

# *First and Nativity Lutheran Churches News and Views*



September, 2015



*First and Nativity  
Welcome Pastor Bryant  
And Katie Bakkum!*

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

8/28-29 *Pastor Bryant's first weekend with us!*  
9/13 *Sunday School begins at First Lutheran*  
9/26 *Pastor Bryant's installation at Nativity*  
10/3 *Pet Blessing*  
10/17 *Pastor Bryant's installation at First*

## **First and Nativity Lutheran Churches (ELCA)**

Rev. Bryant Bakkum, Pastor  
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



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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,



It is a joy and privilege to be called as your pastor! I am excited to begin ministry with you and I am looking forward to getting to know you and this community. As I write these words I am surrounded by a mountain of boxes as my wife, Katie, and I prepare to move out of our apartment in the Twin Cities and head to the Milwaukee area. As we begin ministry together I am reminded of two things from the Gospel of Luke: First, we are called to serve. When Jesus called Peter to be a disciple he told Peter how he would now "fish for people". Service comes in all forms. It can happen overtly with physical acts of hospitality and generosity that impact the lives of our neighbors. It can also happen quietly by providing acts of love and selflessness that go unnoticed yet have uplifting effects on those they reach. We are called to fish for people – to be Jesus in the world. The second takeaway from Luke is this: When Peter was called by Jesus he left everything behind to follow him. I don't know about you, but this frightens me. Together we are all called to leave behind lives that are centered on ourselves and to focus on our neighbor. 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. We have all been called to this ministry of service and love for the world. I look forward to joining you as a partner in Christ!

Peace,  
Pastor Bryant



*Please keep in your prayers the family of  
Allan Munkwitz, who died on July 1st.*

### **NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6905 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI  
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853  
Nativity Phone (basement): 414-257-9980  
[www.nativitylutheranchurchwauwatosa.org](http://www.nativitylutheranchurchwauwatosa.org)  
PRESIDENT: JAMES RIBNEK, III  
VICE PRESIDENT: MAUREEN JONES  
SECRETARY: NICOLE DEBACK  
TREASURER: JILL MICKELSON  
Mission Interpreter: Shirley Cogan

*Nativity: 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](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org)  
E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)  
Phone: 414-476-4664

PRESIDENT: DAVID WEGENER  
VICE PRESIDENT: NATALIE JAEGER  
TREASURER: WERNER BAYER  
Christian Education: Mari Mitchell  
Evangelism: Joy Dowd  
Finance: Werner Bayer  
Memorial Fund: Marie LePage  
Mission Interpreter: Shirley Cogan  
Social Ministry: Earl Casto  
Stewardship: *Vacant Position*  
Worship & Music: John Bennethum

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



Our one-day Vacation Bible School on August 1st was well-attended by 24 children from 11 families. The theme of "Working Together to be Fishers of Men" was represented in the games and activities of the day, including a fishing game, sack races, a canoe and paddle relay race, and a play called "Summer Church Camp". The Sunday School volunteers hope to present an equally fun day or days next year.

With that being said, "Rally Sunday", the first day of Sunday School, is coming up on Sun., Sept. 13th, at 9 a.m. We hope that many young people from the area will join us for our series on "Heroes of the Bible".

**Christian  
Education  
For  
Everyone!**

### **WORSHIP MATTERS by John Bennethum**

Our new Pastor, the Rev Bryant Jeremy Bakum, graduated from Mankato State University in 2011 with a major in Psychology. He attended Luther Seminary in Minnesota and graduated on May 17th, 2015. He is 26 years old and has been married for two years. He has a dog and a cat. After receiving a joint Call from First & Nativity Lutheran Churches, he was ordained in his home church in Westby, WI on August 1, 2015 by our Bishop Jeff Barrow. Werner and Jackie Bayer and Barb Reed attended. He and his wife Katie, a Registered Dietitian, have bought a home in Greendale, WI. Katie has taken a job as Patient Services Manager at a hospital in Racine, and Pastor Bryant plans on being with us on the weekend of August 29/30th. We are all excited to have them join us! Deacon John

### **For Women Only....**



The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday afternoons in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. They're studying the 100 most important stories in the Bible. Materials are available and new members are always welcome! Call the church office for meeting times.

### **TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS**

On Sept. 1st we will finish our summer study of Luther's Small Catechism. On Sept. 8th there will be no class due to Labor Day. On Sept. 15th we will begin the book of FIRST SAMUEL. This book deals with the stories of Samuel, Saul and David. Join us for an interesting study. Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Some of us go out for lunch after class. You are invited to join us at local restaurants. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

### MUSICAL NOTES by Dennis Wolfgang

#### TAKING OWNERSHIP

My dear friend, Rev. Mick Roschke, Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation for twenty-five years used to tell the congregation "I'm not your hired Christian". Pastor Mick's meaning was that the principal jobs of a Pastor are to preach, teach and administer the sacraments. With the much anticipated arrival of Pastor Bakkum it seems to me to be a good time for a reality check, in other words we need to keep our expectations in the realm of reality.

Both First and Nativity Lutheran are struggling churches, a mere skeletons of their former selves, so it seems important to remember that the church is the people and as I said in the last issue Liturgy is the work of the people. Now is the time for **all** to step forward and become involved, take ownership of your church. Following is a partial list of areas where you can step forward and take ownership of your church:

Assist at Worship by:

- Becoming an Assisting Minister/Deacon
- Become a Lector/Reader and proclaim God's Word  
in our midst
- Help prepare the altar, serve in the Altar Guild
- Sing in the Choir- Pastor Bakkum has already offered  
to do so
- Offer special music
- Become an Usher
- Become a Greeter, do we say we are a friendly church  
or are we really one
- Help fold and staple bulletins and newsletters
- Take Communion to the Homebound
- Assist with seasonal church decorations
- Assist in choosing hymns when to opportunities are  
presented
- Assist with special services when they arise,  
installation of Pastor, Pet Blessing, Thanksgiving,  
All Saints, Advent, Christmas

That's just a partial list of items pertaining to Worship; so many other areas of the vineyard need laborers.

Lastly, I would urge all of us to **be open to change**; just because it worked fifty years ago does not mean it will work in 2015. One of my favorite quotes by Albert Einstein is "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."



Gail Bartolera, Gayle Engelstad, Mark Gruetzner, John Horst, Debra Knitter, Don Leppien, Ann Lindow, Luz Maria Lozada, Samantha Matherly, Lillian Ribnek, Gail Sadler, Kathleen Santos and David Wegener.



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

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



Sean Brown, Robert Chrzanowski, Jason Dowhie, Andrew Dowd, David MacDonald, Sam Rogers, Robert Simmer and Zach Tennison

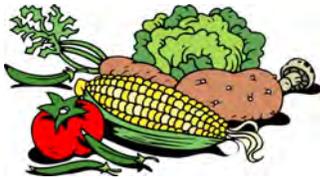
#### **PRAYER CAN HELP...**

*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.*



**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! Please do not leave vegetables outside of the church where “critters’ can get to them. Call the office at 476-4664 and arrange a time for delivery or we will pick them up.



**GOING SHOPPING?**

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



**GRANDPARENTS DAY INTERFAITH MUM SALE**

Now is the time to order beautiful mums at a cost of only \$8, just in time for Grandparents Day. The plants will be available for pick up on Sat. and Sun., Sept. 12-13, before and after services. It is best if you pre-order because we do sell out each year. Payment is due at pick up and can be paid in cash or by check payable to West Central Interfaith. The last day to pre-order is Sun., Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets are on the welcome desk at each church. Please contact Joy Dowd, with any questions. By ordering mums from West Central Interfaith (West Allis Office), you are helping to support services for senior citizens that allow them to remain independent in their homes.



*“Linking Older Adults with a Caring Community”*

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The 13<sup>th</sup> annual **Miles for Meals** in Milwaukee features a 5k run and 2 mile walk on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10am at Veteran’s Park. Registration begins at 8:30am. The donations collected will benefit Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and will be directly credited to First Lutheran’s account at Feeding America. We would like to invite Nativity and First Lutheran to participate this year. There is no fee for walking, but there is a \$25 fee for runners who are timed. Contact the office for a registration form. If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. Your check will serve as your receipt. Envelopes for donations are in the narthex. You can also donate online to our team, **The Hunger Avengers**, at: <http://www.firstgiving.com/feedingamericawi/m4m/teams>.

**DEAR FIRST LUTHERAN FOOD**

**PANTRY:** Luther Memorial Church is thankful for the ministry that you provide to the Christian Church and beyond its walls. Through your ministry we see faith active in love, and the gospel being shared in practical ways that touch peoples lives.





Congratulations to First Lutheran's Evangelism Committee on a successful National Night Out Block Party on Tues, July 28. A lot of hard work from the committee and many volunteers helped make the party a success. We had many wonderful donations of benefit drawing prizes, soda, water and juice boxes, lots of good food, great entertainment and fun for kids. We were so happy to have Pastor Bryant come down from Minnesota to emcee the event.

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for donating benefit drawing basket prizes: Carla Ullerich, Lavone Reis, Sharon and Dale Philippo, Sandy Wymelenberg, Grulke family, Joy Dowd, Pick N Save, Festa Italiana, Germanfest, Irish Fest and Fiesta Mexicana.

Congratulations to our winners:  
Children's Basket/Target gift card – Erik Carlson  
Cat Lover's Basket – Tom McNeil  
Dog Lover's Basket – Debra Mariscal  
Floral Arrangement – Shirley Cogan  
Pamper Mom Basket – Natalie Jaeger  
State Fair tickets – Barb Reed  
Pick N Save gift card – Jamie Schoberg  
Festa tickets – Jackie Bayer and Mike Vella  
Germanfest tickets – Geri Carman & Shirley Cogan  
Irish Fest tickets – Shirley Cogan  
Fiesta Mexicana tickets – Don Piontek and Chris Hasenberg.

Thank you to Betty Stephens, our face painter, Bill and Amy at National Sign and Design for updating our signs each year, musician Ben Janzow for entertaining us and to Kings of Fun for the discount on the bounce house. Thanks to all for your generous donations of soda, bottled water, juice boxes and wonderful desserts! We are happy that we received over \$360 in cash donations that evening, which more than covered our expenses.

## THANK YOU!

It's been 8 months since Pastor Peterson retired. The time has come to publicly thank the people who have held us together during this time of transition. It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a lot of folks to man a church.

First and foremost, we thank Barb Reed, "office everything", and council president Dave Wegener who arranged pastoral coverage for our many services and funerals. We thank John Bennethum for always being available for back-up.

We thank all of the pastors who willingly accepted the call to serve in our pulpit. We especially want to thank those pastors who volunteered with our Food Pantry ministry on Friday mornings, and made home and hospital visits to our shut-ins.

We thank the Worship and Music Committee for showing leadership in choosing the liturgy and hymns in the absence of a consistent pastor. After reviewing the constitution and by-laws the church council passed the following resolution: "When Pastor Bakkum begins his ministry at First Lutheran Church he will periodically meet and consult with the First Lutheran Church Worship and Music committee. However, the final decision for all liturgy and hymns to be used at First Lutheran Church worship services will be made by the pastor."

We also thank all of you who just kept doing your thing!

First Lutheran Church Council



## Coming Soon!

### SAVE THE DATE... AND YOUR STUFF!

Nativity's Fall Rummage Sale will be held on Fri. & Sat., Nov. 6th & 7th. Check next month's newsletter for more details.



### JOB OPENINGS!

First Lutheran is in need of a Stewardship Chairperson and Sunday School teachers. Won't you help?

### SAVE THE DATE



You are invited to the Sew and Sew Quilters third annual Quilting Bee, Saturday, September 12, from 10am until ? In the Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran. We'll be tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No experience is needed. Bring your own lunch, and we'll have the coffee pot perking and the sweet treats baked. Come for an hour or come for the morning. Men are welcome to help, too! Just come!

### PET BLESSINGS ON OCTOBER 3RD

Join us for delicious apple cider and a "Blessing of the Animals" celebration on Saturday, Oct 3th, at 10 a.m. on the front lawn at First Lutheran, and at noon at on the lawn at Nativity 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.

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

It is up to us to be good stewards and caretakers for all of His creation.



Dear Pastor Bakkum;

Please include my pet(s), \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pet(s) Type of Pet

in the **BLESSING OF THE PETS** on October 3, 2015.

Please mail your request to the church by September 30, 2015

### On the Lighter Side

We take Scripture seriously, of course, but God also gave us the ability to laugh — and it's healthy to do so! Enjoy these Bible-based riddles:

Q: Who was the fastest runner in the Bible?

A: Adam. He was first in the human race.

Q: Where is baseball played in the Bible?

A: Genesis 1:1 reads "In the big inning." Then Eve stole first, and Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel, and soon everything was rained out.

Q: Who was the best financier in the Bible?

A: Pharaoh's daughter. She went to the Nile bank and pulled out a little prophet.

Q: What was Boaz like before he got married?

A: Ruthless.

*Happy Times!*



Pastor Bryant's Ordination on August 1, 2015



Dave & Matt Grulke - best father & son yard team ever!



National Night Out Block Party 2015!





Greetings!

I would like to thank everyone for your help with our Chancery fundraiser on Wednesday, August 12th. Thanks for getting the word out and for dining at Chancery. Because of your help we raised \$770! Thanks so much to everyone at your congregation for all your support!

*Diane Euting, Neighborhood Director  
Greater Tosa Interfaith*

**GOOD SAMARITAN  
OUTREACH  
CENTER**



As part of our support of the Good Samaritan Outreach Center, Nativity will be collecting the following items during September: Cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, milk. They can always use canned foods such as beef stew and spaghetti-o's. Place your donations in the box in the narthex.



Wally Busky and Laverne Breed (above), Dennis Wolfgang, Joan Brauch (bottom right), and Pastor Carl Lund (below left) enjoy Jim Ribnek's fabulous lemonade. Thanks, Jim!



**"LEMONADE ON  
THE LAWN"**

**Not too Sweet...Not too Sour...Yummy and Just Right...!**

That is the best way to describe this years "Nativity' Lemonade on the Lawn". "Thank You" goes out to all who helped to make this month-long event happen. Extra special "Thanks" to Jim Ribnek! For if it wasn't for his talent with lemons, we would all be in a 'pucker'!



## Local Opportunities

### CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment  
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

#### Keynote Speaker - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**Sept. 24** - Best, Pabst & Beyond presented by Dan Emmer  
In 1844 Jacob Best and his sons came from Germany and established a brewery for the population of pioneer Milwaukee. This presentation will focus on the history of the Best and Pabst Company and the Pabst Mansion.

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

**Sept. 1** - Broken Harbor by Tana French

**Oct. 6** - The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

#### Club Loomineers - A No-Needle Knitting Group

1st Wed. of month. 12pm. No charge.

#### Bridge Group - Every Tues. - 9-11 am. Call to register.

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



### RECOGNITION, RENEWAL AND CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Aurora Health Care and Village at Manor Park will present a FREE interactive, daylong seminar for those caring for adults with long-term health conditions, such as stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson disease, dementia, etc. Visit hands-on exhibits, attend presentations, network with other caregivers, shopping & aromatherapy, door prizes and giveaways, morning refreshments and a healthy lunch. Register at 888-863-5502 by September 10th. You deserve it!



### 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.

Habitat for Humanity is at work in our community, revitalizing neighborhood and creating safe housing for qualified families. Families must apply to participate in the program and provide many hours of "sweat equity" in the homes, meaning they must help with construction or repairs. At the completion of the home, the families have a safe place to live and an affordable mortgage payment that will keep them in their own home. As a congregation, we usually provide lunch for its volunteer workers or financial support for their efforts. Though we will not be cooking lunch this year, we would like to continue to provide support. If you'd like to make a donation, envelopes are available on the welcome desk. If you'd like to work on their projects, let the office know and we will put you in touch with the right people.



September Birthdays



First Lutheran

- 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 Phillippo
- 9/28 Julianna LeSavage
- 9/30 Werner Bayer
- 9/30 Sharon Phillippo
- 9/30 Mariah Roesler

Nativity Lutheran

- 9/1 Jameson Steffes
- 9/3 Kyle Reynolds
- 9/5 James Ribnek III
- 9/7 Helen Dickhut
- 9/7 James Larson
- 9/8 Breven DeBack
- 9/10 Rachel Puerzer
- 9/14 Darren Swanson
- 9/15 Cheryl Isotalo
- 9/29 Laverne Breed
- 9/30 Marvelyn Cockroft

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015			
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
June	\$ 11,910.18	\$ 10,570.57	1,339.61
Year to Date	\$ 74,329.66	\$ 66,493.59	7,836.07

Note: Expenses include a \$7,261.50 down payment for chair lift.

FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE				
	2015	2014	Diff.	% +/-
June	240	334	-94	-28%
Year to Date	1,733	2,359	-626	-27%
# of Svcs.	8	10	-2	-20%
Year to Date Svcs.	60	61	-1	-2%

FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2015			
MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
July	\$ 9,821.50	\$ 8,934.18	887.32
Year to Date	\$ 84,151.16	\$ 75,427.77	8,723.39

FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE				
	2015	2014	Diff.	% +/-
July	193	296	-103	-35%
Year to Date	1,926	2,655	-729	-27
# of Svcs.	8	8	0	0
Year to Date Svcs.	68	69	-1	-1%



Nativity Lutheran

9/3 Dale & Cheryl Isotalo 32 yrs.

First Lutheran

9/22 Jenny & Tyler Schultz 4 yrs.  
 9/22 Colleen & Spencer Siarnicki 14 yrs.  
 9/24 Jack & Jackie Grauberger 49 yrs.

BIBLE QUIZ...

When Jesus was on his way to heal a young girl, who touched his clothing, and why?



- A. The girl's father, to urge Jesus to hurry.
- B. A boy; he was in awe of Jesus and just wanted to meet him.
- C. Many people; they couldn't help it because it was so crowded.
- D. A woman in the crowd; she hoped that doing so would heal her.

Answer: (See Mark 5:25-29.)

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 3633

Mailed on 8-25-15

Address Service Requested

Dated Material  
Please deliver by 8-27-15



Join us for Sunday School beginning Sept. 13th at 9:00 a.m. We welcome all children who are 4 years old (with pre-school experience) through 5th Grade.

### *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.