Mark 7:24-37
Wednesday, Sept. 12	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
Sunday, Sept. 16	Mark 8:27-38
Wednesday, Sept. 19	Genesis 12:1-9
Sunday, Sept. 23	Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday, Sept. 26	Genesis 39:1-23
Sunday, Sept. 30	Mark 9:38-50

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

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

La Crosse Area Synod

School of
Theology



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

Synod School of Theology

Thursdays, 5:30pm

Oct. 4–Nov. 8

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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION REPORT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Category 2: Community Outreach.....\$2,500

\$400 Salvation Army,
\$600 St Claire Mission
\$500 New Horizons,
\$600 Onalaska Food Panty
\$400 Holmen Youth Partner

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

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

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

Committee members: Todd Hanson (chairman), Steve Lind, Christine Sanders, Michele Burton, Andrea Dombroski, Meredith Hougen

DRAWING FROM THE WELL

**Next retreat: Saturday, Sept. 8,
9:30–11:30am, at the house**

In September we're changing things up: we will meet at the house and discuss the format for Drawing from

the Well for this program year. Come and get to know other women of the church, or renew friendships. RSVP to bridget@firstlu.org



Sugar Creek Bible Camp's

ANNUAL QUILT and ANTIQUE AUCTION CRAFT FAIR, 5K TRAIL RUN or FUN WALK

SATURDAY - SEPT 8, 2018

FUN WALK & 5K TRAIL RUN:	8:00 a.m.—registration, 9:00—start
COUNTRY STORE:	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
CRAFT FAIR:	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
QUILT and ANTIQUE AUCTION:	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Beautiful Quilts, Antiques, Sports Memorabilia – Packers, Brewers, etc.,
Crafts, Furniture, Paintings, Gift Baskets & so much more!

Great BBQ pork lunch, homemade pies, potato salad, delicious treats

Country Store will be open with a wide variety of rummage items!

Silent Auction for Gift Themed Baskets until 1pm.

Craft Fair featuring the best of our local Artisans runs throughout the day!

**Come enjoy a beautiful day and help support all the wonderful
ministries of Sugar Creek Bible Camp.**

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd. Ferryville, WI 54628

Phone: 608-734-3113 E-mail: camp@sgrcreek.org

www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

Please contact the camp if you have an item to donate or if you have questions.

HOSPITALITY FAMILIES



The greatest joy I receive on a Sunday is seeing families serving together in a ministry. I love seeing families help with coffee together, little

and not so little ones getting the the cups, napkins, creamers and sugar packets out on the table. It's wonderful to see older children going around filling coffee cups and talking to the adults at the tables. I love seeing families usher together, welcoming people into the sanctuary and gathering the offering. When families serve together, it brings joy not only to me but to others seeing it and to the children participating. I love to see young ones' faces light up when they can help out in church. Their attitude changes, and they walk a little taller taking pride in what they can do.

As we move into the fall with school starting, Sunday school beginning and activities starting up, I hope you will consider helping out in church as a family. We have lots of ways families can serve. The Parking Lot Ministry is one way a parent and child can work together to welcome those coming into church. Families can help as Narthex Minglers, welcoming people and helping people find where they need to go. Ushering is a great way for families to serve together, handing out announcement pages, taking the offering and getting people up for communion. If a young person wants to help out by reading scripture on a Sunday or be an acolyte even without a family member helping that would be wonderful as well.

It's never too early to start our children learning to give of themselves and with a parent or family member

helping alongside them, it's even better for everyone. As it says in Galatians 6:10, "so then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith." When we help out at church, whether as an individual or as a family unit, we are serving and helping out our family of faith. I often wonder how many children would love helping out in church but are afraid to ask or don't think they would be welcomed to help. Let's change this together!!

This year during the first day of Sunday school, we will have sign up sheets for children to sign up to help. Some of the areas will need a family member to come alongside them and help them out as they help out others. Some of the sign-ups a child can help all by themselves. My hope is that families will see the opportunity to help their children learn to help others. Please take the time to sign up to help as a family or to encourage a family to sign up to help out in this serving opportunity. When you see a family helping together, thank them and tell them how wonderful it is to see them serving the Lord together.

If you have any question about helping out as a family, let me know. E-mail me at kathryn@firstlu.org or give me a call at church at 783-2236.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

SUNSHINE BOYS

Sunshine Boys help with outdoor or indoor projects and now meet AT A NEW TIME! **The SECOND Thursday of the month...** NEXT: Sept. 13, 9am. Rolls and coffee are supplied to replenish your reserves! Dues are free!

COME FOR SUPPER

First Lutheran is assisting with Come for Supper on **Tuesday, Sept. 25**, at Our Savior's in La Crosse. First Lutheran will help with food donations and volunteering to serve and clean up. The sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center. Call Gloria Kubiak if you have questions, 608.498.2762.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer! **Thursday, Sept. 27, at 9am**, to assemble the October 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!

SING!

Do you like music? Do you enjoy singing, even if it's in the shower? Do you appreciate the power of music in worship? Then put all of these things together and join the First Lutheran Senior Choir! The choir rehearses **Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the sanctuary, starting Sept. 5.**

All are welcome! For more info contact Todd Saner at todd@firstlu.org.

RING!

Are you open to trying something new? Join the fun—ring bells! This group performs once a month. We welcome widely varied musical backgrounds. No experience necessary! We'll begin with the basics and learn to work together. Musical ability is a skill that can be taught. Do you want to be involved? We rehearse **Tuesdays at 5:30pm in the sacristy, starting Sept. 11.**

For more info contact Jim Knutson at jim@firstlu.org. Ring 'dem bells!

FIRST TEEN CLOTHES CLOSET HAS A NEW HOME!

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped in the relocation of the First Teen Clothes Closet to its new home, sharing a building with the Children's Clothes Closet at Trinity Lutheran Church in La Crosse. We are excited about the opportunity to serve more teens in a location that is more accessible to the area of our community with the greatest concentration of need.

More than two dozen sets of energetic hands and feet helped in the transfer of thousands of items of clothing in July and August, and on Aug. 20, the Closet opened for the first open-shopping night in its new location.

Special thanks to Mike Peper for the many hours of work setting up shelving, painting and preparing the physical space, and to Kelly Konrardy for helping us visualize how to best use the space available.

In its new location, the First Teen Clothes Closet will be open 4-6 p.m. each Monday, corresponding with the hours of the Children's Clothes Closet located in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran at 1010 Sill St. The church also serves a community meal to nearly 150 people each Monday night.

We will still accept donations in the entry at First Lutheran (for both the Teen Closet and the Children's Closet). The clothes will still be sorted and approved by our teens in the house. Our volunteers will continue to host private appointments, in addition to the open-shopping nights. While the physical location of the closet has changed, the heart of it remains

very much a mission of First Lutheran Church, and we thank you for your support in clothing donations, financial donations, volunteer time and prayers.

Watch for opportunities to learn more about our new adventure, and follow the Closet's Facebook page to see a video tour when all the finishing touches are complete. We are also seeking volunteers to host the Monday shopping nights; please talk with a committee member or contact the church office if you are interested.

HUNDREDS OF KIDS WITH HAPPY FEET: 265 PAIRS OF SHOES!

What can happen when two churches decide that a community's kids should have new shoes to wear for back-to-school? For the second year in a row, First Lutheran has been a part of making that happen, pitching in on an event created by Trinity Lutheran Church in La Crosse, which has kicked off the school year for several years by hosting a block party complete with music, games, food... and shoes. It is a continuation of the outreach the church does through its Children's Clothes Closet and Monday evening community meals.

This year, thanks to the continuing generosity of our congregation and a grant from the Franke Foundation, the First Teen Clothes Closet again



Many hands make for light work! A huge thank you to these energetic helpers for conquering the stairs and moving the entire inventory of the Clothes Closet down stairs in less than an hour.

provided 140 pairs of adult sized shoes to supplement the 400 pairs of kids' shoes purchased by Trinity's program. More than half of those shoes found feet to wear them in a 2.5-hour period on students from preschool through high school (and even teen students at Western Technical College). In addition to shoes, our congregation provided volunteers who registered families, helped them find the shoes they needed, led games for kids, painted faces and more.

Thank you to Kisha Peyer, who helped purchase and keep track of the 140 pairs of adults shoes we contributed, and to all who took time to enjoy the festivities and be the hands and feet of Christ for the new

neighbors of our First Teen Clothes Closet, which has relocated to Trinity to provide one-stop shopping alongside the Children's Clothes Closet.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, Oct. 6, 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, Oct. 14 & 21, and Thursday, Oct. 25**. 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

- Ace Robert Willinger
- Joseph Gary Wodele

WEDDINGS

God's blessings to...

- Kathryn Bird & Daniel Sevcik

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

- Ron Espe
- Celestino "Joe" Tovar

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of Jack Redfearn

- Designated for Capital Campaign: Dave & Terry Lee, Cheryl Partridge
- Undesignated: Nancy Beguin, Bev Fuhrman, Stewart Peterson, Paula Skoy & Travis Evenson, Ardie Van Riper

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.

LATEX- & NUT-FREE CAMPUS

A reminder to all members that First Lutheran is a latex- and nut-free campus. Please do not bring food containing nuts or nut butters of any kind onto the church campus. This is for the safety of all of our members. Thanks!

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.

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.

2018 SMALL GROUPS

Weekly Groups:

Coffee with(out?)
Pastor Karyn

Courageous Men

Knitters

Middle & High School
Youth Groups

Parent Share (*Sun & Tues*)

Quilters

Sunday Morning
with Coffee

Monthly Groups:

Drawing from the Well

Grief Support Group

Frolic!

OWLs
(*Older, Wiser Lutherans*)

Deborah Circle

Dorcas Circle

Elizabeth Circle

Naomi Circle

Rebekah Circle



OWLS

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

After a break in July the OWLs got back in the swing of things in August. We started with a paint and sip (coffee) potluck where everyone showed off their hidden artistic abilities. We had some wonderful watercolor masterpieces. We finished the month with a wonderful theatre outing and dinner in Lanesboro. A good time was had by all.

Our September potluck will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 19, at noon in the Narthex**. Our program will be a special guest, our very own Pastor Jason. He will give everyone an update on the recently completed Capital Campaign and conduct an open session of "Ask the Pastor." It is your opportunity to bring any questions you have about church programs, worship, staff,

finances or congregational needs you would like him to be aware of. Don't be bashful; he is genuinely interested in your questions and feedback. Thank you to Ardie Van Riper and Peggy Quasius for hosting the potluck during Brian and Mary's absence.

Due to Brian and Mary Narveson's travel schedule the OWLs September outing will occur the first week in October. On **Friday, October 5**, the OWLs will travel to one of Wisconsin's famous historic sites, the Villa Louis mansion in Prairie Du Chien. In the mid-1840s, the Dousman family began developing an estate that became Villa Louis. Its vibrant hues and rich textures reflected the family's rise to wealth and leisure living. Throughout its evolution the property was always considered an elegant and stylish Victorian country home, and much attention was paid to the grounds. The OWLs will have our own tour of the mansion and grounds. We will **depart from the church at 8:45am on October 5**. After our tour and visiting the fur-trading museum, we

will have lunch at a fine local establishment. We will be back at the church by 3pm. Cost of the tour is \$10.50, lunch is on your own. It will be a great day for a drive along the river. *Please contact Brian Narveson at 630-816-5917 or owls@firstlu.org by Wednesday, October 3, if you would like to be part of the adventure.*

Don't worry, you will not be cheated out of an outing. We will do another outing in the later part of October.

Look forward to seeing everyone in September.

The OWLs are a group at First that welcomes anyone, First Lutheran members or not, who are 55+. For information or to ask questions, contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org.

Sunday School

2018-2019 Program year is upon us!
The first day of Sunday School is Sept. 9th!

Parents and students please meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15.

Sunday School is from 9:15-10:15. This year is going to be AMPED and we will live fully alive through our experiences!

See you there!

Faith Building Blocks

GRADE 3: BIBLES, IN THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, Sept. 23: parents/guardians only

Sundays, Sept. 30 & Oct. 7: parents/guardians with children

Sunday, Oct. 14: Faith Building Block lifted up in worship

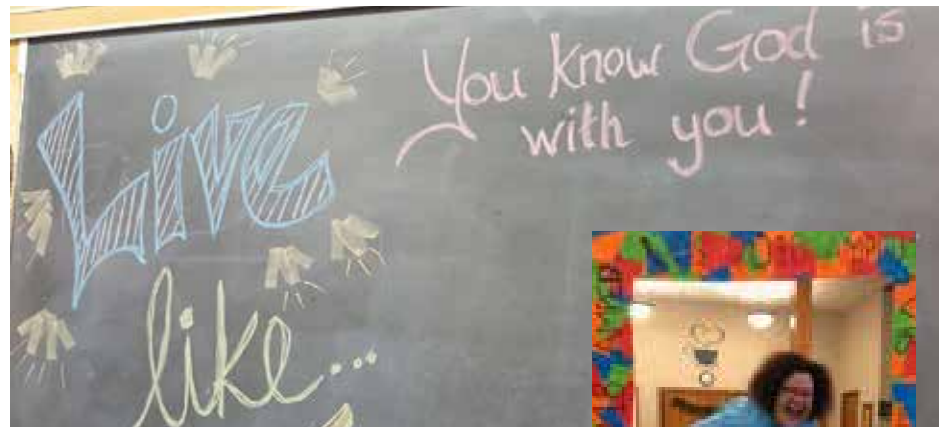
Throughout the year each age group will have a special "Faith Building Block" session in which parents or special adults are asked to attend class with their child on Sundays at 9:15am, sharing in conversation and growing together in faith. The session lasts for three weeks, and afterwards, children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

AMPED

LIVE FULLY ALIVE!



VBS was a huge success this year with 80 children participating! We also had many youth leading and parents getting involved with their children through the activities! Our congregation's children lived fully alive through games, crafts, lessons, music and dancing!

Thank you to all of you who volunteered...
Beth's already looking forward to next year!

CONFIRMATION

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

CONFIRMATION KICK OFF

Wednesday, Sept. 12

Let's start the confirmation year off in style! Come for food, fellowship and a chance to meet your kid's small-group guides.

7-8pm in the Narthex.

For youth in grades 6-10 and their parents/guardians.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MILESTONE

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

Week 1, Sunday, Sept. 16

Parents/guardians and youth together

Week 2, Sunday, Sept. 23

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

Week 3, Sunday, Sept. 30

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

Week 4, Sunday, Oct. 7, in worship

Blessing of life milestone.

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

Gr 6-10 Confirmation Kick-off!
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7pm
Fellowship Hall

Gr 6 Middle School Milestone
Sundays, Sept. 16-30, 9:15am
Fellowship Hall

Gr 7 Bible Class Begins
Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:15am

Gr 8-10 Small Groups Begin
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7pm

Gr 10 Rehearsal Dinner
Wednesday, Oct. 24, 6pm

Confirmation Sunday and Affirmation of Baptism for Gr 10, Oct. 28, 1:30pm



S'MORE YOUNG YOUTH

Calling all K-5th grade students!!!
Join us for s'more faith, s'more fellowship,
s'more fun and s'mores on
Saturday September 15th 6:30-8pm
at Hilltopper Heights Park.
(Rain location: Fellowship Hall at First)
Any questions, contact Beth:
beth@firstlu.org



Campus Ministry for UWL, WTC & Viterbo
will be serving FREE pulled pork sandwiches
to hungry students and their families on
move-in weekend (**August 31 and Sept 1**).
Tell anyone you know attending the above
schools to go to Common Ground!
(across from Angell Hall on UWL campus)

Meeting Sun. Nights
5:30pm
Starting Sept. 9
in the narthex

Middle School
&
High School

YOUTH GROUPS

? Questions?
Contact Pastor Stanton:
jason@firstlu.org

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL 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	JUNE 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	28 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	29	30 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	31 7 PM AA - FS	1
2 7 PM AA - FS	3 Labor Day (office closed) 7 PM AA - FS	4	5 7 PM Confirmation Guide Orientation - FS 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	6 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	7 7 PM AA - FH	8 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group - House 10 AM Sugar Creek Annual Quilt and Antique Auction
9 Blessing Sunday School Volunteers 9:15 AM Gr 6 & 7 First Day Cnfrm Cls 9:15 AM Sunday School First Day - SN 11:30 AM 10th Annual First Fest! 🎉	10 7 PM AA - FS	11 1 PM Dorcas Circle - House 3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	12 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 7 PM Gr 6-10 Confirmation Kick-off! - NX	13 9 AM Sunshine Boys 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	14 7 PM AA - FS	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone - FH 9:15 AM Gr 7 Cnfrm Cls 6:30 PM Hospitality Leadership Team - NX 7 PM Gifts of Imperfection Group - UR	17 Closet Closet Anniversary of First Visit 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 2:30 PM Springbrook Worship 🕊 7 PM AA - FS	18 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Coffee Shoppers - UR 6:30 PM Property Management Team Mtg - Mike's Office 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	19 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 🎵 12 PM OWLs Potluck - FH 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation	20 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	21 7 PM AA - FS	22
23 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles - SN 9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone - FH 9:15 AM Gr 7 Cnfrm Cls 9:30 AM Coffee Hosts 7 PM Gifts of Imperfection Group - UR	24 7 PM AA - FS	25 4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	26 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation	27 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	28 7 PM AA - FS	29
30 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles - SN 9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone - FH 9:15 AM Gr 7 Cnfrm Cls 7 PM Gifts of Imperfection Group - UR	1 7 PM AA - FS	2	3 7 PM Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	4 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	5 7 PM AA - FH	6 10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX

weekly events for
AUGUST
at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Sunday School, *starting Sunday, Sept. 9*

9:15am Parent Share - UR

9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee Small Group - MR
starting Sunday, Sept. 16

10:30am Worship

5:30pm Middle & High School Youth Groups - NX
starting Sunday, Sept. 9

TUESDAYS

9:00am Parent Share - UR

1:15pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Bells Practice - Sacristy, *starting Tuesday, Sept. 11*

WEDNESDAYS

6:00am Courageous Men - House

6:30am Coffee w/o Pastor Karyn - Panera, Onalaska

6:15pm Worship

7pm Choir Practice - SN, *starting Sunday, Sept. 5*



Sugar Creek Quilt
& Antique Auction
Sat, Sept 8
8am-2pm



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



First Fest
Sun, Sept 9
11:30am-1pm



Confirmation
Kick-off, Gr 6-10
Wed, Sept 12
5:30pm



Middle School
Milestone Starts
Sun, Sept 16
9:15-10:15am



Confirmation
Small Groups Start
Wed, Sept 19
7pm

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.*

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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)



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Tracy Stoll Preschool Assistant Teacher

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Aaron McDonald Vice President
Jennifer Wiesjahn Secretary
Nancy Beguin
Brandon King
Diane Shuda
Shaun Gibbs



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
edition: September 2018

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GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018



INSIDE

FALL EVENTS
INSERT

LET'S DO
SABBATICAL
TOGETHER

#faithalive365