First and Nativity Lutheran Churches

November 2015

Join Us For Thanksgiving Worship on Wednesday, Nov. 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran, followed by pumpkin pie fellowship.

Important Dates to Remember:

10/31-11/1  All Saints Weekend
11/13-14  Nativity Rummage Sale
11/22  Commitment Weekend at First
11/25  Thanksgiving Eve Service
11/28-29  Healing Services
11/28-29  Advent Begins

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

If you’ve ever had to dig out overgrown bushes or cut down dead tree branches you understand how much work goes into the process. First you must gather the necessary tools. Do you need a ladder to reach tree branches that are far above your head? Or how about a chain saw – although maybe you don’t mind cutting branches and bushes down by hand. If you’re tearing out an old flower bed you’ll definitely want a good garden rake.

In the midst of tearing out the old you’re left with barren land. A landscape that once held green bushes, colorful flowers, and small shrubs is suddenly a wasteland of brown dirt and broken twigs. Perhaps it’s at this point you’re second guessing your decision to tear everything out; while you might not have liked the plants that had been there at least they provided some cover – with everything removed the ground is barren.

And yet, it is from this barrenness that new life can begin to take shape. This new life can be anything – perhaps you want to plant a row of tulips, or maybe a nice row of hedges, or perhaps a small tree or two. Just as an artist can create anything they want from a blank canvas with a blank landscape you can plant whatever you want. This creativity allows you to grow and nurture plants from seed to flower.

Oftentimes in our faith lives we’re missing that creative piece. It’s quite easy to hold onto the same faith we were taught in Sunday School and Confirmation, but this faith was taught to us – not grown and nurtured by us. As we enter this season of giving thanks we are reminded that our faith is for our neighbor. Being equipped with a meaningful and passionate faith allows us to speak with authenticity to a world in need of grace; but in order to equipped with such a faith we must first take stock of what we believe. In order to impact the world with a meaningful expression of the passionate faith we have in Jesus we must first cultivate it in the struggle of renewal and rebirth. In the trimming, pruning, and replanting we will find new life and meaning in areas where there was none before and in the process we will walk with Jesus as we nurture our faith together.

Just as we find new life in the death and resurrection of Jesus so too our faith finds new meaning when we cultivate and nurture our relationship with Jesus and one another.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant
**WORSHIP MATTERS by Carla Ullerich**

Did you know that November 11 is the National holiday for all Veterans? I know that we recognize them on the 4th of July and other times throughout the year. However, we should pay them special thanks on November 11. I am especially thoughtful of Veterans as I work for the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Did you know that President Lincoln established the Department of Veteran’s Affairs? His promise is still our missionary statement today. He wrote, “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.” We serve and honor all men and women who are America’s Veterans. In fact, did you know that we were one of the first National Veteran Centers created by President Lincoln? When I started working here, I worked in a building that was built in 1869 and was haunted. Well, that is another story.

My dad was a Veteran of WWII. When I cleaned the house out and moved a year ago, I went through my dad’s foot locker for the Navy. He had uniforms and books of the ship he was on; the USS Idaho. I also found his medals and ribbons. I asked at work if I was allowed to wear his medals, but they said no, that only the Veteran could wear them as he earned them. I am going to get a shadow box to display his medals in my apartment. Did you know that you can get a letter from the President of the United States which gives thanks to the Veteran’s service? I hope all of you will take some time out on November 11 and pray for all our Service men and women and give a Veteran you know a hug.

Carla Ullerich

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**

During November we will continue our study of the Book of First Samuel. This book of history moves along quite quickly and we are averaging 4 Chapters a week. If we continue at this pace we will finish the book during November and continue into the Book of Second Samuel. We can finish Second Samuel before Christmas. All are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room from 10am-11am on Tuesdays, and you are welcome to join us for lunch after class. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

**For Women Only….**

The Women’s Bible Study meets on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. They’re studying the 100 most important stories in the Bible. Materials are available and new members are always welcome!

**Need a Sermon Refresher?…..**

You can find Pastor Bakkum’s sermons on the First Lutheran website at www.firstlutheranelca.org.

**Attention Sunday School Kids!**

The first Sunday of the month is 'TAKE YOUR PARENTS TO CHURCH SUNDAY’ so you and your family can worship together.

Watch for Rehearsal Dates...... All Children Welcome!
On Saturday, October 31, and Sunday, November 1, we will remember our members who have died during the past year with a candle lit in their memory. We encourage you and your family to join us. If you have any additional friends or family you wish to have recognized, please contact the church office.

HEROES OF THE BIBLE!

In the weeks to come we will study David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lions and Jonah and the Big Fish.

Come join the adventure!

Mary & Dave Corlette, Gayle Engelstad, Cheryl Isotalo, Louise Kohn, Gail Sadler, Bill Schneider, Marlene Smith and David Wegener.

From Nativity: Helen, Cheryl, Ruby, Dorothea, Marion, James, Harriet, Helen and Jeanne.

From First: Marlin, Beverly, Marie, LaVerne, Dorothy, Henry, John, Earl, Paula, Alfred, Virginia, Marilyn, Betty, Myra, Joyce, Erna, Lois, Barbara and Pat

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.
SOCIAL MINISTRY

Food Pantry Ministry

CAROLING AT THE V.A.
Join us for caroling at the VA hospital in West Milwaukee on a week-day afternoon in early December (watch for the date). We’re hoping for lots of volunteers so we can split into two groups and visit more veterans. We’ll sing all of the old Christmas carol favorites (the ones you know) and provide song books containing the words. You do not need to be able to sing well; if you can carry a tune you qualify. We’ll meet at First Lutheran and carpool down to the VA and back. Our carolers from the past report that it is a heart-warming and fun experience.

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
Many, many thanks to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and to Pershing School in West Allis for their generous donations. Holy trinity donated 20 boxes of food, and Pershing students donated, counted and packed 589 food items. Way to go, kids! These donations are greatly appreciated.

“HUNGER AVENGERS”
Thanks to the Labadie and Schoberg families for walking as our “Hunger Avengers” team in the Miles for Meals walk for Feeding America and our food pantry. As a result of their walk, $280 will be credited to our account at Feeding America, plus an extra $25 grant for having a team participate.

THANKS TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

Give us this day our daily bread.
Matthew 6:11

We’ll be recognizing our food pantry ministry in the month of November. All are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to add to the basket at the altar during services beginning Nov 7th. Special prayers will be said for this ministry and volunteers recognized during services on Nov 21 and 22nd.
**First Lutheran News**

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**Evangelism:**
Sharing Christ with Others

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**Pet Blessing**
Thanks to Buddy, Davidson, Peewee, Lacy, Kirby, Brewster, Roxy, Sammy, Caruso, Raidar, Hawkeye, Crystal, Charlie and their human “caretakers” for coming to our Blessing of the Animals. Thanks to Dennis for providing music and to Jan Stasiak for providing delicious cookies for the “humans”. Special thanks to Pets Supplies Plus on 76th and Forest Home for providing the dog and cat gift bags, won by Peewee’s “mom” Delores, a friend of First Lutheran.

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**Greet and Treat**
**Sat., October 31**
**At 4PM**

Help us distribute a few treats as we invite our neighborhood families to join us for Sunday school and services. We’ll be outside the church handing out treat bags and flyers, so be sure to dress for the weather. The city celebration runs from 4pm-7pm, but we will only work until the traffic slows or the candy runs out.

“Reaching out in our community to share the word of God.”

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**Operation Christmas Stocking**
**Oct. 30 - Dec. 6**

Operation Christmas Stocking is in full swing. Santa’s knitters and crocheters are busy making hats, scarves and mittens. Others are sewing and decorating Christmas stockings. We will be handing out gift bags and Christmas mugs to the men and women who visit our Food Pantry on Friday, December 11th. On Friday, December 18th we will give out Christmas stocking for the children of our Food Pantry Patrons. We will also give gift bags to the ELCA Synod Serenity Inn (men). Because we no longer receive matching funds from Thrivent Financial Services we will not be giving to other programs this year. There are many ways in which you can help the men, women and children that we have adopted this Christmas:

**Select** a stocking from the display in the Narthex and fill it with age appropriate items not to exceed $15.00 in value.

**Donate** stocking stuffers for men, women and children and place them in the collection barrel in the Narthex starting October 30th.

**Donations** of money is always appreciated. Please put donations in an envelope and label it Operation Christmas Stocking.

Gift bag and stocking stuffer ideas will be in the Narthex.

All donations, including Christmas Stockings, must be returned by Sunday, Dec. 6th.

If you have any questions please contact Greta Plicka or Jackie Bayer.

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**Remember Our Veterans**

We will honor those who’ve served our country by having special prayers for Veterans during services the weekend of Nov 7-8.

Thank you for your service.
**Season of Thanksgiving**

What are you thankful for in your life?
What are you thankful for in your church?
What are you thankful for in your community?

November is traditionally a month of Thanksgiving and here at First Lutheran it is the month for stewardship. This year we are planning to combine the two themes.

In the weeks ahead we will be asking folks to publicly acknowledge their blessings on written thank you leaves. A thank you tree will be “planted” in the church sanctuary for you to hang your leaves.

Stewardship weekend will be Nov 21-21 with the return of your pledge cards.

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship Committee

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**To the Salvadoran Lutheran Church from the Greater Milwaukee Synod:**

Today the Greater Milwaukee synod wired $15,608.33 to your bank account in San Salvador. $500 is for the Los Heroes Parish Sewing school and is a gift from First Lutheran Church, West Allis.

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**I Am Your Church Budget**

Through me, families are launched in marriage, persons are baptized, the young are trained in Christian character.

I provide a Church School and youth activities for children. I provide music to enrich your worship, preaching and pastoral services to help you live more nobly.

I heat and cool your church buildings and try to keep it in repair for your comfort and use. I do your custodial work.

I reach out to your community and country, preaching, teaching and healing in Christ's name. I help train ministers in seminaries and I provide assistance to those who have retired after years of faith service to God in the church.

It is through me that the sick find spiritual strength, the troubled and discouraged are steadied. I go out into the world, preaching the Gospel in every language.

I carry God's Word to every race and nation.

I am your church budget. Believe in me, support me, that I may carry on in your name. With your help I make possible all these services. As your budget, I am You at work.

Your contributions are my foundation.

I am your money, your prayer, your concern - translated into action.
Sharing Good News!

Hanna Leppien (left), granddaughter of Don and Jean Leppien, spent a week this past summer on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. She went with her Grandfather Ladendorf and a group from his church, Trinity Freistag. She helped build the foundation of a new church, and worked with developmentally disabled children and adults. Hanna is a student at Missouri State University.

Pastor Bryant’s Installations
Pastor Bryant was installed as pastor of Nativity Lutheran on September 26th, and at First Lutheran on October 17th. Bishop Jeff Barrow performed both installations, and Pastor Bryant’s father, Kyle, read lessons. Both services were followed by receptions involving - what else - delicious food! We are all happy to welcome him into our church families!
Thanks to you wonderful Nativity folk for all the school supplies donated to the school kit fund. With your generosity we made 87 kits. We quit because we ran out of bags. Couldn't have done it without all of you!

Also thank my wonderful helpers who helped pack the bag and boxes: Joan Brauch, Sandie Larson, Nicki DeBack, Mary Simmers, Bev Neusen and please forgive me if I forgot anyone. Blessings to all of you for your great help.

Gratefully, Maureen

PET BLESSING
Well another Pet Blessing has come and gone. It was a good time for the animals and humans! Thanks to Sandi, Nicki and Shirley C., we had lots of delicious treats and cider after the service. Thank you Pastor and Dennis for a lovely day.

WAY TO GO!
300 Quilts and 87 School kits to Lutheran World Relief!

THE MITTEN TREE IS BACK!
On Nov. 1st the mitten tree for Good Samaritan will go up in the narthex. Save your scarves, mittens and gloves. Good Samaritan is also asking for gently used coats. They will be delivered on December 17th.

GOOD SAMARITAN OUTREACH CENTER
In November, we will be collecting toiletries, canned food, vegetables, fruit, beef stew and milk for Good Samaritan Outreach Center. They can always use cartons of non-perishable milk found at Dollar Tree stores. There is a box in the narthex for your donations.

SENIOR EXERCISE, formerly ELLF started it's 3rd year this September. Balancing is our biggest challenge, but we have so much fun trying and seeing our fellow exercisers smirking, tho they can't do it either. We are always looking for new brothers and sisters to join us and improve their flexibility and health. The meetings are Mondays and Thursday mornings at 9:15 A.M, with good fellowship following. We are often graced with Pastor's presence at fellowship which adds to the enjoyment of the meeting. Hope to see you soon!

IT'S RUMMAGE TIME!
Nativity's Fall Rummage Sale is just around the corner. It will be held on Fri. & Sat., Nov. 13th & 14th. You can bring your items for sale to church beginning Nov. 1st. Be sure to tell all your friends where to go to get great bargains and treats!

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
**WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER**
7001 W. National

The West Allis Senior Center has many helpful programs available.

**Stockbox** - A box of healthy food once/month provided by the Hunger Task Force.

**AARP Tax Assistance Program**

**Senior Nutrition Programs**

**SeniorLAW** - a Program of Legal Action of Wisconsin.

There are also many activities taking place at the center such as trips, classes and support groups. Contact the center for more information at (414)302-8700.

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**GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD**

**SHINING LIGHTS**

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA Clusters I-IV**
Saturday, Nov. 14
Luther Manor
4545 N. 92nd St.
8:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Welcome
Program by Julie Starks, Photographer

Cost: $12 including breakfast
$3 registration only

Contact the church office to register.

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**CLEMENT MANOR**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

**Keynote Speaker - 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Nov. 19 - “To End All Wars” Jessica Michna returns as Edith Galt Wilson. Prohibition is the law of the land, and the “war to end all wars” is now a memory.

**Lifelong Learning Book Club** - 1st Tue. at 12pm

Nov. 3 - A Vintage Affair: A Novel by Isabel Wolff
Dec. 1 - The Invention of Wing: A Novel by Sue Monk Kidd

**Club Loomineers** - A No-Needle Knitting Group
1st Wed. of month. 12pm. No charge.

**Bridge Group** - Every Tues. - 9-11 am. Call to register.
Call Clement Manor at 546-7302 for registration or info.

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**WEST ALLIS NEWS**

**Remember the Veterans:**
Stop by City Hall beginning Nov. 18th and pick a star from the Veteran’s Christmas Giving Tree in the main lobby. Purchase the requested gift, and return the unwrapped gift to the Mayor’s office by Wed., Dec. 16th.

**Community Breakfast of Thanks and Giving**
will be held Monday, Nov. 23, at 7:15 am at Hampton Inn & Suites, 8201 W. Greenfield Ave. Guest Speaker is Pastor Charlie Zabler of St. Rita’s Church. This event is an expression of the community's Thanks & Giving and is a fundraiser for West Allis food pantries. Tickets @ $30 are now available at West Allis City Hall or call (414) 302-8292 for more information.
This ‘n That Around Here

November Birthdays

First Lutheran
11/5 Debra Mariscal
11/6 Makinon Herbert
11/7 Katlynn Trader
11/8 Dominic Dixon
11/10 Lorenzo Dixon
11/10 Richard Reinhard
11/13 Kevin Siskoy
11/14 Cindy Roesler
11/19 Tyler Schultz
11/21 Jace Spinks
11/22 Jacqueline Grauberger
11/26 Elsie Boese
11/30 Angel Gonzales

Nativity Lutheran
11/3 Jean Leppien
11/7 Arne Sandberg
11/9 Helen Peterson
11/14 Jeanette Mortier
11/20 Ruby Horst
11/21 Paul Garza
11/22 Marion Jurgens
11/23 Rebecca Reinert
11/24 James Fierst
11/25 Gene Reynolds

First Lutheran Finances 2015

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<td>$11,322.66</td>
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First Lutheran Attendance

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<td>216</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>87</td>
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On the Lighter Side

Nativity Lutheran
No anniversaries this month...

First Lutheran
11/13 Sandra & Jim Wymelenberg 44 yrs.
11/17 Mari & Brian Mitchell 14 yrs.
11/19 Ken & Lona Masch 30 yrs.

Bible Quiz...
Of what ethnicity was the one leper out of 10 healed who returned to thank Jesus?

A. Syrophoenician  
B. Samaritan  
C. Syrian  
D. Judean

Answer: (See Luke 17:16.)
Let us come before him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2, NIV

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

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