

The monthly newsletter of  
First United Lutheran Church Sheboygan, Wisconsin

GOOD

June

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NEWS!

2023

Facebook: First United Lutheran Church - ELCA

YouTube channel: First United Lutheran Church - Sheboygan WI

Vol. 67 • No. 6

## Sharing God's Word \* Strengthening Faith \* Serving Community

Reflection verse: "Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Have you ever heard sweeter words than those offered by the writer of 1 Peter? In my life, when I've been beset by overwhelming anxiety triggered by big life-changes, I've taken refuge in these words – for while they are written as a command, they contain within them a promise from God. In times of anxiety-inducing change, we can cast our anxieties on the Lord, because God promises to receive them and deal with them. We know this, because Jesus knew our troubles firsthand in his life. He understands our suffering and therefore stands with us in our suffering. Yet he is more than our brother in suffering. He also is the saving presence of God, the Good Provider of all things. And therefore, even as he stands with us in fear-inducing times, he also shoulders our fear and provides a way through suffering. He provides what we need to grieve, endure, and eventually, begin again.

This congregation needs that good news right now – for you are experiencing significant transitions with the resignation of your pastors and the retirement of your beloved Director of Music, Wayne Wildman. One leadership change would be enough to trigger grief and fear. But so many, all at once? That's enough to paralyze the bravest. That's enough to make some lash out in anger. That's enough to make some run for the exits. Earthquake changes like those you are now experiencing can seem beyond even God's ability to handle.

Yet, nothing – nothing – is beyond God's ability to handle. As St. Paul told the Church in Rome, nothing in life can separate us from the life-sustaining love of God given in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:39). Not even death can separate us from God's life-giving mercy – because the God who raised Jesus is Lord of both life and death. God creates new life from the ashes of our old lives. And while God works to create new life, God's Spirit also sustains us with God's comforting presence.

How do we experience God's comforting presence? Dear people, you already know. Our comforting God comes to us through prayer. Our anxiety-relieving God comes to us through worship and Holy Communion. Our encouraging Lord comes to us through the reassurance of fellow Christians, church staff and leaders. When deep changes threaten, Jesus does not leave us orphaned. He comes to us through worship, spiritual practices, and the presence of other Christians.

In the short time I've been your bridge pastor, I've already witnessed you receiving comfort and encouragement in all those ways. I've been touched by your gracious welcome to me, even as you struggle with your grief and confusion. I've been impressed by the leadership of your staff and lay leaders, even while they, too, struggle with the same feelings you are experiencing. I've been grateful for the caring, competent response of Bishop Erickson and Assistant to the Bishop Kristin Nielsen. God already is powerfully present, comforting you and inviting you to cast all your anxieties about the congregation's future on the Lord.

Continued on page 2.

# FULC HAPPENINGS

## June Worship Schedule

**Sunday, June 4**

### **GRADUATION SUNDAY**

9:00 AM - HS Graduates Picture by Bell Tower

9:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

**Thursday, June 8**

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

**Sunday, June 11**

### **ASP SEND-OFF SERVICE**

9:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

**Thursday, June 15**

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

**Sunday, June 18**

9:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

**Thursday, June 22**

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

**Sunday, June 25**

9:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

**Thursday, June 29**

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

I leave you one more example of God's life-giving care for you amidst your struggles. Recently, I was praying that God might show me at this time in my retirement how I might serve with the gifts I have. "Don't be subtle, either," I prayed. "Make it plain." Five days later, the bishop called to ask if I could serve as your bridge pastor for six weeks, while he found a full-time interim pastor for you. I had my answer to prayer. So I said yes. By preparing me through prayer to respond positively to the bishop's call, God already was working on your behalf.

I will do my best to walk with you, pray with you, encourage you and bless you during this time we share. This newsletter and the online directory provide my contact information, so that you can reach me. I will be providing worship leadership, as well as pastoral care to the staff, lay leaders, and congregation. So please call, if you are hospitalized, experience a death in your family, or just want to talk about how you're feeling about the many changes at First United. I live in Sheboygan, so I am readily available. I am here to help you carry your burdens and reassure you of Jesus' life-sustaining presence. I am here with you, and I am here, for you. Together, we can cast all our anxieties on the Lord, trusting that he will care for us in this season of great change, and always.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Wendy Wirth-Brock

## **Our Staff**

Bridge Pastor • Wendy Wirth-Brock

Children & Family/ Great Beginnings Preschool

Administrator • Mary Gorges

Youth/Technology • Thom Nicla

Director of Music • Wayne Wildman

Church Administrator/

Discipleship • Debbie Schneider

Administrative Assistant • Kelly Stoelb

Preschool Lead Teacher • Ellen Yedica

Financial Secretary/Community Ministry • Cheryl Nicholson

*Let us know how we can help you. 920-452-2401*







## For Pastoral Emergencies

Please call the Church Office during office hours.

After hours, please go to Instant Church Directory for Pastor Wendy's cell number.



## Graduation Sunday

Sunday, June 4  
9:30 a.m.

Graduates please arrive by 9:00 a.m. in your cap and gown for a group photo by the Bell Tower.

## ELCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to church members who are attending an ELCA institution this fall.

Applications can be picked up in the church office or emailed to you. All applications are due to the Endowment Board of Directors by August 1, 2023.



For ALL Ages

First United Lutheran Church

## KINDNESS CLUB

Sunday Mornings after Worship  
June 4 - August 27, 10:30 a.m.

Every week we will work on a new "random act of kindness" to share with the world!

Sign up with Mary or call the Office

FUN!



## FMSC Road America Car Parking Fundraiser

Grab a group of friends and sign-up for volunteering to direct ticket holders to their parking spots for the day. Adults, kids 16 & older, and kids 14 & 15 accompanied by an adult are welcome to sign up. When finished, you are welcome to stay and watch the races.

To sign up or for questions please reach out to Barb & Doug Strauss at: [dougandbarb881@gmail.com](mailto:dougandbarb881@gmail.com) or contact the Church Office

## Growing in Love - Gardening and Activities

Wednesdays in June  
10 am - noon  
Preschool & Elementary Ages

Sign up with Mary or the Office today!

We will tend our gardens, have a story, enjoy a snack, & have an activity!



# Birthdays & Other News

## Grief Support

*All are welcome to join us the first Wednesday of every month in the chapel at 7:00 p.m.*

### First United FOOD PANTRY

If you or anyone you know needs food, please check out our Food Pantry located in the Serenity Room. We have everything from canned goods to baking supplies to household items. The front office can assist you if you need help.

**Mondays 9AM - 12PM**  
**Wednesdays 1PM - 4:00PM**

### Great Beginnings Preschool

2023-24 enrollment is now open!

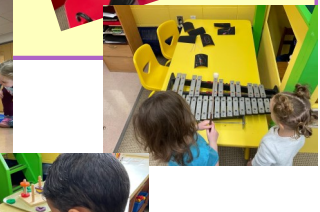


For more information, call Church Office 920-452-2401 or email Mary Gorges at: [mary@firstunitedelca.org](mailto:mary@firstunitedelca.org) or email Ellen Yedica at: [eyedica@firstunitedelca.org](mailto:eyedica@firstunitedelca.org)

### Great Beginnings

Thank you for joining us on Great Beginnings Sunday, we had so much fun singing for you and showing off our artwork! May has been a busy month. We had two field trips! First we were off to Camp Y-Koda, where we played and learned outside. Then we headed to Nourish Farms where we explored the gardens and made our own snacks. The theme for Nourish Farms was "Farm to Table". In the classroom we have been having fun role-playing and using our creative thinking with our fun camp setup and our Ultimate Sandwich Shop. My how the time flew this year! Stop back to our corner next month to see how we ended the year with our graduation pictures.

- 1 Casey McGowan  
James McGowan
- 2 Chris Backes  
Ethan Cinealis  
Dale Gueldenzopf  
Claire Hoffmann  
Michael Olmsted  
Tim Prah  
Karen Shircel  
Ryan Wagner  
Anthony Zerger
- 3 Joyce Herrmann-Ross  
Annabelle Martin  
Sang Pi Sang  
Jodi Schlei  
Gina Thomas  
Rachel Wiggin
- 4 Mason Chambers
- 5 Marc Meade  
Gregg Schwarz
- 6 Patricia Aldag  
Robert Cline  
Alex Merenick  
Emma Robeson  
Joshua Roever
- 7 Linda Brauer  
Randy Damkot  
Denise Kelly
- 8 Jackson Damkot  
Gary Dietzo  
Penny Klefstad  
Todd Kuehl  
Veronica Lampe  
Eric Larson  
Andrea Thorpe
- 9 Joe Dirker  
Hannah Kuehl
- 10 Alex DiStefano  
Jory Hullin  
Alek Panic  
Eric Wigdahl  
Bruce Wisnefske
- 11 Sue Ader  
Maria Arena  
Bill Tedeschi  
Hannah Wiegerling
- 12 Sophia Gebert  
Vivian Pittner
- 13 Jessica Christel  
Mack Martens  
Kathy Nelesen
- 14 Matthew Dierksheide  
Carrie Green  
Jennifer Horen  
Michelle Kuehl  
Nicole Sirvio  
Connor Sondalle
- 15 Samuel Blaha  
Nathan DePagter  
Elizabeth DePagter  
Mike Harms  
Kourtney Maslanka  
Bryce Roelse  
Matt Spence  
Remington Telindert
- 16 Jonathan Blaha  
Caden Dick
- Phillip Lum  
Ben Wagner  
Doug Wake  
Kyle Yedica
- 17 Jenn Gutschow  
Karen Morauski  
Barbara Schneiderhan  
Emma Streblov  
Mike Trescher  
Dana Yedica  
Patricia Zerger
- 18 Emily Bauer  
Elias Del Campo  
Scott Thomas
- 19 Robert Athorp  
Steve Farwig
- 20 Jan Brandt  
Trudy Chambers  
Sian Mang  
Tim Mayer  
Josue Reyes  
Jared Wiegand
- 21 Nora Martin
- 22 Melissa Reyes  
Davey Sonnentag  
Ryan Southwick  
Emma Wilson
- 23 Eric Kissinger  
Myles Kolb
- 24 Ella Bogenschuetz  
Ari Horst
- 25 Ryan Adelman  
Trisha Saeger  
Teagan Yedica
- 26 David Aldag  
Kate Hanes  
Richard Rupp  
Taylor Schwarz
- 27 Ross Huolihan  
Tim Saeger
- 28 Derek Kieckhafer  
Tyler Stoeger
- 29 Paula Damp  
James Danielsen  
Julie Jacobson  
Niang Muan Kim  
Zach Torrison  
Aaron Triphan
- 30 Savannah Dockter  
Bonnie Doyle  
Bruce Schmidt  
Julie Schwarz  
Scott Sellinger



# Calendar of Events

# June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>1 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9:00 AM HS Graduates Picture by Bell Tower 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 10:30 AM Kindness Club</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 10:00 AM Growing in Love 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Laundry Love 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Grief Support</p>	<p>8 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 ASP SEND OFF SERVICE 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 10:30 AM ASP Parent &amp; Student Meeting 10:30 AM Kindness Club 12:00 PM Community Meal</p>	<p>12 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 11:30 AM Executive Team Meeting 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>13 1:30 PM Naomi Circle 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 10:00 AM Growing in Love 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Scouts</p>	<p>15 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:00 PM ASP Luggage Drop Off 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:00 AM ASP Teams Leave</p>
<p>18 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:30 AM Kindness Club</p> 	<p>19 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>20 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 10:00 AM Growing in Love 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry</p> 	<p>22 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:30 AM ASP Teams Return 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 10:30 AM Kindness Club</p> 	<p>26 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Scouts</p> 	<p>27 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts</p> 	<p>28 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 10:00 AM Growing in Love 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry</p> 	<p>29 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service</p> 	<p>30</p> 	



# Coming Soon . . .

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You are invited to join us for in-person and online Worship Services:  
Facebook page: First United Lutheran Church - ELCA  
YouTube channel: First United Lutheran Church - Sheboygan WI

## *Bee In The Know*

**Sunday, June 4 - Graduation Sunday, Kindness Club**  
**Wednesday, June 7 - Growing in Love**  
**Sunday, June 11 - ASP Send-Off Service, Kindness Club**  
**Wednesday, June 14 - Growing in Love**  
**Saturday, June 17 - ASP Mission Teams Leave**  
**Sunday, June 18 - Kindness Club**  
**Wednesday, June 21 - Growing in Love**  
**Sunday, June 25 - ASP Mission Teams Return, Kindness Club**  
**Wednesday, June 28 - Growing in Love**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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