July 25th
6-8 p.m.
Block Party
at First Lutheran

August 26
10 a.m. - Noon
Pet Blessing
at Nativity Lutheran

August 26-27
Outdoor Worship
First and Nativity

August 27
Noon
Church Picnic
Nativity Lutheran
Dear sisters and brothers,

I give thanks to our God for the service you do as we endeavor to proclaim the Gospel message to our communities and the world. This work is not easy. It’s messy. Complicated. Full of potholes that would rather see us face down on the ground. Jesus says this about our call to ministry in the world:

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” – Matthew 10:16-20 (NIV)

We persevere in our calling as disciples of Christ because the world is in need of hope. The world is in need of love. The world is in need of your presence.

As we strive for justice and freedom in the world we will come up against differences of opinion. We will be labeled as conservative or liberal. We will be considered weak or strong. We will be considered less than in faith and belief. This is but the world pushing back against the Gospel message.

For to love the unlovable is to showcase the grace of God.
To stand up for the oppressed is to proclaim the mercy of Jesus.
To be a voice for the voiceless is to be clothed in the Holy Spirit.

To do these things we must be courageous. We must be prepared for failure. And we must be prepared to be surprised. For we never know where the presence of God will show up. We never know what paths the Spirit will lead us down.

We are on this journey together. A journey that brings together people from across the globe. For we are all one people. One people in the body of Christ. One people in the creating and life-giving presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And for that we can give thanks.

Peace,
Pastor Bryant

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People of First and Nativity,

Katie and I are incredibly thankful for the gifts, kind words, and prayers you have so graciously given to our family. The overwhelming support shown to our baby girl has helped ease the transition into parenthood. As I write this Hazel is just shy of two months old and is letting us sleep for large chunks of the night and is starting to smile occasionally. As a family we are blessed to be surrounded by your love and generosity. Thank you!

Pastor Bryant, Katie, and Hazel
Vacation Bible School had an outdoor camping theme this year, with lessons, crafts, songs and Bible stories about how Jesus loves us and will provide everything we need.

Linda Muth, a Greater Milwaukee Synod representative to El Salvador, spoke with the children about life there. As a service project, the students collected toothbrushes to send to the Synod’s sister synod in El Salvador. Many children there have to share their toothbrushes with other family members. The children learned to use sign language with the song “The B-I-B-L-E”.

Thanks to Jaime Schoberg, Pastor Bryant, Shirley Cogan, Mari Dixon, Joy Dowd, Joyce Favre, Linda Grulke, Delores Hurst, Heidi Leiser and Lori Marquez, for helping make this VBS a success.

Join us on the weekend of August 26-27 for an outdoor worship service! We will gather on church grounds for a worship service in the heart of God’s creation. All are welcome to a service that will be unique and fun! Chairs will be set up, but you’re welcome to bring a lawn chair or blanket if you prefer.
Nativity’s SECOND little free library

A SECOND big thank you to Don Brauch, for Nativity’s second little free library. This photo unfortunately, doesn’t do justice to the matching cupolas on the library and church, or to the stained glass windows, but you can stop by and see them for yourself and then “Enjoy A Book”!

BRT UPDATE
(BUS RAPID TRANSIT)

In case you hadn’t heard, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is in the planning stages, although neither the final route nor the federal financing is in place yet. Current BRT plans for Bluemound Road in front of the church include reducing the number of lanes from 4 to 2, or eliminating parking. This puts a hardship on all of you, the members of Nativity, to get to the church, and to park at the church, let alone to cross the streets to the church. So the Nativity Church Council is in the process of drafting a letter that will be sent to the mayor of Wauwatosa, and the aldermen and women of Wauwatosa and the surrounding area, that will emphasize the hardship that this will place on yourselves and the church and our quality of life. You can read more about the plan at this address http://www.eastwestbrt.com/ And if the spirit moves you, please let your elected officials know how you feel.

Nativity Lutheran Church
FEBRUARY 1978 – THE TANG FAMILY

In February 1978, the people of Nativity Lutheran Church welcomed the Tang family to the United States. Nativity had sponsored this Vietnamese family of 8 to enable them to leave the Thai refugee camp where they had been living since the end of the Vietnamese War in 1975, and come to the US. The father, Xuong Tang, had owned a small fleet of fishing boats in Vietnam. Although that couldn’t be replaced, Nativity was able to employ Mr. Tang as a janitor at the church. The Tang family grew and prospered here in Wisconsin and spread out into California, Arizona, and Australia, with 7 children and 15 grandchildren.

One of the daughters, Du H. Brown, joined the military, becoming a commissioned officer in the Army. In thanks for that helping hand, she sent Nativity an American flag which had been flown on Phoenix Base, International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq in February 2009. This flag is proudly displayed in the narthex of the church.

“I truly appreciate everything you did for us. I hope you accept this flag as a token of my appreciation on behalf of my father and my family, for all you have done and for your kindness.” .....Captain Du H. Brown, CM, USA
GOING TO SUMMERFEST?
Don’t miss one of Nativitys’ own!

Summerfest on your mind? Don’t miss the repeat performance of Nativitys’ own Breven DeBack and the band Path. They are appearing multiple times at the Tiki Hut on 6/30. For more information about Path, go to http://www.thebandpath.com/ or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Path-Rock-Band-1623908707883803/

Nativity Lutheran’s Annual Blessing of the Pets
Saturday, August 26th, 10:00 a.m.

The unconditional love we give and receive from our pets can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life with our Creator. Please bring your pets and come join us for a special blessing. Let us celebrate the bond of creation together.

For the safety of your pets, we ask that they all be leashed, in a carrier or cage. Snack and beverages suitable for all will be provided. A certificate will be provided at the end of the ceremony. If you are not able to bring your pet, you can bring a photograph.

SPRING RUMMAGE 2017
BIG THANK YOUs to everyone who helped make this sale a success!
You’re invited:

Who: Members, kids, friends and neighbors
What: National Night Out Block Party
When: Tuesday, July 25 from 6-8pm
Where: First Lutheran Church front lawn

This year’s annual National Night Out Block Party on Tuesday, July 25 from 6-8pm will be an awesome event! Bring your lawn chair and enjoy your favorite rock ‘n roll oldies presented by “Room to Move”. Along with the music, enjoy “brats and dogs” for dinner, delicious dessert and lots of fellowship. Fun for kids includes a bounce house, face painting, a visit by the fire dept and McGruff Crime Stoppers, and a coloring table.

Be sure to check out the great prizes available in the “benefit drawing” baskets. Prizes include a great, homemade quilt sewn by the First Lutheran “Sew and Sews” quilting group, tickets to State Fair, Irish Fest, German Fest, Fiesta Mexicana, a Pick N Save gift card and many others. We will also have soda and water for sale at very “family friendly” prices.

We are accepting donations of bottled water and canned soda, any brands or flavors are welcome. We know that the party seems 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.

If you are reading this online, copy and click on this link to listen to the band: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX9htbOf-Fc
IT'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY AGAIN!

In July, Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for our annual December Christmas Stocking distribution. Last year we gifted 140 adults and 155 children.

This year we especially need the following items: socks and deodorant for the adults and crayons, washable magic markers, coloring and activity books for children. Items can be dropped off in the Operation Christmas Stocking barrel in the narthex.

If you would like to help decorate Christmas stockings for the children, join the quilters on July 12th from 9:00 until noon in the upstairs quilting room. Come for an hour, come for the morning.

We are also looking for a few people who would be willing to sew a few pre-cut stockings for the children. Any questions contact Jackie Bayer or Greta Plicka.

CHOIR CELEBRATES

Our Choir celebrated the end of the festival half of the church year and summer break with a meal at Meyer’s Restaurant. The devotional for the day read: “Singing changes the brain. Some studies show that when we sing, our bodies release hormones that relieve anxiety and stress. Other research indicates that when a group of people sings together, their heartbeats actually synchronize with each other.” All we know is that we love to sing! Join us when we gather again in September. We practice at 8:00am before the service.

Operation Christmas Stocking at First Lutheran

Thank you all you Menard’s T-shirt rebate shoppers. So far we have 52 men’s T-shirts toward our goal of 75.

Watch the Menards ads for additional rebate opportunities this coming fall. Rebate shirts can be dropped off in the church office or put into the Operation Christmas Stocking barrel.

Save the Date!
The 5th annual Quilting Bee Saturday, Sept. 9th 9:00 a.m. to ??? Watch the bulletin for details.

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Save the Date!
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Thanks to a Pick ‘N Save/Feeding America partnership, our food pantry received 380 small bags of food during the Police department’s "Stuff the Squad" food drive in June. Thank you to the Pick ‘N Save on 81st & Bluemound and the generosity of the shoppers who provided donations.

**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!

**Got Jelly?**

We’ve gotten donations of peanut butter lately, but what’s peanut butter without jelly? Next time you’re at the store, could you pick up a jar or two for the food pantry?

**Thank you to Jackie Judkins and the Endowment committee for providing a financial gift to cover floor replacement, other equipment needs and financial support.**
During July we will continue our study of the Signs of the Zodiac using Rev D. James Kennedy’s book on that subject. On July 18th Gus Barnes will be our Guest Speaker. All are welcome. On August 15th our own Organist/Director of Music, Dennis Wolfgang, will share more information about our Moller organ. We meet from 10-11 a.m. in the Fireside Room, and usually go to a local restaurant after class for lunch. Everyone is welcome to join us. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

I recently talked with Thomas Hackl, former member of FLC, who is undergoing his second round of Stem Cell treatments at Froedtert Hospital. He is doing well and thanks all who knew him at First for their prayers and support. Tom married Kenny Kotwitz’s sister Kristen. They live in Pewaukee, WI. He retired about a year ago.

Deacon John

Stay Involved This Summer

NATIVITY CHURCH PICNIC COMING!
Sunday, August 27
Please join us for the annual Nativity church picnic on August 27. This will follow the outdoor worship service. Bring a dish to pass. Meat and drinks will be provided...... and of course there is corn (thank you, Don).

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TITHING OUR GIFTS

The Endowment Committee at First Lutheran is happy to report that our gift from Jackie Judkins has been invested with Annex Wealth Management. We tithed 10% of that amount, and it was dispersed to the following recipients:

- The Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic
- Pastor and Lois Peterson for their mission work
- First Lutheran Food Pantry/kitchen remodel
- West Central Interfaith
- First Lutheran Scholarship Fund
- Lutheran Social Services
- El Salvador Sewing School Project
- Serenity Inn
- Lutheran World Relief
- Operation Christmas Stocking

Sharon Phillippo presented a check (above) to Dr. George and Kathy Schneider, co-founders of the Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic since its inception in 1995. Kathy, Exec. Dir. and her husband, Dr. George, have donated their time and talent every Tues. and Thurs. evenings for the last 22 yrs. This is the largest donation they’ve ever received and feel very blessed and grateful beyond words.

Joy Dowd presented the check to West Central Interfaith (below). They were extremely grateful for this donation. Joy is the representative for First Lutheran on the Advisory Committee for Interfaith.

We know that all of our recipients were most grateful for their gifts to help them in carrying out their good works.
### First Lutheran Budget Tracker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Budget to Date</th>
<th>Received to Date</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$48,920.95</td>
<td>$45,327.64</td>
<td>-3,593.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolence</td>
<td>$3,937.50</td>
<td>$3,551.00</td>
<td>-386.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income shown for May does not include an additional $2,226.22 that was transferred from our Thrivent savings to checking. Our Thrivent savings account is now closed. Please prayerfully consider your support. 

**Gods Work, Our Hands.**

### BEING GREEN

Do you have a printer at home? Do you print out many things that are not something you necessarily need to keep? If you’d like some used paper (copied on one side), contact the church office. There’s always a supply of used paper on hand from master copies of bulletins, etc. You can be “green” and just print on the other side.

### On the Lighter Side

**New Phone Number**

The number for the phone in the fellowship hall at Nativity Lutheran has been temporarily (we hope) changed to 414-988-2622. We hope to get our old number back, but in the meantime, use the above number to reach anyone there.

First Lutheran will be holding their annual pet blessing service early this fall. Check our website or watch future newsletters for the date and time.

### BIBLE QUIZ...

What is Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appears to him with God’s call to lead Israel’s fight against the Midianites?

- A. Threshing wheat
- B. Harvesting grapes
- C. Keeping sheep
- D. Making a sacrifice to the Lord

Answer: (See Judges 6:11.)
The Church Is The People

Happy Birthday!

July and August Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names andrelation</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/19</td>
<td>Dennis &amp; Jamie Schoberg (F)</td>
<td>11 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Gene &amp; Dawn Reynolds (N)</td>
<td>42 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/16</td>
<td>John &amp; Odemaris Dixon III (F)</td>
<td>11 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/19</td>
<td>Arne &amp; Jill Sandberg (N)</td>
<td>5 yrs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please keep in your prayers the families of our members who have died in the last month:
5-28 Ralph Bayer
5-30 Mary Nyback
6-4 Richard Reinhard
6-12 Paul Garza
6-15 Jeanne Vermeulen.
May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.

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:
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, Ruby Horst, Dorothea Isermann, Louise Kohn, Lorraine Kuchma, James Larson, Harriet Miller, Helen Peterson, Ken Rieder and Juan Sifuentes

From First: Pastor Tim Benninghoff, Elsie Boese, Beverly Brunn, Marie Casto, Steve Clark, Terry Favre, 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 Mac-Donald, Sam Rogers, Robert Simmer and Zach Tennison
First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI  53214

Mailed on 6-27-17
Address Service Requested

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.