

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches News and Views



March, 2015



THE TREE OF LIFE IN LENT

WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran

Worship with us on Wednesday mornings as we discover the connection between the Cross of Christ and Tree of Life.

Important Dates to Remember:

- 3/7 *Irish Concert and Dinner at First Lutheran*
4:00 p.m. *Worship*
5:30 p.m. *Concert*
6:15 p.m. *Dinner Seating*
- 3/29 *Palm Sunday*
- 4/2 *Maundy Thursday*
- 4/3 *Good Friday*
- 4/5 *Easter Sunday*
- 4/18 *Nativity Lutheran Spaghetti Dinner*

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)

Henry Hammerling, Pastor Emeritus at First
Dennis Jon Wolfgang, Dir. of Music/Organist
Shirley Cogan, Mission Interpreter
Barb Reed, Secretary
Natalie Jaeger, Custodian, First Lutheran

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis
(414)476-4664



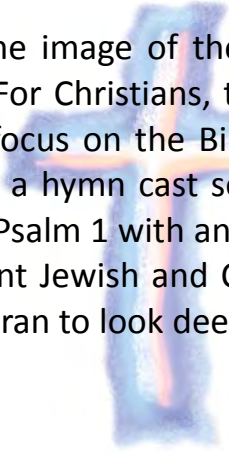
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WORSHIP MATTERS by John Bennethum

THE TREE OF LIFE IN LENT

Many world religions use the image of the tree of life when depicting their central beliefs and values. For Christians, that tree of life is the CROSS. This year our Lenten devotions focus on the Biblical use of the tree of life. Each week a biblical passage and a hymn cast some light on the cross of Christ as our tree of life. We will use Psalm 1 with an appropriate focus to help worshippers memorize this important Jewish and Christian song. Join us on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at First Lutheran to look deeper into the Tree of Life in Lent.



LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Services will be held at 10am on Wednesday's during March (4,11, 18 and 25) at First Lutheran. The evening service will be held at St John's Lutheran on 55th & Greenfield. Soup supper at 5:30pm; service at 6:00pm; Bible study at 7:00pm Pastor Press Hoffman will preside. All are welcome.



Start a New Tradition...Worship together
as a family this Lent and Easter season.

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRESIDENT: JAMES RIBNEK, III

SECRETARY: NICOLE DEBACK

TREASURER: JILL MICKELSON

Mission Interpreter: Shirley Cogan

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

www.firstlutheranelca.org

E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net

Phone: 414-476-4664

PRESIDENT: DAVID WEGENER

VICE PRESIDENT: NATALIE JAEGER

TREASURER: WERNER BAYER

Christian Education: *Vacant Position*

Evangelism: Joy Dowd

Finance: Werner Bayer

Memorial Fund: Marie LePage

Mission Interpreter: Shirley Cogan

Social Ministry: Earl Casto

Stewardship: *Vacant Position*

Worship & Music: John Bennethum

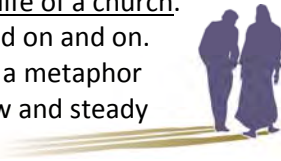
*Reaching out in our community
to share the Word of God*

Worship and Study

DAY IN, DAY OUT

In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Dutton), Timothy Keller says many people think spiritual growth is something akin to high diving, when really it's more like walking — nondramatic and rhythmic:

“A walk is day in and day out praying; day in and day out Bible and Psalms reading; day in and day out obeying; talking to Christian friends, and going to corporate worship, committing yourself to and fully participating in the life of a church. It is rhythmic, on and on and on. To walk with God is a metaphor that symbolizes slow and steady progress.”



TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS

During Lent this year we will be studying St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Along with the letter itself we will be using the devotional "Grace & Peace" published by Augsburg Fortress for Lent 2015. Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room from 10am-11am each Tuesday morning. All are welcome. John Bennethum is our Teacher.



For Women Only...

The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again after Easter.

CALL COMMITTEE

Dave Wegener has spoken with Bishop Jeff Barrow regarding either a short term Interim Pastor or possibly some other arrangement. Our Bishop felt we were ready for someone who could provide some continuity to our ministry. We have supply Pastors arranged through March 15th. Further information as it becomes available.

Deacon John

PRAYER CAN HELP...



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



We are in need of a Sunday School superintendent and another teacher or two. If

God is calling you into this ministry, now is the time to contact the church office.

MUSICAL NOTES

BY DENNIS WOLFGANG

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins forty days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count, and some church bodies count differently). The word Lent is derived from the Middle English word 'lente' meaning springtime. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

Not all Christian churches observe Lent, but it is almost universally observed by Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations, and also by Roman Catholics. Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Orthodox Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday (called Clean Monday) and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

The Bible does not mention the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

Lent, like Advent and Christmas has its own hymnody; though the hymns of Lent, by their very nature are not as popular. Most Lutheran Churches use what is called "lectionary based hymnody". Hymns that are chosen reflect the texts/events of that days' appointed readings. The First Sunday of Lent we dealt with Mark's account of Jesus' Forty Days in the wilderness and the temptation by the devil. The hymn text chosen reflected these events and our walking with Jesus.

Sunday II – Abraham and Sarah, Peter's confession in his belief that Jesus is the Messiah

Sunday III – The Ten Commandments, and Jesus chasing the money changes from the temple

Sunday IV – Moses and the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, and Jesus with Nicodemus

Sunday V – The children of Israel in Babylon, and Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem with his words about seed planted in the ground

This Lent let us all make a commitment to hear the words of the season in scripture and song!!



Joe Armato, Gail Bartoleria, Andrea Flees, Mike Grubb, Cheryl Hetzel, Steve Jones, Louise Kohn, Don Leppien, Samantha Matherly, Jill Mickelson, Carol Monford, Allan Munkwitz, Lillian Ribnek, Gail Sadler, Debra Simerl and Carla Syut



From Nativity: Helen, Ruth, Pauline, Ruby, Marion, Harriet, Helen and Jeanne.

From First: Marlin, Beverly, Marie, LaVerne, Dorothy, Henry, Bea, 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



We thank God for calling volunteers to help with this ministry and pray that he provides us with resources to continue to help others in need. Amen

We need more volunteers to help check visitors in at the front desk on Friday mornings from 10am until 12. All you need to do is ask to see an ID with their address and note the visit in our log. No standing is required - you are able to stay seated the entire time. If you are interested in this ministry, stop in on a Friday and see what we do. You will be assigned to work about every 6 weeks or as often as you want to fill in as a "substitute."

Attention bakers: We welcome all homemade cookies and baked desserts to serve at the food pantry. Bring them to the office on Thursday.

We'd also like to thank Pastor Jim Lynch, Pastor Carol Hegland and Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins for being so kind as to volunteer to greet visitors to our food pantry and minister to their needs during the month of February.

Food for thought:

No matter how good or bad you think life is, wake up each day and be thankful for life. Someone somewhere else is fighting to survive.
-The2ndact.ca-www

LENTEN PRAYER FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

O Christ, we give thanks that during this season of Lent you come into our lives with God's salvation. Renew our faith in this good news so that we who are baptized in your Spirit may raise our voices on behalf of those who hunger in our world.
Amen. *From Bread for the World*

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HOME RUNS FOR HUNGER Campaign

\$10 or 10#

Our annual food pantry fundraising campaign is still "fast pitch" in March. Each time we collect a \$10 donation or 10lbs of donated food, we'll post a "homerun baseball" in the narthex. Let's "knock one out of the park" and help others in our community.

Shop for Your Family and Support our Ministry

Sign up for the "Fun Funds" program at **GFS Food Service stores**. Each time you show your card at the checkout, First Lutheran receives a rebate check for a percentage of your quarterly purchases. It is an easy way to support our missions!



One item that the food pantry can always use is spaghetti sauce. Each bag of groceries contains pasta and sauce. Watch for sales, save those coupons, and buy a few extra jars the next time you shop.



“An Evening O’Irish Delight” Concert & Dinner Fundraiser

“PIPES x 3”

First Lutheran Church will host ***“An Evening O’Irish Delight”*** on Saturday, March 7th which will include a concert at 5:30pm featuring the vocal pipes of soprano Susan Platt, bagpipes of talented Rob McWilliam and organ pipes of director Dennis Jon Wolfgang.

Following the concert, a delicious dinner will be served in our lower level Fellowship Hall. The menu includes Leprechaun Salad, Classic Brisket of Beef-Corned with Blarney Stone Braised Cabbage, Oven Roasted Carrots, Yukon Gold Potatoes and Dublin Encrusted Breast of Chicken with Rice Pilaf, assorted Spring Vegetables and Dessert. Dinner seating is at 6:15pm.

Entertainment by Trinity Irish Dancers. Tickets for the dinner are \$15/person or \$25/pair. Call 414-476-4664 or email the church at firstlutheranelca@att.net by March 1st for reservations or if you’d like more information. If you are unable to attend, we will accept a donation. Proceeds from the concert benefit outreach ministries at First Lutheran.



“An entire sea of water can’t sink a ship unless it gets inside the ship. Similarly, the negativity of the world can’t put you down, unless you allow it to get inside you.”

Anonymous-www

**NATIVITY
OUTREACH**



During the month of March, Nativity will be collecting paper products such as toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels and paper plates for the Good Samaritan Outreach Center. Place your donations in the box in the narthex.



SAVE THE DATE!!

**Nativity Lutheran
Spaghetti Dinner**

**Saturday, April 18th
5:00 p.m.**

More details in next month’s newsletter



Thank You! goes out

to everyone at Nativity who has donated paper and cleaning supplies through the years. This has saved our budget, and helped ‘a whole lot!’*Sandie Larson*



**SOUPER
BOWL**

Thank You!

First Lutheran Food Pantry is grateful to Luther Memorial’s youth group for their donation of money from their “Souper Bowl of Caring” Sundays. From Luther Memorial: “Through your ministry we see faith active in love and the gospel being shared in practical ways that touch peoples lives”.

Celebrating All Things Irish!



St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 is designated St Patrick's Day. But who was St Patrick? Some sources tell us he lived in the 5th Century A.D. His real name was Maewyn Succat. He wasn't Irish, but a British subject who was kidnapped by pirates and shipped to Ireland as a slave when he was 16. Six years later, he escaped to France and became a priest, adopting the name Patrick, or Patricus. He didn't return to Ireland until he was 60. He is credited with driving the snakes from Ireland, but actually, there were never any snakes in Ireland!

St. Patrick was never canonized as a Saint by the Roman Catholic church and he was probably not born on March 17th. Some sources say he was the son of a Protestant minister. His life was centered on his favorite bible verse: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21) He spent his life dedicated to converting many people to Christianity. Still other sources say St Patrick, Apostle and Patron of Ireland, was born in Scotland in 387. Pope Celestine commissioned him to evangelize Ireland, and, in the 33 years of his apostolate, he succeeded in converting the whole country, which in the Middle Ages was known as "Island of the Saints," resplendent with churches and monasteries.

St Patrick died in the year 464 at the age of 77. "May Heaven bless you, the Saints protect you, the good LORD smile on all you do—May fortune find you, bad luck neglect you, and joy be yours you whole life through."

As we observe this special day, perhaps we can learn to be as dedicated to our life's work as Patrick. Able to overcome obstacles to accomplish much good! Enjoy "wearing the green" and may the leprechauns help you find your Pot O'Gold! Deacon John

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

You may know that St. Patrick used shamrocks to teach about the Trinity, but did you know these other facts about him?

- St. Patrick wasn't Irish. (His parents were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales.)
- He was kidnapped and sold as a slave at age 16. After escaping six years later, he joined a Monastery in England.
- March 17 is the date of St. Patrick's death, not his birth. He died in 461 A.D.
- The color originally associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green.
- The harp, not the shamrock, is the national symbol of Ireland.



All-encompassing Savior

Christ be with me, Christ within me.
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me.
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me.
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

—Hymn attributed to St. Patrick

CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

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

Mar. 26 - Journey of Love and Faith: The Leslie Lemke Story. True story of a Pewaukee native who took in a blind, cerebral-palsied and severely brain-damaged 6-mo. old baby boy, and uncovered his musical genius.
\$3 Members, \$5 Guests

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

Mar. 3 - The Hit by David Baldacci

Apr. 7 - The Midwife of Hope River by Patricia Harman

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

Bridge Group - Every Tues. - 9-11 am

Call Clement Manor at 546-7302 for registration or more information.

REGENCY - NEW BERLIN

13750 W. National Ave., New Berlin

March 9 at 1:30 Healthy eating for one or two. Tips on planning and serving budget-friendly small portion meals.

March 18 at 6:30 Milwaukee's favorite Irish folk band

March 27 at 1:30 Learn how to make you own non-toxic cleaning products from items you may have at home.

Tuesdays through April 7 at 2:15 Tai Chi & Yoga
\$5 class fee

Call (262)789-1699 for more information.

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.



AARP Smart Driver course will be offered at Clement Manor, 9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield, on Tuesday, April 12th from 12:45-4:30 pm. Class size is limited, so call 414-546-7302 for registration and cost information. Some insurance companies give discounts for having taken the course.

Catch Us on the Web...

Check out our website at:
www.firstlutheranelca.org

You can find Information on our activities, view an online version of the First and Nativity newsletter in color (and save postage), and see upcoming events.

On the Lighter Side



"We're hoping it will increase our giving."

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

March, 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday School is held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran, 7400 W. Lapham St., West Allis. Worship and communion at First Lutheran are held on Sat. at 5:30 p.m. & Sun. at 9:00 a.m.						
1 11:00a-Worship & Communion 12:00p-Coffee Hour 12:00p-Venture Crew	2	3 10:00a-Bible Study at First 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	4 9:00a-Quilting 10:00a-Lenten Worship at First 7:00p-A.A. and Al-Anon	5 9:15a-E.L.L.F.	6 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	7
8 11:00a-Worship & Communion 12:00p-Coffee Hour	9	10 10:00a-Bible Study at First 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	11 9:00a-Quilting 10:00a-Lenten Worship at First 7:00p-A.A. and Al-Anon	12 9:15a-E.L.L.F.	13 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	14
15 10:15a-WELCA Mtg. 11:00a-Worship & Communion 12:00a-Coffee Hour	16	17 10:00a-Bible Study at First 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	18 9:00a-Quilting 10:00a-Lenten Worship at First 7:00p-A.A. and Al-Anon	19 9:15a-E.L.L.F. 6:30p-Council Mtg.	20 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	21
22 11:00a-Worship & Communion 12:00p-Coffee Hour	23	24 10:00a-Bible Study at First 12:00p-S.A. 12-step	25 9:00a-Quilting 10:00a-Lenten Worship at First 7:00p-A.A. and Al-Anon	26 9:15a-E.L.L.F.	27 12:09p-S.A. 12-step	28
29 Palm Sunday 11:00a-Worship & Communion 12:00p-Coffee Hour 12:00p-Venture Crew	30	31 10:00a-Bible Study at First 12:00p-S.A. 12-step				

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00a-Choir Practice 9:00a-Wrshp.&Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.	2	3 10:00a-Bible Study 6:00p-Evangelism Committee	4 9:00a-Quilting 10a-Lenten Worship 8:00p-AA	5	6 World Day of Prayer 10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Chin Worship	7 4:00p-Wrshp.&Com. 5:30p-Concert 6:15p-Dinner
8 Daylight Savings 8:00a- NoChoir 9:00a-Wrshp.&Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 10:15a-Soc.Ministry Committee 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.	9	10 10:00a-Bible Study	11 10a-Lenten Worship 8:00p-AA	12 9:30a-Parenting Network 6:30p-Council Mtg.	13 10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Chin Worship	14 5:30p-Wrshp.&Com.
15 8:00a-Choir Practice 9:00a-Wrshp.&Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.	16	17 10:00a-Bible Study	18 9:00a-Quilting 10a-Lenten Worship 8:00p-AA	19	20 10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Chin Worship	21 5:30p- Wrshp.&Com
22 8:00a-Choir Practice 9:00a-Wrshp.&Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.	23	24 10:00a-Bible Study	25 10a-Lenten Worship 8:00p-AA	26	27 10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Chin Worship	28 5:30p- Wrshp.&Com
29 Palm Sunday 8:00a-Choir Practice 9:00a-Wrshp.&Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.	30	31 10:00a-Bible Study	<i>Carson Baptist Church worships at First Lutheran at 12:00 p.m. every Sunday. Worship & communion at Nativity Lutheran are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.</i>			

This 'n That Around Here

March Birthdays



First Lutheran

3/2 Audrey Enloe
 3/3 Jason Zehe
 3/4 David Grulke
 3/11 Roger Gray
 3/11 Alfred Korth
 3/13 Gus Barnes
 3/15 Erin Anderson
 3/15 Wesley Anderson
 3/16 Joan Hirschinger
 3/18 Isabella Dixon
 3/25 Debra Kubek
 3/27 Dolores Hurst
 3/27 Adriana Rees
 3/28 Samuel Marquez

Nativity Lutheran

3/9 Arthur Gruetzner
 3/17 Evan Reynolds
 3/19 John Gordon, Jr.
 3/22 Nicole DeBack
 3/26 Dawn Reynolds



Nativity Lutheran

3/21 Marcus & Nicole DeBack 17 yrs.
 3/21 Don & Jean Leppien 56 yrs.

First Lutheran

3/1 William & Janice Hansen 33 yrs.
 3/26 Lori & Joel Marquez 8 yrs.

Nativity Lutheran Council

Shirley Cogan
 Nicole DeBack - Secretary
 Maureen Jones - Vice President
 Sandra Larson
 Jean Leppien
 Jill Mickelson - Treasurer
 James Ribnek - President
 Lillian Ribnek
 Robert Saur
 Dennis Wolfgang



FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
January	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 12,560.40	(-335.40)
Year to Date	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 12,560.40	(-335.40)

FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE

	2015	2014	Diff.	% +/-
January	260	274	-14	-5%
Year to Date	260	274	-14	-5%
# of Svcs.	8	8	0	0%
Year to Date Svcs.	8	8	0	0%

BIBLE QUIZ...

When the Pharisees complained about the noisy crowd praising God as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, what did he say would shout out if the people were silent?

- A. The stones
- B. The trees
- C. The palm branches
- D. The donkey

Answer: (See Luke 19:40.)



First Lutheran Council

Jaqueline Bayer
 Earl Casto
 Odemaris Dixon
 David Grulke
 Natalie Jaeger - Vice President
 Linda Kaehler
 Jamie Schoberg
 Gail Sopa
 David Wegener - President
 Werner Bayer - Treasurer
 (Not a Council Member)

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Permit No. 3633

Mailed on 2-24-15

Address Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 2-26-15



**Contribute to the
First Lutheran
Food Pantry**

***HOME RUNS
FOR HUNGER
Campaign***



Now through Easter!

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.