First and Nativity Lutheran Churches
News and Views

July-August, 2015

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)
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
(414)476-4664

Camp with Christ at First Lutheran's
Vacation Bible School on Saturday,
August 1st, from 9am-4pm.
Tents! Games! Campfire! Songs!
A day-long adventure!
We welcome children who are 4 years old
(with pre-school experience) through
5th Grade. Registration forms are
available from the church office.
There are many opportunities for
adults or older youth to help.
Call the office for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE......
P. 2  Bishops Message/Church Info.
P. 3  Worship & Study Opportunities
P. 4  Musical Notes/Prayers
P. 5  Social Ministry at First
P. 6  Evangelism/Block Party
P. 7  Local Opportunities
P. 8  Nativity News & Outreach
P. 9  Nativity Lutheran Calendar
p. 10  First Lutheran Calendar
P. 11  This ‘n That Around Here

Important Dates to Remember:
7/12,19,26  Lemonade on the Lawn at Nativity
7/28  First Lutheran Block Party
8/1  Vacation Bible School at First
9/13  Sunday School begins at First Lutheran
An excerpt from ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s message from the April, 2015 issue of The Lutheran magazine:

But why do we want people to join our church? What does church mean to us? When I have asked that question, people often spoke about church as community or family. People talked about the good and important work their congregations carried out to feed the hungry or shelter the homeless. Some said the best thing about their congregations wasn’t programs but people.

It was rare that anyone mentioned God or spoke about an encounter with the transcendent. I don’t believe our people lack faith or don’t know Jesus, but I wonder if we have lost the language to speak about the love of God that has been given to us in the crucified and risen Christ. Maybe we just assume Jesus. Maybe Jesus has become like wallpaper: we know it’s there and everyone can see it, but we don’t have to talk about it.

The best thing about the church, the thing that is uniquely the church, is not programs or people but Jesus. If we as a people, and as congregations, don’t get that right it doesn’t matter how many programs we come up with.

In Christ through the Spirit, God has invited us into a deeply intimate and loving relationship with God and with each other. Being church is abiding in that love. We are God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacraments. That’s what gives us life. That’s what shapes us. That’s what sends us out into the world to do justice and to love kindness (Micah 6:8). And this must be the kind of community to which we invite others - not because we want to grow or pay for the boiler or attract young people, but because we have received this incredible life-changing gift and want everyone to be touched and claimed and transformed by it too.
Hello, I’m so happy summer is finally here! (I missed you, sunshine). In this “Worship Matters” I would like to explore the topic of angels. I love angels and the Bible is filled with stories of them. Angels aren’t just exclusive to Christians, but are believed and valued by religions all over the world. Angels are more than just God’s messengers; they hold many other responsibilities as well. Although they serve only God, they can offer us help when asked. Most of the time God just sends his angel to you. Like the time you were lost in a big city and it was getting dark as you stood hopelessly trying to remember which street your hotel was on, until a stranger with a smile notices your struggle and offers help with the correct direction. Relieved, you turn around, almost forgetting to thank her, but she is gone...nowhere to be seen. Angels come in all shapes, sizes and disguises. The Bible has many names for these spiritual beings, but the angel Michael is the only one to be called an archangel. He is described as “one of the chief princes”, so it is possible that there are other archangels, but we cannot be sure. The word archangel comes from the Greek word archangelos, meaning a chief angel. It refers to “an angel ranked highest or in charge of other angels”. A curious thing about angels; like us, they have free will (Isaiah 14:12-13 & Jude 1:6). God created them that way. Not as robots forced to do his will, but as individuals with a choice. Angels ministered to Jesus, angels express emotion, angels are too numerous to count and angels were so joyful upon your creation; after all, they rejoice in all of God’s works of creation (Job 38:1-7 & Rev. 4:11), and aren’t you, too, one of God’s beautiful creations?

**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.

"Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.” —Corrie ten Boom
MUSICAL NOTES by Dennis Wolfgang

LITURGY
Liturgy means the form that our public worship takes, such as communion, morning prayer, service of the word, evening prayer and so on. The word "liturgy" originally meant a "public work" or a "service in the name of/on behalf of the people." In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in "the work of God." (John 17:4) According to the constitutions of both First and Nativity Lutheran Churches there is to be a functioning Worship (Liturgy) Planning Committee, and because of our common worship staff we have a combined committee chaired by John Bennethum. A meeting of the Worship (Liturgy) Planning committee was held on June 20th attended by: John Bennethum, Linda Kaehler, Shirley Cogan, Carla Ullerich, Adriana Reis and Dennis Wolfgang.

The committee desires to be involved in the planning of Sunday and Special Worship services as opposed to one person making all decisions. Some decisions made at the meeting were:

- Service of healing on July 18th and 19th if agreeable to Pastor Lund
- Begin the use of setting I on August 1st and to continue with setting VIII till then
- Use the Kyrie when possible
- Have special prayers for the Nation and Government on July 5th, Shirley Cogan will write them

A SPECIAL MESSAGE
FOR SUMMER TRAVELERS:
Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? First Lutheran offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church’s account. If you have plans to travel this summer, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply complete and return an electronic giving authorization form to get started. Forms are available in the church office or on the welcome desk in the narthex. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

PRAYERS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Gail Bartoliera, Dale Bennethum, Cain Finger, Mark Gruetzner, Tom Hackl, Cheryl Hetzel, John Horst, Don Leppien, Samantha Matherly, Jill Mickelson, Allan Munkwitz, Joe Radanovich, Lillian Ribnek, Kathleen Santos, Kristin Schneider, Debra Simerl, Michael Vickio and David Wegener.

From Nativity: Helen, Pauline, Ruby, Dorothea, Marion, James, Harriet, Helen and Jeanne.

From First: Marlin, Beverly, Marie, LaVerne, Dorothy, Henry, Bea, John, Earl, Paula, Alfred, Virginia, Marilyn, Betty, Myra, Joyce, Erna, Lois, Barbara and Pat

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Worship and Prayer
SHARE YOUR BOUNTY

How Does Your Garden Grow? – The Food Pantry visitors would be grateful for any fresh vegetables and fruits from your garden that you would like to donate. With all of this recent rain, we should have super-crops! Contact the office at 476-4664 to arrange a time to bring them in.

SPECIAL THANKS.
Special thanks to the Sons of the American Legion, Todd Post on 92nd and Beloit Rd. (Steve B, Pauly, Steve, Wojo and Darryl) for preparing over 100 lbs of donated pork ribs for our June 5th food pantry meal. We’d also like thank Mike Plicka for delivering the food. The ribs were delicious!

GFS MARKETPLACE

FUN FUNDS PROGRAM
Each time you shop at GFS on Miller Park Way (South of Greenfield) we receive a percentage of your purchase when you mention that you participate in the Fun Funds program for First Lutheran Church. Enroll in the program at the check out counter.

God’s Blessings

We are so grateful for the resources we receive and the volunteers who help at the pantry. Each time that there is a need and we pray for help, our prayers are answered. Every time it happens I say to myself “we must be doing what God wants us to do.” Right now, we are praying for a person to wash dishes during the meal each Friday. We could also use a few helpers to prepare food on Thursdays between 10:30am and noon and more substitute helpers to check visitors in and hand out bags. Blessings, Joy

Some items that the food pantry can always use are zip lock bags – gallon, quart and sandwich size.

“We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”
-- Mother Teresa

After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio that people pause to give thanks for the achievement in their own way. When his broadcast ended, Aldrin read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion, which his church had sent to space with him.

“It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements,” the astronaut said. “At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God.”
First Lutheran
National Night Out Block Party
Tuesday, July 28, 6-8 pm

Block Party

Join us for the fun on Tuesday, July 28th from 6-8 pm as we “reach out in our community” and share food, fun, fellowship and Christian music with our neighbors. Be sure to bring your kids and grandkids and their friends. The younger kids will especially enjoy the bounce house, face painting and crafts. Music is provided by guitarist Ben Janzow. Ben entertained us last year and played some “foot stompin” music that kept us clapping along. We’ll also have lots of prize drawings, along with sales of soda, juice boxes and bottles of water at “family friendly” prices. There will be visits from the fire department, “McGruff” the Crime Stoppers dog and a canine unit from the Sheriff’s department.

Help wanted:
We need 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 juice boxes, which we 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.

Win Festa Tickets!!!

We’ve received two-pairs of Festa Italiana tickets for the benefit drawing at the block party. Festa occurs July 17-19, which is before the block party. Watch for a benefit drawing for the tickets before and after services, and at the food pantry.

On the Lighter Side

Stay In Shape and Get Some Exercise
Help distribute Vacation Bible School flyers to our neighborhood on Saturday, July 18th. Meet at church at 9am and walk for an hour or so. You will be partnered with a “buddy” and assigned an area. This is a great family activity and great way to help the church and yourself stay “in shape”.

Ala Carte!
Thanks to Mari Dixon and family and Natalie Jaeger for manning our booth at the West Allis Ala Carte celebration. They met lots of children, played fun games and provided information about our August 1 Vacation Bible School.

Catch Us on the Web...
Check out our website at www.firstlutheranelca.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.
Clement Manor
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12pm
July 7 - House Rules by Jodi Picoult
Aug. 4 - Sycamore Row by John Grisham
Sept. 1 - Broken Harbor by Tana French

Club Loomineers - A No-Needle Knitting Group
1st Wed. of month. 12pm. No charge.

Bridge Group - Every Tues. - 9-11 am
Movie Matinee - Tues., July 14, 12:30pm - “Maleficent”.
Call to register.

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

Food That’s In
When School is Out
School District of
West Allis/West Milwaukee

All children 18 yrs. of age and younger are eligible to receive FREE meals Monday - Friday, through August 7th. Breakfast and lunch will be served at many of the schools throughout the district. Call 604-4937 for more details.

It’s Fish Fry Season at Lutherdale!

Head to Lutherdale Bible Camp for a delicious fish fry on Friday, July 31 and August 28 from 4:30-7pm. Dinners include baked or fried cod, choice of potato, cole slaw, bread & butter, applesauce, beverage and dessert. A specialty fish choice will also be available. Cost is $12 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.

Lutherdale Bible Camp is located at N7891 Hwy. 12, Elkhorn.

West Allis Senior Center
7001 W. National

The West Allis Senior Center has many helpful programs available.

Stockbox - A box of healthy food once/month provided by the Hunger Task Force.

AARP Tax Assistance Program
Senior Nutrition Programs
SeniorLAW - a Program of Legal Action of Wisconsin.

There are also many activities taking place at the center such as trips, classes and support groups. Contact the center for more information at (414)302-8700.

West Allis Health Department
Immunization Clinic
7120 W. National Ave.

Immunization Clinic Hours
Walk-In: Wed. 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Appointments:
2nd Monday each month, 3:30-6pm
4th Tuesday each month, 3:30-6pm

Call 302-8600 for more information.
Volunteers of all ages are welcomed at Nativity. At the sales and dinners, there is always set-up, clean-up, serving and pricing. We have grounds to maintain, a building to care for, and especially, worship to prepare for. If you’re looking for ways to fit in, talk to a council member for opportunities. If you’re already a volunteer, THANK YOU!

GOOD SAMARITAN OUTREACH CENTER

As part of our support of the Good Samaritan Outreach Center, Nativity will be collecting the following items during the summer months. Place your donations in the box in the narthex.

**July:** toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, shampoo, hand soap and deodorant

**August:** canned fruit, soup, beef stew, spaghetti-o’s, tuna and noodles.
The Center can always use unrefrigerated milk (found in cartons at Dollar Tree stores).

Good Samaritan serves low-income families, the disabled, unemployed, W-2 enrollees, welfare recipients and those with special needs.

Enjoy lemonade and treats at Nativity following the worship services on July 12, 19 and 26. Take this opportunity for fellowship with each other, and with our visitors and neighbors.
August calendars will be available at church in mid-July.

### Don't take a vacation from church!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 12:09p-S.A. 12-step</td>
<td>30 9:45 a.m. Quilting</td>
<td>29 Al-Anon, 7:00p-S.A. 12-step</td>
<td>28 9:00a-Bible Study</td>
<td>27 10:00a-Worship &amp; Communion</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18 12:00p-Council Mtg.</td>
<td>17 9:15 a.m. E.L.L.F.</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6 Church Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Church Office Closed</td>
<td>3 July 4th Holiday</td>
<td></td>
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### July 2015

- **Nativity Lutheran Church**
- **Worship and communion at First Lutheran are held on the lawn on the 4th and 3rd Sundays of the month.**
- **Healing Svcs.:**
  - 19:15 p.m.
  - 6:30 p.m.

*Don't take a vacation from church!*
## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
### July 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carson Baptist Church worships at First Lutheran at 12:00 p.m. every Sunday. Worship &amp; communion at Nativity Lutheran are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>1 9:00a-Quilting 2:30p-Women's Bible Study 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 July 4th Holiday Church Office Closed</td>
<td>4 No Worship Svc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 9:00a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.</td>
<td>No Bible Study Church Office Closed</td>
<td>8 9:00a-Quilting 2:30p-Women's Bible Study 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 10:00a-Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 Church Office Closed</td>
<td></td>
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<td>11 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 9:00a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study</td>
<td>15 9:00a-Quilting 2:30p-Women's Bible Study 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 10:00a-Food Pantry</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18 Healing Svc. 9:00a-VBS Flyer Distribution 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com</td>
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<td>18 10:00a-Food Pantry</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Healing Svc. 9:00a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study Guest Speaker</td>
<td>22 9:00a-Quilting 2:30p-Women's Bible Study 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 10:00a-Food Pantry</td>
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<td>25 3:45p-Deacon Rehearsal 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25 3:45p-Deacon Rehearsal 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Healing Svc. 9:00a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study 6-8pm-Nat'l.Night Out Block Party</td>
<td>29 9:00a-Quilting 2:30p-Women's Bible Study 8:00p-AA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 10:00a-Food Pantry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32 Healing Svc. 9:00a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. 10:00a-Coffee And.. 12:00p-Chin Wrshp.</td>
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**Don't take a vacation from church!**

August calendars will be available at church in mid-July.
**FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>$14,165.76</td>
<td>$8,915.14</td>
<td>$5,250.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$62,414.48</td>
<td>$55,923.02</td>
<td>$6,491.46</td>
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Note: Expenses include a $7,261.50 down payment for chair lift.

**FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
<th>% +/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>-27</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>1,493</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>-532</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Svcs.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date Svcs.</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nativity Lutheran**

- 7/3 Jim & Marvelyn Cockroft 58 yrs.
- 8/9 Gene & Dawn Reynolds 40 yrs.

**First Lutheran**

- 7/19 Dennis & Jamie Schoberg 9 yrs.
- 8/16 John & Odemaris Dixon 9 yrs.

**BIBLE QUIZ…**

Which two spies urged the Israelites to move into Canaan, opposing the other 10 who were afraid? (Hint: We know one of the two willing spies by the new name Moses gave him.)

A. Shaphat and Igal  
B. Hoshea and Caleb  
C. Gaddi and Gaddiel  
D. Shammua and Nahbi

Answer: (See Numbers 13:6, 8, 16, 30; 14:6-8.)

**July & August Birthdays**

**First Lutheran**

- 7/1 Bradley Noack
- 7/6 Jenny Schultz
- 7/9 Jackson Masch
- 7/11 Greta Plicka
- 7/16 Joyce Gardener
- 7/17 Gary Biorn
- 7/18 Matthew Grulke
- 7/22 Ronald Berka
- 7/26 Michael Plicka
- 7/30 Christian Sackett
- 8/1 Maya Noack
- 8/2 Stephanie Andrade
- 8/10 Kristin Lewandowski
- 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 Mark Eisenreich
- 8/25 Chris Guthrie
- 8/25 Earl Junck
- 8/27 Samantha Matherly
- 8/31 Denise Ryan

**Nativity Lutheran**

- 7/24 Cheryl Hetzel
- 7/28 Michelle Jones
- 7/30 Marvelyn Cockroft
- 8/1 Dennis Klotz
- 8/12 Mary Simmers
- 8/15 Arne Sandberg, Jr.
- 8/18 Sandie Larson
- 8/21 Shirley Gruetzner
- 8/21 Kyle Wilcox
- 8/24 James Cockroft
- 8/25 Guyon Metzen

**Special Thanks…** to everyone for their cards and prayers following Joe’s death. The donations to the Elmbrook and Wisconsin Humane Societies are greatly appreciated as they were very dear to Joe’s heart.

……..Shirley Armato
Worship With Us

Saturday
5:30 p.m. at
First Lutheran

Sunday
9:00 a.m.
at First Lutheran

11:00 a.m. at
Nativity Lutheran

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