



First Things – October 2024

OUR GOD FOR ALL SEASONS

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark SEASONS and days and years (Genesis 1:14).

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever! Wisdom and power are His. He changes times and SEASONS..... (Daniel 2:20-21).

Who could deny that we enjoyed a beautiful extension of summer well into September?! Then Apple Fest weekend came...and autumn struck. For Sunday’s parade there had been first threat of cold rain, then just damp, cold and breezy. If there was reduced attendance at the parade, it might well be blamed on the forecast, though clouds broke, and the warm sun provided last minute pleasant weather from Sunday midday going forward. Thank You, Lord!

God is ultimately in control of our weather and seasons. From creation He set our earth tilted approximately 25% on its axis as it circles the sun. This provides for the rhythmic 365 plus day annual cycle of plant growth and rest for our world’s northern and southern hemispheres. And to think that we are just the right millions of miles away from the sun to make it all work! Our God is indeed awesome! We could go on and on about the level of energy emitted from the sun, the store house of energy resources God placed therein for who knows how long the creation will continue, etc. With David we might well ask, “What is man that You (God) are mindful of him?”(Psalm 8:4).

As one in billions of people on earth, we are each such a minuscule microcosm of the total – just one human being over thousands and thousands of years! Yet, think again. Before God created this awesome and complex world He knew you. From eternity He has loved you! YOU! That He would bother, yes dare, to bring this creation into being as a home for His most beloved creatures, knowing that as part and parcel to the affair would necessitate, He as Creator taking on creature form as a man to live and to die for us who would fall into sin is unfathomable.

He knows each one of us. He loves each one of us with an eternal love. And He is with each one of us through the all the changing seasons of life. As summer has now turned to fall, and as fall turns to winter, and... - mark the changing seasons as He has set them to remember, that as the Lord has been with you in the spring of your life, and for many of us into the productive summers, and reflective autumns of our lives, so He

will be with you always even through the winter of life until He in love brings you home to Himself in heaven. Will there be seasons there? And what will they be like in a perfect world? I look forward to finding out! How about you?

*Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.*
Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tate, 1696

Vacancy Pastor Holub

Looking Ahead during this Vacancy

Dear members of First Lutheran,

Hello from one of your ridge neighbors. Many of you may know me from Lenten services and other events at First Lutheran. I am Pastor John Unnasch from Immanuel on South Ridge and Zion in Hokah. It can be said that you and I are thrilled that I am but a four-week bridge between Pastor Holub and the installation of Pastor Pilarski. We thank the Lord for sending a full-time shepherd.

During the span of October 15 until November 10, Pastor Wolff from Caledonia will continue confirmation class instruction. Pastor Holub plans to visit the shut-ins yet in October and then the next round of those visits will be done by Pastor Bader, who is retired and living in Onalaska. (If needed, his phone number is 608-567-3038.) For other pastoral needs that you may have, whether a hospital call or something else, you may contact me. My cell number is 507-450-2882; our parsonage landline is 507-895-2398; and my email is johnunnasch55@gmail.com.

We have the final four weekends of services covered during this vacancy. On October 20 & 21, I am scheduled to conduct the services while Pastor Lindholm takes care of Hokah and South Ridge. The following weekend we switch, so Pastor Lindholm will be here on October 27 & 28. For the November services I will lead the November 3 & 4 services at First Lutheran while Pastor Bader is at Zion and Immanuel, and then on the morning of November 10 and the evening of Monday the 11th, Pastor Bader conducts the services here. *See chart below.*



Pastor John & Janet
Unnasch

	First – La Crescent	Immanuel/Zion
October 20 & 21	<i>Pastor Unnasch</i>	Pastor Lindholm
October 27 & 28	Pastor Lindholm	<i>Pastor Unnasch</i>
November 3 & 4	<i>Pastor Unnasch</i>	Pastor Bader
November 10 & 11	Pastor Bader	<i>Pastor Unnasch</i>

We surely thank Pastor Curt and Jean Holub for their faithful work at First Lutheran since July and ask God to grant them safe travel when it is time for them to head to Arizona. In all this time of transition, our Savior's grace, mercy and peace remain constant, which He pours out on us abundantly. We are in His care day and night.

In Him,
Pastor John Unnasch

Local Area Ministry Cooperation

Pastor John Unnasch has announced his intentions to retire next August. This has prompted his dual parish of Immanuel- La Crescent and Zion- Hokah to more deeply consider their long-range future. Pastor Kom invited neighboring congregational presidents and another representative or two of those churches to discuss ministry cooperation within the Circuit. This will continue to be a crucial conversation especially in this time of pastor shortages. You are asked to keep these congregations in your prayers, even as we thank the Lord for so quickly filling our vacancy in the weeks ahead.

Fall Fellowship Opportunities

Sat, October 12 La Crescent Historical Society Private Tour- This tour will last about 45 minutes. Followed by coffee, tea, and rolls in the Fellowship Hall with a short business meeting. Location: 328 S 3rd St, La Crescent.

Scrap-n-Craft- New Life Resource Center is hosting their fall scrap-n-craft fundraising event at Mt. Calvary Grace Lutheran School from 9 AM - 7 PM. Registration fees is \$40 for this event. This includes three wonderful meals plus treats and a 4 ft. table workspace. This is a work event for crafters, it is not a craft fair. *Join for as little or as much as you're able.* Registration Forms available in the entry.

Wed, October 16 Cybercrimes, Scams & Fraud- At 6 PM Rotary Club of La Crescent, with the La Crescent Police, will be presenting information to help community members learn about cybercrimes and share strategies to help you recognize, prevent, and report scams on Wednesday, October 16. This is FREE, but you will need to register via their QR code on the poster in the entry, or via their website: rotarycluboflacrescent.org/events. Light refreshments will be provided.



Sat, October 19 LWMS Fall Rally themed 'Now is the Time!'- Hosted at Christ Lutheran in Cochrane, WI and co-hosted with St. Michael's, Fountain City. This is a great opportunity to hear about WELS' London Mission from lay members who participated in a Mission Journey to London. Come early and enjoy refreshments while checking out the Mission Partner Displays and items available for purchase from the Thai Village. All ages of men, women and children are welcome to attend.

Sun, October 20 Voters' Meeting- Hear reports from Elders regarding our 2nd Quarter activities, and where we are regarding Installation Sunday for Pastor Pilarski, and serving opportunities in preparing the Parsonage, etc.

Thurs, October 31 Living Bible Night- Join members in putting classic Bible stories to life for our La Crescent community from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, with a potluck meal following. Good times all around sharing the Word with your families! Please contact the office via email or phone for more info.





Monday Morning Bible Study is coming back!

Monday, October 28 at 9 AM
in the fellowship hall (lower level).

August

Summary of Financial Information 2024

Financial Summary				
	YTD	YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Comments
Net Income (Loss) Church	\$20,512	(\$26,243)	\$46,755	
Net Income (Loss) ELC	\$30,916	\$11,663	\$19,253	
Total	\$51,427	(\$14,580)	\$66,007	
Grants (net)	(\$16,641)	(\$7,886)	(\$8,755)	
Without Grants	\$34,786	(\$22,466)	\$57,252	
Mortgage Balance	\$274,788			

Total Deficit of ELC	
2018	(\$17,051)
2019	(\$23,087)
2020	(\$2,544)
2021	\$39,832
2022	(\$10,484)
2023	(\$8,202)
2024	\$30,916
	<u>\$9,380</u>

Giving Summary				
	YTD	YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Comments
Offerings	\$137,779	\$126,593	\$11,186	108.8%
Debt Reduction	\$15,560	\$0	\$15,560	
Total	\$153,339	\$126,593	\$26,746	

Assets				
	2023	2024		
	December	August	Change	Comments
Checking Account	\$78,454	\$76,259	(\$2,195)	
Money Market	\$0	\$50,696	\$50,696	
Total	\$78,454	\$126,955	\$48,501	Net increase in cash balance

Liabilities & Equity				
	2023	2024		
	December	August	Change	Comments
Dedicated Funds Total	\$90,965	\$91,728	\$763	
Other Liabilities	\$5,799	\$2,109	(\$3,690)	
Assets less Liabilities	(\$18,310)	\$33,118	\$51,427	Net increase in equity