

**FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**

400 West Ave. S.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**- Pastors -**

Rev. Roger Sachs, Rev. Richard Pamperin  
Rev. Benjamin Schmudlach

**- Principal -**

Matt Meitner

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# SEEK YE **First**

## *the kingdom of God and His righteousness*



Publication of First Ev. Lutheran Church 400 West Ave. South, La Crosse, WI 54601

Web Site [www.firstlacrosse.org](http://www.firstlacrosse.org)

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of First Lutheran Church was held in the church social room on January 16, 2018. Twenty-six voters were present.

The Outreach Committee is studying new outreach efforts. They also encourage gifts for the New Life Resource Center at this time. Our annual outdoor service and church picnic are scheduled for June 24.

The WELS International Youth Rally is scheduled for June 26-29.

The Education Committee recommended extending a one year call to Tina Johnson to teach the preschool class for three year olds. The voters accepted the recommendation. Enrollment at first Lutheran is currently 110 students, including ten three year olds.

In the WELS Report it was noted that a new WELS movie on the work of St. Paul is being produced. Area and district services were held in fall to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Tuition assistance for students attending Luther High School for the 2018-2019 school year was set at \$1250 (1st child), \$875 (2nd child), \$625 (3rd child).

Our church's Endowment Funds provided \$46,835.55 for our church expenses. The planned repair work for the organ is completed. We received sufficient funds for two additional items. A re-dedication and recital for our organ is tentatively scheduled for April 15.

We thank all who contributed money and helped with renovation of the school library. The repair of a rooftop heating unit at school was ratified by the voters at a cost of \$10,838.00.

Greg Lamprich was elected to a four year term on the Special Gifts Committee. David Johnson was elected to a three year term as a delegate to Luther High School. Hal Forseth, John Byus, Chad Schmaltz and Robbie Young were elected to three year terms on the Church Council. Dan Heeter was elected to a two year term.

After the voters' meeting the Church Council met to reorganize. The church officers for 2018 are:

President- Robbie Young  
Vice-President- Ryan Schlicht  
Treasurer- Ben Potaracke  
Recording Secretary- Hal Forseth  
Financial Secretary- Lee Burge

Please remember to pray for them.

### LENT SERVICES

Starting February 14th, First Lutheran will be holding special Lent services on Wednesdays. You can join us for one of our services, either at 2:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. This is a nice opportunity to listen to preachers from the different churches around the La Crosse area. All the services will follow the theme Jesus is our High Priest. As we journey to the cross and the tomb, we will reflect on Jesus' role as the great High Priest. He offered the one sacrifice that could pay for all sins of all time—his life. Come join us to prepare your heart for the events of Holy Week. Here is a look at the upcoming schedule of special services:



## JESUS CHRIST IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

February 14th	Pastor Pamperin	<i>"Jesus is our Great High Priest"</i>
February 21st	Pastor Schmudlach	<i>"Jesus is our Perfect High Priest"</i>
February 28th	Pastor Schmitzer	<i>"Jesus is our Compassionate High Priest"</i>
March 7th	Pastor Oldre	<i>"Jesus is our Self-Sacrificing High Priest"</i>
March 14th	Pastor Wasserman	<i>"Our High Priest Serves at a Great Altar"</i>
March 21st	Pastor Rimmert	<i>"Our High Priest Makes Us Priests"</i>

## MEN OF HIS WORD

The 9th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 24. Sometimes it can feel like Christians are under spiritual attack from the world around us. To counter these attacks, the MOHW Conference provides opportunities and resources for men to grow spiritually, using God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world. This year's theme is "GET OUT OF THE BOAT." Pastor Jared Oldenburg (Castle Rock, Colorado) will be the keynote speaker. In addition, men can choose from 19 different breakout sessions. There is a session to fit anyone's interests or passions. Koine will lead worship as you join with 600 brothers in the faith. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) (\$50 by February 11th; \$60 from February 12th - 18th). Please join us for a day of fellowship in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

## SPECIAL ENVELOPE

Special offering envelopes gathered during the month of February will support the members of our church who are attending either Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran College. Martin Luther College is located in New Ulm, MN. Students at MLC are studying to work in WELS public ministry. Each student will become a pastor, teacher, or staff minister. Wisconsin Lutheran College is located in Milwaukee. Students at WLC can study a number of different subjects.

As you know, the cost of college education rises every year. With the rise of tuition, student debt has risen as well. We hope that our offerings will encourage these students as they continue their Christian education. In addition, both schools have recently started programs to reduce student debt. They will match the offerings we give towards the tuition of these students. If you plan to attend MLC or WLC for the 2018-2019 school year, talk with Pastor Schmudlach. We want to make sure that you are enrolled in this matching program.



## THE PATH

As we continue on our path thru the alphabet, we will draw near to the end during the month of February. The dates and letters follow. Path services are held in the church social room on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. A meal is served at 6 p.m. before the service on the second Sunday of the month. Holy Communion is served in the service on the third Sunday of the month. Join us whenever you can.

February 4-	Tongue
February 11-	Understanding
February 18-	Vows
February 25-	Wisdom

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

A new Bible Study for women is starting on February 1st and runs until March 22nd. The study takes place on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the church fellowship room. The group will be going through the book *God is In the Laundry Room* by Susan Senechal. There is more to life than daily task lists and repetitive chores...right? Join in this Bible Study to see purpose and significance wherever you are in your day. Jeremiah reminds us that when we seek the Lord with our whole heart, we find him everywhere...even in the laundry room. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13). This study will challenge you to dig a little deeper, explore a little further, and make personal application of Bible passages to your life. As you do, you'll be drawn closer to the Savior, who washes away sins. Let Jen Schwedler know that you would like to attend. You can contact her at [mjscwedler@gmail.com](mailto:mjscwedler@gmail.com) or 780-0081 (text or call).

## THANKS TO ALL

The leaders of our congregation would like to express their thanks to all of our members for their generous financial support during this past year. Regular weekly offering envelopes resulted in gifts of \$802,403.91. This is about 80% of our church budget. An additional \$60,000.00 was received in the plate offering, Lenten offering and the special envelopes of June and December, which were designated for the General Fund.

Our members also contributed generously for special projects such as the organ fund and the preschool teacher for three year olds. The offerings of our members did extend beyond our congregation. \$92,187.00 was sent to synod missions. \$59,211.00 was sent to Luther High School. In addition there were a number of special offerings, including \$760.00 for children in Mexico and \$1,020.00 for mission work in Pakistan and Nepal. We thank everyone for their gifts. And we pray that the Lord will enable us to continue doing His work thru the gifts and offerings of our members in this new year.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, February 8th, First Lutheran School is holding an open house for future students. If you have a child who will be entering 3K, 4K, or Kindergarten, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Parents can tour the school and meet the teachers. Children can play in their future classrooms, have a snack, and play in the gym. The Open House lasts from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Classroom presentations are at 4:15 and 5:30. If you know a family with young children, let them know about this chance to experience our Early Childhood ministry. For more information, call (608)784-1050.

## New Members

Since the time of our last church newsletter, one family was received into congregational membership:

### Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Schmitz and family

We welcome them into our fellowship and pray that God will richly bless them.