



June 2023

Focus

on life at First

Our Mission

To experience and celebrate God's amazing grace together.

Our Vision

First Evangelical Lutheran Church will share God's amazing grace by welcoming, growing and serving in Christ's name, enriching the well-being of all.

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Graduation Celebration

June 11th

Focus Deadline - For July

June 16th

Father's Day

June 18th

New Member Welcome

June 25th

Scholarship Deadline

June 25th

"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

Dear Friends of First,

On Sunday, May 13th, we attended our son's college graduation at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. One of the commencement speakers was a young man, picked by his fellow graduates, who gave a thought-provoking speech called: Have Faith, Everything Happens for the Best.

Andrew began his speech with comments and references to the experiences, memories, adversity, challenges and the obstacles that each and every student experienced personally throughout the last four years. He said everyone has experienced loss and low points. Some of the low points may have been a challenging family member, or the loss of a loved one. These low points can be overwhelming but how we react to these obstacles on the journey will determine the course of our future.

Andrew wasn't too sure about what he wanted to study and what kind of career he wanted to have. One day he stumbled across a podcast by Suze Orman, the financial advisor. Orman said, "Have faith everything happens for the best...yes, everything happens for the best." Orman explained, "We may not always understand why things happen to us but must have faith and trust that the things we experience are meant for us." Andrew said when he first heard this, he thought, "Really, everything that happens is for the best?" He thought what a slap in the face. Think about all the losses we have all experienced in the last three years...and we are supposed to believe that everything that happens is for the best?

The speaker Andrew really struggled with this concept but the longer he thought about it, and reflected on how it relates to everything in life, Andrew realized that Suze was right. We have all experienced difficult things but yet if you believe this concept is true, your life will change dramatically.

If you believe things are happening to you, you lose all of your power and you take on the victim mentality because things seem out of your control. Instead, if you believe things happen for you, you realize everything plays a necessary role in your life journey. It places you as the central focus for these events, because they are so uniquely essential to your development and pathway in life. It reminds you that there is a greater sense of purpose, a destination you are meant to reach, and the only way to get there is by embracing your current situation.

Do you want things to happen to you, where you aren't even considered in the grander decision, or that things happen for you? Whatever happens is the logical next step in your adventure? Change is inevitable – in fact, it is the only thing in life that we can count on, so we need to learn how to ride the wave of change. When you shift your mindset and understand that everything happens for you, you can be ready with open arms to receive the best in life.

In Christ,
Pastor Jim

Faith Formation

Adventure Camp

Families with children entering preK-6th grade are welcome to participate in Adventure Camp at Lakeview Park on **June 19th & 20th from 4-6pm.**

Come join in some fun as we explore God's New Creation with two evenings of Bible stories, games, music, crafts, and fun! There will be an optional simple meal to follow each day for those interested. If you would like to help lead a station, be a crew leader, help with the meal, or donate food items, please contact Heidi Muenchow (heidi@firstluthbd.org).

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/SummerAdventureCamp23>



Confirmation Sunday

On June 4th, at the 10am service, we will be celebrating the Affirmation of Baptism of 8 students:

Emma Bradley, Chloe Ferstl, Natalie Ferstl, Natalie Gibbs,
Karter Hartzheim, Cole Hemling, Harper Zillmer, and Sawyer Zillmer.

Join us as we witness these students affirm their faith and celebrate them during coffee hour provided by our Thrivent group.

Congratulations, Graduates!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

We are excited to celebrate all of our 2023 graduates on **Sunday, June 11th.**

Please have all pictures and information to Breanna by June 1st. We will have a reception to follow the 10am service. Blessings to you as you enter a new chapter on your life's journey!

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Coffee Fellowship is a time between services where we gather as a community to share something to eat and drink while welcoming new people and building relationships. In order for Coffee Fellowship to be successful, we need volunteers to host!

Each Sunday we need individuals, couples, or families to set up, provide food, make coffee, and clean up. People can also work in teams to split the responsibilities. We encourage finger foods, and these can be homemade or packaged. The church provides serving items, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa.

To host, please sign up by the coffee maker in Friendship Hall, or call the church office if you can help with some of the duties.

Welcoming Visitors & New Members

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Use them to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

We're excited to be welcoming New Members on **Sunday, June 25th at the 8am** service with a simple brunch in-between services.

We are looking for individuals to be paired up with a New Member, or family, as we strive to connect with each other more.

If you are interested in helping make an egg bake/French toast bake, are able to help serve brunch on that day, and/or would be interested in becoming a New Member Mentor, please contact the church office.

Worship Committee Updates

The Worship Committee met early in May. Here are some of the highlights:

- Circle August 13th on your calendar because that is the date of the annual Worship in the Park at Swan City park. A group of people interested in planning the event will be held in early June.
- Mary Irwin is continuing to gather information on organ pipe renovation.
- We discussed the possibiity of starting the interdenominational Good Friday service again.

We will be meeting Monday, June 5th. If you have any concerns/questions/etc., please voice them to a committee member or come to the meeting.



Father's Day Video

We are collecting pictures of fathers and father figures in your life. If you would like them to be recognized, please email or bring them by a picture to the church office by **June 13th**.

Scholarship Opportunities

Robert H. Brower Scholarship, First Lutheran Church

The family of Robert Brower is pleased to provide a scholarship for anyone who is a member of First Lutheran Church and is considering attending a college or university that supports, and is affiliated with, Christian values and education. The college or university does not necessarily have to be a Lutheran.

One scholarship will be awarded to the sum of \$1,000. The scholarship shall be awarded on a day and time established by the Scholarship Team.

- **Deadline** for applications will be **Sunday, June 25th**.
- Recipients will be notified by mail and scholarships will be awarded in August.
- Please contact Pastor Jim Wendt for further information at 920-885-4497 x2 or pastor@firstluthbd.org

Lake Traverse, SD Mission Trip

There are 10 people heading to Lake Traverse, SD, on July 23rd-28th. Since we had to switch dates, there are 2 spots available if any middle or high school students would like to come along!

We will be connecting with those attending to meet to talk through more details including planning a fundraiser in July. If you are interested in joining on this mission trip, please reach out to Pastor Jim or Heidi Muenchow.

Highway Clean Up

We're planning to get together for our Spring Highway Clean Up on **Saturday, June 10th at 9am**.

We need 8 volunteers to help it go smoothly and it only takes between 1-1.5 hours! If you are interested in helping, please contact Heidi Muenchow.



Lifest

Do you enjoy listening to Christian music? Do you like attending concerts, being outside, and having a fun time?

You should consider attending **Lifest in Oshkosh on July 6th-9th**.

Some of the evening headliners include Casting Crowns, Matthew West, and Toby Mac! Bob Lenz will be the Keynote speaker on July 6 at 8pm.

If you are interested in attending with a group from First, please contact the church office.

Rummage Sale Update

Lori Zimmer (262-212-3326) & Eileen Bonnett (920-296-9431)

There are many great missions happening at First with help from volunteers who step up. After just completing the 18th year of rummage sales and breaking all previous records, it seems natural to think about this effort, along with the Bazaar, and what it has accomplished over the years.

- To start with, the outreach is wonderful in our community and beyond. Shoppers are able to get clothing and many other needed items at very little cost. Shoppers and workers alike seem to be having fun.
- The bake sale is always amazing thanks to so many church members donating wonderful baked goods. No one can pass it up!!
- There is so much great fellowship with all who work on it. We invite any interested to come and join the fun. We always welcome more help. Please consider it!!
- Along with the blessings already listed, in the past 18 years, the rummage sale and the Bazaar have raised about \$170,000! This has been a blessing to our church in so many ways.

After this very successful rummage sale, the team voted to give Pastor Jim up to \$1000 to purchase bike helmets. These will be given out at the Beaver Dam Summer Kick Off at Swan Park on June 7th (see attached flyer on page 10).

Also, we will be partnering with Thrivent to purchase new entrance rugs.

We will again be taking the summer off so will not be at church each Tuesday morning. You can still leave items on the rummage sale table in Friendship Hall whenever you are in church. We will check it often. Also, if you have a "carload" call Eileen (920-296-9431) and she will meet you at church.

Next comes the Bazaar!!

A Big Thank You to the Bell Choir

Tom Irwin, Bell Choir Director

Now that our 2022-23 season has drawn to a close, I would like to thank our ringers for a wonderful year. In the winter of 2022, my experienced bell ringers prodded me to restart Glory Ringers. Restarting bells was quite a challenge. We had lost all but one of our students to graduation, another ringer got married and moved away and so we had a much smaller group but we managed to put together a three-octave choir with the help of Heidi and Bryce.

Come fall of 2022, the challenge was to find new ringers and then to get them up to speed. This challenge meant simpler music so our experienced ringers would have to be patient with the new ringers. A big thank you to our experienced ringers, Sandy, Sarah, Kathy, Brian, Bill, Lisa and Mary. These ringers are the glue that held us together and mentored our new ringers.

I also want to recognize Jacob, one of our experienced youth ringers who returned to us after graduation. Also deserving recognition for his years of service is Alex, the only remaining youth from before the pandemic. Alex will have graduated high school by the time this thank you is published and be on his way to college. We will miss you, Alex.

Finally, a thank you to all of our new ringers who allowed us to return to a full five-octave bell choir: Adam (joined winter 2022), Matt, Phoebe, Vickie, Ean, and Philip. We will have at least two openings in the Fall. Would love to see those spots filled!

Loaves & Fishes

John Smedema – (920) 382-1518

Good to Bad, or is it Bad to Good?

COVID was bad. COVID is bad. It's easy to think that COVID is behind us but as I write this my daughter-in-law is in an ICU with pneumonia caused by COVID and thank God starting to improve. The suffering for many people will go on for years; whether it was the loss of a loved one or having long haul COVID symptoms, or like my son, loss of hearing in his left ear.

It is normal to dwell on what COVID or anything bad has taken from us and to look for someone to blame. Some will blame God, the basic question of why does God allow bad things happen to good people? Some will blame the Government and the CDC for making us do things we didn't want to do; such as not gathering with family, not eating together, not being able to follow our normal patterns from weddings, funerals, worshipping, school, and mundane things like shopping.

Are we to dwell on what we lost? Is there any good that comes from our suffering? Are there things we have learned about ourselves and others because of COVID? We can lose sight of what we should take away from the bad as we have 20/20 vision on what happened and forget at the time institutions were making decisions based on the information they had.

As I look back at the start of the pandemic, and my time volunteering with Watertown Loaves and Fishes, I remember the conversation we had as we were told to shut down or we could serve people through drive up. That was a total change in how the ministry worked. We had to plan and think how that would work. We could have decided to shut down and wait for COVID to end and then restart.

As we navigated the change and started serving to cars driving up an amazing thing happened. We served more meals than we ever had in the sit-down meals in the Church basement. We quickly found out that as COVID was affecting people, we became a resource for more people who needed help. Instead of shutting down and not serving anyone, we took the opportunity to serve drive through and have a positive effect on more people. We found that we could still build community and share God's love with our guests. Maybe that's a small gain of bad for good but it was a gain. The experience also made the decision of how to deliver meals in our Beaver Dam Loave & Fishes ministry easy. We knew that the drive through meals would mean that people would show up.

We know bad things are going to happen and we know God is not to blame. If we can focus on looking for the ways God has been at work and changing bad to good, it can take away some of the sting of what we have lost.

Both good and bad things happen to everyone. They happen to those who are fair and to those who are wicked. They happen to those who are good and to those who are evil.

ECCLESIASTES 9:2-11





We are approaching that time of the year when we again draw attention to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR helps people all around the world who are in need, or have suffered from, some disaster. Now we give each member of First Lutheran a chance to help in some way.

School supplies are on sale in July and August, so we are stressing school kits. A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption caused by war or natural disaster. School kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in refugee camps. A school kit may also be used in adult literacy classes.

Each school kit is to include the following:

- Four spiral notebooks (8 1/2 x 11) each containing 70 sheets
- One blunt scissors - not pointed
- One ruler - with centimeters on one edge
- One pencil sharpener
- Five unsharpened new pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ball point pens (no gel pens)
- One eraser, approximately 2 1/2 inches long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

These items can be brought to church anytime and placed in boxes in Friendship Hall marked "Lutheran World Relief". Do not enclose the kit or any of the contents in plastic bags.

Let's all work together and make this a great year for Lutheran world Relief!

You're Invited to
JOYFUL NOISE
a FREE, fun, family-friendly event
THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND
at Swan City Park
5-9PM
Featuring
**GMA DOVE AWARD
WINNING MUSICIAN**
Mitch McVicker
Come join in this
community event with
food, outdoor games,
bouncy house, raffle,
dunk tank, **CONCERT,**
& rootbeer floats!
BROUGHT TO YOU BY ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH & FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Joyful Noise Event

We are collaborating and joining together with St. Mark's Episcopal Church and St. Katharine Drexel Parish to provide a fun, family-friendly event on **Thursday, June 22nd at Swan City Park from 5-9pm.**

We hope you will join in this community event with food, outdoor games, bouncy house, raffle, dunk tank, **CONCERT**, and rootbeer floats!

The concert will be featuring GMA Dove Award Winning Musician, Mitch McVicker, with the Adventure Camp kids sharing their songs they learned as the opener!
Please consider joining this wonderful event!

We are looking for volunteers to help in many ways including help serving dinner or with children's games, provide baked goods and more. If you are able to volunteer, please sign up using the link provided:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b48a5a728a4f94-swan#/>

Health Ministry

Bob Gionet, RN, Parish Nurse (920) 319-1961

Radon? I've heard of it but I'm not sure what it is. "It's colorless, odorless, and radioactive. It enters buildings through cracks in foundations, sump crocks and utility lines. Radon decays pretty quickly and gives off radioactive particles. It can cause lung cancer."

What are the symptoms of radon exposure? You won't have symptoms of radon poisoning right away. Instead, health problems from exposure, such as lung cancer, show up after many years. Lung cancer may start as a nagging cough, shortness of breath, or wheezing that doesn't go away.

What does radon gas do to you? When you breathe in radon gas, radioactive particles can get trapped in your lungs. Over time, these radioactive particles increase the risk of lung cancer. It may take years before health problems appear. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Is it OK to live in a house with radon? Fix the home if the radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. Radon levels less than 4 pCi/L still pose a risk and, in many cases, may be reduced. Take steps to prevent device interference when conducting a radon test.

Dodge County Public Health says that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. They note that one out of 10 Wisconsin homes has high radon levels. Free radon test kits are available at the Dodge County Public Health Department at 199 County Road D F in Juneau. For more information call 920-386-3670.

To find a qualified radon mitigation contractor, contact your State Radon Program:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/radon-proficiency.htm

Thanks to Rick and Pat for their suggestion on radon information. **I will be at First on Sunday, June 11th between services.** I am also available to you on the phone or by appointment. Please call or text me at (920) 319-1961. This is my Church Health Services work phone number. If you do call, please leave a message and I will call you back.

Wishing you and your family health and happiness,
Bob Gionet, RN, Parish Nurse, First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Council Highlights

Greetings to the congregation of First Lutheran!

The May council meeting was held on May 21st. A devotion was given by Leanne Gensch, and Scott Jacquart will give a devotion in June. The council approved the agenda changes along with the meeting minutes from last month.

Prior to the meeting, it was approved via email vote to replace the furnace for Pastor Jim's office.

Mike Zimmer presented the finance report to the council, and April giving helped us financially. Pastor Jim and Heidi Muenchow shared ways they are blessing our congregation, and we are excited about upcoming events.

Lynn Siebel reported on Synod Assembly; all congregations are asked to submit a Care for Creation Plan to the synod by the end of 2023.

This month, Council voted and approved floor stripping and waxing for Friendship Hall. Council addressed obstacles that prevent us from working together in a caring manner.

The Monetary Authorization Policy was also reviewed. Due to the length of the discussion, Council will resume talking about Dan Feaster's recommendations at the June meeting.

Because the third Sunday is Father's Day, members decided to meet at 6pm on Wednesday, June 21st instead of June 18th.

God's Blessings, Your Church Council

Finances at First

Mike Zimmer, Treasurer

First Lutheran just finished another good month – thank you again!

The Operating contributions exceeded the plan by \$3,500, up 12%, and the expenses were below budget by \$4,800, down 14%. The contribution increase was driven by Easter and the expense reduction was driven by our open Youth Director position. Overall, we expected to lose \$4,800 but gained \$2,500.

In the Dedicated funds, income exceeded expenses by \$14,000 with over \$10,500 coming from the Rummage sale. Significant investments this month were the Mission Trip (\$700) and Church Microphones (\$570) purchased by the Rummage Sale Fund.

The finance team also finalized the updated facility use fee structure. The price point is extremely fair for church members and the increased fee structure better aligns with other venues in town.

Major building expenses expected soon include refinishing the floor in friendship hall and replacing the furnace that services the pastor's office.

2023 Church Council

Corey Bradley
President (Evangelism & Youth)

Leanne Gensch
Vice-President (Social Concerns & Scrip)

Lynn Seibel
Secretary (Evangelism & Finance)

Mike Zimmer
Treasurer

Vikki Fischer-Kurth
(Endowment)

Jason Strom
(Parish Education & Sunday School)

Dawn Luck
(Social Concerns)

Stacy Drews
(Personnel)

Scott Jacquart
(Worship)

John Smedema
(Stewardship)

Bev Yunto
(Mutual Ministry)

Positive Solutions for Families Workshop

5-Session Parent Group

There is a new combined group for parents that will be meeting every other week for five sessions. This is provided by 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care. This workshop is designed to provide parents of young children methods and strategies to promote positive behavior. You will learn the importance of building relationships with your child, new methods to help your child follow directions, effective ways to develop and teach household rules, and identify challenging behavior and new strategies to address challenging behavior.

They will be meeting in the Upper Room, **every other Wednesday starting on May 31st** and will go through July. It's exciting to be able to combine, collaborate, and share space together for a common purpose. A simple meal and child care will be provided.

If you did not sign up, please contact the church office or Bonnie at (608) 216-7040 or bonnie.winkofsky@4-c.org. See flyer to the right for more information.

The Evangelism Team Thanks the Rummage Sale Team!

First Lutheran Church's Evangelism team is happy to partner up with the
Beaver Dam Police Department on
June 7th from 6-8 pm at Swan Park for the Summer Kick-off party.

The Evangelism team will be offering ice cream sundaes, helmet safety checks
and giving away new helmets to youngsters who may need them.
Working alongside the police department as they offer bike safety tips,
bike registration and bike locks.

We are very thankful for the rummage sale team for the money to
purchase 75 helmets.

Thank you, Rummage Sale ministry team, for your support.



SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY!

FREE | Wednesday, June 7 at Swan Park Band Shell

6:00-8:00pm Family Activities

7:00-7:45pm Magic Performance by Mischief & Magic

Explore all the fun activities the Beaver Dam Community Activities & Services Department and Community Library are offering this summer! This family-friendly event will feature entertainment for all ages including a comedy driven magic performance and other activities.

The Beaver Dam Police Department and volunteers from First Evangelical Lutheran Church will also be on hand to host a bike clinic including free bike locks, helmet safety checks, fittings, and helmets for those who need them.

OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Balloon Animal Artist
- Ninja Turtle Mascots
- Temporary Tattoos
- Craft Activities
- Bike Clinic
- Helmet Checks
- Lawn Games
- Free Ice Cream
- Prizes & Giveaways
- And more!

**Free
Family
Fun**



In case of inclement weather, the Summer Kick-Off Party will be held at the Beaver Dam High School Auditorium and Commons, 500 Gould St. Listen to radio station 95.3 WBEV, check the Daily Dodge website, or text BDCAS to (855) 951-5444 and opt in to our free texting service to stay informed.



Positive Solutions for Families Workshop

DATES: May 31, June 14, June 28, July 12, and July 26

Times: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Address: First Lutheran Church

311 W. Mackie St.

Beaver Dam, WI 53916

This workshop is designed to provide parents of young children (0-6 years old) methods and strategies to promote positive behavior.

What you will learn in the workshops:

- Importance of building relationships with your child
- New methods to help your child follow directions
- Effective ways to develop and teach household rules
- Identify challenging behavior and new strategies to address challenging behavior

This workshop is hosted by:
First Lutheran Church,
Future All *Star's Academy,
Community Care Preschool
and Child Care, Inc. and
4-C Community
Coordinated Child Care

Dinner will be provided.

Deadline to register is May
29, 2023

**Space is limited.
Register early!**

call or email questions to:

608 - 216 - 7040

bonnie.winkofsky@4-c.org

To register, please return
bottom of this sheet to:

Heidi Muenchow,

Tricia Petterson, or

Renae Henning

YES! I will be attending

Name of adults attending:

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ My child/children will need childcare while I attend the sessions. Child Care is limited.

Please list name and ages of children:

| Name | Age | Name | Age | Name | Age |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Worship Schedule

In Person Services

Sunday 8am - Traditional
Sunday 10am - Contemporary
Thursday 1pm - Traditional w/Communion

Online Services

Facebook Live, Church Website & YouTube Live
Sunday 8am - Traditional
Sunday 10am - Contemporary

Radio Broadcast Service
Sunday 8am on FM 95.3 WBEV

Drive-Thru Holy Communion
June 11 & 25 9am - 9:45am

Contact Us

Phone: 920-885-4497
E-mail: churchoffice@firstluthbd.org
Website: www.firstluthbd.org

Rev. Jim Wendt
pastor@firstluthbd.org

First Lutheran Church
311 W. Mackie Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Beaver Dam, WI

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Summer Office Staff Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-12:30pm

Church Mailbox & Office Mailbox

There is a secure church mailbox installed outside of the Friendship Hall doors by the doorbell. There is also a secure church office mailbox installed on the wall to the left of the office window. Members can use either mailbox as a dropbox if you need to drop off items for staff after hours.

Due Date Reminders - Email to breanna@firstluthbd.org

Focus Articles: Due on the 3rd Friday of the month

Sponsors, Bulletin, Welcome Slides, or E-Announcements: Due on Tuesdays by noon

Prayers of the Church

If you would like to be included in the prayers of the church, please contact the church office. If you have prayer requests for the Prayer Chain, please contact Lois Bennett at (920) 887-2698 or benn1741@gmail.com.

