First and Nativity Lutheran Churches

News and Views

July-August, 2014

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)
Richard Peterson, Pastor
(414)324-8296
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

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis

Healing Services

First Lutheran
Sat., Aug. 2nd at 5:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug. 3rd at 9 a.m.

Nativity Lutheran
Sun., Aug. 3rd at 11 a.m.

Important Dates to Remember:

7/9  Operation Christmas Stocking at First
7/19-20  “Tribe” playing at all services
7/22  First Lutheran Block Party
8/2-3  Healing Services
8/24  Nativity Church Picnic

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Dear Friends in Christ;

Greeting in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

In the last few weeks we have had several deaths in our two congregations and several people have expressed to me how much they miss and are still mourning a loved one who has died. The Word of God reminds us that our hope in God goes beyond this life. In fact the life we now live is only the beginning of our life. Death is in reality the Gate of Eternal Life. Those who have no faith in our Lord Jesus must truly have great terror of death. But people of faith in the Lord have a hope that the world does not see and that is a sure anchor of our life. Hear these words from the book of Revelation that begin to tell us something of heaven.

“See the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
They will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
Pain will be no more,
For the first things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:3 &4

Have courage and faith! Our loved one and we ourselves are in the strong hand of our loving God.

Pastor Peterson

In Memory Of…..
Deborah Nicolet who died on May 31st.
Please remember her family in your prayers.
Worship Matters
by John Bennethum

Worship Matters this month was to have been written by Deborah Nicolet. As most of you know, Deborah lost her battle with Pulmonary Hypertension on May 31, 2014 at the age of 60. She is survived by her husband of 31 years, Kent, and her (wonder) dog, Molly Bear. Deborah LOVED being a Deacon and she will be missed. She was a woman of great Faith and we often had theological discussions about the weekly readings. She often rewrote our elca written prayers, personalizing them and making them much more unique. Special occasions had special prayers. Any festival, holiday or commemoration required her attention. She left "stick-up Memos" all over the church: turn off your cell phone, remember to sterilize your hands for communion, etc. She was astute in banking knowledge and was helping to train our counters on Mondays. She was FEISTY and fun to be with: her feistiness carried her to the end of her days on earth: the last 12 of which were spent in the ICU at SLMC. Rest in peace my Friend; FLC will not be the same without you! Deacon John

TUESDAY
BIBLE CLASS
During the summer we will continue our study of "Our Neighbor's Faith".
7/1 - Joe Radanovich (co-owner of Organ Business with Dennis Wolfgang) will present information on his Greek Orthodox Church.
7/8 - Shirley Cogan will address Jehovah Witnesses.
7/15 - Barb Reed, our Church Secretary, will share her recent visit to the Holy Land.
7/22 - Wisconsin Lutheran Beliefs will be explained
7/29 - The Baptist church will be presented by Betty Schwenke.
8/5 - Gus Barnes will talk to us about Domestic Abuse
8/12 - Sue Arnold will share her Missouri Synod beliefs.
8/19 - Tom Hackl, former FLC member and Stem Cell survivor will share his successful treatment at Froedtert Hospital.
8/26 - Pastor Peterson and John Bennethum will answer Questions about the ELCA.

NEW WORSHIP TIME!
Sunday morning worship at First Lutheran now begins at 9:00 a.m. Don’t be late!
Dear Families of First and Nativity Lutheran Churches,

I bring you peace, and thanks for your constant prayers on my seminary journey. I have successfully completed another year at Wartburg Seminary. This summer was to be my CPE—Clinical Pastoral Education in Portsmouth, Virginia. Sadly housing was an issue, so when one door closed God unleashes endless possibilities and options. Instead, I will do pre-text study on the Old Testament, learn the Hebrew alphabet and begin a 10 page essay for Internship placement for 1 year in the fall of 2015.

The placement committee consists of faculty and a committee member from the Greater Milwaukee Synod Canadicy. There is an interview process and they determine a suitable match for my internship. I am also looking for a CPE site that I can do for a year within traveling distance of Dubuque.

Lastly but not the least, I am studying for my driver’s license. I can drive but never needed it. Next year before internship, I will need to purchase a car. I will indeed have a busy summer, which will include Saturday evening worship services at First, and a few Sundays before the fall semester. Keep your eye out for the Tuesday discussions - I am scheduled to lead a discussion on the “Effects of Domestic Violence.” It’s a subject not often talked about in church circles. This “violence” comes in forms of verbal and physical, and it’s not limited to women and children, yes even to men. We are bound by misinterpretations of power when we use scripture. Why would a God we worship condone such behaviors?

Thank you for your constant prayers and support on this journey. I feel that we are “all” on this journey together!

“I’ll be seeing you all soon”

Love,
Seminarian Gus Barnes Jr.

Why not bring a friend to church with you this summer?

A New Piano!

We are please to have a new (used) piano in the choir loft at First Lutheran given by Kent Nicolet in memory of our beloved Deborah. The piano was purchased from Reformation Lutheran in Milwaukee. Reformation is closing the doors of their building, and will continue to meet in a new location.

The piano is a Baldwin Hamilton studio instrument. Baldwin has been in the business for 150 years and has become the piano of choice for the world’s hottest artists, including Aaron Copeland, Liberace, Dave Brubeck, Marian McPartland, Ben Folds, Lawrence Welk and Miley Cyrus.

Fans of Baldwin pianos, which Dennis Wolfgang is one, love the big “American” sound of the instruments, particularly in the bass area, and the clear “bell-like” quality in the high treble end.

We thank Kent for making this donation.

ELCA GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Dave Wegener, President of FLC, Shirley Cogan, John Bennethum and Pastor Peterson attended the GMSynod Assembly held at the Country Springs Resort on May 29-31st. Workshops were presented, Exhibits were available; Anniversaries were recognized, and 4 Resolutions were acted upon. Many items of routine concern were voted upon including approval of a budget. About 400 attended the 3 day event. Specific information is available to anyone interested. Talk with those of us who attended for details. Materials are also available for your inspection.

Deacon John.
Plenty to do this summer.....

Thrivent Day at Miller Park

Saturday, July 12, at 3:10 p.m.
Brewers v. Cardinals

$28 Terrace Reserved Seats
Purchase at thriventday.eventbrite.com

Includes access to the Thrivent Tailgate Party
starting at 1 p.m. - complete with food and
non-alcoholic beverages.

$10 of each ticket will be donated to
Habitat for Humanity

NATIVITY
CHURCH
PICNIC

Members of both churches are invited
to attend Nativity’s picnic on Sunday, Aug.
24th at 12:00 noon.
Meat and grilled corn
on the cob will be pro-
vided. Just bring a
dish to pass and enjoy
the fun!

Mysteries Revealed!
Learn to read music on Sunday Mornings this Summer starting July 13 at
8:25 a.m. for about 15 minutes. Dennis Wolfgang will be teaching in the
First Lutheran Choir loft. All are welcome! This will be a beginning course
covering the basics.

OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
STOCKING

Please join us on Wednesday, July
9th, to make hats and scarves,
and decorate Christmas stock-
ings. We will meet from 10 a.m.
until noon in the Fellowship Hall
at First Lutheran. Refreshments
will be provided!

Jackie Bayer
Greta Plicka

How About
A Fish Fry?

Lutherdale Bible Camp is again hosting 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 - in July it’s Catfish, and in August
the featured will be Salmon. Cost is $12
for Adults, $7 for Youth (12 & under). For
directions to the camp, contact the church
office.
FIRST LUTHERAN STEWARDSHIP "where your treasure is, there will our heart be also." (Matt. 6:21). What belongs to God? And, what belongs to job, family, friendships, government? Money is only part of the calculation. How do we balance competing commitments? Our church, First Lutheran, should be one of the commitments. When self, time, and possessions feel like commodities, our worship reminds us that these are gifts from God and signs of gracious love. Worship replenishes our sense of abundance. The Spirit of Jesus grants wisdom to us who gather in his name. With joy and thanksgiving we will continue to learn how best to give you spiritual inspiration and guidance.

Your ideas and feelings are an important contribution to our worship. During Lent, you were asked to provide some ideas by answering some questions. Thank you to all who participated! The following is a summary of your answers. A number in parenthesis indicates the number of people who had the same idea.

Thank you to all who participated! "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (Corinthians 4:1) .................. Lavone Reis - Stewardship Chairperson

The things that concern me most about our congregation are:

- Low attendance and income (4)
- An aging congregation and fewer volunteers
- Need to increase the attendance of young people and families (2)
- Safety and Security
- Hand shaking and holding hands especially during flu season

If our congregation would____, I know that I would invite friends

- Increase use of technology, more contemporary music
- Serve dessert on Saturday following service.
- Have a quilting bee
- Grow
- Have a "surprise" in the service which would get people talking

If with a stroke of my pen, I could change one thing, it would be....

- No passing the "peace", holding hands during flu season
- Have better attendance at programs and fundraisers
- Add some great contemporary music with words on screen
- Move Sunday time back to 9:00, Saturday at 5:00 (2)
- Have a vibrant outreach to youth and young families
- Increase attendance and more volunteers
- A full time pastor
- Include current topics in sermons

If our congregation did not continue to____ I'd lose interest.

- Care and support each other(2)
- Be so open, friendly and real (2)
- Have music and the choir
- Have programs and continue to help people

If it were up to me, the things I would change about our worship

- More upbeat music (get rid of funeral music)
- Include current topics in sermons
- Make services highly energized, inspiring
- Visitors thought service is too much like Catholic services
- Announce special events including flower contributors
- Change service times
- Education for infectious disease control and hygiene

What is Church to you?

- Gathering together as a "family" to worship God and pray
- Everything, I look forward to coming on Sunday and other days
- Place of worship, Christian fellowship, opportunities for social ministry
- Worshipping the Lord together
- A learning experience
- A place to worship in an ELCA selected institution

Other thoughts about First Lutheran:

- Why do we talk about the same Bible stories year after year?
First Lutheran’s National-Night-Out Block Party
July 22, 6-8pm.

Join us on Tuesday, July 22nd, for our annual National-Night-Out block party from 6-8 pm. We are “reaching out in our community” and sharing a little food (brats and hot dogs), fun, fellowship, Christian music and “the Word” with our neighbors.

Our block party is a great time for the whole family, so bring your kids and grandkids. The little ones will especially enjoy the bounce house, face painting and crafts. Music is provided by the Christian group Tribes, a local band who regularly plays at St Johns in Brookfield. We’ll have lots of prize drawings, along with cans of soda and bottles of water for sale. There will be a visit from the fire department and “McGruff” the Crime Stoppers dog.

Help wanted: Plenty of helpers and volunteers to set up, prepare and serve food, work with children on crafts and clean up. We also need donations of cookies or bars for dessert and packs of canned soda and water, which we will sell to cover expenses.

Special request: Need moms or dads to monitor the bounce house and make sure everyone stays safe.

Please consider helping. Add your name to the sign up sheet on the welcome desk in the narthex. Contact a member of the Evangelism Committee or the church office with any questions.

Special Event - Friday, Oct 24th “Dinner and a Show”, featuring a delicious dinner and performances of selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Phantom of the Opera.” Tickets available soon.

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Check out First Lutheran’s website at www.firstlutheranlca.org. You can find information on our activities, view an online version of the First and Nativity newsletter, in color (saves postage costs) and see upcoming events.

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Be sure to catch Tribes during services on July 19th and 20th. We’ll be accepting offerings to show our appreciation and cover costs.

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The First Lutheran food pantry continues to be as busy as ever. We thank our many generous donors, who provide the resources (funds and food) for us to sustain this ministry. We are open every Friday from 10-noon.

**How Does Your Garden Grow?** We’d be more than grateful for any fresh vegetables and fruits that you would like to donate. With all of this recent rain, we should have super-crops once the weather stays warm. Contact the office at (414) 476-4664 to arrange a time to bring them in.

**Thinking About Giving Back??**
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. You’ll be scheduled about every five weeks or you can work as a substitute on an “as needed” basis.

We are also looking for cooks who like to “cook big” and could commit to cooking and preparing food one or more Thursdays a month, 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, Mike and Greta Plicka, Natalie Jaeger, Cindy Labadie, Jamie Schoberg, Chris Hasenberg, Maggie Janowski and Judi Mueller. Special thanks to the Sons of the American Legion, Todd Post on 92nd and Beloit Rd and Darryl Wnuk, Steve Brady, Paulie and Dan for preparing over 100 lbs of donated pork ribs for our June 7 meal. The ribs were delicious!

If you’d like to prepare a dish or dessert for us to serve, we’ll provide the ingredients, including cake mixes, potatoes, beans, etc. You will just need to prepare it.

“**We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.**"

-- Mother Teresa
First Lutheran Sew and Sews News

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, Sept. 20th, from 10a - noon, we will hold our second annual Quilting Bee. More information to follow.

Musicians Needed!
Do you sing or play an instrument? Do your children? Grandchildren? We need musicians to add to the services this summer at both churches. Why not consider adding to the worship service during the offering or communion. For school children, this is a good opportunity to get experience playing in front of a group - a friendly group! Contact Dennis Wolfgang or the church office if you would be interested.

Electronic Giving Doesn’t Take Vacations
This summer, if you can’t make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. First Lutheran relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Pick up an authorization form in the narthex. If you have questions, contact Werner Bayer or Joy Dowd. We thank you for your continued support!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS
Nativity and First Lutheran congregations, it’s that time of year again. Nativity has some beautiful school bags to fill. Help needy students around the world by donating school supplies! Drop off supplies in the LWR SCHOOL KIT containers at each church. Each kit contains the following:

- (4) 70 count Notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 x 11) No Loose Leaf
- (1) 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with both inches and centimeters
- (1) blunt tip scissors
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (5) new pencils with erasers
- (5) ballpoint pens, black or blue
- (1) eraser, approx. 2 1/2”
- (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons

Thanks for your help!

IT’S CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for our December Christmas stocking distribution. This year we are asking for items that we can give the women that come to the food pantry. The items must be small enough to fit in our stockings. Ideas for women include: lotions, shampoo, razors, deodorant, soap, tissue, hair clips, small combs & brushes, nail care products, chap stick, sample perfumes, slippers, socks, gloves, hats, small note cards and a wallet or coin purse. We are also accepting monetary donations. For the men who come to our pantry, we are collecting men’s socks. Items can be dropped off in the narthex from July 1 - 31st. Operation Christmas Stocking relies solely on donations to thrive.

Food Pantry Poets at Work
The Son of God came down to earth
He lived a perfect life, and taught re-birth
Despite his love, he was put to death
All of his friends wait with baited breath.

It was three days he laid in his grave
But then he rose our souls to save
At his new life, his friends rejoiced!
Being more attentive to his gentle voice.

He stayed and taught for forty days
At his love and wisdom all were amazed
But then he rose up in the clouds
He will return. Let’s make him proud!

Written by Greg Moehr and Sean Duffy
Open to all West Allis Area Seniors.
Call 302-8715 to make a reservation - First Come, First Served! Cost is $3 per round trip. You will be picked up at your home.

Fri., July 11 - Shopping at Walmart, Steins, Hancock Fabric. Lunch at Genesis.
Wed., July 23 - Trip to the Zoo, Zoo Mobile Ride, Lunch at the zoo.
Mon., July 28 - Shopping on Miller Parkway: Target, Cermac. Lunch at Mad Rooster.

August schedule not available at time of printing.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.............

West Allis
Police Reserves
39th Annual
Chicken Dinner

The West Allis Police Reserves are holding their 41st Annual Chicken Dinner in conjunction with National Night Out on Monday, July 21st, at the West Allis Farmers Market. Support our local reserves by purchasing a dinner. Drive-through available on 65th & National beginning at 4:00 p.m. Seated dinners served from 5 p.m. until sold out.

Dinner consists of 1/2 spit-roasted chicken, potato salad, baked beans, pickle, roll and butter for $8.50.

VBS 2014

John Bennethum (left) greeted children and parents as they arrived for Vacation Bible School. Over thirty children enjoyed dinner, crafts, music, games and Bible stories. Greta Plicka (right) demonstrated a story to a class.
This ‘n That Around Here

July
Birthdays

First Lutheran
7/1 Bradley Noack
7/1 Angela Waranka
7/2 Lindsey Siskoy
7/6 Jenny Schultz
7/8 Gregorio Calderon
7/9 Billy Davila
7/9 Jackson Masch
7/11 Greta Plicka
7/14 Jordan Davila
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
8/1 Maya Naoak
8/2 Lily Weisnicht
8/4 Ariane Fisher
8/10 Kristin Lewandowski
8/11 Parker Zehe
8/18 Debra Knitter
8/19 Daniel Behrens
8/19 Anne Felton
8/20 Brittany LaSavage
8/20 Janelyn Stasiak
8/23 Ralph Bayer
8/25 Alana Certion
8/25 Mark Eisenreich
8/25 Chris Guthrie
8/25 Earl Junck
8/27 Samantha Matherly
8/28 Justin Grohall
8/31 Denise Ryan

Nativity Lutheran
7/8 Kristi Czaplewski
7/16 Doris Vokovitch
7/28 Michelle Jones
7/31 Beth Sadowski
8/1 Dennis Klotz
8/2 Darryl Domagalski
8/6 Jaylin Robinson
8/12 Mary Simmers
8/18 Sandra Larson
8/21 Shirley Gruetzner
8/25 Guyon Metzen
8/27 Cody Carrasco

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2014

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>$75,299.87</td>
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FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE

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<td>378</td>
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Attendance includes 2 Wednesday services, Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

BIBLE QUIZ...
What was the first plague God brought upon the Egyptians when Pharaoh refused to let the Hebrews leave his land?

A. Water turned to blood
B. Dense darkness for three days
C. Death of all Egyptian firstborn males
D. Swarms of gnats

Answer: (See Exodus 7:20-21)

Nativity Lutheran
8/9 Gene & Dawn Reynolds 39 yrs.

First Lutheran
7/20 Brandon & Jessica Martin 2 yrs.

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