

News & Views

*First and Nativity
Lutheran Churches
November, 2017*



Counting Blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as "10 ways to lose weight by summer!" or "3 simple steps to acing that test!"

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? "Thank you, God, for this brand new day!" "Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you." Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann



Thanksgiving Prayer:

O Lord, we thank Thee for this food,
For every blessing, every good.
For earthly sustenance and love
Bestowed on us from heaven above.
Be present at our table, Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
Thy children bless and grant that we
May feast in paradise with Thee.
Amen.

Dear people of God,

As this season of fall settles upon us, as warm evenings give way to frost-filled nights, as bright days turn into dark nights, as trees stand stark and bare, we are each reminded of the changing presence of creation.

Sometimes this change is celebrated and welcomed with open arms, but sometimes this change – like the warm days of summer changing to the icy nights of winter – is a little more drastic and unnerving.

Yet through it all we are reminded of God's very presence. As we have travelled through the texts of the Old Testament this fall and been privy to the thoughts and voices of the prophets and people of God, a recurring theme has surfaced time and time again: God is present. Always.

God is present in the rising and setting sun. God is present in the leaves falling on the ground. God is present in the chilly breeze. God is present in the rain falling from the sky.

Oftentimes the very prophets of God did not recognize, did not hear, did not notice when God's presence surrounded them; it took a change of heart, a change of sight, a change of hearing the world to remember and be reminded that God is never far away.

This is the promise to you now and always: That God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are always with you. That through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, abundance of forgiveness and love and salvation are yours forever.

Some days these might be more difficult to see and to hear and to hold in our hearts. Some days it will take a difficult change in perspective to be made aware of the miracles, both large and small, that are always present.

For even in the darkest night – as trees grow bare, dew turns to frost, and the wind turns icy – God is present. In those moments we are each challenged and empowered, just like the prophets of God, to be still and open our hearts, eyes, and ears to the very presence and the very voice of God.

For God is with you this day and always; providing grace upon grace, forgiveness upon forgiveness, and love upon love.

Peace,



5/1



On Saturday, November 4, and Sunday, November 5, 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.

NEVER STOP LEARNING

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

On October 31st we will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation using the new film on Luther starring Rick Steves. Rick is a tour guide (also an ELCA member and a fine organist) who does an excellent job as narrator. He is a regular on Channel 10. All are welcome to join us that day even if you don't usually attend the Bible Class. On November 7th & 14th we'll watch the movie "Luther" starring Joseph Fiennes. On November 21st we will continue our study of the book of Romans. There will be no class on November 28th.

Come and join us on Tuesdays in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran from 10:00-11:00, and join us for lunch at a local restaurant after class. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

*Join us for Thanksgiving
Eve Worship on Wednesday
Nov. 22nd, 6:30 p.m.,
at First Lutheran.*

*And stay for pie fellowship
after the service!*



SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS!

Our Fall 2017 Sunday School theme this year is The Lord's Prayer and The Ten Commandments. Each lesson includes a Bible focus and a lesson from the Bible. The children are learning the Lord's Prayer with the help of the "Lord's Prayer Action Song". We learned about how Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. Some of us may even know their names. Linda has been busy implementing our music curriculum and making instruments. Lori introduced the Ten Commandments with a "Hide and Seek" lesson. The children did a science lesson with Greta related to sin and the Ten Commandments.

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

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



Children join the adults in church for the opening of the worship service, and join Pastor Bryant for a children's sermon before going downstairs for Sunday School.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, December 30th, 2:00 p.m.

Beautiful, Traditional Music of the Season

Susan Platt – Soprano

Dennis Jon Wolfgang – Organ

Special Guest: Carla Ullerich - Narrator

Come Sing Your Favorite Christmas Carols

Premiere of Two Works for Organ and Narrator,

“A Carol Nativity” by Alfred V. Fedak

Special Story Time for Children with Miss Carla

“Why the Chimes Rang” with Music by Robin Dinda

A Medley of Bing Crosby’s Most Popular Christmas Tunes

Special event parking will be allowed on both sides of Bluemound by the Wauwatosa Police Dept.

Wheel chair ramp to the front door.

The concert is free but donations will be received for Nativity’s Organ Fund. A reception will follow.

Come and relax after the rush of Christmas, and enjoy the beautiful music .

Tell all of your friends!



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

It’s time to check your entry in the Nativity church directory. Please see Jill Mickelson, who has the master list, and take a moment to let Jill know if all is well, or what changes need to be made. Thank you.

Nativity Lutheran News

The mitten tree is coming!



The Nativity mitten tree goes up November 12th this year. This will give us all a head start on decorating the tree with your donations of mittens, scarves, hats and gloves. This year, the donations will benefit Good Samaritan.



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!



On Sunday, Nov. 5, the parish hall will not be available after our service, so join with your fellow Nativity-ites for refreshments at a local venue (we will be going Dutch!).

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NATIVITY NEEDS YOU!

Do you feel comfortable around your computer or tablet? Love baking? Meeting and greeting? Nativity is looking for you and your talents and time. For example, you can hand out and post flyers, or prepare the sanctuary for service, or update the Nativity web site or email contact lists. And there are always special events... Or perhaps your kids or grandchildren need service hours for Scouts or National Honor Society.

Stay tuned to this space for more information and how you can help.



Thank you....

A **BIG** thank you to everyone who bought a tasty treat at the bake sale to raise funds for the new Memorial Plaque. The Nativity Church Women were able to raise over \$200 to purchase the plaque which will be appearing soon.



Oops!

In the October newsletter, it should have said that the grilled sweet corn for the Nativity church picnic was supplied courtesy of Don Brauch.

Thanks, Don!

The quilts and kits have been shipped...

Nativity just shipped 303 quilts and 100 school kits this October to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR). This means that for EVERY DAY for the last year since the last shipment, the tireless quilters and school kit assemblers completed at least 1 item. EVERY DAY! There are not enough ways to say thank you... Nativity is also trying something new this year. The LWR is able to track where in the world the school kits and quilts are sent, using special shipping labels. A portion of the quilts were shipped using these special labels, so stay tuned to see where they end up. Next year, Nativity hopes to ship all the quilts and school kits using the special shipping labels.



First Lutheran Opportunities

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.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING HISTORY

Operation Christmas Stocking at First Lutheran Church started in 1979. Throughout the years we have provided gifts bags to new mothers at St. Catherine's, Free Clinic clients at Cross Lutheran and Marquette Clinic, Shared Journeys (school age parent program from the West Allis/West Milwaukee School District), and the 4 year olds at Faith/Santa Fe Church. The past several years we have concentrated on providing gift bags for ELCA Synod Serenity Inn Program and the men and women of First Lutheran Church's Food Pantry. We also provide stockings filled with age appropriate items for children/grandchildren who attend the Food Pantry.

TIME TO GO SHOPPING!

Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for our 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.

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



VETERANS RECOGNITION

All veterans and active service members will be recognized with special prayers during services the weekend of November 11-12.

COFFEE AND... ON SATURDAY!

Stop in a little early for our Saturday service and enjoy a cup of warm coffee before the service. Coffee is served beginning at 5pm.



FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Any individual or group can contribute at any time to the FLC Scholarship Fund. We recently received a donation from the estate of Jackie Judkins which was invested. Thanks for the donation!

A request for funding can be made at any time. Make a written request indicating the amount needed, time line, and reason for the request to a committee member. Your request will be considered by the committee and you will be notified as to the vote. Those seeking funding should be members of FLC and pursuing church related goals. Committee: Pr Bakkum, John Bennethum, Chair; Linda Grulke, Greta Plicka, Carrie Muffin, and Linda Kaehler.

SEW AND SEW QUILTERS

On October 14th, 38 quilts made with love by FLC quilters, blessed by Pastor Bakkum, were delivered to the Milwaukee railroad car for shipment to the Lutheran World Relief Minnesota shipping warehouse. Eventually the quilts will be distributed worldwide to those in need.

No one seems to know just when the FLC quilting group started. Our late church historian, Pastor Henry Hammerling, remembered a quilting group back in the 1950's. We do know the Sew and Sew Quilters began keeping records in 1979. In the past 36 years (no records found for 1996, 1997), including the 38 quilts from this year, 2,241 quilts have been made by FLC quilters - women and men.

We thank ALL of you good folks who make this ministry possible with your support of time, material, yarn and money.

This year's sponsorship of quilts yielded \$133 for the LWR shipping fund - enough to ship our quilts and then some. Thank you First Lutheran Friends.

Meet our Members...

LaVerne Williams has been a member of First Lutheran Church since she was 5 years old, along with her parents and three brothers. She attended Sunday School and was confirmed in 1942. LaVerne was one of 30 kids in the Junior Choir. In high school she sang in the Intermediate Choir. While in High School, Laverne was a member of the Luther League along with long time member Ralph Bayer. She remembers the fun they used to have on hayrides and roller skating. Throughout the years she has participated in most of the activities that First Lutheran has to offer.

First Lutheran Church was where LaVerne met her future husband Francis (Bud). At 17 years old he came to First Lutheran to be baptized. They were married in the old church in 1948. They have one son Gary who was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran. Pastor Felton performed Gary's wedding years later. Ask Laverne about Pastor Felton at Gary's wedding - you will enjoy the story. LaVerne and her husband enjoyed going "Up North" and traveling to Boston, San Francisco and cities in Canada.

LaVerne taught Sunday School and Bible School, and participated in Quilting, Ladies Circle, Bread Breakers and the Birthday Club, which met once a month for a fancy lunch at church. She helped out in the nursery and is currently a Food Pantry Volunteer. She and her husband belonged to Couples Club. The group enjoyed attending plays, movies and dinner. LaVerne enjoys talking about the old days. One of her favorite stories is how the men of the congregation got rid of the rats in the steeple at the old church and had to rebuild the steeple. She also remembers fondly the dedication of the new church and the burning of the mortgage. The Fireside Room is a testimony to LaVerne's great eye for decorating. We look forward to seeing her every Sunday in Church.



Giving Back - Where Can You Help at First Lutheran?

GIVE THANKS!

First Lutheran has been so blessed to have been chosen to share a food ministry with our community over these past **50 years!** Fifty years ago, Pastor Maury Felton, enlisting the help of Jackie Judkins, began the food pantry here at First. Over the years, our many passionate volunteers and donors from within the congregation and community have enabled us to continue to serve. We continue to provide "Food for the Body and Soul" to over 500+ visitors each month who visit us for lunch and/or a bag of food on Fridays. That is awesome!!!

We are humbled by the mission and appreciate how God provides us with resources to continue to serve. Thanks be to God!

In celebration of our Food pantry Ministry, all are invited to bring non-perishable food donations with you to services each weekend in November. Items such as soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meats like tuna and chicken help us to feed families.

HOW IS GOD USING YOU TODAY?

Really!! Use me?? Of course, He uses us to do His work every day! Prayerfully consider opportunities to share your gifts. Maybe you'd enjoy teaching or helping in Sunday school, greeting visitors to our food pantry, cooking lunch or washing dishes at the pantry, helping with kitchen cleaning, quilting or packing Christmas stockings, playing piano during the service, snow shoveling, yard work, folding bulletins and newsletters, serving coffee after services, visiting or calling homebound members. Lots of ways to do God's work and give back!! See Pastor, any council member or Barb in the office if God calls you to use your gifts to get involved.

*"Holy Spirit, we ask for guidance and the wisdom to know what we need to do to share your love."
Amen*



If you know of anyone who likes to cook for large crowds
(of, say, 100 or more)
contact the church office or Joy Dowd.

We Need A Table!

Do you have a card table you're not using? First Lutheran needs a card table for the food pantry. The tables we've had are broken or just worn out. If you have one you can donate, contact Joy or the office. Thanks!

OUR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Each week we have over 20 volunteers working to provide food and services to our many visitors. We are open from 10am to noon each Friday. There is always an open invitation to stop in and see what we do! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!... to our current volunteers and community partners, such as the Todd Legion Post on 92nd and Beloit, Just One More Ministry in Wauwatosa and Good Samaritan outreach Center on 58th and Burnham.

Out and About in our Community

HERITAGE WEST ALLIS

7901 W. NATIONAL AVE.

SHOP FOR A CAUSE

Nov. 9, 4-8 p.m.

Over 30 vendors, silent auction and raffle prizes benefitting the Alzheimer's Association.

APOSTLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1509 S. 76th St.

MILWAUKEE REP FASHION SHOW & LUNCH

Nov. 14, 11:45 a.m.

Close up elegance and history of fashion through costumes used at the theatre. Nominal charge. Reservations: 543-0835

CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment

9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

"THE CONFEDERACY'S BOLDEST SPY IS BURIED IN WISCONSIN"

Nov. 16, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Susan Giese, with Historical Timekeepers, will discuss the life and times of "Cleopatra of the Secession. Sue is a Civil War reenactor. Call 546-7302 for registration.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

1212 S. 117th

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

followed by **HOLLYWOOD VS. FAITH:**

THE 3 OTHER BEATITUDES

Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.

TV actor Frank Runyon presents these two programs. Free will offering. Reception follows program.

LIBRARY SQUARE

1820 S. 75th St., West Allis

WORLD WAR II MILWAUKEE

Nov. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Book discussion with local author Meg Jones. Limited seating. Register at 774-4411. Free. Refreshments and tours after the talk.

Synod Offerings

Organ Recital

Whitnall Park Lutheran

Nov. 5, 3:00 p.m.

5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners

A brief service of dedication and recital celebrating their refurbished organ.

Grief Support for Childrn & Families

Christ the Victor Lutheran

Nov. 11, 8:00 a.m.

Coffee & Moorland Rd., New Berlin

Executive Dir. of Healing Hearts, Chris Beck, will present program. Study led by Becky Fetters, Pastor at Christ the Victor. \$12 includes breakfast/\$3 registration only Register at 262-782-5680 by Nov. 1



Savior of the Nations Come

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir, Children's Choir, Bell Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran

20275 Davidson Rd., Brookfield

Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m.

St. Matthew's Lutheran

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa



See you out and about!

This 'n That Around Here

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2017			
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
September	*\$ 12,614.47	\$ 9,331.50	\$ 3,282.97
<i>Year to Date</i>	*\$ 114,028.18	\$ 107,306.50	\$ 6,721.68

*Income in Sept. includes a \$2,500.00 transfer from the Endowment Fund.

Budgeted Income	Budget to Date	Received to Date	Difference
General Fund	\$88,057.71	*\$74,952.79	-\$13,104.92
Benevolence	\$ 7,087.50	*\$ 5,972.00	-\$ 1,115.50

*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".

ministering to Homebound

Remember our homebound members with a card this Thanksgiving. Lists of names and addresses will be in the narthex of each church in November.

SAVE YOUR BOTTLE CAPS!

Nativity's WELCA is saving plastic bottle caps for Our Lady of the Angels. The caps will be melted down and used to make a garden bench in memory of one of the sisters. Nativity Lutheran has a bag in the narthex for the caps, and First Lutheran members can bring theirs to the office.



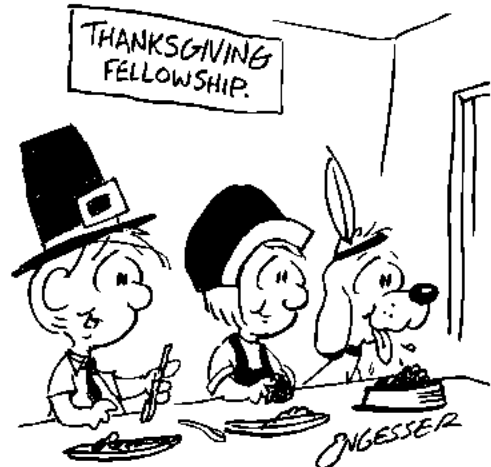
After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?

- A. None — they were all dead
- B. Three — unbound and unharmed
- C. Four — and the fourth looked like a divine being
- D. Too many to count

Answer: (See Daniel 3:25.)



On the Lighter Side



"I'd prefer turkey nuggets."



Anniversaries...

11/13	Jim & Sandy Wymelenberg (F)	46 yrs.
11/15	Jerry & Gayle Falk (F)	42 yrs.
11/19	Ken & Lona Masch (F)	32 yrs.

Birthdays...

First Lutheran

11/6	Makinon Herbert
11/6	Karlie Marquez
11/7	Katlynn Trader
11/8	Dominic Dixon
11/10	Lorenzo Dixon
11/10	Dominic Zehe
11/26	Elsie Boese

Nativity Lutheran

11/3	Jean Leppien
11/3	Noel Maitine, Jr.
11/7	Arne Sandberg
11/9	Helen Peterson
11/14	Jeanette Mortier
11/15	Julieta Espino
11/20	Ruby Horst
11/22	Marlene Smith
11/23	Rebecca Reinert
11/24	Matthew Avendano
11/25	Gene Reynolds

Friendly Reminder

Remember to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

Daylight savings time ends
11/5 at 2:00 a.m.

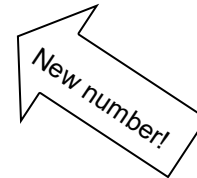


Don't forget!

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)768-3670**.



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.

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

Gayle Falk, Tom Hackl, Peter Jones, Elya Lam, Ron Phillippo, Lavone Reis, Jamie Schoberg, Marlene Smith, Kathy Stenzel, Nanette Steves and Carla Syut

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:

From Nativity: Wally Buske, Don Brauch, Carol Garza, 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, Shirley Cogan, 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

First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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Mailed on 10-26-17

Address Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 10-30-17



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

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

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Nov. 22nd, 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

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