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NATIVITY RUMMAGE
& PLANT SALE
May 16 & 17
Doors open from 8am - 4pm
Enjoy bargains galore,
plants to start your garden,
and delicious baked goods!

VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JOIN THE KINGDOM OF THE SON:
A Prayer Safari Vacation
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
June 10th-25th at First Lutheran
Children 4 years to 5th grade are welcome! For information on registration and volunteers, see forms in the narthex or contact the church office.
For more information, see p. 3

Finding Joy
A Day Retreat
about sharing JOY
and finding it in others
Saturday, June 7th, 10:00 a.m.
See p. 7 for information

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI
www.firstlutheranelca.org
E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net
Phone: 414-476-4664
"Reaching out in our community to share the Word of God"

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

“Nativity: an inviting and nurturing community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and serving Christ”
Dear Friends;

As Christian people we always live with the message of Easter. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. That’s why the Easter greeting is:

**The Lord is Risen!**

and the response is: **He is Risen Indeed!**

We always use the verb “is” to highlight the present reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is something that happened in the past, but the reality of His Resurrection is ongoing and real to us right now.

The Lord Jesus has conquered death and brings us with him into the victory. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus get eternal life with Him. It means that the life we live is not just about living until we die and that is the end. We live our lives to please the One who has created us, sustains us and now has saved us for heaven. The fear of death can be removed because we know it is not the end. We know that, right now, we serve our Lord! Because of Easter, our lives reflect the Glory of God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The joy of Easter is forever! Life with our Lord Jesus is forever!

We are joined to Christ’s death and resurrection in our Baptism. “We have been buried with him with baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead to the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” *Romans 6:4.* All this is full of mystery because we can not understand everything about God. It is the reality of our lives because of faith in the One who died, but now lives forever.

Pastor Peterson
Worship Matters by John Bennethum

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! The forty days of Lent are over and we have celebrated the greatest Feast of the Church Year: the Resurrection of our LORD on Sunday, April 20th. Now we begin the forty days of the Easter Season (white) which will bring us to Ascension Day, Thursday, May 29th...beautifully represented at First Lutheran by our stained-glass altar window. Ten days later we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, June 8th, (red) the Birthday of the Church and arrival of the Holy Spirit. Finally we finish the festival half of the church year with the Feast of the Holy Trinity on June 15th (white). After this Feast we turn our attention to the "Sundays after Pentecost" (green) with emphasis on "ordinary time" and lessons to be learned from the Gospel of Matthew (Cycle A). Over a three year period we receive a well-balanced buffet of all four Gospels and other parts of the Bible.

Deacon John Bennethum

For Women Only….

The Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in First Lutheran's Fireside Room. New members are always welcome!

Bible Study Opportunities

TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS

During May we will be studying the Books of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. These follow our study of the Book of Revelation and the Books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians which further discuss Life after death. We will finish these books before the Memorial Day break. After Memorial Day we will focus our attention on "Our Neighbors Faith" with presentations made by class members. Denominations were chosen by the class. We will also have four Guest Speakers during the summer months. These include Arnie Garber, our Orthodox Jewish friend; Barb Reed, our Church Secretary, on her recent Holy Land trip; Joe Radanovich, who is a member of the Greek Church; and Tom Hackl, former member who has been receiving Stem Cell Therapy. All are welcome to join us each week on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am in the Fireside Room. John Bennethum is our Teacher. Following class a group usually goes out for lunch. You are most welcome to join

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kingdom of the Son: A Prayer Safari Vacation

We’re excited about First Lutheran’s Vacation Bible School to be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays, June 10 - June 25.

We are still looking for some volunteers. Adults can help by being a Group Leader, Leader’s Assistant, Register children, Play Group Supervisor, Distribute flyers to the neighborhood, Help in the kitchen, and/or Donate Food. Jr. High students can help by being Center Guides. If you are willing to help, please fill out a volunteer form located in the narthex on the VBS bulletin board and put it in the offering basket, turn it into the office, call or email church.

Children are fed dinner each night of VBS. If you would like to donate food, contact the church office for items needed. If you would prefer not to have to shop for food, you can make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you!

If you have a child or know someone that might be interested in attending VBS, please take an information sheet and sign up sheet from the narthex. If you would like to preregister, you may do so by returning your child(ren)'s sign up sheet to the church office. Children are not required to attend all the days. We encourage all children to attend as many days as they can.

Thank you in advance for your help and support, VBS Staff

Jamie Schoenberg, Greta Plicka and Linda Grulke
**Palm Sunday Concert**

Bravo! to Music Director Dennis Wolfgang, vocalists Susan Platt, Gus Barnes, Dennis Parker and the Carson Chin Baptist Youth Choir for a wonderful Palm Sunday Benefit Concert. The performances were outstanding, as evidenced by the number of standing ovations received! Pastor Ron Nanuk of the Carson Chin Baptist Church presented some interesting information about the church and the Chin people’s homeland of Myanmar (Burma). We enjoyed hearing songs in their native language and seeing the choir wear their beautiful woven cloths, representing their families’ history and homeland.

Thank you to the many of you who supported this concert by helping deliver flyers to the neighborhood and area businesses (Bill Hansen, Dave Wegener, Jenni Herbert, Sharon Phillippo, Joy Dowd and Pastor Peterson), by creating the concert program (Dennis Wolfgang, Marie LePage and Barb Reed), by volunteering to greet visitors (Sharon Phillippo, Carla Ullerich, Ann Felton, Gail Sopa), and by setting up and cleaning up after the reception (Natalie Jaeger, Maxx Jaeger, Carla Ullerich, Dave Wegener, Joy Dowd, Dale and Sharon Phillippo, Joyce and Bob Gardener and friend of First Lutheran, Pat). Thanks to the Property committee and custodian Natalie Jaeger, for setting up and making the church as sparkling as it could be.

Thank you to those who provided food for the reception! We enjoyed the delicious treats! Anything remaining, of which there was very little, was shared with our Food Pantry visitors the following Friday.

We especially want to thank our sponsors who purchased ads in the program and those of you who attended with your friends and family and helped us spread the word about the concert. We had about 90 visitors attend and raised over $300 for the Accessibility Fund.

We are looking forward to the next concert, which will be a Christmas concert in December at Nativity Lutheran.

Joy Dowd, Evangelism Committee, First Lutheran

*Left* - Dennis Parker, our newest soloist, performs at the Palm Sunday Concert at First.

*Below* - The Carson Chin Baptist Youth Choir wowed the audience at the concert with their beautiful voices and music.
Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12pm
May 6 - The American Heiress by Daisy Goodwin
June 3 - The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Keynote Presentation - $3 members/$5 guests
May 29 - “The History of Chocolate!” 1:30-3pm
with Dawn Scher Thomae
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

Hart Park Senior Center

Crafter’s Corner - 1st Thurs. of each month
at 9am
Scrabble - Wednesdays at 10am
Cards and Games for Ladies and Gents
Skat: Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am
Men’s Sheepshead: 12:00pm Mon. thru
Thurs.
Bridge: Thursdays. at 12:00; call Pat at
231-3935 to sign up.
MahJong: Wednesdays at 12:00.
Call 471-8495 for information.

How About a Fish Fry?
Lutherdale Bible Camp is again host-
ing a monthly Fish Fry at the camp.
Dinner is served from 4:30 - 7:30 pm, and
features a traditional fish fry, as well as a
specialty fish - this month it’s Walleye. Cost
is $12 for Adults, $7 for Youth (12 & under).

Open House
Come to Lutherdale on June 1st and enjoy a
pancake breakfast from 9a-noon. Camp
activities, including waterfront activities,
climbing tower, farm animals, camp store and
tours, will be available from 10a-2p. The
camp is located at N7891 N. Hwy. 12, Elkhorn.
Call 262-742-2352 for more information.

Nativity’s Spring Rummage
/Plant Sale” is scheduled
for May 16 & 17, and will be here before
you know it! If you have items for the sale,
contact Don Brauch or the church office to
arrange a time for drop-off. Be sure to tell
your friends to come and shop at Nativity!

Congratulations to
Nativity’s Dartball Team!
Another fun & always exciting Dart-
ball season has come to the end. We are happy to
announce Nativity took 4th place for the season.
Great Job Team!! New players are always Wel-
come! Whether you’re a Pro or never touched a
dart in your life, grab a friend & join in the fun.
The 2014 seasons starts in September.

Nativity’s Annual Spaghetti Dinner
& Bingo—April 5, 2014
Thank You! Goes out to all that contributed their
time, energy, bakery & prizes to make this amaz-
ing event happen.....
Extra “Thanks!” goes to James Ribnek, Don
Brauch & Crew 999 for all their hard work in the
kitchen, Lillian Ribnek for Ticket Sales, Beverly
Neusen for Bake Sale and Sandy Larson for
keeping control of the drawing tables and prize
distribution.
Attendance: 82 Adults and 7 Children.
Ticket Sales: $ 684.00
Bake Sale: $ 154.00
Drawings: $ 358.00
Brewer jacket/Bunnies: $ 150.00
Free Will Donations: $ 34.00
Total Cash In $1,380.00
Expenses: $ -177.19
PROFIT $1,202.81
All profit goes toward helping to pay our church
property insurance.
Report submitted by the I.B.P. Committee
Jill R. Mickelson
On May 3rd join us for lunch and the movie “How to Train Your Dragon”. The event is free! Lunch is served at 1pm, followed by the movie.

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.

Share the Good News!

Elise Hynek, great-niece of Elsie Boese of First Lutheran, has been called to serve in the United Kingdom with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission. She will be leaving late this summer. We wish her God’s blessings.

Audrey Wigand, former secretary at Nativ-ity Lutheran, is proud to announce that her granddaughter, Johanna Wigand, will be in the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Society at West Allis Central H.S. Congratulations, Johanna!

Thank you to the Roundy’s foundation for their donation of 2,300 lbs of food and $500 to the First Lutheran Food Pantry. We are grateful to have received this donation for the past 4 years.

Above—Ralph Bayer (L) and Mike Plicka (R) finish loading Ralph’s truck with the Roundy’s food. Left, Joy Dowd holds the “check” for $500.

Help Wanted at First

Tellers Wanted

We are in need of at least two people to help count offerings every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Training and enjoyable company are provided! Previous financial background is preferred. If you are interested, contact the church office. We have several tellers who have been counting for several years, and would like to do something new.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild at First could use a few new members to help set up communion for worship services. This does not involve a big time commitment. Volunteers usually sign up for a month at a time, and someone is always willing to trade if something comes up. Men are always welcome, too! Contact the church office if you are interested.
**First Lutheran Committees**

**Evangelism on the Move…**

**Mother’s Day Services – May 10th & 11th**

Bring your Mom, or someone that was like a Mom to you, to church on Mother’s Day! We’ll be honoring ladies that weekend. Make church a part of your family celebration. Your mom will be glad that you did.

**Veterans Recognition – May 24th & 25th**

We’ll be honoring our Veterans on Memorial Day weekend. God Bless America and those who fought for freedom in the world. We appreciate your service.

"Reaching out in our community to share the word of God.”

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**Stewardship News**

We're looking for a few good ideas, comments, etc! Have you answered the questions presented each weekend during lent? Your stewardship committee at First Lutheran wants to know how you feel about our church.

The first four questions were presented in the April newsletter. The last three are following in this newsletter. Please think about these questions, record your answers, opinions, etc. and place them in the box provided in the narthex. You may make your answers as lengthy as you feel necessary and use another piece of paper for your answers.

- If with a stroke of a pen, I could change one thing in our congregation, it would be:
- What is church to you?
- If it were up to me, the things I would change about our worship service would be:

**Rejoice in what God is doing in, through, and around your life!**

Lavone Reis, Stewardship Chairperson

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**Social Ministry Corner**

**Food Pantry**

Thanks to everyone who donated during our “Super Heros for Hunger” fundraising event, which ran from January 1 to Easter Sunday, April 20th. Though the final count is not known as of the writing of this article, we appreciate all of the donations of food and cash.

We need a few more volunteers on Fridays to check visitors in at the food pantry. Hours are from 10am – noon. All that is required is for you to check the ID of the visitor, make an entry in a log book and give them a ticket to get a bag of food.

We are also looking for cooks who like to “cook big” and could commit to cooking and preparing food on Thursdays in advance of the lunch we serve on Friday. Contact the church office or Joy Dowd if you can help.

Many thanks to the following members and friends of First Lutheran/Nativity who have donated or prepared food for the Friday lunches in the past month: Pat and Mike Temke, Natalie Jaeger, Cindy Labadic, Jamie Schoenberg, Chris Hasenberg, and Maggie Janowski and Judi Mueller.

If you’d like to prepare a dish or dessert for us to serve, we’ll provide the ingredients. You provide the “heart.”

**Post Office Food Drive** is Saturday, May 10th. We are partnering with All Saints in Oak Creek again this year. Watch for a sign up sheet for helpers to sort food or provide a van or truck to transport food back to First Lutheran. We especially need several guys with a van or truck to stay until 6:30-7pm to catch the last loads of food.

**Fundraising**

“Finding your joy”…Mark your calendars now for this relaxing spiritual retreat on Saturday, June 7, from 10am-3:00pm at The Landmark-Senior Living, 1441 S. 68 St (south of Greenfield Ave). Hear about “finding joy” in your own life and recognizing it in others. We have several fun speakers and musical entertainers (welcome to Ann Elizabeth and Matt Nagel), who have interesting stories to share.

Pre-registration is required because lunch is included:

Cost is $30 before May 23rd and includes a box lunch from Cousins Subs offering a choice of 7½ inch sub sandwiches. If you do not want to order lunch the cost is $25.

After May 23rd, the cost is $35. We have a limited number of ½ price scholarships available. Contact the church office at 414-476-4664 for information.

The registration fees, minus expenses for lunches, will be donated to the food pantry. All of our speakers are donating their time.

We’ll also have several “prizes” that we will be giving away as part of benefit drawings. If you are interested in being a presenter, would like to donate a prize, are able to help us set up or clean up or sell drawing tickets, contact Joy Dowd, Paula Yanzer or the church office.

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.”

— Rev Joyce
Nativity’s Spaghetti Dinner was a big success. Top right and below—Crew 999 did the cooking and serving.

The Easter Bunnies apparently made a visit as prizes!

Fun and good food was had by all!
**Nativity Lutheran Church**

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**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**
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<td>10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Chin Worship 9:30a-Parenting Network 6:30p-Council Mgt. 10:00a-Bible Study 9:00a-Quilting 1:00p-Library Sq. Worship &amp; Comm. 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>6:30p-Parenting Network 8:15a-Choir Practice 9:30a-Choir Practice 9:30a-Parenting Network 10:00a-Parenting Network 9:30a-Parenting Network 9:30a-Parenting Network 9:30a-Parenting Network</td>
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<td>Carson Baptist Church worships at First Lutheran at 12:00 p.m. every Sunday</td>
<td>8:00p-AA</td>
<td>9:00a-Quilting 9:30a-Choir Practice 9:00a-Quilting 10:00a-Quilting 8:00p-AA 8:00p-AA</td>
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Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!
**May Birthdays**

**First Lutheran:**
- 5/1 Judy Keene
- 5/1 Nicole Wenka
- 5/2 Garrett Labadie
- 5/3 Jaqueline Bayer
- 5/11 Caiden Sackett
- 5/12 Megan Plicka
- 5/12 Betty Schwenke
- 5/14 Jill Bayer
- 5/14 Lori Marquez
- 5/15 Amy Guthrie
- 5/19 Marilyn Mutzenbauer
- 5/19 Paul Olszewski
- 5/20 Kathy Darrow
- 5/20 Jan Salek-Anderson
- 5/22 Wayne DeHusson
- 5/22 William Hansen
- 5/22 Tracy Wallow
- 5/23 Patricia Hammerling
- 5/25 Robert Long
- 5/26 Jamie Schoberg
- 5/27 Robert Gardner
- 5/28 Jean Rudy
- 5/30 Lela Fox
- 5/30 Patricia Zuback
- 5/31 Jennette Sigler

**Nativity Lutheran:**
- 5/14 Shirley Cogan
- 5/20 Jack Schmanski
- 5/30 Donald Brauch
- 5/30 Nancy Jene

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**FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2014**

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<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>March</td>
<td>$16,904.86</td>
<td>$15,885.66</td>
<td>1,019.20</td>
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<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$43,899.33</td>
<td>$45,370.50</td>
<td>-1,471.17</td>
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**FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE**

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<th>2013</th>
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<td>March</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>-122</td>
<td>-14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>1,312</td>
<td>-128</td>
<td>-23%</td>
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<td>Number of Svcs.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-33%</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>-4</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Attendance includes 142 people at Wed. services. Last year’s attendance included 164 people at Wed., Holy Thurs. & Good Fri. services.

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**BIBLE QUIZ...**

Complete the following Bible verse: "A gentle answer turns away _____, but a harsh word stirs up _____."

A. an argument; obedience  
B. wrath; anger  
C. jealousy; resentment  
D. falsehood; truth

Answer: (See Proverbs 15:1, NIV.)

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**Anniversary Blessings**

**Nativity Lutheran:**
- 5/20 Gary & Cheryl Brautigam 47 yrs.
- 5/27 Terrance & Joyce Favre 36 yrs.

**First Lutheran:**
- 5/2 Michael & Greta Plicka 27 yrs.
- 5/4 Dale & Sharon Phillippo 51 yrs.
- 5/5 Daniel & Brittany LaSavage 2 yrs.
- 5/15 Bradley & Lela Fox 21 yrs.
- 5/21 Jason & Crystal Zehe 10 yrs.

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We are emptying the trophy case in the Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran. If you have an interest in any of the trophies, contact the church office.
First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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Worship With Us

Saturday
5:30 p.m. at
First Lutheran

Sunday
9:30 a.m.
at First Lutheran
11:00 a.m. at
Nativity Lutheran

Remember the women in your life on May 11th

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