Vacation Bible School
Tuesdays & Thursdays
June 6-22

See p. 3 for information
Dear sisters and brothers,

What does it mean to live into the resurrection of Jesus Christ? What does new life look like in a world where death still looms for all of us? Oftentimes, resurrection is assumed to be a far off dream – simply a future hope that one day we will experience this promised new life in Jesus Christ.

But what would it look like to live into this promise of new life in the here and now? What would salvation, faith, and love mean through the lens of present reality instead of just future hope? For salvation is something that we do not earn. Faith is something that we do not gain from deeper understanding. The love of God is not something we can lose.

At first glance, this might seem strange. As a society and culture we are at times conditioned to see the world in terms of possessions and ownership, we are taught that nothing is ever free – and these ideas can easily influence our theological beliefs and faith lives.

But our salvation, faith, and the love we receive from God have nothing to do with us. I must be honest, if my salvation, my faith, the amount of love I received from God depended on things I had or had not done I would fear for my eternal soul.

I would move throughout God’s wonderfully made creation doing acts of goodwill and love not because I was giving thanks to God, but instead out of fear of God’s punishment and damnation.

But this is not how things need to be – for the resurrection frees us. It frees us to serve God’s world out of love, not fear. It frees us to love our neighbors out of grace, not pity. It frees us to see ourselves as beloved children of God.

In the dying and rising of Jesus Christ, death has been destroyed, our salvation made secure, and the gift of faith given to us through the Holy Spirit. So what is there to fear? What is there to fear when in Christ we have been gifted love, forgiveness, and salvation.

These are not something we earn. They are not something we lose. For they wholly depend on Jesus Christ – and Jesus does not fail us. So, in this season of Easter we are encouraged and empowered to live into this resurrection promise: The promise that in Jesus Christ we have been given true freedom and it is with this freedom that we can move out into the world. Serving, loving, and forgiving as Christ has loved us. Not because we are afraid, but because we are filled with joy.

For in Jesus Christ salvation is yours.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

Editor’s Note: Pastor Bryant and Katie welcomed Hazel Grace to the world on April 30th. Congratulations!
This is an annual event which attracts kids from the neighborhood as well as from our congregation. They all come together to learn about Jesus. This interactive program teaches about the love of Jesus through song, Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks, and a service project to support the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. Dinner is served to all children at 5:30 p.m. each evening. VBS is always creative, interactive, and just plain fun! It’s a time for kids and adults to kick off the summer with a faith-forming adventure at First Lutheran.

Registration forms are available in the church office or on First Lutheran's website at www.firstlutheranelca.org/vbs-2017/

Our National Park Adventure Needs Your Help!
We are looking for teens, parents, and grandparents to help in our outdoor adventure. There are many ways that you can help. We are currently looking for:

- Registration
- Story leaders/assistants
- Craft leaders
- Kitchen
- Recreation
- Guides/Parent Helpers

To volunteer, sign up in the narthex at First Lutheran or call the church office.
**Feed My Sheep**

**OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER!**
Thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s First Lutheran Food Pantry Fundraiser a success. We raised **$3,424.60**! Thanks to All Saint’s Lutheran in Oak Creek for sharing food with us that they received as a result of an Oak Creek area food drive. We received 30 bins of food from them to fill our shelves.

God is good!

**Volunteer Opportunity**
The food pantry kitchen could use someone to wash dishes on Friday, even on a fill-in basis. Complete training is provided on how to operate the dishwashers. Requires standing and some heavy lifting. Hours are Fridays from about 9am to 1pm. We’d really appreciate your help!

**Expenses Don’t Take a Vacation**
Please consider your commitment when leaving on vacation and mail in your offerings. At First Lutheran you can sign up for Simply Giving. With Simply Giving, your donations will be withdrawn from your checking or savings account automatically. Pick up a form in the narthex or office. It’s easy to get started.

**The question of bread for myself is a material question,**
**but the question of bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question.**

Nikolai Berdyaev

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Be sure to bring your dad and family to church on Father’s day, June 18th. We’ll be having special prayers for dad’s and those who care for and mentor others. See you in church!
Rockin' the Block Party!

Be sure to join First Lutheran’s National Night Out block party on Tuesday, July 25th from 6-8 pm. "Room To Move" a local rock ‘n roll band, provides tunes from the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s to keep things hoppin’.

Other fun activities include a bounce house for kids, coloring table, face painting...

We’ll have some great benefit drawing baskets that you can win. Prizes include tickets to Irish fest, German Fest, Mexican Fiesta, State Fair, gift cards for Family Video and Pick N Save and many more!

Grilled brats and hot dogs and all the fixin’s are provided. Water and soda is available for purchase.

This is our biggest opportunity to meet our neighbors and we are hoping for a big crowd.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are accepting donations of bottled water and canned soda that we will sell at our block party to help cover expenses. Drop them off in the office anytime.

Benefit Drawing Baskets

If you know someone who has a business who might like to donate a benefit drawing basket or prize, or if you would like to sponsor a basket, let the office know or an Evangelism committee member and we’ll follow up. Proceeds of the ticket sales help us cover block party expenses.

A special "thank you" to our quilters who have blessed us with the donation of a beautiful hand-made quilt as one of the benefit drawing prizes. Awesome! Tickets available soon.

“For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14
On Saturday, May 13th, 15 volunteers from First Lutheran (right) helped members of from All Saints Lutheran in Oak Creek for several hours sorting food picked up all over the city by Post Office workers. It’s a long and tiring day, but we know how much the food donations are needed. A big THANK YOU to those who volunteered their time to this great cause!
TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The late D. James Kennedy, Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, wrote a book titled “The Real Meaning of the Zodiac” which our Bible class will use as our resource during the summer months. As usual we will have guest speakers on the third Tuesday of each month. On June 20 we’ll welcome Arnie Garber, our Orthodox Jewish friend. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time. We meet in the Fireside Room from 10–11am. Some of the class members go out for lunch afterward, and you are welcome to join us. John Bennehum is our Teacher. Come and join in the discussion!

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

MEETING ON SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Spring Sunday School, with the “Toy Box” theme, has come to a close. Thanks to Linda Grolke, Greta Plicka, Lori Marquez, Jamie Schoberg and Gloria Grassell for leading our children this year. Anyone interested in assisting with Sunday School in the fall should contact the Church Office.

IN MEMORY OF THE HAMMERLINGS

On Palm Sunday, April 9th, First Lutheran dedicated new altar candles, a Christ Candle and new furniture in the fireside room. These were all given in memory of the Hammerling family: Pastor Henry, Elaine, Patricia and Henry, Jr. They were given by Nancy Galow and Walter Hammerling through the Memorial Committee.

We have also re-named the Fellowship Hall “Hammerling Hall”. The sign below is above the stairway going downstairs by the front door.

Meet Marie Casto

In the early 1950’s, Marie and her family joined First Lutheran Church, then located on South 73rd Street. Subsequently, she and the family moved out of state, but returned to the neighborhood and First Lutheran in 1958. During her years at First Lutheran Marie served on the Church Council (one of the first women to do so) and was an active member of Altar Guild, sometimes arranging flowers from her own garden for use in the church. Marie worked as a hair stylist for many years, and enjoyed sewing and caring for her flowers. She currently resides at Maple Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Milwaukee.

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A big thank you to Don Brauch, (left) who saw the need, and then created Nativity's first 'little free library'. Don used bits and pieces and broomstick handles to create the log cabin. He is working on a second library that will look like Nativity itself. Stop by and "Take One Leave One"!

There is a new (Kimball grand) piano at Nativity, thanks to a donation from Marcus and Nicole DeBack. This piano was originally in the piano bar and lobby of the Best Western Hotel on Moorland Road. And to dedicate the new piano during our Sunday service social hour, Dennis Jon Wolfgang played for everyone at Nativity a welcome selection of jazz and show tune standards. L to R: Dennis Wolfgang, Nicole DeBack and Breven DeBack.

During Lent this year, Nativity offered "Brown Bag It Lent" (above and left) - those attending brought their lunch to eat during the worship service. Coffee and water were provided.
Nativity’s Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo
April 1, 2017

Thank You! Goes out to all that contributed their time, energy, bakery & prizes to make this amazing event happen...

Extra “Thanks!!” goes to James Ribnek, Crew 999 & Don Brauch for all their hard work in the kitchen – Lillian Ribnek for Ticket Sales – Beverly Neusen for Bake Sale & Sandy Larson for keeping control of the Drawing Tables & prize distribution...

Attendance: 58 Adults & 6 Children
Ticket Sale: $ 513.00
Bake Sale: $ 169.00
Drawings: $ 323.00
Wine Purse: $ 125.00
Free Will/Cash Donations: $ 66.56
Total Cash In: $ 1,196.56
Expenses: $ -196.21
Profit: $ 1,000.35

All profits are going towards helping to pay our church property insurance.

Report Submitted by the I.B.P. Committee
Jill R. Mickelson

GOOD SAMARITAN OUTREACH CENTER

Good Samaritan Outreach Center, 5924 W. Burnham, West Allis, is a food pantry providing food and clothing to those in need. Good Samaritan serves low-income families, the disabled, unemployed, W-2 enrollees, welfare recipients and those with special needs. 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 Gene Reynolds for installing one toilet and fixing another. There are some things we just can’t do without! Thanks!

A set of car keys were found in the side parking lot after the spaghetti dinner. If they’re yours, call the church office.

Nativity’s Spring 2017 Rummage & Plant Sale!

Thank You!!! Goes out to all of the people who generously gave of their time and/or possessions to make Nativity’s Rummage & Plant Sale possible. Without you, this event could not have ever taken place... Special “Thanks” goes out to Joan Brauch! Without Joan’s AMAZING green thumb, our plant sale would not be the success that it is!

I am happy to announce we had 541 people go through our doors for the two day sale & we made a grand total of $2,134.40. All profits from our sale go to help support our church and it’s missions.

Mark your Calendars - our “Fall Rummage Sale” is being scheduled for November and will be here before you know it!

So, let’s keep collecting!
Jill R. Mickelson

Thank you to Gene Reynolds for installing one toilet and fixing another. There are some things we just can’t do without! Thanks!
First Lutheran Budget to Date Received to Date Difference

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>$19,568.38</th>
<th>$15,731.67</th>
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<td>Benevolence</td>
<td>1,575.00</td>
<td>1,417.00</td>
<td>-158.00</td>
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*Note: Actual YTD income received no longer includes $5,000 that was transferred from savings.

We have been withdrawing money from savings to meet expenses this year. Please prayerfully consider your giving. Joy Dowd, Treasurer

WHAT IS E.L.L.F.?
(Exercise, Listening, Learning and Fellowship) It’s also known as Senior Exercise.
ELLF meets on Wednesdays at Nativity Lutheran at 11 a.m., but is open to everyone!
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. Following class there are always coffee and treats to enjoy. It’s never too late to start taking care of yourself!

Doing Faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you’re going, but going anyway.

A journey without maps. As theologian Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn’t the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

—Frederick Buechner

BIBLE QUIZ...
The “Trinitarian formula” occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” and who said these words?
A. Romans; Paul
B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
D. Matthew; Jesus

Answer: (See John Bennethum!)

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.

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.
**The Church Is The People**

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**First Lutheran**
- 6/3 John Hrovat
- 6/3 Wayne Wagner
- 6/8 Carrie Muffler
- 6/11 David Wegener
- 6/13 Laurel Grulke
- 6/14 Austin Cyrus
- 6/17 Warren Hirschinger
- 6/18 Carolyn Moncher
- 6/19 Dennis Schoberg
- 6/21 Damon Wegener
- 6/29 Audrey Wiefelspuetz
- 6/30 Mason Schoberg

**Nativity Lutheran**
- 6/5 Gary Brautigam
- 6/5 Michael Schiessl
- 6/6 Candace Robinson
- 6/11 William Metzen
- 6/13 Jacqueline Steffes
- 6/23 Jeanne Vermeulen
- 6/30 Ronald Reinert

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**June Anniversaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>Ronald &amp; Diane Berka (F)</td>
<td>51 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Marion Saur II (N)</td>
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<td>Arthur &amp; Schirley Gruetzner (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Joyce Gardner (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>Roger &amp; Elizabeth Gray (F)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>Kevin &amp; Lindsey Siskoy (F)</td>
<td>6 yrs.</td>
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<td>6/16</td>
<td>Kristin &amp; Brian Lewandowski (F)</td>
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<td>6/18</td>
<td>Nancy &amp; Ted Krizan (F)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>Jill &amp; Jeffrey Mickelson (N)</td>
<td>19 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/21</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Amy Guthrie (F)</td>
<td>9 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>Don &amp; Carolyn Moncher (F)</td>
<td>61 yrs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Ralph Bayer, Tom Hackl, Tom Lindstrom, Mary Kay Matthiesen, Lavone Reis, Nanette Steves, Carla Syut and Wayne Wagner

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:

From Nativity: Wally Buske, Don Brauch, Jim & Marvelyn Cockroft, Carol Garza, Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Louise Kohn, Lorraine Kuchma, James Larson, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Ken Rieder, Juan Sifuentes and Jeanne Vermeulen

From First: Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Elsie Boese, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Steve Clark, Terry Favre, Tom Hackl, John Isaacson, Earl Junck, Elle Konetzki, Alfred Korth, Myra Shields, Dennis Schoberg Sr., Chrystel Schumann, Joyce Staub, Lois Taylor 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

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**Please keep in your prayers the families of Brad Fox who died on April 29th, and Laverne Breed who died on May 19th. May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.**
First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI  53214

Mailed on 5-23-17
Address Service Requested

Faith & Fellowship

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)
Rev. Bryant Bakkum, Pastor
Dennis Jon Wolfgang, Director of Music
Office Hours:  Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis
(414)476-4664

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

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