People of God,

Together, as the Lutheran church, we are celebrating the 500th year since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Sent initially to the Archbishop of Mainz on October 31, 1517, Luther intended for his theses to be a starting point for debate surrounding his issue with the selling of indulgences (an indulgence is one way punishment for a sin can be reduced; however, in Luther’s day instead of prayers or good works being performed to receive an indulgence some were simply selling them).

Luther’s main reason for his 95 theses was in opposition to his perceived abuse of the indulgence system by some who were simply reducing punishment and forgiving sins not based on confession, but instead payment.

What was supposed to be an oral argument among academics and theologians created something much different: A schism in the Roman Catholic Church that started the reformation. Luther was one of many reformers who had theological and political differences with the Catholic Church and one of many who endeavored to put forth beliefs and ideas that often ran counter to Catholic theologies.

Yet, for all their perceived differences, Luther’s initially disagreement with the Catholic Church stemmed only from the selling of indulgences. Only after more time had passed, more reformers joined the cause, and the invention of the printing press allowed mass production of printed material did the reforming of the church truly begin.

In the 500 years since the reformation of the church began numerous denominations with varied beliefs, theologies, and doctrines have taken root. And yet, as a church – as a *catholic* church – *καθολικός*, meaning “whole” or “universal”, we are called to proclaim Christ crucified. Together, we are called to proclaim the good news of salvation for all people through our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Certainly, we still have our differences. The *Declaration of the Way* is an ecumenical document produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the ELCA. The document outlines thirty-two statements of agreement between Catholics and Lutherans. There are also statements presented where there are currently differences in beliefs and policies between Catholics and Lutherans.

It is a reminder that as the church we are called to work together toward our common unity in Christ. It is also a reminder that the church is always reforming. The reformation was not simply an event that occurred 500 years ago, but instead is a constant state of being. As a people of Christ we are always being made new in the same way that our God is always creating.

Together, we journey with one another down the path of life knowing that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are with us; God truly dwells with God’s people. For we are all united in our common mission, our common ministries, and our common calling as children of God.

Peace,

Pater Bapt
As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, *Living Lutheran* is exploring 500 of its unique aspects. Below is part of a list of 50 things you may not know about the Reformation.

- The word “Protestant” was first used formally around 1529. “Protestant” originates from the Latin word protestari, meaning “declare publicly, testify, protest.”
- The name “Lutheran” originated as a derogatory term used against Martin Luther by German scholastic theologian Johann Maier von Eck during the Leipzig Debate in 1519.
- The Luther rose (or Luther seal) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer’s faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther’s. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.
- Prior to the Reformation, congregational singing—and even talking—during church services wasn’t standard practice in Germany.
- Luther composed more than 40 hymns in his lifetime, and in 1529 wrote and composed the tune for what became known as “The Battle Hymn of the Reformation”—today called “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”
- Today the United States has more Protestants than any other country, about 160 million. Nigeria is second, with nearly 60 million Protestants. China has the third-largest Protestant population, approx. 58 million.
- On April 18, 1994, the Church Council of the ELCA officially repudiated and apologized for Luther’s words and teachings that have been appropriated by anti-Semites for the teaching of hatred and violence toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people. The ELCA also pledged to oppose such bigotry within the church and in society and to pray for the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community.
- The idea put forth during the Reformation that God sees all believers as spiritually equal had profound repercussions in the church—especially when the idea was applied to women.
- Christian education was a passion of Luther’s. He encouraged a partnership between the home and the church in which parents would take the lead and the church would assist.

For more information go to: [www.livinglutheran.org/reformation/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/reformation/)

A list of some of the many local reformation services and celebrations is posted in the narthex at each church.

Do you know what these pictures are? See p. 11 for answers
During October we will continue our study of the book of JOSHUA. Joshua was the successor of Moses who led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Bring your Bible and come and join us in our discussion. All are welcome. We meet in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran from 10-11 a.m. Join us for after class for lunch at a local restaurant. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

Sunday School Rally Sunday Report!

“Be joyful, always pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances”

_Thessalonians 5:16-18_

Our Fall 2017 Sunday School theme this year is “Teach Us To Pray”. Each week we will include a lesson about “The Lord’s Prayer” and/or “The Ten Commandments”.

Linda Gruulke kicked off Rally Sunday with music and art. The children learned the “Lord’s Prayer Action Song” and made a musical instrument. Sunday School student Melina gave members of the congregation a crocheted cross with our “Teach Us To Pray” message. Members of the congregation could either keep the cross or share it with a shut-in that they plan to visit. Let us know what you did with your cross - we would love to know! There will be crafts, science, games and music offered throughout our Fall season. Come join us!

If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School please contact the Church office.

Sunday School Staff: Lori Marquez, Linda Gruulke and Greta Plicka

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Gayle Falk, Tom Hackl, Elga Lam, Carolyn Moncher, Ron Phillippo, Lavone Reis, Jamie Schoberg, Kathy Stenzel, Nanette Steves and Carla Syut

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:

From Nativity: Wally Buske, Don Brauch, Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Louise Kohn, Lorraine Kuchma, James Larson, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Ken Rieder and Juan Sifuentes

From First: Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Elsie Boese, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Steve Clark, Terry Favre, John Isaacson, Earl Junck, Elle Konetzki, Alfred Korth, Myra Shields, Dennis Schoberg Sr., Joyce Staub, Lois Taylor and Pat Zuback

For all those serving in the armed forces:

Sean Brown, Robert Chrzanowski, Jason Dowhie, Andrew Dowd, David MacDonald, Sam Rogers, Robert Simmer and Zach Tennison

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 the church office.
Nativity Lutheran News

Halloween Spooktacular Concert

October 28th at 2 pm is the date for the Halloween Spooktacular concert at Nativity. Nativity Lutheran will be transformed into a haunted Cathedral in a concert of spooky organ music and highlights from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s soaring musical masterpiece; “Phantom of the Opera.” The concert will again feature Pastor Bakkum, Stuart Mitchell, and Susan Platt. This year, this concert is being coordinated with Martin Luther Lutheran Church (9235 W. Bluemound Rd.) where you can celebrate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. Bill Kaiser, a friend from Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, will share his portrayal of Martin Luther. A massed choir from local churches will join with the voices of the Martin Luther choirs to sing several Martin Luther Hymns including, of course, “A Mighty Fortress is our God”. The celebration service will begin at 5:00, followed by the Lutheran tradition of a pot luck dinner.

More Sidewalk Repairs

Don Brauch (and some good friends) felt inspired to make even more sidewalk repairs. And I think they look very stylish. Thank you, Don, for being a good steward!

Let’s do Lunch

On Sunday, November 5, the parish hall will not be available following our service, so join with your fellow Nativityites for refreshments at a local venue (and we will be going Dutch). More information coming soon so watch this space!

Hope Network

This year, the Synodical Women’s Organization (SWO) is collecting in-kind gifts for the Hope Network for Single Women. The Hope Network is celebrating its’ 35th anniversary this year.

The SWO is looking for baby wipes and diapers (sized for newborns, 1,4,5) and pull-ups, baby bath items including shampoo and lotion, diaper rash ointment, board books and books for children ages 0-2, onesies (short and long sleeve), pajamas (fall and winter), colder weather clothing for children of all ages, and gift cards from Walmart, Target, Meijer and Pick n’ Save.

Please place these items in Nativity’s narthex, in the basket marked IN KIND GIFTS, by October 10, or bring them to the church office. Cheryl Isotalo will take them to the SWO convention on Oct. 14.

Fall Rummage Sale

The dates are set for the Nativity annual Fall rummage sale. Mark your calendars now for November 10 and 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nativity needs your stuff, your baked goods and your time to volunteer for set-up, clean-up and the actual sale dates. See Jill Mickelson with questions or to volunteer. Or watch for the sign-up sheet!

New Memorial Plaque

The Nativity Church Women are holding a bake sale fundraiser October 8, during coffee hour. Your bakery dollars will be used to create and purchase a new Memorial Plaque. The existing Memorial Plaques have just run out of room. Mark your calendars now!
At Nativity’s pet blessing in August, pets of all kinds were welcomed and blessed. The pets and their owners were treated to refreshments served by Michelle and Maureen Jones (right). While some of the pets weren’t so sure about each other, others became fast friends!

Even though the outdoor worship service and church picnic were rained out and moved indoors, that didn’t stop Nativity’s parishioners from enjoying wonderful grilled sweet corn (thanks, Jim!), chicken and a large array of side dishes and desserts. During dinner, Dennis entertained with ‘oldies but goodies’ on the piano.
PET BLESSING
Thanks to everyone who helped with and attended First Lutheran’s Pet Blessing service. We were happy to bless Sammy, Pee Wee, Hillbilly, Donna, Dotty, Cinnamon, Tiger, Fez, Ozzie, Charley, Clio, Charlotte, Diego and many other pets who were not easily transported and could not attend. We give thanks for the beautiful day and the fellowship we shared as we welcomed “Pet Parents” from our congregation and the neighborhood. Special thanks to Werner Bayer for playing guitar for the service. Thank you to Eden Garden and Pets, on 70th St, south of Greenfield, for donating 20 small bags of dog and cat treats for the pet blessing. Please thank them the next time you visit the store.

Candy Time!
We will again be having our October candy collection for Operation Christmas stocking. Take advantage of the seasonal sales and pick up a bag or two. Your best choice will be candy that is in “regular” or Christmas oriented wrappers. Watch for the donation bins in the narthex or bring your donation to the office.

Dearest God, maker of all living creatures, I ask you to bless my pet. I thank you for the love, compassion and joy that I receive each day, and give praise and thanks, dear God, for all creatures that you give us here on earth. Amen

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING
Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for First Lutheran’s December Christmas Stocking distribution. Again this year we are asking for items that we can give to the men, women and children that come to the food pantry.

Ideas include: shaving cream, deodorant, soap, tissue, toothbrushes, small combs & brushes, nail care products, chap stick, slippers socks, gloves, hats, mittens (men, women and children), travel size lotions, shampoo, baseball caps and socks. We are also looking for small toys, coloring books, crayons and books for children ages 4 to 10. Menards men’s T-shirts can be purchased periodically throughout the year with a 100% rebate.

If you have any leftover Trick or Treat candy, please bring it to church and place it in the barrel in the narthex. We will use the candy to fill Christmas mugs for our Food Pantry clients and add treats to the children’s Christmas stockings. We would like to thank the Quilters at First Lutheran for helping decorate children’s Christmas stockings in July, the Nativity Quilters and Elaine Lindstrom from St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa for making baby blankets for us.

If you have any questions please contact Jackie Bayer or Greta Plicka.
Werner Bayer accompanied the music at First Lutheran’s Pet Blessing. Maxx hangs on to Hillbilly while waiting for the blessing. It was a beautiful day for worship and refreshments outdoors.

First Lutheran’s Sew and Sew Quilters welcomed guests who helped to tie 18 quilts at the annual quilting bee. Laughter, lunch and desserts were enjoyed by all!
Giving Back - Where Can You Help at First Lutheran?

**Food Pantry News**

- Like to cook “big”? We are in need of several volunteer cooks to work with us to plan and prepare meals on Thursdays and Fridays. Previous cooking experience is required.
- We can use a couple of dishwashers to rotate each week and/or just fill in once in a while. Training is provided and we are there to help with any questions you might have.
- We also need help greeting food pantry visitors and checking them in at the sign-in desk on Fridays between 10am & noon. You would work about every 5-6 weeks and will always be with a partner. We also need substitutes to fill in once in a while.

Donation envelopes for the food pantry are available in the church pew pockets. We are grateful for your support of this caring ministry.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord and he will repay him for his deed.”

Proverbs 19:17

**Provide a Ride to Church**

The West Allis office of Interfaith is now accepting volunteers to give clients a ride to church. If you are interested in providing this service, pick the days and times that you would like to work and Interfaith will connect you with a client. I know that First Luther has a few senior members seeking rides to church. If you are accepted as a volunteer for Interfaith and your rider is also accepted as a client, you would be covered under Interfaith’s insurance.

**Tithing Our Gifts - Endowment Committee**

“Thank you for the donation to our food pantry ministry. Your generosity allowed us to replace the flooring, thereby maintaining a safe environment for our volunteers and guests.”

We are so blessed,

First Lutheran Social Ministry Committee

Patricia Temke was baptized at First Lutheran in 1931, was confirmed in 1945, and has been an active member of First Lutheran since then. Her in-laws, Clarence & Irene Temke, and her parents, Clara & Charles Hill, were all members of First Lutheran. In her youth, Patt went to camp and sang in the choir. Patt and Clarence were married in 1951 and had three children who were all baptized and confirmed at First. They were blessed with 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Patt and Clarence were long-time custodians of the church, taking care of the inside and outside of the church and making it shine. Patt has served in many ways, including quilting, altar guild and food pantry. She’s been bowling for over 40 yrs. and enjoys spending winter months in Gulf Shores, Alabama, as well as traveling with friends and going to Texas to visit her daughters. First Lutheran is lucky to have you, Patt!
**Out and About in our Community**

**Concert Update From Another Perspective**
Reprinted from Martin Luther Church's quarterly newsletter for September/November.

Plan on joining us on Saturday, October 28, 2017, for a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. Bill Kaiser, a friend from Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, will share in his portrayal of Martin Luther. And a massed choir from local churches will join with the voices of the Martin Luther choirs to sing several Martin Luther Hymns including, of course, “A Mighty Fortress is our God”.

The celebration service will begin at 5:00, followed by the Lutheran tradition of a pot luck dinner. And while you’re at it – plan on spending the early afternoon on Bluemound Rd. as well. Our neighbor, Nativity Lutheran Church (69th and Bluemound) will have their annual Halloween concert that afternoon starting at 2:00. If you’ve never been to one of their concerts, it’s a real treat. Dennis Wolfgang on the Nativity organ does a great job, as does Pastor Bryant on the piano, and the soloists are tremendous. Light refreshments will follow the concert to tide you over until our pot luck dinner after the 5:00 Celebration at Martin Luther. Perfect timing to do both!

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**Empty Bowls Milwaukee**

**19th Annual Milwaukee Empty Bowls Event**
Sunday, October 8, 11 AM - 2 PM,
Kern Center - MSOE, 1245 N Broadway, Milwaukee
Benefits local agencies addressing food insecurity
For more details: www.milwaukeeeemptybowls.org

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**Clement Manor**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Oct. 26, 1:30 - pm p.m.
“My Two Elaines” Former WI governor Martin J. Schreiber will share lessons from his more than 10-year journey as a caregiver for his wife, Elaine, who lives with Alzheimer’s disease.

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**23rd Annual 50 PLUS or Better Expo**
Tuesday, October 24, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Polish Center, 6941 S 68th Street, Franklin
Featuring medical, insurance, health screenings, travel, housing, and financial information all in one location.

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**Heritage West Allis Events**
7901 W. National Ave.

**Kick-Off For A Cure**
Oct. 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Enjoy a tailgate lunch with a co-ed football while raising money to benefit Breast Cancer research. A brat lunch will be served for only $6!

**Shop For A Cause**
Nov. 9, 4-8 p.m.
Over 30 vendors, silent auction & raffle prizes. Save the date!
This ‘n That Around Here

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>$31,009.87</td>
<td>$13,842.10</td>
<td>$17,167.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$101,413.71</td>
<td>$97,975.00</td>
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*Income in August includes at $20,000 transfer from the Endowment Fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgeted Income</th>
<th>Budget to Date</th>
<th>Received to Date</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$78,273.52</td>
<td>*$68,148.32</td>
<td>-$10,125.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benevolence</td>
<td>$6,300.00</td>
<td>$5,400.00</td>
<td>-$900.00</td>
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*Budgeted income includes only offerings and donations. It does not include transfers from savings or the Endowment Fund.

“All that we are and all that we have belongs to God, and we are the stewards of those blessings”.

Open Council Sessions

Do you have ideas for growth at First Lutheran? At the October council meeting, interested FLC members are invited to sit in to discuss and learn about ideas, action and budgeting for growing our congregation and its mission. The Oct. meeting is on Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Hammerling Hall.

Advice from a pumpkin

Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life’s bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!

—Ilan Shamir

On the Lighter Side

How many times does Jesus say we should forgive others?

A. 7
B. 70
C. 77
D. 70 x 7
E. C or D, depending on the translation

Answer: (See Matthew 18:22.)

“No, son, not Martin Luther King. Just Martin Luther.”
Anniversaries...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names &amp; Couples</th>
<th>Years</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>William &amp; Guyon Metzen (N)</td>
<td>55 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>James &amp; Sandra Larson (N)</td>
<td>45 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Daniel &amp; Gail Sopa (F)</td>
<td>43 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Susan Nekich (N)</td>
<td>44 yrs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birthdays...

First Lutheran
10/1  Gail Sopa
10/3  Pita Garcia
10/8  Odemaris Dixon
10/11 Linda Grukle
10/13 Cindy Labadie
10/16 Carrie Pflugradt
10/17 Earl Casto, Jr.
10/20 Elizabeth Gray
10/21 Myra Shields
10/22 Gloria Grassell

Nativity Lutheran
10/10 Dale Isotalo
10/13 Breny Ormaeche
10/17 Robert Saur II
10/26 Harriet Miller

A PRAYER FOR NEIGHBORLINESSE

O God, we pray for a broader vision of the needs of humanity, and a deeper compassion to fill those needs; for a planting of the seeds of concern for all humanity in our hearts; for a tapping of the wells of generosity. May we live together as people who have been forgiven a great debt. May we be gentle, walking softly with one another. May we be understanding, lest we shall add to the world’s sorrow or cause to flow needless tears. May we be as anxious for the rights of others as we are for our own. May we be as eager to forgive as we are to seek forgiveness. May we know no barriers of creed or race or sex, that our love may be like Yours — a love that sees all people as Your children and our kin. May we be ministers of humanity.

Peter Marshall

Need pastoral care?

Please remember to notify the pastor or church office if you are ill or hospitalized so that we can offer prayer and support directly to you. If you have a pastoral emergency (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.,) you can reach Pastor Bryant by calling him at (414)856-7672.

The Luther rose (or Luther seal) was created at the request of printers to have a personal symbol representing the reformer’s faith that could serve as a mark indicating something was an authorized publication of Luther’s. It became widely recognized as the symbol for Lutheranism, and still is today.

Martin Luther Pictures (p.2):
(L) Statue of Luther that stands in the square in Wittenberg.
(C) The pulpit is Luther’s pulpit in St. Andrews Church in Eiseleben. Luther preached his last 4 sermons from this pulpit and died soon after that in Eiseleben.
(R) Luther’s room/desk in the room at Wartburg Castle where he was hidden by Frederick the Wise after being kidnapped. This is where he translated the Bible into German.
First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)
Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis
(414)476-4664

Worship With Us:
Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. First Lutheran
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran
Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran
Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays at First Lutheran

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Phone: 414-476-4664

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6905 W. Bluemound Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI
www.nativitylutheran.us
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853

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