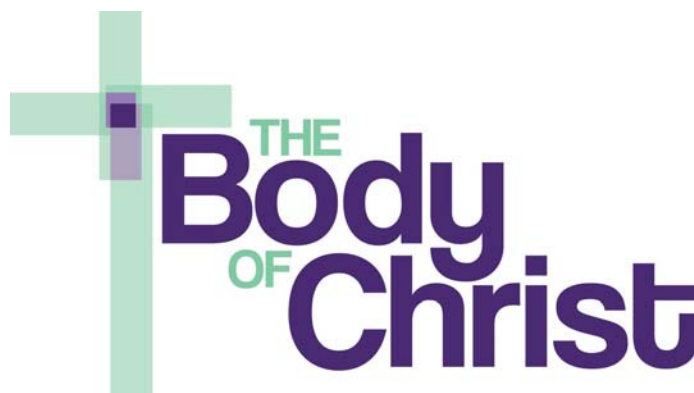


First and Nativity Lutheran Churches



News and Views

June-July, 2016



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "SON SURF BEACH BASH"

Tuesdays & Thursdays
June 7 - June 23, 2016
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Bring your children and grandchildren
for an evening of Bible stories,
crafts, music and games.

WHO: 4 years old (with pre-school experience)
through 5th Grade

COST: Free!

DINNER SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.
CLASSES 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Registration forms are available to download
on First Lutheran's website, or call the church office.
Hope to see you there!

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PRESIDENT: JAMES RIBNEK, III
VICE PRESIDENT: MAUREEN JONES
SECRETARY: NICOLE DeBACK
TREASURER: JILL MICKELSON

*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 GRULKE
VICE PRESIDENT: JAMIE SCHOBURG
SECRETARY: ODEMARIS (MARI) DIXON
TREASURER: WERNER BAYER

Christian Education: Jamie Schoberg
Evangelism: Joy Dowd
Finance: Werner Bayer
Memorial Fund: Marie LePage
Social Ministry: Earl Casto
Stewardship: Werner Bayer
Worship & Music: John Bennethum

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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

During an art class in grade school we once made clay pots. We each got a chunk of gooey clay and one by one we used a lathe to shape the formless blob into a small pot. Whether or not we were successful in transforming the fresh clay into what looked like a pot varied, but no matter what shape they were our teacher took our tiny masterpieces and placed them into a kiln. We were told our little clay pots would be put under extreme heat and become solid pots – and sure enough that's exactly what happened.

What's interesting about these clay pots is although they were hardened under temperatures that exceeded 1,000°F, they were still incredibly fragile. If you bumped them against something hard you would chip them, and if you dropped them onto a hard surface they would explode into a million pieces.

What seems so durable on the outside – refined by fire even! – is actually incredibly delicate and weak. In Paul's second letter to the people of Corinth he uses the example of a clay jar. Paul says that we are like a clay jar: Seemingly durable on the outside, yet incredibly delicate and frail and weak on the inside. These typically aren't words we want to associate ourselves with. If I told you I was weak and frail and fragile you'd probably wonder what was wrong with me. Humans, especially males, are supposed to be strong and tough and unbreakable. We're expected to do it all and have all the necessary skills to take on any challenge. But this is a fool's errand – we can never hope to be anything more than helpless sinners at the feet of God.

But that's where God steps in. We each have been given an amazing treasure. We each have been given the gift of grace and mercy and new life in Jesus Christ. This gift lives in us and empowers us. God steps in and says, "You can find rest in me. True power comes from me and through my Spirit you will be strengthened." For if we think we can do everything on our own we will find ourselves destitute and lost – for everything we have comes from God – we could never hope to be stronger than God.

It is truly in our weakness that God strengthens us. It is when we lack that God provides. It is when we ask that the door is opened for us. When we admit to ourselves and God that we are but clay jars – delicate, weak, and fragile – when we admit that we cannot do it on our own and are powerless to save ourselves – this is when God wraps his arms around us and gives us the greatest treasure we could ever hope for: New life in our risen savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

After the Memorial Day break we will begin our Summer schedule for our Bible class. The third Tuesday of each month we will have a Guest Speaker. On June 21 we will greet Rev. Richard and Lois Peterson who will tell us about their mission work in Mexico and their future plans. On July 19 Arnie Garber will return to discuss with us the Jewish faith. On August 16th our own Pastor Bryant Bakkum will visit. The other weeks we will be focusing on the 14 Books of the APOCRYPHA--the books not accepted in the original Canon of the Bible. They are books found BETWEEN the Old and New Testaments. Some Bibles include them; others do not. We will discuss why they were not considered as part of the original list and look at their content. All are welcome. Come and join us from 10-11 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Some of the members go out for lunch after class - you're welcome to come along! John Bennethum is our Teacher.

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.



Please keep in your prayers the families of Lynne Wickersheimer and Robert Fox who died this past April. May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.



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

Steve Clark, Mike Dowd, Tom Hackl, Debra Knitter, Dennis Schoberg Sr., Chrystel Schumann

For our homebound members & those with ongoing concerns:

From Nativity: Carol Garza, Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Louise Kohn, James Larson, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Jeanne Vermeulen,

From First: Gail Bartolera, Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Marlin Bradway, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Dorothy Daniels, LaVerne Guthrie, Pr. Henry Hammerling, John Isaacson, Earl Junck, Alfred Korth, Virginia Martin, Richard Reinhard, Betty Roeder, 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

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.



NATIVITY'S SPRING 2016 RUMMAGE & PLANT SALE!

Thank You!!! Goes out to all of the people who generously gave of their time &/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 561 people go through our doors for the two day sale & we made a grand total of \$1,896.25. All profits from our sale go to help support our church and its 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

TO DENNIS JON WOLFGANG & JAMES J. RIBNEK III:

Arigato, Gracias, **THANK YOU!**, Takk,
Merci Beaucoup, Danke Schon,
Dziekuje, Todah Rabah, Spasibo,
Obrigado, Eucharisto, Grazie, Danke,
Mahalo!

No matter how you say it, somehow it's still not enough to express how much we appreciate all the time and energy you put into planning the "Support Our Troops Benefit/Fisher House Fund-raiser", as well as all of the other concerts presented at Nativity.

At the May Rummage & Plant Sale, Sandie & Lillian kept the food coming in the kitchen (left), while Don & Maureen greeted shoppers (below).



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

We'd like to be sure that we stay in touch with our many homebound members on at least a quarterly basis and have worked out a process for tracking our visits. If you visit a homebound member, or if you would like to become a regular visitor or a telephone visitor, please notify the office. We'll provide all of the information you need and help you get started.

POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Post Office food drive. We especially thank All Saints Lutheran Church, Oak Creek, for allowing us to partner with them. We are so grateful for the 90 bins of food we received for our pantry. It really helps cover demand during the summer.



SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To Roundy's Foundation, who have again donated \$500 and 2,750 pounds of food to our pantry.



The Food Pantry will be closed on Friday, July 1st so our volunteers can spend the holiday weekend with their families.

If you could
only sense
how
important
you are to the
lives of those
you meet;
how
important
you can be
to the people
you may
never even
dream of.
There is
something
of yourself
that you leave
at every
meeting
with another
person.

—Fred Rogers

Food Pantry Ministry

Each week we provide 35 to 50 bags of food to area families, the homeless and seniors who need a little help to stretch their budget. Our weekly lunch provides food for about 100 visitors. We are so grateful for the 20 or so volunteers that come each and every Friday to work in the pantry and help others. Our VIP lunch preparers cook on Thursdays and prepare the meats, salads and casseroles that we serve the following day. They are sometimes in the kitchen for hours on Thursday cooking meat. They make our hot lunch service possible and are truly VIP's! We are so blessed!



WE NEED BAGS!

The food pantry is in need of plastic grocery bags the size of Pick N Save bags, and we also need gallon and quart sized Zip Lock style bags to repackage the large bags of lettuce and vegetables we receive. A few Sendik's bags would be OK, too. Thanks!



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our May 7th Pancake Supper a success. Special thanks to the cooks – Peggy, Glenn and Chris, friends of First Lutheran, and to the Schoberg family for sponsoring the “build your own Sundae Bar”. The food was terrific (as usual). We also thank our volunteers for a lot of hard work. Thanks also to Jones Dairy Farm, Ft. Atkinson, for the discount on the sausages. We took in over \$270.00 toward our Outreach Ministries.



Thanks to Debra and Kevin Kubek for planning the May bake sale. We raised \$416 toward the cost of a new kitchen floor. Thanks to our many bakers of yummy desserts and cookies!

FATHER'S DAY JUNE 19

Be sure to invite your “dad” or someone that was like a father to you to church on Father’s Day weekend. We’ll be honoring fathers and those special mentors that we’ve had in our lives, with special prayers during the service.



*You're
invited:*

Who: Members, kids, friends and neighbors
What: National Night Out Block Party
When: Tuesday, July 26 from 6-8pm
Where: First Lutheran Church front lawn

Join us for “brats and dogs”, music, bounce house, face painting, crafts and chances to win great prizes through our benefit drawings. To help us cover expenses, soda and bottled water will be available for purchase at very “family friendly” prices.

How can I help, you ask? We are accepting donations of bottled water and canned soda, any brands or flavors are welcome. We know that July is a way off, but we want to give you plenty of time to watch for sales and coupons. Write “Block Party” on the box and drop it off in the office or leave it in the narthex.

We need lots of volunteers to help set up, serve food and clean up. Donations of “heat friendly” dessert, such as cookies and bars are appreciated! Watch for the “volunteer and dessert donation” sign up sheets on the welcome desk or contact the church office. We also need use of a few coolers.

If you'd like to donate a door prize, make a sponsorship donation or know someone with a business that might be interested in sponsoring the bounce house or music, contact Joy Dowd or an Evangelism Committee member.

First Lutheran Happenings

Mike Plicka, Mike Temke, John Hrovat, Patt Temke, Joy Dowd & Pastor Bryant (right) picked up the 2,750 pounds of food and a check for \$500 from Roundy's Foundation. A certificate of appreciation was presented to GFS (below) for their generous contributions to our Food Pantry.



First Lutheran is accessible! Werner Bayer finished the sidewalk leading around the front step, and Dave Grulke's crew built the ramp leading to the front door. Dennis Schoberg, Jr. worked on the stonework for the new sign. Thanks to all!

Family Faith

Vacation Bible School, First Communion, Confirmation, and Sunday School - just some of the possibilities for the youth of our congregations to dig deeper in their faith lives.



Family and faith so often go hand-in-hand; as we experience God's love for us we find it overflowing in our families as well. If you're interested in one of these programs just let Pastor Bryant know and he will get you more information.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14





CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

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

June 7 - Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya

July 12 (2nd Tue.) - Hidden Power: The Presidential Marriages that Shaped Our Recent History by Kati Marton

August 2 - Little Mercies by Heather Gudenkau

Tuesday's Bridge Group - Meets to play every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Club Loomineers - A No-Needle Knitting Group
First Wednesday of every month

Write-On: A Weekly Writer's Group - Meets every Wednesday from 1-2pm. Any kind of writing you want.

Early Stage Support Group - Meets first Monday of each month from 2:30-4pm. For those in early stages of Alzheimer's disease or related dementia and their care partners.

Alzheimer's Assoc. Family/Caregiver Support
Meets third Wednesday of each month from 2-3pm.

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

*Be better to your neighbors....
and you will have better neighbors.*

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.

WEST ALLIS NEWS

West Allis A La Carte. Food! Games! Music! Inflatables! Artists! Join First Lutheran on Sun., June 5th, from 12-6pm in downtown West Allis. We'll have a booth with goodies for kids and sign-up for VBS. There will be many booths of organizations with valuable health and safety information in addition to all the fun! Hope to see you there.

Coffee With the Mayor is held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9 a.m. For the location of the next meeting go to www.westalliswi.gov.

Summer Band Concerts at West Allis Veterans' Memorial Park will be held on Thursday nights through July 28.



It's Fish Fry Season at Lutherdale!

Head to Lutherdale Bible Camp for a delicious fish fry on the last Friday of each month, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Dinners include baked or fried cod, potato pancakes, cole slaw, clam chowder, bread & butter, applesauce, beverage and fresh baked dessert. A specialty fish choice will also be available. Cost is \$14 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.



Watch Those Sales!

If you see sales on soda, bottled water or juice boxes, we're starting to collect for the block party on July 26th. Just keep it in mind..... Bring donations to the church office.

FREE GROCERIES FROM PICK 'N SAVE

Did you know that you can load a digital coupon for a free product directly to your Fresh Perks Card?

Here's how it works:

- 1 Every Friday, visit www.picknsave.com/coupons
- 2 Download the digital coupon for the free offer to your Fresh Perks Card between 12am-11:59pm.
- 3 Purchase your free item at any Pick 'n Save location within 2 weeks of downloading the offer and your coupon will automatically be applied at check-out when you use your Fresh Perks Card.

Receive your item for FREE!

Every Friday there's a new item. And the best part is - if it's not something you can use, you can donate it to the Food Pantry!

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

—Theodore Roosevelt



"Bold Women Love"

is the theme of this year's WELCA convention. It will be held on Sat., Oct. 15th in West Bend. Registration forms are available from Cheryl Isotalo or in the church office.



FOR THE LITTLE ONES...

First Lutheran has purchased a new baby changing station for the ladies restroom downstairs and discarded the old changing table. If you'd like to donate toward the cost of the changing station, please contact the church office.

BIBLE QUIZ...

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king

Answer: See 2 Samuel 12:13





**need pastoral care?
contact us!**

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. Privacy laws limit medical facilities from sharing your medical information so they do NOT contact the church when people are under their care. Even if you provide your religious affiliation and church or pastor name, they will not call. 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

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
7/12	Malakai Avendano
7/16	Doris Vokovitch
7/28	Michelle Jones
7/31	Beth Sadowski

First Lutheran

6/3	John Hrovat
6/3	Wayne Wagner
6/8	Carrie Muffler
6/11	David Wegener
6/13	Laurel Grulke
6/17	Warren Hirschinger
6/18	Carolyn Moncher
6/19	Dennis Schoberg, Jr.
6/23	Elizabeth Roeder
6/29	Audrey Wiefelspuetz
6/30	Mason Schoberg
7/1	Bradley Noack
7/2	Lindsey Siskoy
7/6	Jenny Schultz
7/9	Jackson Masch
7/11	Greta Plicka
7/16	Joyce Gardner
7/17	Gary Biorn
7/18	Matthew Grulke
7/18	Michael Weisnicht
7/19	Sierra Weisnicht
7/22	Ronald Berka
7/26	Michael Plicka
7/30	Christian Sackett



First Lutheran

6/4	Ronald & Diane Berka	50 yrs.
6/7	Robert & Joyce Gardner	58 yrs.
6/9	Roger & Elizabeth Gray	32 yrs.
6/9	David & Linda Grulke	43 yrs.
6/10	Kevin & Lindsey Siskoy	5 yrs.
6/16	Kristin & Brian Lewandowski	16 yrs.
6/18	Nancy & Theodore Krizan	67 yrs.
6/21	Chris & Amy Guthrie	8 yrs.
6/23	Donald & Carolyn Moncher	60 yrs.
6/29	Joy & Michael Dowd	42 yrs.
7/19	Dennis & Jamie Schoberg	10 yrs.

Nativity Lutheran

6/4	Robert & Marion Saur II	47 yrs.
6/6	Arthur & Shirley Gruetzner	63 yrs.
6/20	Jill & Jeffrey Mickelson	18 yrs.



Thank you to our amazing Sunday School teachers: Greta Plicka, Linda Grulke, Jamie Schoberg and Mari

Mitchell, for all of their hard work at First Lutheran this year. Our children's ministry is a vital part of our mission.

KITCHEN FLOOR

If you've stopped in the kitchen at First Lutheran lately, you will see that several of the floor tiles have come loose and broken up. We are in the process of investigating replacing the floor.

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

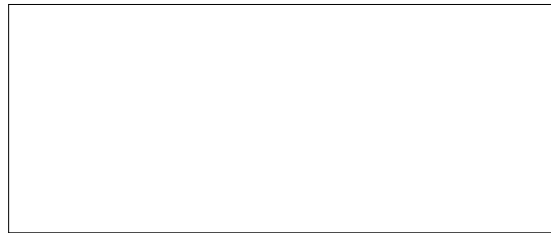
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Milwaukee, Wisconsin
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Please deliver by 5-31-16



**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
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



Block Party July 26th

Join us at First Lutheran
from 6-8 p.m. for music, food,
bounce house and more.

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