"Embodied Creation"

In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in the embodiment of our own humanity and creation itself. Join us Wednesdays from March 8 - April 5 as we dive deeper into how the God of all creation works through that very creation to bring about our salvation.

**Lenten Service Times:**

**Ash Wednesday, March 1**
- First Lutheran - 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- Nativity Lutheran - 12:00 noon

**All Other Wednesdays**
- March 8 through April 5
- First Lutheran - 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- Nativity - 12:00 noon
Dear sisters and brothers,

As we embark on a new year we find ourselves once again discerning God’s will for our lives and the life of our congregations. As we ask questions and seek answers we must cast a listening ear to God’s Spirit and call to our lives in order to see where God is leading us.

As we will hear in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus’ call to his disciples is one of change and uncertainty. Jesus’ ministry involves leaving the arenas of comfort and familiarity in order to reach out to a world that is often quite different than our own communities.

As communities of faith I would encourage and challenge us to take up this calling of uncertainty and change. I would invite discussion, disagreement, and vulnerability. Conversation around growth, maintenance, decline, and our strategies for the future are important in understanding what our mission and purpose are as followers of Jesus.

As people of God our worth and value are not tied to our earthly accomplishments or failures. As children of God our own humanity and worthiness are not tied to others’ opinions and judgments. As followers of Jesus our calling is to love the world with reckless abandon. As people marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit we find our identities as individuals and communities rooted in the love of God.

As we begin our journey into 2017 I would encourage us all to allow the Spirit to guide our hearts and minds. I would encourage us all to embrace uncertainty and change with excitement knowing that our God will be by our side.

For in Jesus Christ our salvation has been secured and our calling put before us: To make disciples of all nations and to love the world as Jesus loves us: Abundantly.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant
Tuesday Morning Bible Class

During the month of February we anticipate continuing our study of the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy. On Tuesday February 28—the day before Ash Wednesday—we will have Pastor Bakkum join us for a study on the subject of Prayer. After class we will enjoy lunch at the Brass Key Restaurant. When we finish Deuteronomy we will study the Book of ROMANS. We meet in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran from 10-11:00am. All are welcome. Come and join us. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

Sunday School

Our Spring Sunday School theme is “Toy Box”. Our weekly memory verse is Joshua 1:8 “Keep this Book of Law always on your lips: meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”. Each week the children will learn a lesson from the Bible using various toys that are familiar to them. Our Legos lesson is based on Mathew 7: 24-27 the wise and foolish builders. The message in this lesson is if you want to build a tall Lego building you need a strong foundation. God can be a firm foundation for life. We will also present lessons related to Easter.

Some of our lessons include skits and crafts. Every Sunday the children will gather up front to hear Pastor Bakkum’s children’s sermon and receive a blessing. Sunday School is offered every Sunday except Easter Sunday. The Fall Session concluded with our Children’s Christmas Program “The Animals Christmas Eve” presented on December 18th. Anyone interested in assisting with Sunday School please contact the Church Office.

Submitted by: Jamie, Linda, Greta, Mary and Gloria

Women, plan on attending!

The 10th TRIENNIAL GATHERING in MINNEAPOLIS

June 13-16, 2017

The Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization has charter a bus
$85.00 round trip
Leave Milwaukee on Wednesday, July 12
Returns Sunday, July 16
Down payment of $42.50 is due by Friday, March 31st
Final payment of $42.50 is due by Thursday, June 1st
Thank you “Happy Scrubbers”

Thank you to the “Happy Scrubbers” who helped clean the woodwork and pews in the church and Pastor’s office and cleaned and organized some areas in the kitchen. Thanks to Cindy, Jamie, Chris, Natalie, Pam, Werner, Delores and Joy. We didn’t quite get everything done, so watch for the next “Happy Scrubbers Saturday” in the spring.

Feeding Our Neighbors

Donation from Heritage Senior Living

Thank you to Heritage Senior Living on 79th and National for their “Grand Slam” donation of $1000.00 to our food pantry! The check was presented during food pantry on January 20th. In addition to the wonderful donation, members of Heritage’s management team joined us to pack bags and serve food at the pantry. They really enjoyed sharing their time helping others. Money for the donation was raised during Heritage’s monthly lunches for charities. Watch for announcements regarding the lunches: you get a good lunch for a good price of $6 and help raise money for local charities.

In December, we asked our food pantry visitors to tell us about the pantry, what they liked or just some general comments. Here is what 5 of our food pantry visitors had to say:

- The food and the friendly smiles
- Good food, friendly people, so many good things for the needy. Amen
- The meal is a gesture of love and a gift from God. I appreciate the folks who volunteer their time here, week after week, There is a wide selection and variety of choices (food wise) and I love the option of the exchange table. Thank you!
- Good food, nice people, friendly volunteers, nice Pastor, nice cooks. Thanks so much and very much appreciated. Keep up the Good Work!
- Thanks for helping

In December, we asked our food pantry visitors to tell us about the pantry, what they liked or just some general comments. Here is what 5 of our food pantry visitors had to say:

The food pantry’s “Souper Bowl of Caring” weekend is February 4 and 5th. Everyone is invited to bring cans of soup to share with families that visit our food pantry. Soups like Cream of Chicken and Cream of Mushroom are also needed for casseroles that we cook for lunch, so there are lots of options! A basket will be available by the entrance to collect the soup.

WANTED: Friendly Faces!

We’re in need of people to help greet visitors to First Lutheran’s food pantry. If you can spend two hours one morning every month or two, and are looking for somewhere to serve, this is for you! Contact Joy Dowd or the church office if you’re interested.

Let’s Be Major League 2017!

Our annual fundraising campaign for our food pantry is underway. This year’s theme is “Home Runs for Hunger!” For each $10 or 10 lbs of food donated between January 15th and Easter, we will post a blue or yellow “Home Run” star in the narthex! For large single donations of $100 or more, we’ll post a large “Grand Slam” Star! Let’s knock it out of the park for hunger!

The food pantry’s “Souper Bowl of Caring” weekend is February 4 and 5th. Everyone is invited to bring cans of soup to share with families that visit our food pantry. Soups like Cream of Chicken and Cream of Mushroom are also needed for casseroles that we cook for lunch, so there are lots of options! A basket will be available by the entrance to collect the soup.

WANTED: Friendly Faces!

We’re in need of people to help greet visitors to First Lutheran’s food pantry. If you can spend two hours one morning every month or two, and are looking for somewhere to serve, this is for you! Contact Joy Dowd or the church office if you’re interested.
Evxn though my computxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll, xxcxpt for onx kxy. It is trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrncx. My computxr is like our church, xvryone is a kxy person. To be xffxctivx, wx nxxd thx activx participation of xvry prxrxn. Considxr voluntxrrng for onx of our committtxxs this yxar and gxt involvxd!

Social Ministry - Steering committee for the food pantry and homebound ministry. Involved with Prayer chain, Operation Christmas, Quilting and Coffee And…after Sunday service. There are lots of opportunities for praying, planning, visiting, crafting, shopping, sewing and baking in these ministries. What sounds interesting?

Evangelism – “Reaching Out in Our Community to Share the Word of God”. Plans events to bring people to church and the Word through events such as concerts, programs and our National Night Out block party in July. Lots of opportunities for planning, writing, set-up and clean up.

Worship and Music – Worship and music planning for all services. Consider taking a step and becoming a Deacon on Sundays. If music ministry is for you, we’d love to welcome you to our choir. All you need is a love of song! Choir practices are held on Sunday’s at 8:00 a.m.

Altar Guild – Making sure the altar paraments are appropriate and communion wine and wafers are ready to be served and/or cleaned up. This committee plays a key role in the worship service.

Christian Education-Youth - Our Sunday school offers a fun and exciting program for youth. If you enjoy kids and would like to lead sessions as a teacher, lead crafts or help as an assistant during Sunday school or Vacation Bible School then this committee is for you.

Stewardship – Oversees our annual Stewardship drive, during which we all take stock of what God has provided for us in our life and how we can generously share it with others. There is lots of opportunity for praying, planning and writing.

Property – Oversight and care of the church property. They make sure that the building is usable, comfortable, safe and clean and that the lawn is trimmed and the walks cleared of snow and ice. If you are mechanically inclined, don’t mind heights, willing to do a little hard work or enjoy working outdoors, consider helping.

Scholarship – Manages our scholarship fund, including approving applications. If you enjoy helping others achieve their education goals, this committee will interest you.

Memorial - Manages our Memorial Fund. Honors requests for funds and insures that all designated donations are used appropriately.

How can you help?

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Share the good news of First Lutheran with others!
When you are out and about, take the challenge:
Use one word or phrase that describes our congregation well and use that to finish the phrase “My church is ________.”
New At Nativity
Brown Bag It Lent

Don’t have time to attend weekly Lenten Services?
We have the Answer: Brown Bag It Lent

Bring your brown bag lunch, we’ll furnish coffee and water (other items at nominal cost). Dine while attending an informal Lenten Worship Service. Wednesdays in Lent (March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5) 12:00 noon. We will be done in less than 25 minutes!

Soup Suppers on Wednesday Evenings

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, First Lutheran will be offering a soup supper, hosted by different committees, along with Lenten worship using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service. Take the evening off of cooking and bring your family for a meal, fellowship and an informal worship experience.

Worship services on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, will be held at:
10:00 a.m. - First Lutheran
12:00 p.m. - Nativity Lutheran
6:30 p.m. - First Lutheran

THE ANIMALS CHRISTMAS EVE
Presented on Sunday, Dec. 18th, at First Lutheran
On Sunday, January 15th, First Lutheran held a celebration brunch after the Sunday service. We turned in pledge cards, enjoyed a great breakfast and fellowship. Werner Bayer spoke about Jackie Judkins - her life at First Lutheran and the legacy she left to the church.

Meet Our Members……..

First Lutheran welcomed new members on the weekend of Jan. 14-15: Gayle Falk, Sharan Kruschka, Jesse Rofritz and Randy and Donna Schwartz. Pictured below is Jesse Rofritz. Jesse came to First Lutheran on recommendation of Natalie Jaeger. He lives in West Allis and works at Tap City. Jesse is a musician, and plays a variety of instruments (anything but strings!). He has a daughter, Taylor, who is married and lives in Tennessee. You may recognize Jesse as one of our faithful Sunday morning lectors.

A new edition to our newsletter will be features on members of our congregations who are no longer able to join us on a regular basis at our worship services. Our first featured member is Laverne Guthrie. Laverne is a longtime member of First Lutheran. One of Laverne’s fondest memories of being at First was her time spent singing in the church choir. Music and singing are a passion of Laverne's and being able to express her love of singing and the Gospel message were a wonderful match. Laverne is also extremely thankful for her family; it is due to them that she is still able to come to a place that is full of good memories and familiar faces. First holds a special place in her heart and being able to worship in a community of faith that she has called home for over 80 years remains just as important today as it was as those years ago. As a congregation we give thanks for the gifts and blessings Laverne has bestowed on our community of faith!

We’ll feature another new member in the next issue!
Quilters Wish List....
Are you doing a little early spring cleaning? Did you buy some new bedding at the after Christmas sales? The quilters at both churches could use sheets for their quilts. These quilts are sent around the world by Lutheran World Relief, sent to the Lakota Indian Reservation in South Dakota, given to newly baptized children and to food pantry clients to keep them warm in the winter. Keep the quilters in mind when you're weeding out...!

The quilters from both churches save remnants of fabrics for a sewing school in the Los Heroes community in El Salvador. The girls and women in El Salvador are able to use fancier fabrics that aren’t able to be used in quilts. Also sent to El Salvador are zippers, threads, buttons and other sewing notions. The Los Heroes Sewing Cooperative functions primarily as a business which makes school uniforms. They have government contracts to do this, and the work is supporting a couple of families who have members working as tailors and seamstresses.

A second sewing school has functioned on and off inside the Lutheran Church in Los Heroes. The students are young girls in the community. The school has had trouble staying open because of gang boundaries which the teacher cannot cross. A new sewing school may be opened at the church with teachers provided by a national organization which supports women entrepreneurs. These classes will take place in the Lutheran Church in Los Heroes.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod has been in partnership with the Salvadoran Lutheran Church since 1988.

GOOD SAMARITAN OUTREACH CENTER
Please continue to bring donations of food for Good Samaritan Outreach Center. They are also requesting donations of Bibles. There is a box in the narthex at Nativity for your donations.

Love is deaf....you can’t just tell someone you love them. You have to show it.

Pastor Henry Hammerling died on December 26, 2016. Pastor Henry began attending First Lutheran with his wife, Elaine, in 1946. He served on the church council, directed the choirs, and served as Sunday School Superintendent. After being ordained in 1979, and then serving a church in Bark River, MI, he returned to First Lutheran as an Associate Pastor until he retired in 2003. He is rejoicing in heaven with his beloved wife, Elaine, and his children, Henry Jr. and Pat.
CLEMENT MANOR
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12pm
February 7 - The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure
March 7 - Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan

Tuesday’s Bridge Group - Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker - 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
February 23 - “The Early Brewing History of Milwaukee”. Jerry Janiszewski will focus on some of the smaller brewing operations. He is a long time collector of “Breweriana” and will display some of his collection.
March 23 - “War Dogs: America’s Unsung Heroes”. Jerry Witt was a scout dog handler during the Vietnam War. He will educate you on the service these dogs have provided to the military.

Club Loomineers - A No-Needle Knitting Group. Meets First Wednesday of every month 12pm

Write-On: A Weekly Writer’s Group - Meets every Wednesday from 1-2pm. Any kind of writing you want.

Early Stage Support Group - Meets first Monday of each month from 2:30-4pm. For those in early stages of Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia and their care partners.

Alzheimer’s Assoc. Family/Caregiver Support
Meets third Wednesday of each month from 2-3pm. Call 546-7302 for registration or information.

WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER OPPORTUNITIES

Hunger Task Force Stockbox Program - provides healthy food to low-income older adults who meet residency, age and income guidelines. Call 211 to see if you qualify for this monthly box of non-perishable foods.

Senior Nutrition Program - W.A. residents age 60 and over can enjoy a hot lunch served weekly at 11:30 a.m. at the W.A. Senior Center and St. Aloysisus Parish Center. Call 414-289-6995 for info.

Many other programs are offered including movies, chair yoga, card-making, computer labs, dance, drumming, quilting, bowling and support groups. Call 414-302-8700 for more information.

What to do with unused medications?
DROP OFF or LOCK UP!
Year Round Disposal
West Allis Police Department
11301 West Lincoln Avenue
24-hour drop-box located in the lobby.

Accepted medications are pills, inhalers and liquids in leakproof containers.

Please remove pills from packaging, if possible

On the Lighter Side

“I made a New Year’s resolution to eat broccoli. If I can’t stand it, I’ll give it up for Lent.”
This ‘n That Around Here

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>$ 12,026.17</td>
<td>$ 13,323.45</td>
<td>-1,297.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>$ 12,291.28</td>
<td>$ 14,021.84</td>
<td>-1,730.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$ 153,711.52</td>
<td>$ 163,566.38</td>
<td>-9,854.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

E.L.L.F.
(Exercise, Listening, Learning and Fellowship) - also known as Senior Exercise, meets every Thursday at Nativity Lutheran at 9:15 a.m. This is a great way for seniors to stay in shape and help keep mobile. Most exercises are done sitting in chairs, or standing with chairs used for balance. They’ve also incorporated the use of various sized balls and stretch bands, weights and sticks. Led by Don Brauch, the classes also use DVD’s to get different routines. Following class there are always coffee and treats to enjoy. It’s never too late to start taking care of yourself!

HOMEBOUND?
ON VACATION?
If you’ve been away, or are homebound and unable to get to church, read Pastor Bryant’s wonderful sermons by clicking on the Sermon button on First Lutheran’s website at www.firstlutheranelca.org.

COUNCIL INFO...
If you want to keep up with the actions of the First Lutheran church council and committee, you can find minutes and reports posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

BIBLE QUIZ...
In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

A. A farmer sowing seed
B. A mustard seed
C. Yeast
D. Hidden treasure
E. A merchant who finds a pearl
F. A fishing net
G. All of the above

Answer: See Matthew 13:24-51

Oh, the weather outside is frightful!
In case of REALLY bad weather, check out TMJ4.com/closings. Or watch WTMJ Channel 4. If worship services or activities need to be cancelled because of the weather, you can find out at one of these sites.

How to Reach Us
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 (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), you can reach Pastor Bryant by calling him at (414)856-7672.
This ‘n That Around Here

Nativity Lutheran
Birthdays
2/1 Jill Sandberg
2/8 Juan Sifuentes
2/11 Cynthia Barbian
2/12 Shirley Zauner
2/17 Bryce DeBack
2/26 Dennis Wolfgang
2/28 Dorothea Isermann
3/1 Audrey Fierst
3/3 Donald Nell
3/5 Bryant Bakkum
3/9 Arthur Gruetzner
3/13 Gus Barnes
3/17 Evan Reynolds
3/19 John Gordon, Jr.
3/22 Nicole DeBack
3/22 Carol Monfort

First Lutheran
Birthdays
2/1 Shirley Armato
2/3 Makaila Kurtz
2/6 Ethan Sanchez
2/14 Kent Nicolet
2/15 Thomas Sanchez
2/18 Beverly Brunn
2/25 Lavone Reis
2/27 Joy Heintz
3/2 Audrey Enloe
3/3 Jason Zehe
3/4 David Gruelke
3/5 Bryant Bakkum
3/11 Roger Gray
3/11 Alfred Korth
3/13 Gus Barnes
3/14 Sharon Smith
3/15 Erin Anderson
3/15 Wesley Anderson
3/16 Joan Hirschinger
3/18 Isabella Dixon
3/27 Dolores Hurst
3/27 Adriana Rees
3/28 Samuel Marquez

Wedding Anniversaries!
First Lutheran
2/15 Warren & Joan Hirschinger 66 yrs.
3/26 Lori & Joel Marquez 10 yrs.

Nativity Lutheran
3/21 Marcus & Nicole DeBack 19 yrs.

Please keep in your prayers the families of Elizabeth Roeder who died on Dec. 22, and Pastor Henry Hammerling, who died on Dec. 26. May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London’s Westminster Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn’t speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, “Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory.”

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard pressed between the two.” (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, “For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord.”

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:
Verona Guinn, Ron Phillippo, Diane Runge and Carla Syut

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:
From Nativity: Laverne Breed, Don Brauch, Wally Buske, Patricia Frailey, Carol Garza, Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Maureen Jones, Louise Kohn, Lorraine Kuchma, James Larson, Jean Leppien, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Jeanne Vermeulen
From First: Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Elsie Boese, Marlin Bradway, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Steve Clark, Terry Favre, LaVerne Guthrie, Tom Hackl, John Isaacsom, Earl Junck, Alfred Korth, Myra Shields, Steve and Sue Schilcher, Dennis Schoberg Sr., Chrystel Schumann, Joyce Staub, Lois Taylor, Barbara Troller 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

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

Rev. Bryant Bakkum, Pastor
Dennis Jon Wolfgang, Dir. of Music/Organist
Jamie Schoberg, Sunday School Superintendent
Barb Reed, Secretary
Natalie Jaeger, Custodian, First Lutheran

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

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