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Important Dates to Remember:

4/2 Maundy Thursday
4/3 Good Friday
4/5 Easter Sunday
4/18 Nativity Lutheran Spaghetti Dinner
5/15-16 Nativity Rummage & Plant Sale
Dear Members of First and Nativity Lutheran Churches:

I want to thank you for your patience in these last almost 3 months as we search for a new Pastor. We have been in contact with the Synod office as we continue to use supply Pastors from the list provided by the Synod, some by word of mouth and recommendations from Pastors that have served us. We have had a nice variety of Pastors for all to see - a lot of traditional and a few surprises. I know a lot of you are as frustrated as I am. I thought the process would move a lot faster than it has. Please do not give up on the churches as we have noticed attendance and revenue are down. So support your church as the power of PRAYER will get us through this. We do have Pastors to cover us for Palm Sunday and two Pastors for Holy Week. We did have to make some changes to the service schedule. On Maundy Thursday there will only be one service - a 7:00 p.m. service at First. Easter Sunday at First Lutheran as there will be a 9:00am service only; the 11:00 am time at Nativity will remain the same. It was difficult to get a Pastor to commit to the seven services in Holy Week, that’s why the two Pastors and one less service at First. The service schedule is on the front cover of this newsletter.

At First Lutheran we still need a volunteer to head up the Stewardship committee which is very important to our financial health. We also need Deacons to help serve both churches, so if you feel inclined to do so please contact your council President or the Church office.

Keeping the Faith,
Dave Wegener, Call Committee Chairperson

Please keep the family of Ruth Gordon in your prayers. Ruth passed away on March 7th and will be missed by her friends at Nativity.
WORSHIP MATTERS  
by Shirley Cogan

Greetings Friends,

Are you excited? I am! We are about to observe the most important week of our Christian calendar.

On April 2nd, we will hear about the last supper and the arrest of Jesus. On Friday, April 3rd, we hear of his death on the cross - God’s gift of forgiveness of our sins.

And then - on Sunday, April 5th, we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. (It always reminds me of the exciting promise of a Christian life with our Lord once we shed our mortal body.) Without these sacred days we would be lost, without hope.

How do we energize our faith? We do it by worshipping, reading our Bibles, praying, and even fasting. Our Lord Jesus gave so much to us that we need to be mindful and grateful.

May you find time to worship and pray this week and take time examine your heart. Is your faith centered on Jesus? (I know for myself I can do better. Worldly things often trip me up.) Always remember you’re a Christian work in progress. God isn’t finished with us yet!

Blessings to you,
Shirley Cogan

P.S.
Remember it’s our heritage as heirs of His kingdom to pray and worship often.

TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS

NO CLASS ON 3/31 and 4/7

During April and May we will be studying the Book of Esther in the Old Testament. We will retell how this courageous woman saved the Jewish people. Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room from 10-11am on Tuesdays. All are welcome. John Bennethum is our Teacher. Join us for lunch after class if you so desire.

For Women Only....

The Women’s Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wed., April 8th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran.

MEET OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

We are happy to report that we have a new Sunday School Superintendent at First Lutheran. Mary Mitchell has volunteered to take on the position and handle VBS in June. She is a former educator who moved here from DeForest with her husband. Please welcome them here and give Mary your total support.

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.
**GOOD FRIDAY**

This Good Friday we will again use the Service of Tenebrae (Latin for shadows or darkness) and portions of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s (ELCA) service for Good Friday. New to our service this year, we will use the appointed Passion Reading from the Gospel of John as opposed to Luke’s account. Our resource guide, Sundays and Seasons, states the following:

“John’s passion narrative offers a unique theological perspective with its royal motif: Jesus the accused criminal and blasphemer. Seems to put the government and the legal and religious authorities on trial. John even sees in Jesus’ torture and execution a regal enthronement, the defeat of those who wield the power of the sword. Luther particularly appreciates John’s theology, declaring his preference for this gospel: ‘John’s Gospel is the one, fine, true, and chief gospel, and is far to be preferred over the other three and placed high above them.”

**A BIG THANK YOU FIRST LUTHERAN!!!!**

The Irish Concert and Dinner was a huge success. I want to thank all of the members of First who pulled together to make the evening a success and not even with interim pastoral presence. I’m reminded of the 12th chapter of First Corinthians, the great discourse on the variety of gifts, “One Body, Many Parts”. We had: planners who planned, cleaners who cleaned, people who decorated, cooks who prepared an elegant feast, people who sold tickets, and so many more including the musicians who got to make music without interference!!!!!

Give yourselves a big pat on the back!!!!!
Thanks to our many food pantry volunteers who share their time and talents with us each week. We are truly blessed. We'd also like to thank Pastor Carol Hegland and Pastor Gail Broderson-Heins for greeting visitors and ministering to their needs during the month of March.

"The Lord shared his son with the world. Let us share his goodness with others." .....www.

**Lenten Prayer for Hungry People**

O Christ, we live in a world filled with suffering and death, but you call us to follow you and serve you. Open our eyes to new ways we can create hope and opportunity for hungry people. Amen. From Bread for the World

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**On the Lighter Side**

“Wend prefer that you fill out your name in our guest ledger.”

**BIBLE QUIZ...**

As Jacob used a rock for a pillow — later to become a pillar honoring God — which of the following did he experience in a dream?

A. Angels going up and down on a ladder between earth and heaven.
B. The Lord promising that Jacob’s family would be a blessing to all nations.
C. God’s assurance: “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”
D. All of the above.

Answer: See Genesis 28:10-19

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**HOME RUNS FOR HUNGER Campaign**

$10 or 10#

Our annual food pantry fundraising campaign is in the "9th inning", ending on Easter Sunday, April 5. Each time we collect a $10 donation or 10lbs of food, we post a baseball in the narthex. "Batter up!" Lets hit some home-runs and help families in need.

One item that the food pantry can always use is spaghetti sauce. Each bag of groceries contains pasta and sauce. Peanut butter and jelly are also given with each bag. We purchase some of our food by the pound at Feeding America, and these items weigh a lot! Watch for sales, save those coupons, and buy a few extra jars the next time you shop.
Congratulations to First Lutheran’s Evangelism Committee on a successful Irish Concert and dinner. We had over 100 people enjoy the event. Thank you to Dennis Wolfgang, Susan Platt and Rob McWilliam for the wonderful concert. Thanks to Chef Darryl, Chef Scott and their helpers Roxanne, Becky, Chris, Tony, Tom and Nick for the delicious corned beef and chicken dinner. Thanks to the Sons of the American Legion, Todd Post for their donation toward the cost of the dinner, Thanks to Ralph Bayer for entertaining us during dinner with his "songs from around the world" piano program. The Trinity Irish Dancers closed the show for the evening and really kept things “hoppin”.

It took a lot of "behind the scenes" work to gather donations for the benefit drawing baskets, put the baskets together sell tickets, etc. Thanks to local businesses and individuals for their donations and to Sandy, Delores, and Marie for putting the baskets together. Natalie and Pam did a great job notifying the winners.

Thank you to these local businesses for their donations:
- Eden Garden and Pets
- Finn McGuire’s Irish Pub & Grill
- Hawthorne Coffee Roasters
- Milwaukee County Zoo
- Mystic Ireland Shop
- National Sign and Design
- Odemaris Dixon-Mary Kay Products
- Pegasus Restaurant
- Pick N Save
- Plumbing Parts Plus
- Salon Dovini
- Sons of the American Legion, Todd Post
- Trinity Irish Dancers

NATIVITY OUTREACH

During the month of April, Nativity will be collecting canned goods such as beef stew, soup, vegetables and spaghetti for the Good Samaritan Outreach Center. Place your donations in the box in the narthex.

TIME TO EAT!

Nativity Lutheran Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, April 18th

Enjoy dinner, free bingo, drawings and a bake sale!

Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.
Family style bingo to follow

Reserve Tickets by April 13th
Adults - $8.50
Children (age 3-12) - $4.00

Contact Lillian Ribnek or call the church office by April 13th to reserve tickets

Help Wanted at Nativity Lutheran

- Volunteer to help set up, serve, clean up at the Spaghetti Dinner on April 18th. Bingo and drawing prizes, as well as baked goods for the bake sale will be greatly appreciated!
- The Rummage/Plant Sale is coming on Fri. & Sat., May 15 & 16! You can start bringing in rummage sale items on April 19th. If you have questions regarding bringing in items, contact Don Brauch.
Clement Manor
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Keynote Speaker - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
April 23 - The Reality of Climate Change presented by Paul Geenen, Milwaukee Organization for Action, will lead discussion regarding the science behind climate change and the impact on our lives.

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12pm
Apr. 7 - The Midwife of Hope River by Patricia Harman
May 5 - The Fever Tree by Jennifer 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.

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.

It’s Fish Fry Season
at Lutherdale Bible Camp!

Head to Lutherdale for a delicious fish fry on Friday, April 24th, from 4:30 -7pm. Dinners include baked or fried cod, choice of potato, cole slaw, bread & butter, applesauce, beverage and dessert. A specialty fish choice will also be available. Cost is $12 for adults and $7 for youth 12 and under.

While you’re there, take a walk around the camp, sit by the lake, and enjoy the outdoors. Contact the church office for more information on the camp.

Lutherdale Bible Camp is located at N7891 Hwy. 12, Elkhorn.

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.

“I lied on my Weight Watchers list. I put down that I had three eggs ... but they were Cadbury chocolate eggs.” —Caroline Rhea

Welcome Spring!
On March 7th, First Lutheran hosted over 100 people for “An Evening of Irish Delight”. The festivities began with a concert of Irish music featuring Susan Platt, Dennis Wolfgang, and Rob Mc William. Following the concert, a catered dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall. During dinner, Ralph Bayer played old favorites on the piano, and diners were invited to sing along. Dessert entertainment was provided by the Trinity Irish Dancers. Benefit drawings were held for prizes including a toaster oven, gift certificates and numerous baskets of food and gift items. Many thanks to the musicians, the Evangelism Committee and especially to Joy Dowd who chaired the event. It was a huge success!
FIRST LUTHERAN
HANDICAPPED ACCESS
CHAIRLIFT UPDATE

At the annual congregational meeting we were given permission by the congregation to proceed with the installation of the chairlift.

The project has started! A signed contract and down payment have been sent to Access Elevator, Inc. to begin the project. Access will send someone to take pictures to use to make drawings. The drawings will be submitted to the State of Wisconsin to obtain the necessary permits. After the permits are issued, they will build and install the unit. This should take from 6-8 weeks.

Answer to some of the questions asked at the annual meeting:

- Weight limit will be 400 lbs.
- The battery to power the unit should need replacement every 3-5 yrs. at a cost of approximately $100
- Includes a 5 yr. major component warranty, 2 yr. parts warranty, 1 yr. labor warranty (installation). Maintenance inspections and cleaning to be performed twice by installer during the first year

Our insurance company, Church Mutual Insurance, said that when we complete the project we are to contact them. They will add the cost of the lift to the value of the church, and then we will be insured for the use of the chairlift.

The value of the church now being insured is $2,799,000, so when we add the $14,523 cost of the chairlift, it probably won’t affect the premium very much.

Werner Bayer, Chairman
Handicapped Accessibility Committee

SPRING GATHERING
“Finding Your Spiritual Gifts”

Are you living a life centered in Jesus? How can you use our spiritual gifts? Join the women of Clusters I-IV on Sat., April 25th, at Whitnall Park Lutheran. Deadline for registration is April 15th. Contact Cheryl Isotalo or the church office for registration information.

QUILT & KIT SHIPPING FUND

Every year in September we bless the quilts and school kits made lovingly by the quilters at each church. We collect funds to help Lutheran World Relief offset the cost of shipping these much needed quilts and kits around the world. Right now we have an opportunity to have donations to this fund matched dollar for dollar by the Rupert Dunklau Foundation. We only have until May 10th to collect this money. Please consider making a contribution using the envelopes provided at each church. After May 10th, each church will send in the donations. Please be generous! This is a great opportunity to support Lutheran World Relief.

WE SUPPORT
Lutheran World Relief
**FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015**

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**FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE**

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<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
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**Nativity Lutheran**

4/2 Donald & Joan Brauch 33 yrs
4/4 Maureen & Peter Jones 56 yrs.

**First Lutheran**

4/27 Werner & Jaqueline Bayer 58 yrs.

**DID YOU KNOW…..**

First Lutheran offers an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Authorization forms are available in the narthex or the church office.

**Egg-stra facts**

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!
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.