In Christ’s death and resurrection we are no longer simply slaves to sin. We each have been given the freedom to live our lives for the glory of God….  we have the power to change the world through the one who gave us this freedom: Jesus Christ – who has been raised from the dead. Hallelujah!  ........Pastor Bryant Bakkum
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

So now what? Do we feel any different? Is this like a birthday where people ask if you feel a year older, when in reality you just feel a day older? How does Christ’s resurrection impact our lives? Perhaps you’ve heard this story about an eagle before, but it relates well to this idea of how the resurrection impacts us.

A baby eagle became orphaned when something happened to her parents. She glided down to the ground from her nest but was not yet able to fly. A man picked her up. He took her to a farmer and said, “This is a special kind of barnyard chicken that will grow up big.” The farmer said, “Don’t look like no barnyard chicken to me.” “Oh yes, it is. You will be glad to own it.” The farmer took the baby eagle and placed it with his chickens.

The baby eagle learned to imitate the chickens. She could scratch the ground for grubs and worms too. She grew up thinking she was a chicken.

Then one day an eagle flew over the barnyard. The eagle looked up and wondered, “What kind of animal is that? How graceful, powerful, and free it is.” Then she asked another chicken, “What is that?” The chicken replied, “Oh, that is an eagle. But don’t worry yourself about that. You will never be able to fly like that.”

And the eagle went back to scratching the ground. She continued to behave like the chicken she thought she was.

In Christ’s death and resurrection we are no longer simply slaves to sin. We are no longer who the worlds says we are. Our identities are changed: We are now saved, children of God. We have each been given the freedom to live our lives for the glory of God not in order to gain salvation, but in order to shine Christ’s love for our brothers and sisters. Just like the eagle we need to be reminded of who we really are: Beloved, children of God.

In this season of Easter we have each been freely given the gift of new life. We have each received new identities as children of God who have been saved from the power of death and have been freed to new life. With these new identities and our salvation secured we can move out into the world with confidence as we usher in the Kingdom of God by serving, showing mercy, forgiving others, and loving our enemies. For as children of God, freed from the power of sin and death, we have the power to change the world through the one who gave us this freedom: Jesus Christ – who has been raised from the dead. Hallelujah!

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

Please keep in your prayers the families of Helen Dickhut, Wayne DeHusson, Paule Kolff and LaVerne Cronce who have recently passed away.

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.
If you’ve not recently visited our website (firstlutheranelca.org), take a moment and see what’s new. We’re planning on adding even more interesting articles and information to it on a routine basis starting later this spring. We envision our website as a place where we can share events, activities and our ministries at church and beyond with our members, neighbors, friends and visitors when they are online. So, not only will our newsletter articles be appearing there, but also other items from our neighborhood, from Metro Milwaukee and beyond. And those items will be added between times we print and mail our bi-monthly newsletter. We’ll send them directly to your email inbox if you let us know your email address.

In addition, we will periodically email announcements of new articles and information in the form of a supplemental E-newsletter to members, friends and visitors who request them. This new service will supplement our printed newsletter, and you can set up your now preferences by visiting http://firstlutheranelca.org/bi-monthly-newsletter-preference/

So take a moment and visit our website, and let us know how you would prefer to receive our bi-monthly newsletter and new supplemental E-newsletter.

Council Members for 2016 were installed at First Lutheran in March. (left)

MEET YOUR CHURCH COUNCILS

At the Annual Meetings in January (Nativity) and February (First), council members were elected by the congregations.

Council members at Nativity Lutheran are: Shirley Cogan, Nicole DeBack, Maureen Jones, Sandra Larson, Jean Leppien, James Ribnek, Lillian Ribnek and Dennis Wolfgang.

Council members at First Lutheran are: Werner Bayer, Earl Casto, Odemaris (Mari) Dixon, Joyce Favre, David Grulke, Natalie Jaeger, Linda Kaehler, Carrie Muffler, Jamie Schoberg, Carla Ullerich and Damon Wegener.

Council officers are listed on the front page of this newsletter. Be sure to get to know your council members and bring to them any questions you may have and let them know you appreciate the work they do! Nativity’s council meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and First’s council meets on the second Thursday of each month. Congregation members are welcome to attend meetings, but may not vote. If there is something you’d like brought to the attention of the council or to speak about at a meeting, you’ll need to contact the council president prior to the meeting.

ON VACATION?

If you’ve been away or are out of town, you can catch Pastor Bryant’s wonderful sermons on our website at www.firstlutheranelca.org. Just click on the Sermon button.
WORSHIP MATTERS by John Bennethum

The Easter season began on Easter Sunday, Mar. 27, and continues through Sun., May 8th. The season is 7 Sundays long this year. Gold and White are the colors. Ascension Day (white) will fall on Thurs., May 5th, 40 days after Easter (White). Pentecost will fall on Sun., May 15, 50 days after Easter (Red) and Holy Trinity Sun. (White) is on Sun., May 22nd. Thus ends the Festival Half of the traditional Church year. All Sundays during the summer are "after Pentecost" and the color is Green.

We have started using the Narrative Lectionary in worship instead of the revised common lectionary. I am sure you have noticed there is only one text which is read during our services instead of four. The old readings followed a three-year cycle which were based primarily on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle based on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. During the fall, readings from the Old Testament showed its broad outline which will then transition into one of the four Gospels in the spring. After Easter, resurrection accounts and stories from the early church will be heard. During the summer, 4-6 week long sermon series are heard on particular books of the Bible. We are excited about our move to the Narrative Lectionary as we will be able to focus on texts from the Old and New Testaments as well as hear year-long focuses on all four Gospels.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

During the month of March we were able to finish our study of the Gospel of Luke. Starting in April and continuing into May we will begin our study of the Book of Job. All are welcome to join us from 10-11 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. I am sure we will have a lively discussion of this very interesting Old Testament book. Plans for the summer are in the works and our guest speakers are being invited. Come and join us for class and then for lunch afterward at a nearby restaurant. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength: Mike Dowd, Tom Hackl, Gene Osborn

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:
From Nativity: Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Louise Kohn, Diane Konicki, James Larson, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Jeanne Vermeulen
From First: Gail Bartolera, Michael Bayer, Carol Bennethum, Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Marlin Bradway, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Dorothy Daniels, LaVerne Guthrie, Pr. Henry Hammerling, John Isaacson, Earl Junck, Debra Knitter, Alfred Korth, Luz Maria Lozada, Virginia Martin, Richard Reinhard, Betty Roeder, Carlos Santiago, Kammy Selear, Myra Shields, Joyce Staub, Lois Taylor, Barbara Troller, John Vella 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

For Women Only....

The Women’s Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran beginning April 6. They’re studying the 100 most important stories in the Bible. Materials are available and new members are always welcome!

BIBLE QUIZ....

Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus’ ascension?

A. Luke and Acts
B. Matthew and Luke
C. Mark and John
D. All four gospels
**First Lutheran Social Ministry**

**What is your “Heart Rate”?**

Thanks to everyone who supported our “heart felt” fundraiser this year by contributing food or funds to the food pantry. As of this writing, since Feb 1, we’ve taken in 1,090 lbs. of food and over $1,600.00 from many sources such as member’s donations, the West Allis Women’s Club, Trinity Lutheran Church and Pershing School. Thanks to our members for helping us with shopping by providing jars of spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, cans of tuna and other items.

**Special thanks** to the Sons of the American Legion Todd Post on 92nd and Beloit Rd for a substantial donation toward the purchase of a new meat slicer for the kitchen. We’d also like to thank all of the coffee drinkers in our congregation for allowing the Coffee And... fund to cover the remaining cost of the meat slicer. It is not unusual for us to slice over 60 lbs of ham or pork on any given week as we prepare lunch for our food pantry visitors.

**Post Office Food Drive**

**Sat, May 14**

First Lutheran will again be partnering with the food pantry at All Saints Church in Oak Creek for the Post Office food drive. We need people to spend the afternoon at All Saints receiving and sorting food (this does not involve heavy lifting) and people to unload the food and stock it at First, beginning in the late afternoon until about 6pm. Please see the sign up sheet on the welcome desk in the narthex. We usually receive a substantial amount of food, which helps support our pantry into the summer, but we can’t do it without helpers.

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”**

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

On any given Friday we have about 20 volunteers that help our area families receive food, either through the bags they take home or the hot lunch we serve. We are so grateful to God for sending us all of these caring people.

“Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love” – Mother Teresa

**Food Pantry Ministry**

**Going Shopping**

Each week our food pantry gives out 40 to 60 bags of food to those in need. Always included are spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly. These are items that we are usually unable to get from Feeding America. We can purchase them at Aldi, but that quantity is expensive and heavy to transport. If everyone picked up one or two of these items whenever you shop, it would be a big help. Thanks for your help!

**Food Pantry Donations...**

The First Lutheran food pantry can always use donations of food, money and volunteers! Unfortunately, there is no room to store baby clothing, out of season clothing, furniture or household items. If you have donations to bring, please contact the church office first. Any items left outside the doors will have to be discarded due to weather and animals in the area.
Nativity Lutheran

**SALUTE TO THE SERVICES**

**DINNER AND CONCERT**

The 66th observance of Armed Forces Day on May 21, 2016, provides all Americans the opportunity to honor the dedicated men and women who serve in our nation’s military services.

Over the years, those wearing the uniforms of our services have played a critical role in the preservation of America’s security and freedom. They continue to do so. While enduring the hardships of family separation and service in faraway lands, they stand ready to ensure the security of our country and the preservation of freedom in peace.

The pride in service to our country is expressed not only by dedication to military duties but also by service to fellow citizens. Wherever they are stationed, our military forces have earned respect and admiration for freely volunteering their time and energies to help their neighbors. They are loyal citizens of their nation, good neighbors in their communities, and courageous defenders of our way of life. We are blessed to live in a society that fosters such unselfish service.

**On this special day, Nativity Lutheran is hosting the Armed Forces Day, “Salute to the Services” dinner and concert.** Join us in expressing our gratitude and appreciation to our fellow countrymen and women who serve so nobly in the Armed Forces. In honor Armed Forces Day celebration, we’ve included a dinner to help fund the Fisher House of Wisconsin. The Fisher House is “a home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers.

**Dinner and concert are $30 for single, $55.00 per couple, table of 8 for $220. This is an all you can eat buffet.**

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**BAKE SALE!**

at First

**April 23rd**

9am ‘til gone!

Get your oven heated up, look up those favorite recipes, and get some goodies ready to sell! Bring bakery to church by noon on 4/22. Items can be left in the church office and should be clearly marked “Bake Sale”. If possible, please have bakery wrapped & packaged for sale. Items that remain will be sold prior to worship services. Proceeds will benefit First Lutheran Ministries.

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**FIRST LUTHERAN**

**SPRING PANCAKE SUPPER**

Join us for an old fashioned pancake supper on Saturday, May 7, from 4-7pm. As a youngster growing up in West Allis, those “breakfast for dinner” meals were always a favorite. Just the thought of pancakes with butter and syrup, bacon, sausage...yum! May 7th is the day before Mother’s Day so treat the ladies in your life or have the kids take mom out for dinner. Tickets are $5.00, kids under 10yrs $2.00, 4yrs and under are free. Proceeds benefit Outreach ministries at First, including the food pantry, quilting and children’s ministries. Join us for supper and stay for church at 5:30 or join us for church and stay for supper at 6:30.

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**MOTHER’S DAY AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

We’ll be honoring mothers and other caretakers with special prayers during services Mother’s Day weekend, May 7th & 8th. Be sure to bring your mother, or someone who was like a mother to you, with you to church that weekend. As a special treat, stop downstairs at our spring Pancake Supper on Saturday evening before or after the service.
HELP WANTED

- Help us welcome others to worship by serving as an usher or greeter on Sunday. Training and supplies are provided. You will serve with an experienced usher so you will have all of the support you need. Immediate openings are available in April and May. Please sign up today!

- We need lots of helpers to work at the pancake supper on May 7th. And... we need help to take flyers to the neighborhood in April. We’ll also need volunteers at the “coloring” table the on night of the event to register kids for Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. Donations of sweets for dessert and cakes, tortes and pies, etc for a benefit drawing would also be appreciated.

THANK YOU! to the Property Committee and all of those involved in the cleaning of the carpeting in the church and Fireside room, plus cleaning of the windows, drapery and shades for a fresh start for spring.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

If you’ve been thinking about joining our church family, now would be a good time. We will provide you with a friendly handshake, a warm cup of freshly brewed coffee and answers to all of your questions. Pastor Bryant would be happy to sit down with you, talk about our ministries and missions and answer your questions.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

The Chin Carson Baptist church moved out of First Lutheran in the middle of March. apparently, they thrived while here and became such a large congregation that they needed to find larger facilities. We hope that they find continued success in their new home and that God continues to bless their ministry. On the other hand, the Chins have been paying First Lutheran $7,680 per year for the use of the church. We will be seeing some savings with less utility bills and trash pickup, but we will miss their monthly contribution to our budget.

Two of First Lutheran’s high school students attended a Synod-wide youth retreat in March in Hubertus. Music, study, bonfires, games... what more could you want?!

Pastor Bryant celebrated his birthday between services in March.
A strong woman stands up for herself. 
A stronger woman stands up for everyone else. 
...Unknown

“BOLD WOMEN LOVE”
is the theme of this year’s Synodical Women’s Organization convention. It will be held on Sat., Oct. 15th in West Bend. Registration forms are available from Cheryl Isotalo or in the church office.

WELCA JOINT CLUSTER MEETING
All women are invited to the Greater Milwaukee Synod Joint Cluster Meeting on Sat., April 16th, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Muskego. Registration deadline is Thursday, April 7th. Enjoy a morning of breakfast, Bible Study based on Matthew 5:13-16, and a program about Atonement’s ministry with their sister congregation in Tepeagua, El Salvador. Cost is $12 for registration & breakfast, or $3 for registration only. Contact Cheryl Isotalo or the church office for more information.

CAN YOU DO A LITTLE BAKING?
Nativity Lutheran’s WELCA group (Women of the ELCA) is collecting cookies for Habitat for Humanity. The cookies can be store-bought or home-baked. They can be left in the kitchen at Nativity, but be sure to clearly mark them as being for Habitat. Cookies need to be at the church by May 14th. Packing will be done on May 14th at 10:00 a.m. If you’d like to come and help, it would be greatly appreciated!

GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY CLAIMED TO BE
The 2016 Synod Assembly will be held at Carthage College from June 2-4. At this year’s assembly the next bishop for our synod will be elected. The synod is looking for volunteers to help with registration, transportation, serving as ushers, loading and unloading. If you’d be willing to help at the assembly it would be a great way to view the proceedings and share in the excitement of the election. Both First and Nativity can have two delegates at the assembly, but you can go as a non-voting participant to watch the proceedings. Call the church office if you’re interested.
CLEMENT MANOR
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Keynote Speaker - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
April 21 - “Backroads of Switzerland”. Ralph Danielsen takes you along in search of some of Europe’s finest medieval towns, alpine vistas and ancient Roman ruins.
May 19 - “Beyond Pocahontas and Sacagewea: American Indian Women in History”, Dawn Scher Tomac gives homage to American Indian women who made American history.

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12pm
Apr. 5 - Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson
May 3 - The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom
June 7 - Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya

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

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.

THANK YOU …
To First Lutheran Church:
“On behalf of West Central Interfaith, I would like to thank you and your congregation for your financial commitment and support for West Central Interfaith.”

In 2015, Interfaith served 5,390 clients through its Neighborhood Outreach Program services. During the Thanksgiving holiday last year, more than 300 older adults received a free Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings delivered to their homes. In 2015, First Lutheran contributed $462.75 to West Central Interfaith.

“Linking Older Adults to a Caring Community”

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WEST ALLIS NEWS
Coffee With the Mayor is held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9 a.m. Go to www.westalliswi.gov for the location of the next meeting.

Community Dinner Dance
Benefits Disabled American Vets
The West Allis Community Improvement Foundation, along with other local clubs, will sponsor the 27th annual dinner dance on Sat., April 16th, from 6-11pm at the Hampton Inn & Suites at 8201 W. Greenfield. The dance will benefit the DAV Chapter 19 West Allis, and will feature a catered dinner, “Taste of West Allis” sweet table, dinner and dancing music and a silent auction.

Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran
June 12, July 10, August 14
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. each day
What Are They Doing Now?

I recently talked to Pastor Mark Syre who is living in Port Aransas, TX. He and Joann just returned from a vacation trip to Costa Rica. They are well and loving retirement. He has been kayaking and she is doing some serious painting. Jenny and Gavin and their 2 kids have a new home in San Antonio. Beth and Joe live in Wauwatosa where he has his own Architectural firm. Beth still works for DuPont as a Supervisor. They have two children. Rob is married and expecting a baby girl in January. Allison is a lawyer for a bank. She is engaged and planning a November wedding. All is going well for the Syre family. They send their greetings to everyone at First.

Deacon John

On the Lighter Side

In January, First Lutheran welcomed new members who have joined the church since January 2014. Among them were the Dixon family (above) and Joyce Favre (right).

DID YOU KNOW...During the years 1958-1964, I worked as an Orderly (Male Nurses Aide) at Milwaukee Hospital on 22nd & Kilbourn Avenue. At that time many of the nurses were Lutheran Deaconesses at the Motherhouse located at the hospital. I knew and worked with most of them. Sister Gladys Robinson was one of the first women Pharmacists in Milwaukee. In addition to being nurses, the Motherhouse also RE-sharpened all hypodermic needles used at the hospital! They also made and sold Communion Wafers to many churches in Milwaukee. Today the last remaining Sister has died and the Motherhouse is closed. (The Nursing School also no longer exists.) It was a good place to work during my college days.

Deacon John
Congratulations to our seminarian, Gus Barnes. He has been assigned to Christ Lutheran church in Arcadia, WI for his internship. He will be there for one full year beginning July 1st.

If you have a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), you can reach Pastor Bryant by calling him at (414)491-1252.

### Nativity Lutheran

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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Donald &amp; Joan Brauch</td>
<td>34 yrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Maureen &amp; Peter Jones</td>
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<td>4/15</td>
<td>Cynthia &amp; Richard Barbian</td>
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### First Lutheran

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<td>Dale &amp; Sharon Phillippo</td>
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<td>Daniel &amp; Brittany LaSavage</td>
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<td>5/31</td>
<td>Jennette Sigler</td>
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First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI  53214

Mailed on 3-30-16
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First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI  53214

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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
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

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

Saturday, May 21st, 2016
Dinner 5:00 pm, Concert 7:00 pm
Nativity Lutheran Church
Proceeds to benefit Milwaukee Fisher House.

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