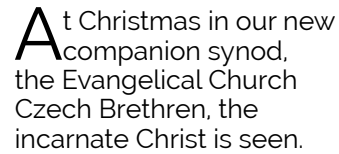




All of this and more on the web at
www.FirstLutheranOnalaska.org

facebook.com/1stlu
instagram.com/1stlu
twitter.com/1stlu
1stlu.org/cal
pinterest.com/firstlu
[#faithalive365](#)

VESELÉ VÁNOCE—¡FELIZ
NAVIDAD!—MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Christ of Christmas lives, too, in the Lutheran Church of Peru (IL-P). Through the church, Jesus stands with abandoned and beaten women and children. Jesus is seen standing up to government actions that ravage the environment, that persecute LGBTQ+ peoples, that fail the poor in forgotten parts of cities and rural areas alike. Jesus is born anew as the pastors and members of IL-P sing Christmas songs and preach of Jesus, born in the stable, to humble parents, visited by peasant shepherds. Jesus is seen in Peruvian Christmas.

Here, too, in the La Crosse Area Synod, Jesus is born again and again. The Light of the World uses us to make God's presence known. How will the Christ be seen among us this Christmas? What needs do you strive to meet in Jesus' name? What actions are you taking that reveal Jesus in our midst? What words of Christ's love will be on your lips? What hearts will be touched by God in you? We, too, will proclaim the Light in our darkest neighborhoods. Jesus will be born in our Christmas. But how?

Bishop Jim Arends
Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod
bishop@lacrosseareasynd.org

*Find a complete list
of Christmas events
at First on p. 3*

- 2 Readings for December
- 3 Christmas Events
 - Advent in Narnia Small Groups
- 4 Christmas Flowers Form

- 5 Events
 - Faith Alive U!:
Being Christian Amidst “Others”
- 6 First Lutheran Foundation Report
- 6 Lutheran Disaster Response:
Wildfires

- 7** Finance & Stewardship Report
- 8** Serve & Give
- 9** Announcements
- 10** OWLs Post
- 11** Preschool
- 12** Sunday School

- 12** Young Youth
- 13** Confirmation
- 14** Middle School & High School Update



God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of a difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth – helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds – bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250



Oxen and plow

A pair of oxen will help create record-breaking harvests, provide natural fertilizer for the fields and give families the gift of time.

\$1,000

Give through your congregation, by visiting ELCA.org/goodgifts or by sending a check to ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

ELCA.org/goodgifts

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

Sun, Dec 2

Luke 21:25-36

Wed, Dec 5

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19

Sun, Dec 9

Luke 3:1-6

Wed, Dec 12

Mark 8:27-33

Sun, Dec 16

Luke 3:7-18

Wed, Dec 19

Isaiah 42:1-9

Sun, Dec 23

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Mon, Dec 24

Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

Tue, Dec 25

Luke 2:8-20

Wed, Dec 26

Matthew 1:18-25

Sun, Dec 30

Luke 2:41-52

Above are the tentative readings scheduled for December.

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.

**Bell
Ringers
Needed!**
bells2ring.org



Dec 2

**LAST DAY OF
CHRISTMAS
BOOK FAIR**

**ADVENT IN NARNIA
SMALL GROUPS
BEGIN**

8

**OWLS FLY TO UWL
SWINGIN' YULETIDE:**
4:30pm

9

**GIFTS FOR THE
CHRISTMAS GIVING
TREE ARE DUE**

15

**YOUNG YOUTH
COOKIE
DECORATING:**
4-5pm

16

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM:**
9:30am between
services

16

CAROLING: 4-7pm.
4-5pm: in sanctuary
for a Christmas hymn
sing with treats. 5pm:
load buses & spread
Christmas cheer
around town. Return
around 6pm for a
potluck feast!

19

**OWLS CHRISTMAS
POTLUCK:** Noon

21

**BLUE CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP:** 6:15pm
worship, with a light
meal & conversation at
5:30pm.

24

**CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP TIMES:**
2:00pm, 4:00pm,
6:00pm and 11:00pm.
All will be candlelight
and all will be with Holy
Communion

25

**CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP TIME:**
10am, with Holy
Communion



Christmas at First Lutheran



Advent in Narnia

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON

*Looking for a new way to approach
Christmas that is more faith focused?*

Join with others from First in a small group study of *Advent in Narnia, Reflections for the Season*. The study focuses on Advent themes of grace, love, sacrifice, forgiveness and hope. Join a group for a once-a-week discussion starting Dec. 2, or pick up a book and use it alone as a daily devotional. **There a variety of small group times to choose from; go to 1stlu.org/narnia to sign up for a small group.** Books are available at church for \$15. Questions? Contact our Director of Small Groups, Bridget Crave: bridget@firstlu.org.



Christmas Flowers for the Sanctuary



If you would like to give a rose in honor or memory of loved ones for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, you may do so by filling out the form and return it to the church office. Cost is \$5.00 per rose.

Order deadline is December 16

Please print clearly.

Your name and phone number:

I would like a rose in **memory** of:

I would like a rose in **honor** of:

Christmas Giving Tree

Return gifts by Dec. 9

If you purchase gift cards, please wrap them in a box.

Questions?
Contact the church office:
office@firstlu.org
608.783.2236

Ice Toes Project

Through December 25

Warm socks for folks who need them! Socks will be collected for donation to New Horizons Shelter, a community resource where people are helped during times of need. Please bring new socks for children or adults to the Ice Toes Tree in the narthex.

Thank you!

A Warm Thank You! Volunteer Appreciation Party

January 27, 11:45am–1pm

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



RSVP at the Welcome Center or call the church at 608.783.2236 by January 23

FAMILY WINTER RETREAT

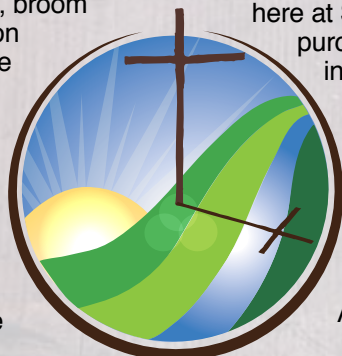
January 11–13

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

WINTER FUN DAYS!

Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 10 & Mar. 3, 1–5pm

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



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

January 25–27

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 January retreat includes extreme snow fun! Cost: \$85 (includes 5 meals) Retreat runs from 7pm Friday to 1pm Sunday.

NORWAY TOUR

Aug. 26 – Sept. 5, 2019

Highlights include: Stave Church, Kvikne Hotel, the Norwegian Glacier Center and the Boya Glacier, ferry ride across Sognefjord, Steindalsfossen waterfall, and much more! More info: 1stlu.org/norway

CAMP FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give someone special the gift of a week of summer camp here at Sugar Creek! You can purchase certificates in \$50 increments, or you can give the gift of a full week at camp. In difficult economic times, your gift can help someone you love have an unforgettable week at Sugar Creek!

Another idea may be to ask your family to donate to our campership fund as a Christmas gift to you! Each year, we have campers who need full or partial help to attend camp. This would be a nice way to give to mission as our program here is precisely that, a mission area! Our policy is that we will not turn anyone away from hearing the Good News and will work with those families who need help. Your support is appreciated to help campers attend Sugar Creek. A basic week of camp costs between \$399 to \$485 depending on the program. Thank you for your generosity!

EVENTS

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

DRAWING FROM THE WELL

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

Women of all ages are welcome to come together for food, fellowship and study. We will discuss part 2 of a 3-part study on prayer, using *Let Us Pray*, by Anna Madsen. Whether or not you attended the first session, you will be able to participate in part 2.

Agenda:

9:30am Gather for hot beverages and a hot egg dish, fruit and bread.
9:45am Bible study
10:45am Break
11:00am Caring conversations in pairs
11:30am Clean up and depart

You may find it helpful if you print the first four pages of the study and read through it before we meet: 1stlu.org/dftwstudy. It's not mandatory, though.

RSVP to bridget@firstlu.org to help with an accurate head count for food.

**FAITH
ALIVE! U**

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

Being Christian Amidst "Others"

Pastor Libby Howe
Director for Evangelical Mission & Assistant to the Bishop

Sunday, Dec. 9, 6pm

How could understanding 'others', from Christians of other denominations, to believers of other religions, to non-believers help us to clarify our own Christian identity and purpose? Pastor Libby Howe will talk about whether we can learn about ourselves by learning about 'others' without simply trying to force them into becoming more like us.

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd, Ferryville, WI 54628

608.734.3113 • camp@sgrcreek.org • www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE U.S. WILDFIRES

NOVEMBER 2018

ELCA.org/disaster

Wildfires are raging across California, destroying thousands of homes and wiping out the town of Paradise, located north of Sacramento. Multiple deaths have been confirmed and large-scale, mandatory evacuations are in place for multiple communities across the state's impacted areas as first responders work to gain control of the fires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Social Services of

Northern California and the California synods to respond to this fire. As the fires are still raging, we continue to assess the ever-changing situation to determine the best ways to respond.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. wildfires" will be used to help those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Please give today.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "U.S. wildfires" or "Where needed most" on your check's memo line.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION REPORT

ELCA-RELATED MISSIONS

Category 3: ELCA Related Missions \$2,500

\$500 Sugar Creek
\$500 FLC Milestone Ministry
\$250 FLC Helping Hands
\$250 FLC Prayer Shawls,
\$500 FLC Seminarian Fund
\$250 FLC Youth Trip

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 further 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 toward 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

Year-End Donations

In the course of year-end 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 during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep First Lutheran in mind. You can make a tax-deductible, year-end donation on our website at **1stlu.org/give.**

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CAP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PLEDGED DOLLARS:

\$1,035,269

GIFTS RECEIVED:

\$430,150

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

HVAC CONTROLS

ED BUILDING ROOF

PARKING LOT REPAIRS

TREES: REMOVAL & REPLACED

COMING SOON:

SMOKE ALARM SYSTEM

WIFI UPGRADE



As members of First Lutheran Church and through our financial gifts we commit to bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Through

our unique place in our community and the size of our congregation, we are able reach out to people of all ages to make more disciples of Christ. With the start of the program year, a lot of effort has been placed on our youth. We can happily report we have 140 Sunday schoolers enrolled and a total confirmation enrollment of 113. Thank you to all the staff and teachers for getting us off to a great start.

At the end of October, we are 83% of the way through the year and have received 70% of the expected 2018 income. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity as we look



**Thank you to everyone
for your continued
generosity as we look
forward to your year-
end giving to fund our
many opportunities.**

forward to your year-end giving to fund our many opportunities which positively influence lives in our congregation and community.

Capital Campaign update: Most recently, it has funded the repair and coating of the parking lot. This will make our parking lot safer now and for the coming winter. Planning

is now taking place to upgrade the smoke alarm and Wi-Fi system. This will make our education facility safer for our children and provide teachers additional internet resources to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our children. It's great to report we have received 42% of the pledged income for the capital campaign. Thank you to everyone for your pledge and continued donations.

Full financial details are available by request. We welcome everyone to attend a finance or stewardship committee meeting. For additional information and meeting times, contact the church office.

Faithfully submitted,

The Finance and Stewardship Teams

WRAPPED IN LOVE



My warmest memories are of wrapping up one of my girls in a beach towel after they have played in the water and snuggling with them to

get them warmed up again so that they can go back in the water to play. Wrapping them up and holding them close to me was one of the things I enjoyed most as my girls were growing up. I still like to wrap my arms around them holding them close to me. Being wrapped in warmth whether in the summer or in the winter, like your hands around a warm cup of coffee or cocoa, is one of the best feelings.

Our prayer shawls do the same thing. They wrap around someone who is going through a rough time, bringing them comfort. Our prayer shawls remind those who are given the shawls that they are not alone as they struggle with the pain of losing someone close or dealing with a life threatening illness. Our baptism shawls remind parents that they are not alone in raising their child. We have a whole congregation to be living examples of Christ's love. Our wedding shawls remind couples to include God in their marriage, as well as in their wedding. Every time I see a shawl, I'm reminded that God's love is wrapped around each of His children.

This time of year we remember that God sent Jesus into our world as an infant; as Luke 2:7 says, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Mary wrapped baby Jesus up in bands of cloth; our knitters wrap shawls around those who need to know that God's love is always with them.

Each shawl is blessed with a prayer and blessed with the hands that have made them. A card with a prayer goes with each shawl and we record where each one goes. I've heard that many of these shawls bring not only warmth but contentment knowing that they are wrapped in God's love. These shawls are cherished by those who have been given them. The shawl ministry is one of the visible reminders that God is near to us when we are going through a difficult time or a joyful time such as a baptism or wedding.

Our shawl knitters gather to knit on Wednesday evenings starting at 5:30pm. They knit and pray together, encouraging each other, laughing with one another and welcoming all who come to sit with them. Our knitters would love to have more knitters join them on Wednesdays. You bring your needles; we'll supply the yarn and the fellowship to do this important ministry. Our knitters are a blessing to all who receive a shawl and are blessed through their service of knitting. So far this year; we have given away 47 shawls and we have only a few adults shawls left. If you've been a knitter for years or are just starting out, you and your knitting needles will be welcomed into this group.

I hope that our knitters will continue to be blessed through their service of knitting and that one or more men or women, young or old, will join in the blessing of knitting for others.

Kathryn Pedretti
Director of Servant Ministries
kathryn@firstlu.org

GO AND DO LIKEWISE LUKE 10:37

SUNSHINE BOYS

The Sunshine Boys USUALLY meet at First Lutheran on the **second Thursday of the month at 9am** to help with outdoor or indoor projects. BUT since they might twice in November to help decorate for Christmas, they will not meet in December but will get together again on Thursday, Jan. 13.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY

It's a relaxing way to volunteer!
Friday, Dec. 28, at 9am, to assemble the January newsletter. See you there!

KETTLE RINGERS

'Tis the season! Bellringers are needed **through December 24**. Bell ringing can be done in 2-hour increments, inside or outside. This is also a great opportunity for our confirmation kids to gain some service hours—and do it together! Those interested in volunteering their time during the holidays—or anytime—through the Salvation Army, please check out the Salvation Army's website or sign up online at Bells2ring.org!

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).

SNOW BIRDS: KEEP US UPDATED

Had enough of cold already and about to winter in warmer climes? Keep us up to date by letting us know your winter address / contact info. Contact the church office with your updated information: office@firstlu.org, 608.783.2236. Thanks!

CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the weather ever makes you wonder whether your group is meeting for their ministry, check our website, Facebook page, or update the office with your cell # and provider so that we can text you. We'll also notify WXOW.com, news8000.com and the La Crosse Radio Group stations: 106.3, 104.9, 102.7, 100.1, and 1490 AM. The staff and leadership of First intend to 'make the call' by 5pm at the latest so everyone knows what to expect. Be safe this winter!

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



A baptism preparation session will be Saturday, Dec. 1, 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 MEMBERS

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

We extend a warm welcome to our new members of First Lutheran, who were formally received on Sun., Nov. 4.

- Warren Paulson & Kelli Janecek
- Amanda Aylsworth-Besl & Samuel Besl, Declan and Raine

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, Mar. 24 & 31, and Thursday, Apr. 4**. 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

- Levi Brandt Garbrecht
- Preston Martin Hahn
- Madelyn Elizabeth Hahn
- Leo David McCullough

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Thank you for the following memorials:

In memory of A.R. MacEwen

- Undesignated: Betty MacEwen

In memory of Helen Peterson

- Undesignated: Betty MacEwen

In memory of Ruth Mahlum

- Organ fund: Arnold & Nancy Holthaus, Ellis & Judy Stetzer
- First Lutheran Women: Marion Bertelsen
- World Hunger: Gaylord & Esther Dolphin
- Undesignated: Barb Burrell, Ardie Van Riper, friends & family of Ruth Mahlum

Thank you for the following gifts:

- Skogen Music Fund: Katy Wood & Stephanie O'Driscoll, in honor of Tom Skogen

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.



OWLs OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

November was a fun month for the OWLs. We had a great theater outing to see "Almost Maine" at UWL preceded by a wonderful dinner together.

The OWLs will kick off December with an awesome Christmas concert. We will travel as a group to the UWL Student Union for the Swinging Yuletide concert. This is an uplifting concert that will get us in the spirit of the season with some yuletide jazz (yes, it will be Christmas music) and a visit from Santa! This annual performance will feature the UWL Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble, as well as the UWL Faculty Jazz Quartet and the Coulee Chordsmen. The

cabaret style seating is \$20 (all of which goes to scholarships) and will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 8**. We will leave from the church at 4:30 PM to travel to a local restaurant for dinner to enjoy some good food and fellowship before the concert. Dinner is on your own. Following dinner, we will make our way to UWL. This concert is usually a sellout so please contact Brian Narveson at owls@firstlu.org or 608-526-9700 by Wednesday, Nov. 28, if you plan to attend. If you are first seeing this after Nov. 28, call Brian and he will check if tickets are still available.

The concert will be great, but the social event of the season is the World-Famous OWLs Christmas Potluck. This event is known for its fabulous food, great fellowship, fun games, wonderful gift exchange and a large array of Christmas goodies. This fantastic event takes place in the Narthex on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at noon.

The gift exchange is optional. Please bring a gift if you would like to receive a gift. The gift theme this year is "My Favorite Christmas Decoration." Bring something purchased or handmade that is a Christmas favorite. Please keep the value of the gift to less than \$10. We also ask all who can to bring a few Christmas goodies to share in addition to your potluck dish. This will serve as our desserts for December. If you have a favorite Christmas sweater or outfit, please wear it on this festive occasion. Looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

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. A reminder for all potlucks that First Lutheran is a 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!



PRESCHOOL

UPDATE

We can't believe that the month of December is already here! The best time of the year! We love teaching the children about the birth of Jesus, the true meaning of Christmas!!

Our preschoolers will be working on some special gifts for their parents. We will be having our Book Munchers, December 6, the children love having a "special" guest come into school!

Have a very Merry Christmas!!

Relissa



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

FLP is a phenomenal preschool! Our son has really grown a lot this year with their encouragement. We love the teachers, projects, songs and much more!

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

YOUNG YOUTH: COOKIE DECORATING

Saturday, December 15, 4pm

Come to the Fellowship Hall to decorate Christmas cookies to be handed out when we go caroling on Sunday! Parents are welcome, even encouraged, to attend this cookie decorating event!

Christmas Book Fair

Nov 18–Dec 2

Take a look at display
and order books & gifts
for the special children
in your life!



Sunday School

Christmas Program & More!

Sunday, Dec. 2, 9:15am

Sunday School

Sunday, Dec. 9, 9:15am

Frolic! for birth–3 year olds in Rm. 102
Sunday School, Rehearsal for Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 16, 9:30–10am

Sunday School Christmas Program
Reception to follow

Sunday, Dec. 23 & 30

No Sunday School

*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.*

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16, at 4pm

Gathering first in the sanctuary for a Christmas hymn sing with treats.

At 5pm loading buses & spread Christmas cheer around town!

Returning around 6pm for a potluck feast!

Sign-up at 1stlu.org/caroling.



**Meeting
Wednesdays
6:30–8pm
all through
December
except Dec. 19 & 26**

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 out in their everyday life.

*Meeting most Wednesdays,
November–May*

More info: 1stlu.org/peermin



**Share your #faithalive365
experience and find out about what
God is up to at First Lutheran and
in the church around the world
by following us on
Facebook • Instagram • Twitter**



GOING FORTH

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

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

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

**Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups
Wednesdays, 7:00pm
except Dec. 19 & 26**

**Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes -
Rm 207 & FS
Sundays, 9:15am
except Dec. 23 & 30**

**Confirmation Parent Mtg -
Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7:00pm**

**Faith Alive! U: Being Christian
Amidst "Others" (elective op.)
Sunday, Dec. 9, 6:00pm**



Meeting Sun. Nights
5:30pm eat, 6pm meet
in Fellowship Hall

Middle School
&
High School

YOUTH GROUPS

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



Middle school mission trip to
Duluth, MN









Sign-up with Pastor Stanton today!
jason@firstlu.org



High school mission trip to
San Francisco, CA

Sign-up with Pastor Stanton today!
jason@firstlu.org

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	27 12:30 PM Blood Drive - NX 4 PM Come for Supper at OSLC 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	28 12 PM OWLs Potluck - Fellowship Hall	29 9 AM Sunshine Boys 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	30 7 PM AA - FS	1 10 AM Baptismal Preparation - NX
2 Advent in Narnia Study Begins	3 6:30 PM Hospitality Leadership Team - NX 7 PM AA - FS	4	5 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	6 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	7 7 PM AA - FH	8 9:30 AM Drawing from the Well Group 4:30 PM OWLs Fly to UWL Jazz Yuletide
9 Christmas Giving Tree Gifts Due 9:15 AM Frolic! - Rm 102 6 PM Faith Alive! U: Being Christian Amidst "Others" - Sanctuary	10 7 PM AA - FS	11 1 PM Dorcas Circle - House 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg - MR	12 12 PM Finance Team Mtg 7 PM Confirmation Parent Meeting - FH	13 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	14 Newsletter Deadline 7 PM AA - FS	15 4 PM Young Youth Cookie Decorating
16 Christmas Flower Forms Due 9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program - SN 5 PM Caroling	17 1 PM Elizabeth Circle 2:30 PM Springbrook Worship  7 PM AA - FS	18 5:15 PM Personnel Team Mtg 6:30 PM Property Mngmt Team Mtg 6:30 PM Vision & Leadership Team Mtg	19 No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups 10 AM Ona Terrace Worship  12 PM OWLs Potluck - Narthex	20 10 AM Deborah's Circle - NX 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	21 6:15 PM Blue Christmas Worship  7 PM AA - FS	22
23 No Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes No Sunday School	24 Christmas Eve (office closes at noon) 2 PM Christmas Eve Worship  4 PM Christmas Eve Worship  6 PM Christmas Eve Worship  11 PM Christmas Eve Worship 	25 Christmas Day (office closed) 10 AM Christmas Worship 	26 No Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups	27 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	28 9 AM Newsletter Assembly - NX 7 PM AA - FS	29
30 No Gr 6 & 7 Bible Classes No Sunday School	31 7 PM AA - FS	1 New Years Day (office closed)	2 8 PM Praise Band Rehearsal - SN	3 10:30 AM Small Group w/ Laurie Berg 7 PM Women of the House Small Group	4 7 PM AA - FH	5

weekly events for
DECEMBER
at First Lutheran

SUNDAYS

8:00am Worship

9:15am Sunday School, *except Dec. 23 & 30*

9:15am Gr 6 & 7 Confirmation Class, *except Dec. 23 & 30*

9:15am Parent Share - UR

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

10:30am Worship

5:30pm Middle & High School Youth Groups - FH,
except Dec. 23 & 30

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, *except Dec. 26*

7pm Gr 8 & 9 Small Groups, *except Dec. 19 & 26*

7pm Peer Ministry, *except Dec. 19 & 26*



Advent in Narnia
study begins
Sun, Dec 2



Faith Alive! U:
Being Christian
Amidst "Others"
Sun, Dec 9, 6pm



Young Youth
Cookie Decorating
Sat, Dec 15
4-5pm



Sunday School
Christmas Program
Sun, Dec 16
9:30am



Caroling
Sun, Dec 16
4-7pm



Christmas Day
Worship
Tues, Dec 25
10:00am

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*

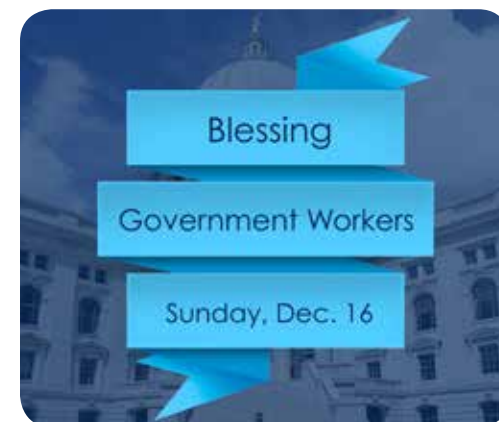
*Subscribe to our Google calendar at
1stlu.org/calsub*

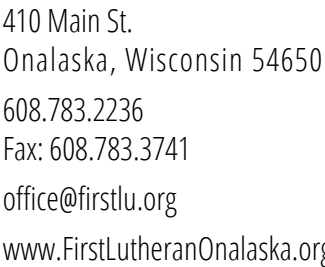
*Use the QR Codes to quickly add
these events to the calendar of your
smart phone or tablet.*

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

facebook

Share your Faith Alive moments!
Tag them **#faithalive365**
and like us at facebook.com/1stlu





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

Bridget Crave	Director of Small Group Ministry	bridget@firstlu.org
Kathryn Pedretti	Director of Hospitality	kathryn@firstlu.org

YOUTH/EDUCATION STAFF

Cassie Carrell	Nursery Coordinator	nursery@firstlu.org
Beth Miller	Sunday School Superintendent	sundayschool@firstlu.org
	Young Youth Director	beth@firstlu.org

SUPPORT STAFF

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Jerry Yusha	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
Brandon King
Diane Shuda
Nancy Beguin
Shaun Gibbs



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.
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FAITH ALIVE!
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

Advent in Narnia

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON



ALSO INSIDE

**FAITH ALIVE! U:
BEING CHRISTIAN
AMIDST "OTHERS"**

**CHRISTMAS AT
FIRST LUTHERAN**

#faithalive365