SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

RALLY DAY

We’ll kick off the Sunday School year at 9:00 a.m.

Children will begin the morning at the worship service, and will then go to the Fellowship Hall for Bible stories, crafts & games.

We hope you’ll join us, and bring a friend!
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I have officially now had the privilege of being with you for nearly one year – and what an amazing year it has been! It is at this point I would like to give thanks to God for bringing us together and to say thank you to you – the people of First and Nativity.

One year ago when I first had the privilege to write to you in this space I had never met anyone from either congregation, nor did I have any idea what being a pastor meant. It takes courage to call a first call pastor. It means calling a person with plenty of ideas and energy, but not much wisdom or experience. It takes a leap of faith to walk together down paths unknown, but isn’t that what faith is all about?

My first letter in this space said this: “We’re called to bring Jesus’ Word to our neighbors by being his hands and feet in this world. To do so means leaving everything behind. It means trusting in Jesus. It means moving forward in Jesus’ love, forgiveness, and reconciliation for the world. It’s not always easy and it can be downright terrifying, but we have been given real power through the Holy Spirit to boldly go out into the world to effect real change in the name of Jesus.”

I still believe in our calling from Jesus to be Christ in this world. Perhaps one year into my ministry you’ve been able to witness a pattern in my theological beliefs, but I’ll bring it to the forefront here. 1 John 4:16 says this: “God is love.” Now, certainly, love is a messy topic. Love is indescribable, oftentimes irrational, but above all God’s love for us is unending. God’s love for the world is like an unquenchable. Solomon says it best in Song of Songs 8:6-7, “For love is as strong as death... It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away.”

I speak of love because in a world where we separate ourselves from one another based on the smallest of differences—often unknowingly—love is a force that has the power to bring us together.

I believe that Jesus died for many reasons and throughout the centuries numerous theories of atonement, as they’re called, have been thought of to describe what occurred on the cross. But I think one of these many reasons was love. A love that was all-encompassing, a love that was not only wide but deep, a love that burned with a fiery passion, a love that was as tender as a dove, a love that died for you.

And it is now a love that we are called to share with the world. A love that we are called to show our neighbors, near and far. A love that we are called to give our enemies. A love that loves with reckless abandon. A love that reflects Jesus’ love for you.

As we continue together in ministry we may disagree with one another, you may disagree with me, we may disagree with the world around us, but if we hold one another in the same unquenchable love that Christ holds us in we will see each other as brothers and sisters. Children of the same heavenly Father. Beloved people of God who have the Spirit of Christ in them. This is how we are seen as disciples of Jesus – if we love one another as Jesus loves us.

In the unquenchable love of Jesus;
Your fellow servant in Christ,
Pastor Bryant
During August the Bible class will continue our study of the Apocryphal writings. On August 16, Pastor Bryant Bakkum will be our Guest Speaker. We will have NO class on September 8 due to Labor Day. In September we will finish our study of the Book of Job, after which we will begin studying the Book of Acts. All are welcome. Come and join us from 10-11 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. Some of the members go out for lunch after class - you’re welcome to come along! John Bennethum is our Teacher.

HOMEBOUND?  
ON VACATION?

If you’ve been away, or are homebound and unable to get to church, you can catch Pastor Bryant’s wonderful sermons on our website at www.firstlutheranelca.org. Just click on the Sermon button.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:
Steve Clark, Mike Dowd, Tom Hackl, Gretchen Rocha, 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 Bartoleria, 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

Please keep in your prayers the family of Debra Knitter who died on June 28th. 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.
**Nativity News**

**CHURCH PICNIC & CORN ROAST**

August 28th  
12:00 noon

Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair.  
Meat & beverages will be provided.  
Games for kids & raffles.  

**Come One, Come All!**

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**Nativity Lutheran’s Annual Blessing of the Pets**

Saturday, August 27th  
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, bring a photograph, or fill out the Pet Blessing form on p. 7. Return the form to the church and a blessing will be said for your pet.
First Lutheran News

“There’s a hunger beyond food that’s expressed in food, and that’s why feeding is always a kind of miracle.”
— Sara Miles, Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion

Many thanks to area churches who give us their support and prayers: All Saint’s Lutheran in Oak Creek, Luther Memorial and Holy Trinity in West Allis, and St. Luke’s in Greendale. All Saint’s in Oak Creek asked us to partner with them in prayer during the month of July. Please continue to keep the members of Oak Creek Lutheran and their ministry in your prayers, as well as the other churches who support our ministry.

Saturday, September 27
The 5k run and 2 mile walk at Veteran’s Park will benefit Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. Watch our website or call the office for more info!

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. Contact the office at 476-4664 to arrange a time to bring them in.

Some items that the food pantry can always use are zip lock bags—gallon, quart, and sandwich size. We always need spaghetti sauce, too. It’s a heavy item to stock up on, and we give one bottle/can in each bag of groceries. That’s around 60 per week!

Our volunteers at the Food Pantry check people in on Friday mornings. Would you like to help?!
**Operation Christmas Stocking**

Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for our December Christmas Stocking distribution. Again this year we are asking for items that we can give to the men, women and children that come to the food pantry.

Ideas include: travel size lotions, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, soap, tissue, toothbrushes, small combs & brushes, nail care products, chap stick, slipper socks, gloves, hats, mittens (men, women and children), baseball caps and socks. We are also looking for small toys, coloring books, crayons and books for children ages 4 to 10. We are also accepting monetary donations. Items can be dropped off in the Operation Christmas Stocking barrel in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Jackie Bayer or Greta Plicka.

**IT’S QUILTING BEE TIME AGAIN!**

If you can tie a knot and use scissors, the Sew & Sew Quilters invite you, your family and friends to their quilting bee in the First Lutheran Fellowship Hall. Come for an hour--come for the morning. Join us on Saturday, September 17th from 9:30 until ? Goal: 25 quilts for Lutheran World Relief for those in need worldwide.

**CALLING ALL KNITTERS!**

We have the yarn and patterns if you have the time and inclination. Our Goal: 24 men’s hand knit scarves for Christmas gift bags to be distributed to our food pantry clients this December. Please contact Jackie Bayer or the church office for yarn, pattern, etc.

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**WHO ARE YOU?**

Have you ever thought about, or made a list to answer this question? You and I could fill an entire page, or two, of single spaced answers from Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, employee, employer, dog walker, and it could go on and on. Would it include “Steward”?

Steward describes your relationship with God the Creator. Jesus speaks about how God provides for our every need and how undue concern for our possessions can get in the way of our living as his disciples. All that we are and all that we have belongs to God and we are the stewards of those blessings.

Stewardship is more than money. It is our responsibility to take care of and use wisely the blessings given to us by God. They include our time, attention, physical health, energy, talents, possessions, attitudes, relationships and money. That includes the sharing of your financial resources to support the ministry of the church. It is not a specific time each year, but is every day of every year.

*When people give of themselves to the Lord, the Lord makes things happen!*

Lavone Reis
Many Thanks! to everyone who helped make our Block Party a success! Special thanks to “Room to Move” for making our party rock & roll! We greatly appreciate the members of the band giving their time and talent to help us reach out to our neighbors. Pictures coming in the next issue... or check out First Lutheran’s Facebook page or website!

PET BLESSINGS on Rally Weekend

Our “Welcome back to church” rally weekend begins with our “Blessing of the Animals” celebration on Saturday, September 10, at 10 a.m. on the front lawn at First Lutheran. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. Depending on the number attending, we will try to provide an individual blessing for each pet. Some animals may be difficult to transport so if you are not able to bring your pet, bring a photograph of your pet or fill out the Pet Blessing form below. Return the form to church and a blessing will be said for your pet.

*The Lord is good to all, compassionate to every creature.*
Psalm 145:9

Dear Pastor Bakkum:

Please include my pet(s),
_________________________ ___________
_________________________ ___________
_________________________ ___________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Pet(s)</th>
<th>Type of Pet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

in the **BLESSING OF THE PETS** at:

___ Nativity Lutheran on August 27, 2016 or
___ First Lutheran on September 10, 2016

Please mail your request to the church office.

COUNCIL INFO...

If you want to keep up with the actions of the church council and committee, you can find minutes and reports posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S DESK:

First Lutheran’s church council has formed a committee to establish an endowment fund. This committee is chaired by Earl Casto, Jr. and has four council member volunteers along with five other members of the congregation who are charged with the tasks of not only determining best places and ways to invest funds, but also to set up the rules and regulations on how and where funds are to be dispersed over time. With the goal of expanding and growing First Lutheran Church’s mission, the committee will be researching and recommending what they find as best practices from other churches and beyond.

The tasks during start up will be researching and setting up the investments as well as the rules and regulations around disbursements of endowment funds. We hope to have the start-up completed and recommendations made for congregational approval at the next annual meeting or sooner.
Thank you to the “Happy Scrubbers” who helped clean the woodwork and pews in the church and Pastor’s office and cleaned and organized some areas in the kitchen. Thanks to Cindy, Jamie, Chris, Natalie, Pam, Werner, Delores and Joy. We didn’t quite get everything done, so watch for the next “Happy Scrubbers Saturday” in the spring.

Vacation Bible School was held at First Lutheran twice a week from June 2-23. It was a great success with 20 children in attendance. They learned songs & Bible stories, played games, made crafts and new friends. Thank you to all of the volunteers who put their time and effort into making a memorable week.
Local Opportunities

Clement Manor
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

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

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.

Lutherdale
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.

On the Lighter Side
Save the Date!
Sat., August 13
8am - 4pm

Lutherdale Fest
QUILT AUCTION
Live quilt auction, bake sale, crafts, rummage, garden produce, pontoon rides, kid’s lounge, camp store and more. Pork sandwiches, Klement’s brats or hot dog lunch. Lutherdale Bible Camp is located at N7891 US Hwy 12, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

“Anything about leash laws?”
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’s 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)856-7672.

God has no phone, but I still talk to him.
He has no Facebook, but he is still my friend
He does not have Twitter, but I still follow him.

BIBLE QUIZ...
Under what circumstances did strongman Samson become weak?
A. When a curse was spoken against him
B. When he slacked off on his weight-lifting exercises
C. When his hair was cut
D. When he was bound with ropes that had never been used
Answer: See Judges 16:17-19

WALK FOR WATER
September 18, 2016
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Mount Olive Lutheran Green Space
211 Main Street, Mukwonago, WI

The youth of Mount Olive Lutheran, Mukwonago, invite you to participate and experience the ELCA World Hunger Walk4Water. This was a powerful experience for all ages at last year’s ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. Learn by living the experience as you carry up to 5-gallon jugs of water (smaller jugs will be available) along a .1 mile track just like African women and children walk daily to get water for their family (even though their daily journey is 3.4 miles). Participants will be assigned one of four learning tracks to help educate the need for clean water in the U.S. and across the globe.
Go to w4w@mountolive-elca.net for more information.

Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride
Pedal to Push Down Poverty
September 10, 2016

Outreach for Hope supports life-giving ministries that serve the people of low income communities in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA. These ministries not only provide help with daily necessities, but most importantly, they are centers in the heart of their communities for providing transformation and hope. It is easy to register for the 9th Annual Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride on Saturday, September 10 at St. Bruno parish in Dousman. There are 4 ways to participate:

1 - Register to ride OR be a ‘virtual rider’
2 - Support a rider
3 - Make a donation
4 - Volunteer to work at the ride

Go to www.ofhbikeride.com for more information.

Outreach for Hope
Sep 10, 2016
Pedal to Push Down Poverty
**Back To School Humor....**

- Summer is over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is!
- “Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.” (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student to another: “Psst. How do you turn this thing on?”
- Parent: “What did you learn today?” Kindergartner: “Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.”

### Nativity Lutheran

**First Lutheran**

- 8/16 John & Odemaris Dixon 10 yrs.
- 9/22 Jenny & Tyler Schultz 5 yrs.
- 9/22 Colleen & Spencer Siarnicki 15 yrs.
- 9/24 Jack & Jacqueline Grauberger 50 yrs.

**Nativity Lutheran**

- 8/9 Gene & Dawn Reynolds 41 yrs.
- 8/19 Arne & Jill Sandberg 4 yrs.
- 9/3 Dale & Cheryl Isotalo 33 yrs.

**And Our Favorite Pastor & Wife**

- 9/7 Bryant & Katie Bakkum 3 yrs.

### Nativity Lutheran Birthdays

- 8/1 Dennis Klotz
- 8/12 Mary Simmers
- 8/15 Arne Sandberg, Jr.
- 8/16 Nathan Nekich
- 8/18 Sandra Larson
- 8/21 Shirley Gruetzner
- 8/21 Kyle Wilcox
- 8/22 Victor Sifuentes
- 8/24 James Cockcroft
- 8/25 Guyon Metzen
- 9/5 James Ribnek III
- 9/7 James Larson
- 9/8 Breen DeBack
- 9/14 Darren Swanson
- 9/15 Cheryl Isotalo
- 9/23 Jedrek Avendano
- 9/29 Laverne Breed
- 9/30 Marvelyn Cockcroft

**First Lutheran Birthdays**

- 8/1 Maya Noack
- 8/2 Stephanie Andrade
- 8/2 Lily Weinsicht
- 8/10 Kristin Lewandowski
- 8/11 Parker Zehe
- 8/19 Daniel Behrens
- 8/19 Anne Felton
- 8/20 Janelyn Stasiak
- 8/23 Ralph Bayer
- 8/25 Mark Eisenreich
- 8/25 Chris Guthrie
- 8/25 Earl Junck
- 8/27 Samantha Matherly
- 8/28 Justin Grohalla
- 8/31 Denise Ryan
- 9/3 Jeanette Zeinert
- 9/6 Pamela Jacobson
- 9/6 John Vella
- 9/7 Joyce Staub
- 9/11 Lily Rees
- 9/13 Nadia Bivens
- 9/13 Jack Grauberger
- 9/13 Danielle Sackett
- 9/15 Mary Nyback
- 9/18 Kevin Kubek
- 9/20 Angelina Calderon
- 9/22 Mary McNeal
- 9/24 Jessica Bayer
- 9/27 Dale Philippo
- 9/30 Werner Bayer
- 9/30 Laverne Guthrie
- 9/30 Sharon Philippo
- 9/30 Mariah Roesler

### FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015

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<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>July</td>
<td>$ 10,083.08</td>
<td>$ 13,303.52</td>
<td>-3,220.44</td>
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<td>$ 78,440.98</td>
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<td>-896.78</td>
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This 'n That Around Here
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
Jamie Schoberg, Sunday School Superintendent
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

Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays
at First Lutheran

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