First/Lutheran
Nativity
March, 2013

Nativity: an inviting and nurturing community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and serving Christ

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Nativity
March, 2013

Palm Sunday Concert
March 24th, 3:00 p.m. at First Lutheran

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI
www.firstlutheranelca.org
E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net
Phone: 414-476-4664

"Reaching out in our community to share the Word of God"

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 W. Bluemound Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853
Nativity Phone (basement): 414-257-9980
www.nativitylutheranchurchwauwatosa.org

"Nativity: an inviting and nurturing community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and serving Christ"

Wednesday Lenten Schedule:
10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran
6:30 p.m. Soup Supper at First Lutheran
7:00 p.m. Worship at First Lutheran

Palm Sunday, March 24th:
9:00 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran
12:00 p.m. Worship at Nativity Lutheran
3:00 p.m. Concert at First Lutheran

Maundy Thursday, March 27th
12:00 p.m. Worship at Nativity Lutheran
7:00 p.m. Worship at First Lutheran

Good Friday, March 28th
12:00 p.m. Worship at Nativity Lutheran
7:00 p.m. Worship at First Lutheran

Easter Sunday, March 31
7:00 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran
8:00 a.m. Breakfast at First Lutheran
9:00 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran
11:00 a.m. Worship at Nativity Lutheran

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10th. Set your clocks ahead before you go to bed Saturday night!

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P. 11 This ‘n That Around Here
Dear Friends;

The season of Easter is the highest season of the church year. At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was killed on the cross but he came alive again (resurrection). On Easter Sunday we again sing the Halleluiah because Satan thought he had killed the Son of God and won the victory; but Jesus conquered death and lives forever. Satan is defeated and the victory belongs to our Lord. This is the way it happened:

“On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. Thy found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.” Luke 24:1-3

Jesus had risen from the dead. He lives now to forgive our sin and those who trust in Jesus will live forever with him. We are saved from eternal death through the resurrection of Jesus. When you face trials or troubles of any kind, or even you own death, remember the promise of Jesus, “I am with you even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b

All that we do in the church is to proclaim the victory of Jesus the Lamb of God. The Lord is Risen. Halleluiah!!! Come and worship with us every week.

In Christ,
Pastor Peterson
**Worship Matters by Adriana Rees**

HAPPY EASTER! This is the most important of all our church festivals. A lot of people assume the most important is Christmas, and although it is extremely significant, it is actually Easter—the reason why we are Christians in the first place. Jesus conquered death and placed the Holy Spirit into the disciples and told them to spread His message to all. Now, some of the customs surrounding Easter are of pagan origin as with all major holidays we celebrate today. I will not be taking the time to discuss all of them here, though I will mention that Easter is unique in that it is the only major holiday that has its roots in early Christian history. Easter is typically celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 20th (the spring equinox). Easter can then fall anywhere from March 25 to April 25. Why not this year if you already don’t, send out some “Merry Easter” cards? Easter is a celebration of the love our Lord and Savior has for us...it is time to bring out the bells and alleluias! Blessings, Adriana Rees

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**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS**

During March our Bible Class will focus on the Lenten Theme “Talking about God”. Topics will include: Your Theology; Your Theologians; Favorite Scriptures and Hymns; Your Faith Crises; Lutheran Theology and The Creed. Lively discussions will center on an article found in our Lutheran Magazine. A change of pace and active seeking will be timely break from books of the bible. After Easter we will return to the Book of Ephesians. All are welcome to attend. Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room at 10:00am. Class runs about and hour with lunch opportunities available if desired.

John Bennethum is our Teacher.

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**For Women Only.......**

The “For Women Only” women’s discussion group will be held on Saturdays, at 9:30 a.m. at First Lutheran. Women of all ages from both churches are encouraged to attend.

The book studied is *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp

Why not step out of your comfort zone and give it a try? Sign-up sheets are in the narthex at each church. Books will be distributed at the first meeting. Bring a friend!

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**Easter is Timeless.......**

Easter is a moveable feast, falling any time between March 22 and April 25 on the Gregorian calendar. At a meeting of bishops in 325 A.D., Easter Sunday was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 20th (the spring equinox). (Though the equinox can fall on March 19, 20 or 21, the church fixed March 21 as this date.)

Over the years, branches of the church differed on the precise date for Easter, finally reaching agreement in the late 700s. Since 1582, however, when the Western Church adopted the Gregorian calendar while the Eastern Church retained the Julian one, the timing of Easter has sometimes varied between the two.

Such computations are interesting but pale in light of the ultimate assurance that for Christians, every day is truly Easter. Christ’s tomb is empty! Jesus defeated death! Whenever we worship, we celebrate resurrection. Date-bound by earthly calendars, the Feast of the Resurrection, by heaven’s rendering, is eternal.

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For the Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran, we are looking for 14 people to participate in The Last Supper, to be performed during the worship service. No rehearsals are required! We would like to have as many male voices as possible, but *all are welcome*! Contact Megan Plicka at First, or the church office if you’re interested.

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Prayer can help...

If serious illness or other life factors affect you or those you love, contact the church office and we will send your request through our prayer chain. We have people who will pray for your need. If you are interested in joining a prayer chain, contact Marie Le Page (First Lutheran), Laverne Breed (Nativity Lutheran) or the church.
Is applause appropriate in worship?

This thorny issue has arisen recently in the choir, so where angels fear to tread this fool will rush in or at least dance around the issue a bit.

The Psalmist in Psalm 47 exhorts: “Clap your hands all peoples!” For those advocating applause this seems rather cut and dry, but on second look all is not this simple. We have to be clear from the start that there is a difference between applause and clapping. Rhythmic clapping is an essential element to certain musical styles. We must be open to clapping in music from certain cultures, whether by choir, congregation or worship leader. Clapping is different than applause.

Liturgically there are times when applause is an appropriate acclamation to an action just completed. A short list might include:
- Welcome newly Baptized or Ordained
- Greeting a Newly Married Couple
- Thank you and Installation services of Sunday School Teachers, Church Council, Choir. Ushers, etc.
- Visiting Homilists or Musicians

There are often very difficult and emotionally charged services such as Funerals where spontaneous applause simply erupts for lack of any other means of expression. In our ever broadening understanding of church, the applause of an African American Community might be harder for those of us of Northern European Ancestry to understand. As our American melting pot society learns to work and worship together we must be more sensitive to each other’s means of expression.

In congregations such as ours the matter of applause focuses on those following a choir anthem, vocal or instrumental solo or sermon. In our American culture applause follows a performance whether good or bad thus it is linked to entertainment. In our day and age with the huge mega churches and the television evangelists that cast their worship service as the few entertaining the many we might be wise to avoid the slippery slope. The Lutheran Church, a liturgical church, emphasizes participation by all which offers an alternative to entertainment worship. In the secular setting applause might not be a weakness, when used in liturgical worship it might not function the same.

The following is taken directly from our ELCA Website.

Singers of all ages, organists and choirs, must be reminded continually that their role in worship is to offer praise to God, not to entertain God’s people in worship. Those who preach are proclaiming the Gospel, not entertaining. Worshipers, too, should be reminded that they gather to worship, not to be entertained. Yet, worshipers will often experience the powerful and sincere human desire to thank musicians and preachers for the service they provide to the church. After a particularly fine offering of music, worshipers may give thanks to God in silent prayer and personally thank the musician(s). Congregational leaders can plan congregational events that allow for such thanks to be given. These thanks could take the form of a yearly recognition within the liturgy itself or a thank you supper following worship. Monthly newsletters might include thank-you notes focusing on different aspects of parish life, such as choirs, altar guild, acolytes, or ushers. Sometimes worshipers are told not to applaud in worship but are not given appropriate opportunities to offer thanks. Providing such opportunities helps worship to remain worship and not entertainment.
Last year, Nativity Lutheran Church gave $1,000 to Benevolence. Pastor Warber mentioned that the gifts given to Benevolence provide funding for world hunger, the ELCA Synod, local missions and world missions. Nativity Lutheran Church has set a goal of giving another $1,000 to Benevolence in 2013.

The lyrics to Christian Artist Matthew West’s song “Do Something” provide a unique perspective on the impact of benevolence and other gifts that serve. Just as becoming physically involved in missions is a method of serving, gifts to benevolence are a method of helping a world in need.

I woke up this morning Saw a world full of trouble now Thought, how'd we ever get so far down How's it ever gonna turn around So I turned my eyes to Heaven I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"

He said, "I did, I created you"

If not us, then who
If not me and you Right now, it's time for us to do something

I'm so tired of talking About how we are God's hands and feet But it's easier to say than to be Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves It's alright, "somebody else will do something"

As we enter 2013, prayerfully consider how you can be God’s hands and feet. Benevolence is one opportunity to “do something” to help a world in need.

Madelyn Herbert

Congratulations to Alfred Korth of First Lutheran, who not only will be turning 90 in March, but was able to take the Honor Flight with W.W.II Veterans to Washington D.C. If you go to www.honorflightthemovie.com, you'll see Al's picture on the web page, and on the cover of the Honor Flight DVD. Wallace Buske of Nativity Lutheran was also able to go on an Honor Flight. He spoke about his experience on a Sunday morning at Nativity. Thanks to both of these men and to all of our veterans for their service to our country.
Evangelism on the Move....

The Evangelism Committee invites you to make Lenten and Easter services part of your family tradition.

“May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness and the gift of Your light…” Guideposts

Palm Sunday Concert – March 24, 3pm.

Join us for a wonderful “Palm Sunday Concert” on Sunday, March 24, at 3pm at First Lutheran. A reception in the Fireside Room or Fellowship hall will follow (location depends on construction progress of the new handicapped restroom). Enjoy beautiful, inspirational music for Holy week including African-American spirituals arranged by H.T. Burleigh and selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

We need volunteers to help greet visitors, set up the reception, clean up after the reception and donate desserts or cheese trays for the reception. Watch for a sign-up sheet at the welcome desk or contact the church office if you can help. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the music program at First and Nativity Lutheran churches. Please bring non-perishable items for the Food Pantry.

First Lutheran has a new web page! Check it out at www.firstlutheranelca.org. We are still “under construction” but plan to include more pictures, an electronic, color version of our newsletter, video tapes of sermons and lot of information about our church.

If your committee would like to submit information or pictures for our web page, please email it to the church office at firstlutheranelca@att.net. Thank you to Kathy Kollath, web designer, for creating our new web page.

Social Ministry Corner

“Are We Up To the Challenge?”

The food Pantry has an amazing opportunity through Thrivent Financial. They’ve challenged us to participate in a “challenge” grant. For each $1.00 that is given to the Food Pantry between Nov 14 and March 31st, Thrivent will match $.50, up to $5,000.00! As of Feb 11, we have received $4,058.00 in donations plus $2,800.00 in grants through Feeding America, for a total of $6,858.00. We need to reach $10,000 in donations in order to receive the $5000.00 grant. Thank you for your generosity.

Perkins Fundraiser results...

Thanks to Perkins Family Restaurant on Hwy 100 for a donation of $67.53 for our food pantry and thanks to everyone who dined there during October and November. We received 10% of the amount of the dining checks when a voucher from our food pantry was presented.

Food Pantry Visitors tell us about Hunger

Here are some comments from our food pantry visitors after being asked, “How do you feel about hunger or our food pantry?”

‘It means the world and thanks again. God bless you all’
‘Food pantries are not only a means of getting food, but a way of giving back’
‘I am so thankful for this pantry!’

More responses are on the “wall of plates” on the bulletin board in the front entrance.”

Thanks to the following members and friends of First Lutheran/Nativity who have donated or prepared food for the food pantry lunches in the past month: Peggy and Glen Phillips, Pat and Mike Temke, Natalie Jaeger, Cindy Labadie, Jamie Schoberg and Betty Roeder. Anyone is welcome to donate food, such as homemade soup, cookies, brownies, salads, etc. Contact Joy Dowd if you have questions.

Greeters needed...

We still need helpers to work as greeters (or substitute greeters) to sign people in and check IDs when visitors arrive at the pantry on Friday mornings from 10am – noon. You will be scheduled about every 5 weeks.

We thank God for our many volunteers overall. They tell us that they enjoy helping others and “giving back”.

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me”. Matthew 25:35
First Lutheran Committees

The Scoop on Stewardship……

Are you a piece of the First Lutheran puzzle? If we put a picture puzzle together and there is a piece missing, the puzzle is not complete. Likewise in our church, each member has a place to fill to make First Lutheran complete and the work of the church meaningful. How do you fit into the work of First Lutheran?

You are invited to join any of the committees which make our church work. These include: Christian Education, Evangelism, Property, Scholarship, Social Ministry, Stewardship, and Worship & Music. God doesn’t ask your ability or your inability, He asks only your availability! Contact the office if you are interested.

Stewardship is an every day responsibility! All that we have belongs to God! He asks us to live as stewards of every aspect of human life and the natural world. All of our material resources, time, energy, and talents are to be devoted to joining God in making a world not only of peace but of well-being, health, harmony, equity, unity, freedom and community. God looks for equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. We cannot give what we do not have, but we can share a generous percentage of what we do have. The fact is that if we wait to give until we are rich, we will never give!

“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap: for the measure you give will be the measure you get back”  Luke 6:38

IF WE GIVE----

If we give what is left over, the church neither feeds us spiritually nor feeds anyone else.
If we give dues, the church will be no more than a club.
If we give for sentimental reasons, the church will be like a museum.
If we give the same as we always have, the church will only receive declining returns.
If we give out of obligation, the church will become a place of resentment for us.
If we give only because we feel responsible, the church will be a heavy burden.
If we give out of compassion for those whose needs are great, then our needs will seem so much smaller.
If we give because we are thankful, the church will reflect the measure of our gratitude.
If love leads us to selfless giving, the church will become the place where we discover joy!

-Author unknown

Have you discovered the spirit of gratitude and generosity? When people give themselves to the Lord, the Lord makes things happen!  With gratitude,  Lavone Reis, Stewardship Chairperson

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<tr>
<th>Clement Manor</th>
<th>Hart Park Senior Center</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lifelong Learning Book Club</strong> - 1st Tue. at 12pm  Mar. 5 - The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest by Steig Larsson  Apr. 2 - Lying Awake by Mark Salzman  <strong>Keynote Speaker</strong> - 3/21 at 1:30 pm. Honor Song!  <strong>The Dr. Rosa Minoka-Hill Story.</strong> The life of the first woman dr. with a lifetime membership to the state medical society, who was a Wis. Native American.  <strong>Club Loomineers</strong> - A No-Needle Knitting Group - 1st Wed. of month. 12pm. No charge.  <strong>Bridge Group</strong> - Every Tues. - 9-11 am  Call Clement Manor at 546-7302 for registration or info.</td>
<td><strong>Crafter’s Corner</strong> - 1st Thurs. of each month at 9am  <strong>Scrabble</strong> - Wednesdays at 10am  <strong>Cards and Games for Ladies and Gents</strong>  <strong>Skat:</strong> Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am  <strong>Men’s Sheephead:</strong> 12:00pm Mon. thru Thurs.  <strong>Bridge:</strong> Thursdays. at 12:00; call Pat at 231-3935 to sign up.  <strong>MahJongg:</strong> Wednesdays at 12:00.  Call 471-8495 for information.</td>
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**Lilac Bus - March Schedule**

Open to all West Allis Seniors. Call 302-8715 to make a reservation by the RSVP date. Cost is $3 per round trip. You will be picked up at your home.

Fri., Mar. 8 - Shopping on Old World Third St. & at Glorioso’s Italian Market. Lunch at Ma Fisher’s.  3/5
Wed., Mar. 13 - Shopping in historic Greendale and lunch.  3/11
Wed., Mar. 27 - Shopping at Trader Joe’s and Sendik’s. Lunch at Baker’s Square.  3/25
Construction Begins!

On February 11, work began on combining the two small bathrooms near the sanctuary at First Lutheran into one larger handicap accessible bathroom.

Thank you for your participation in the paczki sale! We have $265 to spend on accessories for our new handicap equipped bathroom! The new bathroom, which is under construction, or perhaps completed when you read this newsletter, is the first of two stages in our Handicap Accessibility program at First Lutheran. The second stage will be the actual lift which will carry people from the front door up to the sanctuary, and down to the lower level. Thank you for your participation!

Lavone Reis, Stewardship Chairperson, and Committee

O Lord, Make a donation to First Lutheran’s Handicap Accessibility Fund today!
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<td>5:30p-Confirmation</td>
<td>6:30p-Soup Supper</td>
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Worship and communion at Nativity Lutheran are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Carson Baptist Church worships at First Lutheran at 3:00 p.m. every Sunday.
## NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### March 2013

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<td><strong>Sunday School</strong> is held at First Lutheran, 7400 W. Lapham St. at 9:00 a.m. on all but the first Sunday of the month. The first Sunday is Family Worship and children are encouraged to attend worship with their parents.</td>
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<td>11:00a-Worship &amp; Communion</td>
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<td>9:00a-Quilting</td>
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<td>12:00p-Coffee Hour</td>
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<td>7:15p-Dartball</td>
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<td>10:00a &amp; 7:00p Lent Wrshp. @First</td>
<td>5:30p-Confirmation at First</td>
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<td><strong>12:00p-Worship at First</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30p-S.S.C.C. Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>11:00a-Worship &amp; Communion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daylight Savings Time Begins!</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12:00p-Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>12:00p-Worship at First</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:30p-S.S.C.C. Worship</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daylight Savings Time Begins!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday School</strong> is held at First Lutheran, 7400 W. Lapham St. at 9:00 a.m. on all but the first Sunday of the month. The first Sunday is Family Worship and children are encouraged to attend worship with their parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship and communion at First Lutheran are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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Daylight Savings Time Begins!
Food Pantry Needs

The First Lutheran Food Pantry seems to always need donations of canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, small cans of tuna or chicken and peanut butter and jelly. These are items that cannot be purchased through Feeding America. All other food items are greatly appreciated as well.

Anniversary Blessings

Nativity Lutheran:
- 3/21 Marcus & Nicole DeBack 15 yrs.
- 3/21 Don & Jean Leppien 54 yrs.

First Lutheran:
- 3/1 Wm. & Janice Hansen 31 yrs.
- 3/2 Michael & Melissa Weisnicht 6 yrs.
- 3/26 Lori & Joel Marquez 6 yrs.

February Birthdays

First Lutheran:
- 3/2 Audrey Enloe
- 3/3 Jason Zehe
- 3/4 David Gruulke
- 3/5 Diann Hall
- 3/10 Betty Warner
- 3/11 Roger Gray
- 3/11 Alfred Korth
- 3/13 Gus Barnes
- 3/14 Sharon Smith
- 3/15 Erin Anderson
- 3/15 Wesley Anderson
- 3/15 Robert Fox
- 3/16 Joan Hirschinger
- 3/17 Lori Swan
- 3/22 Alexa Ulbrich
- 3/25 Debra Kubek
- 3/27 Dolores Hurst
- 3/27 Adriana Rees
- 3/28 Samuel Marquez
- 3/28 David Ulbrich
- 3/31 Melissa Weisnicht

Nativity Lutheran:
- 3/9 Arthur Gruetzner
- 3/11 Joyce Favre
- 3/17 Evan Reynolds
- 3/22 Nicole DeBack
- 3/26 Dawn Reynolds
- 3/28 Matthew Herbert
- 3/29 Janet Christensen

BIBLE QUIZ

When Jesus was crucified, over what time period did darkness cover the earth?
A. 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
B. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
C. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
D. 12 noon to 3 p.m

Answer: See Mark 15:33

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>$ 12,911.19</td>
<td>$ 18,859.20</td>
<td>-5,948.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$ 12,911.19</td>
<td>$ 18,859.20</td>
<td>-5,948.01</td>
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FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
<th>% +/-%</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>-125</td>
<td>-3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>-125</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Svcs.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date Svcs.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We purchased and paid for a used copy machine this month for $2,761.00
Worship With Us

Saturday
5:30 p.m. at
First Lutheran

Sunday
9:00 a.m. at
First Lutheran

11:00 a.m. at
Nativity Lutheran
6905 W. Bluemound

EASTER

If you no longer wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office.