



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER

Back to School?

The ads have been on our televisions for a number of weeks letting us know what time of year it is. It's back to school time! School supplies have been purchased. Registration and orientations have happened for the new school year. Teachers are prepared for their students to arrive. Parents are ready for their children to go back to school. Children are excited about school starting and yet maybe some really are not. With a new school year comes something new and different compared to the year before. However one thing remains true: The students are continuing in what they have learned. They are building upon what was taught before. Yet there does come a time when there is no "next school year". When graduation comes formal learning ends unless you take the time to willingly continue learning and building upon what you have learned. Even if you don't take classes, learning really never stops. All the time more is being put into our brains and each day we learn. Whether it is school, other formal education, discussions, and just being in the world around us, we are always continuing in what we have learned. We are building upon what we have heard already learned.

This may seem overused and heard all the time. I know I'm not the first to say it, but it bears a good reminder for all of us as we begin that school year, as we resume regular Bible studies and Sunday School, and as we continue to gather together for worship. This continuing and building upon what we have learned is also true of God's Word. That's what the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy. Timothy was Paul's colleague and friend. He was a pastor whose primary purpose was to preach and teach Christ. Paul as a kind of mentor and teacher to Timothy wrote two letters to him. In the second one, he wrote these words of encouragement. *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."* (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

When children sit at the feet of their teachers and pay attention, they are learning. They are growing in their knowledge. Eventually they put that knowledge into practice in their life. That's wisdom - the use of knowledge. There are many ways that we continue in what we have learned and what we have become convinced of. As a family of believers we want to gather together for worship. We want to discuss the Scriptures in Bible studies, Sunday School, and even in our own home. But whose feet are we sitting at? It's not a pastor, a parent, or any other study leader. Yes they may be the ones leading that learning, but who is really doing the talking?

When we gather around the Scriptures, we really are sitting at the feet of Jesus our Savior as he speaks to us. We know from whom they came. They came from our God for us to hear and know Jesus. They are given to us so that we would be wise for salvation through faith in Jesus. Then Paul, after reminding Timothy just how useful Scripture is, gets to the end result of why this is so important. *"So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (3:17) As God's people living in a world that does not know the Scriptures, we need to be better equipped to live our faith in that world with lives that praise the God who gave us his Word.

Continuing in what we have learned is so important for all people in all walks of life to grow in faith, to grow in knowledge, and to grow in spiritual wisdom putting it all together ordering our lives around that Word. Paul's encouragement to Timothy is my encouragement to continue in what I have learned even though my formal learning from my seminary days are over. My learning should never stop. Paul's encouragement is for you too. *"Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of..."* Back to school may be happening, but we are always filled with a desire to learn, grow, and continue in what the Scriptures of made us certain is ours.

Prayer: I pray you, dear Lord Jesus, my heart to keep and train that I your holy temple from youth to age remain. Oh, turn my thoughts forever from worldly wisdom's lore. If I but learn to know you, I shall not want for more. Amen (Christian Worship Hymn 510)

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
Christian Book Club – 6:00 p.m.
Service – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, September 2nd - 2nd service is at 9:30 a.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
(beginning, Sunday, September 9th)
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 3rd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.

Crossroads Consulting

Crossroads Consulting will be doing on-site analysis here at First Sept. 28-30, conducting many interviews and observing the area as well as our church that weekend. They will have analyzed all the information from the congregational surveys that were taken during the past weeks. They will be presenting a **preliminary report on Sunday, Sept. 30th at 7:00 p.m.** We encourage all members of First to attend this presentation as a start to our efforts of building up First Lutheran Church so it can continue to share the good news of our Savior with our members and the community. Please mark your calendars and attend this important presentation!

Moms of Might

All moms with preschool age or younger are welcome to join our mom's group. The first meeting of this school year is on Monday, September 10th at 9:30 a.m. Meetings will then be held the first Monday of every month through May. If school is not in session on a first Monday, the meeting will be held the second Monday. Other activities are also planned during the year.

Volunteers are needed to help with childcare during the meetings. A sign-up sheet for the year is on the brown door. We would like to have at least 2 volunteers signed up to help for each meeting, with a 3rd signed up as a backup, if needed. Please contact Sara Schramm if you have any questions –sara.schramm@gmail.com or call/text 507-469-9280. Thank you in advance for your time and help!

Toddler Open Gym

This program is intended for children age 0 – 5, along with the parent/caregiver and will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school gym in the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from October through May. The program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies, and more! During the hour, we will also have a devotion and snack. Please watch for more information on how you can help this program!

Helping Institutional Ministries

WELS Institutional Ministries accepts Meditations booklets that are no more than one year old, along with hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked "Institutional Ministries" in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If *you* have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the "church" box near the tract rack. *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* James 5:16

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ's directive to "love one another". Contributions to this account are appreciated. Designated Gift Envelopes are available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm.

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM "JOY 1340" WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider's channel listing for more information.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. As always, personal contributions are kept in the strictest confidence. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street. Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

Pastoral Acts:

Funeral – Clarence Kreft, age 93 - August 9, 2018

Baptisms, July 29, 2018 – Benson Robert Drake
Tillman James Drake
James Patrick Quinn VI
Keegan Adrian Quinn

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Tues., Sept. 4	First Day of School – 8:00 a.m. opening service
Wed., Sept. 5	Soccer vs. Trinity @ SCORE – 4:30 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 6	Volleyball @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Mon., Sept. 10	Back to School Meal – 6:00 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 11	Volleyball @ Lake Geneva – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 12	Soccer vs. Friedens @ Anderson Park – 4:30 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 13	Volleyball @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 18	Volleyball @ Lake Geneva – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 19	Soccer @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 21	Soccer @ Elkhorn – 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 23	Grades 3-4 sing in 10:30 a.m. service
Tues., Sept. 25	Volleyball @ Faith, Antioch – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 26	Soccer @ St. John's, Burlington – 4:30 p.m.
Thurs., Sept. 27	Volleyball @ Trinity – 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 30	Grades 7-8 sing in 8:00 a.m. service

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstatthecross.com. – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

Welcome Back to School!

The teachers and staff of First Lutheran School are looking forward to this new school year. Our theme this year – “The Lord is my Rock” Psalm 62:6. We start this 38th year with 50 students in 4K through 8th grade. It is through the kindness, generosity and prayers of our congregation that our school continues to teach His Lambs and prepare them for now and for eternity. Your continued support is appreciated.

Volleyball & Soccer

As you can see from the calendar above, our fall sports program is well underway. Our boys' soccer and girls' volleyball is open to students in grades 4-8. We would love to see you at our games! A calendar is available on our website, or sync the FLS Athletics calendar to your Google calendar.

School Safety

First Lutheran has been blessed to receive a grant from the state of Wisconsin to help improve the safety and security in our building. Prior to receiving this grant we worked with the Elkhorn Police department to update and improve our School Safety Plan. Our grant was approved to install indoor and outdoor security cameras, as well as window security film for the main school and church doors. Recently, more grant money was made available, so upon approval, there may be more upgrades as well. What a blessing this will be!

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school's non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops, General Mills Boxtops, and Frank's Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also are a part of SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchasing. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

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Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to help serve the school. Grandparents and others who may not have children in school are invited to help out with a variety of activities such as: preparing and/or serving special meals, assisting students with reading, math, or other skills, etc. Whether you are able to help out once, or are able to set up something more scheduled, we appreciate it and will work with you and your schedule! Please contact the office or Mr. Schramm if you are interested.

September 2018

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Sept. 2	M. Schwark	J. Sulik (9:30)
Sept. 9	T. Stech	J. Mueller
Sept. 16	J. Voigt	M. Dorn
Sept. 23	B. Brugger	M. Papenfus
Sept. 30	J. Voigt	M. Dorn

Ushers:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
M. Hoyord/J. Schwark	S. Beaver (9:30)
R. Smith/W. & M. Holder	C. & R. Collins
D. Hintz	P. Rote
C. Greving	M. Yunker
D. Hintz	P. Rote

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Sept. 2	Barb Schinke	Matt & Kristy Barker (9:30)
Sept. 9	Marlene Schoenbeck	Gordon & Nancy Haak
Sept. 16	Doris Salem/Rosemary Strand	Gene & Patty Lauderdale
Sept. 23	Dennis & Terri Carnes	Bill Holtz
Sept. 30	Chester & Linda Kreft	Scott & Amy Beaver

Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold print**

1- Dalton Winkowski	Pamela Hoyord
2- Sharee Yunker	21- Lorraine Wuttke
Mathew Miller	John Hauerwas
Dan Nolte	Cade Fink
3- Joey Sweeney	David Coletti
4- Matthew LeNoble	22- Vickie Mueller
James Ihnen	23- Nancy Brugger
5- Jennifer Voss	26- Melinda Schulz
Kathy DuBois	Meghan Mertes
6- Miles Holder	Matthew Helfvogt
7- Ben Schramm	27- Justin Kimble
8- Lorraine Count	Laken Dahlberg
9- Jessica Stech	28- Brody Bidlack
11- Chace Lanser	29 -Jarod Sulik
15- Cynthia Cooper	Morena Rote
Carla Baudais	30- Kelly Guzman
18- Patricia Basinski	Daniel Walbrandt
Amanda Glodowski	Cathy Verdick
Amy Kolacke	
19- Olivia Joitke	
20- Dennis Carnes	
Sandra Olson	

Anniversaries:

Michael & Lina Gilbert, September 5, 1981
 Roger & Karen Meinen, September 13, 1969
 Don & Jean Willms, September 13, 1958
 Alvin & Marilyn Susina, September 18, 2004
 Chris & Kimberly Collins, September 24, 2000
 James & Deborah Clark, September 20, 1975

September 2018

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 principal@firstatthecross.com
 secretary@firstatthecross.com

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Sept. 30 J. Voigt	M. Dorn D. Hintz



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 S. Devendorf Street
 Elkhorn, WI 53121

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
www.firstatthecross.com						
2 Communion Services - 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. Unison choir—10:30	3 Labor Day	4 First Day of School 8:00 Opening service	5 Ladies Aid—meet at Calabria - 11:15 am, lunch, then carpool to Doug Amon's "Stop & Smell the Roses"	6 Bible Study—9:00 am Book study—6 pm Worship Service - 7 pm	7	8 Men's Breakfast Bible Study—8 a.m.
9 Worship Services—8:00 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 a.m. ABC Mtg. after 2nd service	10 MOM - 9:30 a.m.	11	12 Sparks & Flames - 6-7 pm	13 Book study—6 pm Communion Service—7:00 pm	14	15 Women's Bible Study—8 a.m.
16 Communion Services—8:00 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 a.m.	17 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Mtgs.-6:30 pm Church Council -7 pm	18	19 Ladies Book Club—7:00 p.m. @ P. Stopple's	20 Bible Study—9:00 am Book study—6 pm Worship Service - 7 pm	21	22
23 Worship Services—8:00 & 10:30 a.m. ~gr. 3-4 sing-10:30 BIH - 9:15 a.m.	24	25 Choir—6:30 p.m.	26	27 Book study—6 pm Worship Service—7:00 pm	28	29 Crossroads Consulting on-site analysis weekend
30 Worship Services—8:00 & 10:30 a.m. ~gr. 7-8 sing-8:00 BIH - 9:15 a.m. Crossroads Consulting presentation-7 pm						