



AT FIRST LUTHERAN

## GOOD NEWS! OCTOBER 2018

All of this and more on the web at  
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### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR STANTON



First Lutheran's Vision & Leadership Team is reading a book this fall, recommended by our Stewardship Team, called *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate* written by J. Clif Christopher. Allow me the chance to offer a brief book report on the intro and first chapter...

Christopher says that over the course of the last 30-40 years, philanthropy has changed in America. In 2013 Americans gave away \$335 billion. 31% of that money was given to religious institutions. This is the lowest percentage ever recorded.

Secular charities (education, health, arts, environment, United Way and so on) have all shown increases. Only religion has failed to advance. "Now remember," Christopher says, "we are talking about a charity market share that at one time was at 60%. Today it is around 30%. Religion receives one-half of the charitable dollars in ratio to what it got thirty years ago."

I find that to be incredible! and unsurprising. The author goes on to assert that there are numerous reasons people's giving habits have changed. But one of the most important reasons

*Continues on page 2*

### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON

## FEAR NOT

August 31, 2018



I'm leaving for my first trip to Holden Village, a retreat center near Chelan, Wash. I've heard about this Lutheran Shangri-

La for years. I have sung and played the Holden Evening Prayer in many settings. I'm excited. The theme verse for the week I'll be in residence is "Fear not," which is part of a longer passage found in the book of Isaiah.

For me, Isaiah 43:1-7 is one of the most hopeful and lovely passages in all

of Scripture. This word of promise and grace comes to the people of God who are in exile in Babylon. It is difficult for many of us to imagine the intensity of these words and of the promise they contain. God's declaration that "you are mine... you are precious... and I love you" is almost too good to be true. Hearing and trusting this promise, the people were undoubtedly, as Zechariah says, "prisoners of hope."

"Fear not." "Do not fear." "Do not be afraid." "The fear of the Lord is the

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

is that churches do not do a good enough job at explaining how the church's work changes lives. Instead, churches get into a habit of offering a message that says something like, "Give us money because we need it—NOW!" and then the church wonders why it does not get more. Christopher's solution is for churches to take on a new mindset: justify your existence, explain how your ministry changes lives, compete for charitable donations, "earn people's gifts." Christopher believes we need to move from a mindset of telling people, "you should give" to answer the question our donors are asking us, "Why should I give to YOU?"

I have yet to hear anyone who has read this book disagree with its premise or question the conclusions. Having just completed the 'ask' portion of the capital campaign last year, the question donors ask is fresh in my mind. "Why should I give to YOU?" This book is definitely speaking to us! As the YMCA, Humane Society, United Way, UWL and all kinds of other non-profits raise money for their projects, all of us are faced with limited resources with which we can be generous. So, why should I give to my church?

1. First Lutheran is the best source in the entire area for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. Nowhere else, in my not-so-humble opinion, is the grace of a loving God told better through words and actions than at First Lutheran. We preach grace: undeserved love from God for ALL. All are welcome to worship. All are welcome to lead. All are welcome to commune. No one judges but God. And no one is said to be closer to God than anyone else. THIS IS RADICAL

**Christopher believes we need to move from a mindset of telling people, "you should give" to answer the question our donors are asking us, "Why should I give to YOU?"**

STUFF! Grace is a concept our kids encounter NOWhere else. "All are welcome" in very few places in this world. If for no other reason, give to First Lutheran because of its extremely important message.

2. First Lutheran changes lives... by saying, 'yes' to outside groups looking for space. Our buildings not only include a house of worship (where all are welcome... did I mention that?) but host grief groups, addiction recovery meetings, parenting support classes, divorce support, early-onset dementia support, cancer survivor support, scouts and so much more. Yes, First Lutheran seeks to serve its own members. But just as important to our membership is that we serve our neighbors by opening our doors to outside groups who simply need a place to meet.

3. First Lutheran changes lives... by meeting the needs of our neighbors both near and far. Our Teen Clothes Closet at Trinity will serve hundreds of kids in our area, providing dignity and warmth where there wasn't any before. Our quilters sent off 202 quilts to Lutheran World Relief that will offer a physical reminder to people in need that they are not alone. First Lutheran supports education for elders in our county who are considering how to complete advanced directives. We make significant contributions toward local food banks that feed the hungry. We support Lutheran Social Services, which serves the whole state. We even buy gifts for families unable to celebrate Christmas as we hope their kids can enjoy. First Lutheran may not receive a lot of publicity for it and perhaps our own members

take it for granted, but our church changes lives near and far through a variety of Christ-centered ministries.

4. First Lutheran changes lives... through fellowship, food and fun. Where else do babies, teens, their parents, grandparents, singles, widows, elders, gay & straight, Republican & Democrat, wealthy and poor all meet to do ANYthing? We are intergenerational in ways no other institution can be. We mix people in ways they mix in no other time or place. First Lutheran challenges beliefs, stretches stubborn hearts and, with genuine care, comforts those who are suffering.

I could say more, but maybe you are starting to get the point. First Lutheran is worthy of your generosity. It is a special place. Of course, it is most assuredly imperfect. I know where most of the cracks are and, sadly, I have been one who has done some of the cracking. But none of us pretend First is without blame or blemish. In fact, our willingness to claim our imperfection, to admit we are still becoming hopefully expresses our humility. This is a special time in the life of this particular congregation. As a new program year begins and as the capital campaign continues to receive donations, I pray you have a couple answers to your question, "why should I give to First?"



Pastor Jason Stanton  
jason@firstlu.org



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

Photo from Pastor Carrie Anderson in  
Gays Mills and Soldiers Grove on August 29



## LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Widespread flooding has affected the southern and  
eastern counties of the synod.

Please pray for all the affected communities.

### MAKE A DONATION

Online: [1stlu.org/synodgive](http://1stlu.org/synodgive)

By check: with "flood relief" in memo mail to:  
La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA, 2301 South Ave, La Crosse WI 54601

### DONATE SUPPLIES, VOLUNTEER & LEARN MORE

Village halls, community centers and fire stations are the places to  
check-in for where workers are most needed, to drop supplies  
and material donations, and to prepare and eat meals.

For up-to-date information on flood relief efforts, to learn what  
supplies are currently needed, and to find out how to  
best assist local areas go to

the synod's flood relief page on their website at  
[lacrosseareasynod.org/floodreliefefforts](http://lacrosseareasynod.org/floodreliefefforts)

The La Crosse Interfaith Shoulder to Shoulder Network (LISSN) presents:

## When Hate is Close to Home

The Rise of Hate Groups  
And How We Can Stop Them



Featuring Lecia Brooks  
Outreach Director,  
Southern Poverty Law Center

Wednesday, October 17th @ 7pm  
Viterbo University Fine Arts Center

This event is **FREE** and open to the public!

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

#### PLEDGED DOLLARS:

**\$1,035,270**

#### GIFTS RECEIVED:

**\$405,303**

### PROJECTS COMPLETED:

#### HVAC CONTROLS

#### ED BUILDING ROOF

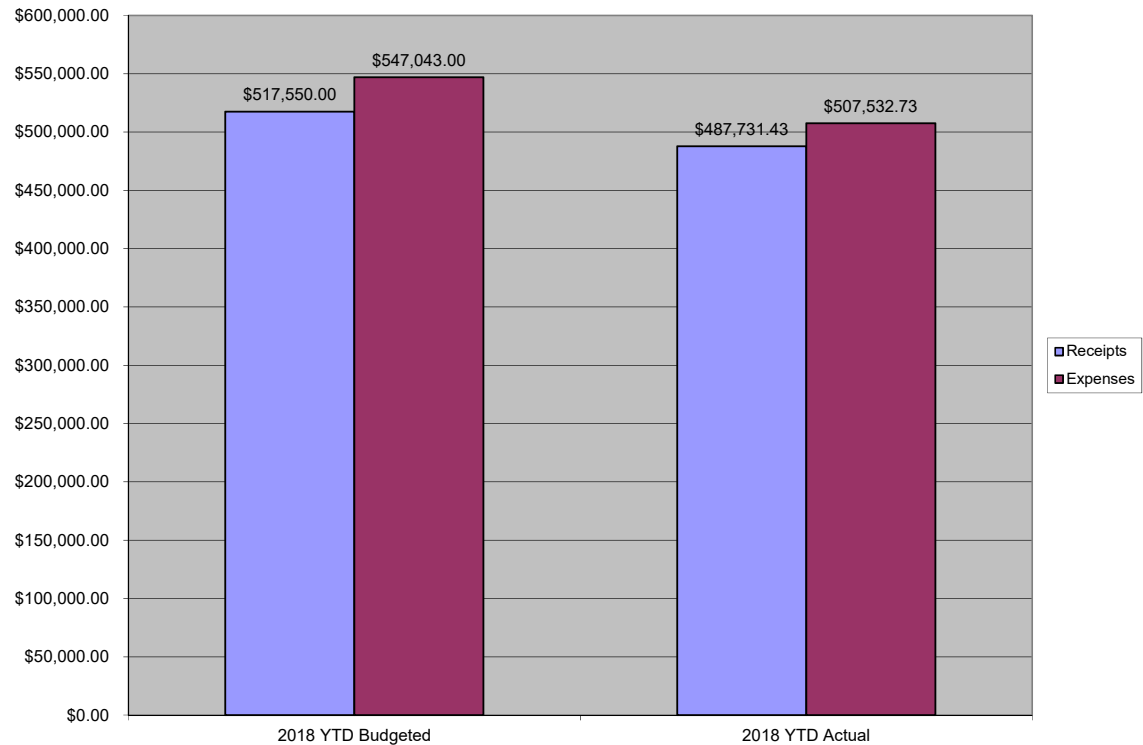
#### PARKING LOT REPAIRS

#### TREES: REMOVAL & REPLACED

#### COMING SOON:

#### SMOKE ALARM SYSTEM

#### WIFI UPGRADE



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

Actual receipts - \$487,731.43

Budgeted receipts - \$517,550.00

Actual expenses - \$507,532.73

Budgeted expenses - \$547,043.00

Our total receipts through the end of August fell short of the current year budgeted amount by \$29,818.57. Our total giving (general fund and other miscellaneous offerings) fell short of our current year budgeted amount by \$26,559.34 or 6.1%. In addition, our total receipts through the end of August are

less than of our total receipts through the same period last year by \$8,980.46 or 1.8%.

As noted above, our expenses are less than budgeted through the end of August by \$39,510.27. A portion of this favorable variance is due to the timing of certain expenses.

In summary, we budgeted for a deficit of \$29,493.00 through the end of August and have realized an actual deficit of \$19,801.30.

In addition to the above noted operating receipts and expenses we received \$13,243.66 for our capital campaign in August and incurred expenses associated with our capital campaign of \$5,138.37. Cumulative receipts and expenses associated with our capital campaign through the

end of August are \$405,303.12 and \$203,276.78, 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*

## *Sabbatical Together*

*While Pastor Karyn is spending her sabbatical exploring her family roots and creative opportunities, 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.*

### — COMING UP —

#### **Photo Walk**

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 12-4pm.**

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 (or an actual camera if you have one). No expertise required, but this experience will be about TAKING a better photo, NOT ABOUT HOW to use your camera. If you know how to press the button on your phone to take a picture, then you have all the expertise you need for this class! Led by Brian Narveson.

#### **Genealogy 101**

**Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30-7:30pm.**

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.

## **"Tell the Story"**

### **What Story?** God's Story, Your Story, Our Story

We are creating a large, communal art piece for our narthex area. It will be a "weaving" together of words of scripture and the names and "stories" of every person in the First Lutheran community.

### **What to Do:**

1. In the narthex, pick one colored strip for your household or person
2. Use a black Sharpie marker to write your name(s), spaced out, along the strip.
3. Fill in the spaces with whatever you would like, drawings or words. Include things that symbolize what is meaningful to you in your relationship with God.
4. DO NOT TAKE IT HOME. Please leave it at church.

We will be decorating the strips of cloth until October 14, and they will be available in the narthex.

**Thank you! We can't wait to see the finished project!!**

The logo features the words "FAITH U ALIVE!" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The "U" is significantly larger than the other letters and is positioned between "FAITH" and "ALIVE!". The text is set against a dark red, textured background that resembles a wooden surface or a piece of fabric. The entire logo is enclosed within a white, dotted border.

*First offers courses for all-ages to explore, question and learn about your faith. Presented in the sanctuary.*

### **Political Jesus?**

#### **Bishop Arends**

**Sunday, Oct. 14, 6pm**

People of faith are called to be faithful citizens. Yet, when we speak to political issues, we are often cautioned to be silent due to the separation of church and state. Join La Crosse Area Synod Bishop Jim Arends as he explores the call to faithfulness and action that comes to Christians from Jesus. We will look at the need to speak and act as well as the worries and fears of "going public."





### 3-5 GRADE RETREAT

*October 27-28*

Come join us for a time of fun and faith exploration. Enjoy time away with your favorite camp friends and Sugar Creek counselors playing games, singing songs, worshiping together and studying the Bible. This October retreat is filled with fun, fall activities! Retreat runs from 1pm Saturday to 1pm Sunday.

### HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

*November 9-11*

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

### CRAFTER'S RETREAT

*November 15-18*

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.

### 6-8 GRADE RETREAT

*October 5-7*

If you've been missing camp and can't wait to come back, then this retreat is for you! Come hang out at camp with your favorite camp friends and staff for 3 days of games, hiking, Bible study, worship, campfires and all your other favorite camp activities. Cost: \$85 (includes 5 meals). Retreat runs from 7pm Friday to 1pm Sunday.

### WOMEN'S RETREATS

*October 12-14*

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

## READINGS FOR OCTOBER

Wednesday, Oct. 3	Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7; 2:8-20; 2:21-35
Sunday, Oct. 7	Mark 10:2-16
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17
Sunday, Oct. 14	Mark 10:17-31
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Luke 5:1-11 and 5:27-32
Sunday, Oct. 21	Mark 10:35-45
Wednesday, Oct. 24	2 Samuel [11:1-5, 26-27]; 12:1-9 Psalm 51:1-9
Sunday, Oct. 28	Mark 10:46-52
Wednesday, Oct. 31	1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28

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

*You can also view this list online and subscribe to receive them as an email at [1stlu.org/readings](http://1stlu.org/readings).*



## LISTENING SESSION

**Mon., Oct. 1, 6-7pm  
at First Lutheran**

*Attention: All who love Sugar Creek Bible Camp!*  
Come to a listening session hosted by Jeff Barrow, interim executive director as he and the board consider the camp's strengths and growing edges. What new programs could be offered? What old programs need new life? Bring your ideas, critique and your hopes for what Sugar Creek may do in its next chapter!

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd, Ferryville, WI 54628  
608.734.3113 • [camp@sgrcreek.org](mailto:camp@sgrcreek.org) • [www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org)

**We are told to  
"fear and love God."  
We are also told  
"fear not."  
I think both are  
possible.**

beginning of wisdom." "You are to fear and love the Lord so that..." What about all this fear? I think the notion of fearing a loving God is confusing. How can fear, which feels oppressive, be part of God's life-giving relationship with us? Are we to fear, or fear not? And yet, there it is. In Scripture and in the catechism, we are told to "fear and love God." We are also told "fear not." I think both are possible.

There is a lot of fear going around in our world, our country and our church. The evidence is all around: heavily armed police and military personnel at airports; the strident fearmongering that blares at us from media outlets of the left and the right; the possibility of nuclear war; even manufactured threats about personal hygiene (do we have the whitest, brightest teeth?).

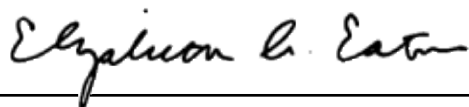
This kind of fear makes the world seem chaotic and overwhelming. It drives us into smaller and smaller relationships. It's limiting and inhibiting. This kind of fear plays to our sinful nature, particularly sin as defined by Martin Luther: "the soul curved in upon itself." This kind of fear puts us in the center of a limited universe that is restricting and life-destroying. That is why this kind of fear is an effective means of control.

The fear of God that is found in Scripture and the catechism is the opposite. The fear of God is actually

part of an expansive and expanding existence. Instead of our crowded little worlds with us at the center, we are able to experience the depth and breadth of God's love. This kind of fear is about awe that makes us tremble in the presence of God's power expressed in love. The absence of fear and awe makes God, the cosmos and the world small, impoverished and parochial.

Here is how I think it is possible for us to fear and fear not. If we fear and love God, if we assume an attitude of awe, we are set free. Rather than being limiting, this kind of fear is liberating. We are liberated from futile attempts to save ourselves. We are liberated from exhausting attempts to justify ourselves. This kind of fear is the best response to the constricting and life-destroying fear that the world peddles. It is not denying that the world can be a frightening and dangerous place. Rather, the fear and awe of God make it possible to face real threats with the confidence that this is God's world—God's redeemed world.

Listen to God's promise: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Isaiah 43:2-3).



*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*  
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA  
✉ [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org) 📱 @ELCABishopEaton

*Reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress*

LUTHER COLLEGE

Trumpets

FALL TOUR 2018



**Monday, October 15, 7pm**

First Lutheran Church  
410 Main Street, Onalaska, Wisconsin

The Luther College Trumpets will perform at First Lutheran co-hosted by the Onalaska High School Marching Toppers.

The Luther College Trumpet Studio has become one of the largest and most distinctive centers for trumpet study in the Upper Midwest. The Luther Trumpets is a trumpet ensemble that includes outstanding collegiate trumpeters from all over the country. They have appeared and performed in many Midwestern high schools, churches and community venues and have competed at the National Trumpet Competition for the past three years. Members of the studio have gone on to pursue graduate studies in trumpet performance and music education and can be found teaching in hundreds of school districts throughout the country. Their tour performances will include works by Leslie Bassett, Elaine Ross, David Dzubay, Eric Ewazen, Brian Balmages, Joseph Price, Michael D'Ambrosio and arrangements by Luther College trumpet students.





The Church in Society Committee has arranged for Pastor Mandy France & Dr. Ayaz Virji to share their story of confronting Islamophobia in rural MN  
**Wed, Oct 3, 7pm at Trinity Lutheran Sparta**  
**Thur, Oct 4, 7pm at Westby Fine Arts Center**



## **WARMING CENTER STAFFING NEEDED**

To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the warming center.

More info and training times at:  
**[1stlu.org/warmcenter](http://1stlu.org/warmcenter)**



## **BE A HERO**

### **First Lutheran Church-Onalaska Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, November 27**  
**12:30pm–5:30pm**

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

Visit **[1stlu.org/blooddrive](http://1stlu.org/blooddrive)** or call Diane Shuda 608.386.4270 to make an appointment.

**Appointments encouraged. Refreshments provided.**

**Be a Hero, Donate Blood**





# HOSPITALITY HARVEST



This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to host my step-mom for a couple of days. I so looked forward to her coming.

I made sure the guest room was ready with clean sheets, a new pillow and space in the closet in case she needed to hang anything up. I loved getting the room ready in anticipation of her coming. We had a wonderful time together and not long after her return home, I received a thank you note from her. Because of my preparation we had a great time together, she felt welcomed and loved.

Here at church we also have prepared for visitors through the welcome center being staffed, having visitor packets to give out and following up with connection cards. Even with these in place, we still must wait for visitors to come to us. But what if we didn't wait for the visitor to come to us at the welcome center or wait for a card to be filled out. What if we made an effort to see those who we are unfamiliar with and graciously make contact with them. This is fairly easy to do: When you see someone you don't know, ask if they need any help, introduce yourself to them, invite them to sit with you in worship. When we take the time to notice those around us, we will see who our visitors are and then we are able to connect with them and help them feel welcomed here.

I would love to have several people or a family doing this in the narthex each Sunday. Their job will be to look around and see who looks lost, who needs help with something, who looks uncertain about coming into church or who they are unfamiliar with. The best part of making connections with

people is that you can stand and be anywhere in the narthex. Your lookout point may be near the welcome center, over by the name tags or between the front and sanctuary doors just mingling around. This is what we are missing in our hospitality ministry: minglers who will welcome not only our visitors but also our regular attenders. We need minglers who will focus on people coming into the narthex and see if they need assistance or look unfamiliar and may be a visitor.

Our hospitality ministry would be complete with minglers around the narthex and even in the sanctuary to welcome and be a help to all who enter into our church. I would love to reap a harvest of hospitality, connecting with visitors in person, introducing them to the welcome center staff and giving them a visitor packet. Our church would then be a more welcoming place. I will not grow weary in trying to get minglers in the narthex and sanctuary. As it says in Galatians 6:9, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." I will keep praying and looking for those God will place in front of me, to be minglers. When we create a place filled with hospitality, we will reap a harvest of welcome.

*Kathryn Pedretti*  
Director of Servant Ministries  
kathryn@firstlu.org

## GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

### LOOKING FOR GAMES, ETC.

Our middle & high school youth groups (which gather **weekly on Sundays at 5:30pm**) are looking for donations of board games, yard games, bean-bag chairs, a mini-fridge, gaming consoles, and a large, flat-screen TV. Bring donations to the office. *Questions? Contact Pastor Stanton, jason@firstlu.org.*

### SUNSHINE BOYS

The Sunshine Boys meet at First Lutheran on the **second 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! **Monday, Oct. 29, at 9am**, to assemble the November newsletter. See you there!

### HELPING HANDS

If you need help with small jobs around the house or if you need a couple of meals or groceries delivered, just go to the "Helping Hands" board by the nursery and make out a slip with a description of what you need help with and your telephone number. Then

anyone who thinks they can help can take the slip and call the number to work out the details. This ministry is open to all in need of help AND to those who can provide the help. There is no set group of "helpers" so we need involvement from all who can be a blessing to someone else. Thanks!

### WELCOME BASKETS

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



If you know of someone who needs a caregiver, call the church office (608.783.2236).

# Lutheran Swag!

Now available!  
The following First Lutheran shirts are available to order at church or online...



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

## SUGAR CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

**October 5–7  
Friday 7pm thru  
Sunday 1pm**

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

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



**Starting on  
Wednesday, Nov. 7**

*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*

*More info: [1stlu.org/peermin](http://1stlu.org/peermin)*



The Butter Braid fundraiser will start Sunday, Oct. 14. Youth going to Sugar Creek Bible Camp or on summer mission trips can pick up order forms from the church office on that date.

**All order forms must  
be turned in by  
Nov. 4  
with the money.**

Orders will be available for pick-up on Wed., Nov. 14, after 12pm.



## FAMILY PHOTOS: A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

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

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

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

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be **Saturday, 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](mailto:office@firstlu.org).

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

*Thank you for the following memorials:*

### In memory of Ardie Johnson, sister of Judy Stetzer

- Organ fund: Nancy & Arnie Holthaus, Joyce & Gary Koss, Jane Schwabenbauer, Ellis & Judy Stetzer, Douglas & Kathy Stetzer

*Thank you for the following gifts:*

- First Teen Clothes Closet: Michael & Lynn Lunney, Elizabeth 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.

## 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](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



September OWLs activities were limited to a wonderful potluck with Pastor Jason enjoyed by all. With Mary and Brian's return from Europe at the end of September, the OWLs will be going all out in October. Read below the details of two amazing adventures and a potluck.

The OWLs September outing will occur the first week in Oct.. On **Friday, Oct. 5** the OWLs will travel to one of Wisconsin's famous historic site's 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 surrounding the mansion and outbuildings. The OWLs will have our own tour of the mansion and grounds. We will depart from the church at **8:45am on Oct. 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, Oct. 3 if you would like to be part of the adventure.

By popular demand our second Oct. outing will be a return to the Winona Boat Tour for a fall color cruise. Captain Aaron has checked his log and feels **Monday, Oct. 15**, should put us close to peak color season. Most of you will remember the great cruise we had this summer. The boat is fully

enclosed and heated, so we will have a great time, with fantastic views even if it's a cool day. We will **meet at the church at 3pm and drive to Winona for a 4pm cruise**. Cost of the cruise is \$15. After the cruise we will have a nice dinner in Winona (we will not return to the Green Mill) at a local establishment. Dinner is on your own. If you would like to join this colorful cruise, please contact Brian Narveson at 630-816-5917 or owls@firstlu.org by Friday, Oct. 12.

Due to speaker availability our Oct. potluck will be held on a new day and date. We will gather for great food, fellowship and a special program on **TUESDAY Oct. 23, at noon in the fellowship hall**. This is a one-time move to TUESDAY so please mark your calendars. As seniors, we all know of and fear memory loss. Our program "Education: The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease" presented by Amy Brezinka, a Care Coach Consultant, will help educate us on the different types of memory loss. The presentation is a workshop developed by the Alzheimer's Association for anyone who would like to know more about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Oct. is packed with fun filled opportunities. We look forward to seeing you at one, two or all of the above activities.

---

*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

September was a very busy month here at Preschool!! We spent the month learning classroom routines, making new friends and becoming independent. We are looking forward to our field trip to Ferguson's Apple Orchard in October and a visit from the Onalaska Fire Dept!

A big THANK YOU to the congregation for the generous offering given to the preschool!! We appreciate your support.

*Melissa*



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

We are extremely fortunate when it comes to our children attending FLP. The reason is the staff. Each one of the educators cares and respects all of the students and they treat them as if family. Not only do they challenge my kids but they support them emotionally and mentally. Thank you FLP educators for being amazing!

**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

We are off to a fantastic start with 140 students registered!

A couple changes to make note of:

For K-5 drop off students in the Sanctuary at 9:15am.

Pick up is in the Sanctuary at 10:10-10:15am.

We have 3 lessons that are connected to Pastor Karyn's sabbatical!

1) Biblical Family Tree, 2) Watercolor and 3) Weaving!

Finally, 4K is the grade prior to Kindergarten, and Preschool is 2 years prior to Kindergarten and potty trained.

Ask your child what story they talked about during Sunday School.

Ask them who was in the story, who they can relate to, and how does that connect with your highs and lows of the week.

Our lessons for September were Peter's Faith, Family Tree and Who is the Greatest?. Our lessons for October are Share God's Love, Adam and Eve, Watercolor and A Rich Man's Questions.

## Faith Building Blocks

**PRESCHOOL: PRAYING TOGETHER**

**Sunday, Oct. 14:** parents/guardians only

**Sundays, Oct. 21 & Oct. 28:** parents/guardians with children

**Sunday, Nov. 4:** 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](mailto:sundayschool@firstlu.org) or stop in the Sunday School office in room 206.

YOUNG  
YOUTH

If you are in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade then this is your club!  
All are welcome!

We had a very successful S'more Faith Event. Sixteen students attended and heard the story of the burning bush. Two big takeaways from this event were "God communicates with us in different ways!" and "God is with us wherever we go, and we can pray outside of church!"

Our next event will be October 28 from 6-7:30pm. We will talk about how being faithful is like a pumpkin! Please RSVP to [beth@firstlu.org](mailto:beth@firstlu.org). How do you think being faithful is like a pumpkin?



Beth

Contact Beth Miller at [beth@firstlu.org](mailto:beth@firstlu.org) for info or with questions!

froljc

LITTLE STEPS. BIG FAITH.

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

2nd Sunday of every month

**Sunday, October 14**  
**9:15am in Room 102**

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





# CONFIRMATION

*Teen-relevant, age-appropriate, active, modern, and theologically sound* Events subject to change; up-to-date info at [1stlu.org/confirmation](http://1stlu.org/confirmation)

## GRADE SIX MILESTONE

lifted up in worship  
October 7

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

## CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL DINNER

October 24, 6–8pm

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (CONFIRMATION)!!

October 28, 1:30pm

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

### UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

**Gr 6 Middle School Milestone**  
Lifted up in worship Sunday, Oct. 7

**Gr 6 Confirmation Bible Class**  
Sundays, 9:15am, starting Oct. 14

**Gr 7 Confirmation Bible Class**  
Sundays, 9:15am

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

**Gr 10 Confirmation**  
Wednesdays, 7:00pm

**Confronting Islamophobia**  
Oct 3, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Middle School Sugar Creek Retreat**  
Fri, Oct 5, 7pm–Sun, Oct 7, 1pm

**Faith Alive! U: Political Jesus?**  
Oct 14, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Sabbatical Together: Genealogy 101**  
Oct 30, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner**  
Oct 24, 6:00 PM

**Affirmation of Baptism**  
Oct 28, 1:30pm

Meeting Sun. Nights  
5:30pm eat, 6pm meet  
in the narthex

Middle School  
&  
High School

# YOUTH GROUPS

? Questions?  
Contact Pastor Stanton:  
[jason@firstlu.org](mailto:jason@firstlu.org)

The last two Sundays, First has gathered 10-15 high schoolers for a youth group time to eat (5:30-6pm) and meet (6-7:30pm). The desire to meet where they can “have a safe place to talk, like our confirmation small groups were... where all are welcome” came from the high schoolers themselves. It’s pretty fantastic! Teesha Willinger, who helped teach many of them Peer Ministry is their adult leader, but the kids aren’t afraid to take the lead either. I just wanted you to know, in case you didn’t, that this ministry is blooming at First.

Also... we need help providing the food! Please consider signing up to provide a meal for the kids once or twice this year. It works best—since we’re getting over 40 kids a week between middle and high school—if two families sign up per week. Go to [1stlu.org/mshseat](http://1stlu.org/mshseat) and bring a crockpot of sloppy joe meat, or buy 12 pizzas from Dominos or overwhelm them with taco fixin’s or whatever. This worked great in the past when parents fed the kids on Wednesday nights. We’re hoping this could work Sundays, too.

Finally, if you would like to get a jump start fundraising for camp or a mission trip your child can sit behind a table in the narthex after or before worship to sell scrip cards. Gas, groceries and general store cards are available. All proceeds sold during your ‘shift’ go to your account unless the buyer specifies another family. Go to [1stlu.org/scriptable](http://1stlu.org/scriptable) to sign up.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles - FH 9:15 AM Gr 6 Middle School Milestone 9:15 AM Gr 7 Cnfrm Clss	<b>1</b> 6 PM Sugar Creek Listening Session - NX 7 PM AA - FS	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7 PM Confronting Islamophobia - Sparta 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	<b>4</b> 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>5</b> <b>Middle School Sugar Creek Retreat</b> 🌲 8:45 AM OWLs Fly to Villa Louis Mansion 7 PM AA - FH	<b>6</b> 10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX
<b>7</b> <b>Middle School Sugar Creek Retreat</b> 🌲 <b>Gr 6 Middle School Milestone, Lifted Up i...</b> 9:15 AM Gr 3 FBB: Bibles - FH 12 PM Sabbatical Together: Photo Walk	<b>8</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>9</b> 1 PM Dorcas Circle - House 3:45 PM Worship & Music Team - NX 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	<b>10</b> 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation	<b>11</b> 9 AM Sunshine Boys 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>12</b> <b>Sugar Creek Women's Retreat</b> 🌲 7 PM AA - FS	<b>13</b> 8:30 AM Drawing from the Well Grp
<b>14</b> <b>Gr 3 FBB: Bibles, lifted up in worship</b> 9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102 9:15 AM Preschool FBB: Praying Together - FH 5:30 PM New-Member Sml Grp #1 - FS 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Political Jesus - Sanctuary	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 2:30 PM Springbrook Worship 🕊 3 PM OWLs Fly to Winona for Boat Tour 7 PM AA - FS 7 PM Luther College Trumpet Ensemble	<b>16</b> 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team	<b>17</b> 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship 🕊 7 PM Gr 10 Confirmation	<b>18</b> 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 1 PM Grief Support Group - UR 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>19</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 AM Preschool FBB: Praying Together - FH 9:30 AM Visitor Follow-up Quarterly 5:30 PM New-Member Sml Grp #2 - FS	<b>22</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>23</b> 12 PM OWLs Potluck - FH 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	<b>24</b> 6 PM Gr 10 Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner - FH	<b>25</b> 6:30 PM New-Member Social - Blue Moon 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>26</b> 7 PM AA - FS	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 AM Preschool FBB: Praying Together - FH 1:30 PM Affirmation of Baptism / Confirmation Worship 🕊 6 PM Young Youth—Being Faithful is Like a Pumpkin!	<b>29</b> 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM AA - FS	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Sabbatical Together: Geneology 101	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 11 AM All Saints Worship 🕊 7 PM Women of the House Small Grp	<b>SEPTEMBER</b> 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	<b>NOVEMBER</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



weekly events for  
**OCTOBER**  
at First Lutheran

**SUNDAYS**

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Sunday School  
9:15am Gr 6 Confirmation Class, *starting Sunday, Oct. 7*  
9:15am Gr 7 Confirmation Class  
9:15am Parent Share - UR  
9:15am Sun Morning w/ Coffee Small Group - MR  
10:30am Worship  
5:30pm Middle & High School Youth Groups - NX  
7pm Gifts of Imperfection Small Group - UR, *except Oct. 28*

**TUESDAYS**

8:30 am Parent Share - UR  
9:00am Quilters - FS  
1:15pm Staff Meeting  
5:30pm Bells Practice - Sacristy

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00am Courageous Men - House  
6:30am Coffee w/o Pastor Karyn - Panera, Onalaska  
5:30pm Prayer Shawl Knitters - NX  
6:15pm Worship  
7pm Choir Practice - SN  
7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups, *except Oct. 31*



Sugar Creek Middle  
School Retreat  
Fri, Oct 5–Sun, Oct 7



Baptismal Prep  
Sat, October 6  
10am–Noon



Sugar Creek  
Women's Retreat  
Fri, Oct 12–Sun, Oct 14



Faith Alive! U:  
Political Jesus?  
Sun, Oct 14  
6pm



New-Member  
Small Group  
Sun, October 14  
5–7:30pm



Luther Trumpet  
Ensemble  
Mon, Oct 15  
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](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).*

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and like us at [facebook.com/1stlu](https://www.facebook.com/1stlu)





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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)



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Marci Leppert . . . . . Preschool Assistant Teacher  
Tracy Stoll . . . . . Preschool Assistant Teacher

VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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





410 Main Street  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
608.783.2236  
[www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org](http://www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org)

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



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**FAITH  
ALIVE!**  
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

# GOOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2018

INSIDE

**FAITH  
ALIVE! U**

**POLITICAL JESUS?  
GENEALOGY 101  
SUGAR CREEK  
LISTENING  
SESSION  
CONFIRMATION  
LUTHER TRUMPET  
ENSEMBLE**



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