Dear sisters and brothers,

The images from Charlottesville, Virginia have slowly faded from view. The news cycle has moved on. However, the violence and hatred that was instilled by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, anti-Semitic rhetoric, and the death of an innocent woman and two police officers cannot be forgotten.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to seek peace. As people of God we are called to love our neighbor. This is not always easy. Often our neighbor is of a different race, gender, culture, ethnicity, sexuality, or religion.

As we move into this season of fall we are reminded that the winds of change are always on the move. We are reminded that as children of the God of all creation we are called to be this change in the world.

As followers of the one who sought the oppressed, rejected, left behind, and forgotten, we too are called to stand with those who are still thought of as less than, simply because of who they are.

As a community that is empowered by the Holy Spirit we are called to take action. We are called to speak out against racism and violence. We are called to stand against white supremacy. For in the kingdom of God there is no room for such an evil. In the kingdom of God there is no place for rejection and oppression.

As a denomination that is primarily white we must let our brothers and sisters of every race, ethnicity, and background know they are safe and welcome here. Now is the time to actively work toward bringing about the kingdom of God on earth by calling out hate and evil by name, working toward peace and not violence, and showing love and grace to our neighbors.

We can do this by attending Anti-Racism Workshops held by the Greater Milwaukee Synod. We can do this by uncovering our own privileges and prejudices and recognizing when we live them out. We can do this by advocating for legislative policies at the city, county, state, and national level that protect and defend the least among us.

I confess that these are daunting and difficult tasks. But such is the life following in the footsteps of Christ. As we seek to bring about God’s kingdom on earth we do so as beloved children of God, saved and reconciled through Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Together we can effect change. Together we can stand with the least in society. Together we can love our neighbors, enemies, and the world with the same abundant and never-ending love we first received in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

[Signature]
Important Dates

First Lutheran’s Quilters invite you to join them for a **Quilting Bee** on Saturday, September 9th, from 9am - 2pm.

The first day of Sunday School, **Rally Day**, will be on Sunday, September 10th, at 9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran. Children will begin the morning at the worship service, and will then go to Sunday School for Bible stories, crafts & games.

First Lutheran’s Annual **Pet Blessing** will be on Saturday, September 16th, at 10:00 a.m. in the churchyard.

Nativity Lutheran’s **Halloween Spooktacular** concert will take place on Saturday, October 28th, at 2:00 p.m.

**Martin Luther’s Reformation** will be celebrated around the world this weekend and throughout the month of October with special services and concerts. Check the weekly bulletin and next month’s newsletter for opportunities.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

“**Freed and Renewed in Christ**” is the theme used by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s (ELCA) churchwide organization in its observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that began with the 95 theses that Martin Luther first made public on Oct. 31, 1517. “500 Years of God’s Grace in Action” is a tagline that has been incorporated with the theme into a single graphic representation. In “The Freedom of a Christian” (1520) Martin Luther famously wrote “A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.” The ELCA’s theme expresses this message of the Christian faith’s freedom and a renewed life of service to others in Jesus Christ.
**Tuesday Morning Bible Class at First Lutheran**

After Labor Day the Bible class will begin our study of the book of JOSHUA. Joshua had been chosen and appointed by God just before Moses’ death. The book is the story of Joshua and Israel as they, with God’s help, conquered the Promised Land—Canaan. Bring your Bible and join us for this exciting narrative. All are welcome. We meet in the Fireside Room from 10:00-11:00am every Tuesday. (No class on Sept 5 - Labor Day break.) We usually go to a local restaurant after class for lunch. Everyone is welcome to join us.

John Bennethum is our Teacher.

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**A Visit from the Petersons**

On Tuesday, August 15, we were fortunate to have Pastor Richard Peterson and Lois Peterson visit our Bible Study and give us information about their most recent missionary work in Ecuador. Their pictures told the story of the churches in several cities where they spent time teaching Bible studies and music. We gifted money from our Endowment Fund to the World Mission Prayer League to support the Petersons in their work.

**Sunday School Begins Sept. 10th**

Our Fall 2017 Sunday School theme this year is *The Lord’s Prayer and The Ten Commandments*. Each week will focus on a lesson from the Bible. There will be crafts, science, games and music offered throughout our Fall season. Come join us! If you are interested in teaching Sunday School, or helping with our children’s ministry, please contact the Church office.

Sunday School Staff: Lori Marquez, Linda Grulke and Greta Plicka
October 28, 2017, at 2 pm is the date for the upcoming Halloween Spooktacular concert at Nativity. This concert will again feature Pastor Bakkum and Stuart Mitchell (I am sure you remember that lovely tenor voice from last year). This year, this concert is being co-ordinated with Martin Luther Lutheran Church (9235 W. Bluemound Rd). Martin Luther Lutheran Church will be performing a special Reformation program (2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation) at 5 PM that will feature a massed choir of participants including Dennis Wolfgang, and members from Mount Hope and First Lutheran at the very least. This concert will be followed by a potluck dinner at Martin Luther to which all are invited. So make a day of it, enjoying beautiful music, great food and good community.

**CONCERT**

**UPCOMING CONCERT**

October 28, 2017, at 2 pm is the date for the upcoming Halloween Spooktacular concert at Nativity. This concert will again feature Pastor Bakkum and Stuart Mitchell (I am sure you remember that lovely tenor voice from last year). This year, this concert is being co-ordinated with Martin Luther Lutheran Church (9235 W. Bluemound Rd). Martin Luther Lutheran Church will be performing a special Reformation program (2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation) at 5 PM that will feature a massed choir of participants including Dennis Wolfgang, and members from Mount Hope and First Lutheran at the very least. This concert will be followed by a potluck dinner at Martin Luther to which all are invited. So make a day of it, enjoying beautiful music, great food and good community.

**FEEL THE NEED TO VENT?**

Here is a list of your current Nativity council members, so if you feel the need to get something off your chest…….
Nicole DeBack, Maureen Jones, Sandy Larson, Jean Leppien, Susan Platt, Jill Mickelson (treasurer), Lillian Ribnek, Jim Ribnek and Dennis Wolfgang

**CONCRETE REPAIRS**

Recently, repairs to the sidewalks around Nativity and the Nativity parking lot have been made. Like the good stewards of the church that we all are, we know that maintenance like this is not exciting, yet always necessary, and always part of a longer list. So, although the photo is not very exciting either, I hope you can enjoy the satisfaction of this work well done (and checked off that list).

**LET'S ALL DO LUNCH**

On Sunday, November 5, the parish hall will not be available following our service, so join with your fellow Nativity-ites for refreshments at a local venue (and we will be going Dutch). More information coming soon so watch this space!

**2017 FALL RUMMAGE UPDATE**

The Nativity annual fall rummage sale this November is right around the corner. Please think of the rummage sale as you tidy up - Nativity needs your stuff!

**NATIVITY WILL BE 85 IN 2018!**

2018 will be a year of celebration as Nativity Lutheran Church turns 85! And so please join us in planning this year-long birthday – let a council member know that you want to be involved in this special committee.
Dennis Wolfgang and his beautiful at-home gardens win an award!

Dennis was recently awarded special recognition for all his lovely gardening by Near West Side Partners in Milwaukee. He will receive this award later this month at the Harley-Davidson University Center. Please take a moment to congratulate Dennis!

A tree of “well wishes” for Hazel Grace Bakkum

Members of First and Nativity offered their well wishes for baby Hazel on a decorated tree. Pastor Bryant and Katie celebrated Hazel’s baptism on July 23rd, at Pastor Bryant’s home church in Westby.

God bless you, Hazel Grace!

Celebrating.....
Thank you to the congregation and friends of First Lutheran for hosting an awesome National Night Out Block party on July 25th. We had over 100 neighbors and friends attend and enjoy the brats, music by “Room to Move”, children’s craft table, bounce house, face painting and delicious desserts! Our volunteer helpers are the best!!! We really appreciated their help with set up, clean up, cooking, food service, face painting, crafts, ticket sales and security. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the drawing baskets, baked delicious desserts and donated bottles of water and soda.

Thank you to the following sponsors for their support of First Lutheran’s block party: Room to Move band, Earl Casto (Shorewest Realty), Colleen Siarnecki (All 10 Nails, Forever Yours Floral Designs), Carla Ullerich, Sandy Wymelenberg, Heidi Leiser, Joy Dowd, German Fest, Irish Fest, Fiesta Mexicana, Kings of Fun and Pick ‘n Save.
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. This year we are looking for the following items: socks, deodorant, disposable razors and shaving cream for the adults; and crayons, washable magic markers, coloring and activity books for children... and anything else you’d care to donate! Items can be dropped off in the Narthex Operation Christmas Stocking barrel or in the church office.

What can you do?

If you can tie a knot and use scissors, the Sew & Sew Quilters invite you, your family and friends to their quilting bee at First Lutheran in Hammerling Hall. This isn’t just for ladies only - men are welcome, too!

Come when you can, stay as long as you’re able. Join us on Saturday, September 9th, from 9am until 2pm. We’ll be tying 25 quilts for Lutheran World Relief for those in need worldwide. A light lunch will be provided.

Sign up in the narthex, or call the church office. See you there!

We’ll have envelopes in the narthex the next 3 weekends if you’d like to make a contribution to Lutheran World Relief to help cover the cost of shipping quilts.
Food Pantry News

When you have a chance, stop downstairs and check out our new kitchen floor, paid for by the food pantry with funds from the Endowment Fund. Some say it really brightens up the kitchen! We are grateful to have a safe work surface for our food pantry cooks and food service volunteers.

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

**THANKS TO OUR ‘PANERA GIRLS!’**

Sara & Danielle went to middle school and high school together and have been friends ever since. They each visit a Panera bakery on Thursday nights, and deliver the leftover bakery to our food pantry on Friday mornings. Our food pantry visitors appreciate the fresh bakery and deserts made available to them. And we are grateful beyond words for the volunteer hearts of these young ladies!

The Fireside Room is complete! With memorials from the Hammerling and Guthrie families, we’ve updated the room with new furniture, curtains and a new floor. It’s brighter and more welcoming. If you haven’t seen it, please come in and check it out.

**TITHING OUR GIFTS**

“I personally THANK YOU with all my heart for the blessing of your generosity! The patients and volunteers also sincerely thank you for your much needed and very generous donations. We continue to serve those in need who have no insurance, assist those who now have an insurance card, but have no idea where to find a doctor, and work with those persons who cannot afford deductibles. Since the clinic opened in 1995, we have provided 39,000 medical visits, plus thousands of procedures. The GMFC continues to give hope and health to those in need of medical care.”

Most Gratefully Yours,
Kathleen A Schneider, Executive Director
Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic

“On behalf of the residents, staff and board of Serenity Inns, we want to thank you for your generous financial gift given in June, 2017. The support of donors like you is crucial for us to reach our goal of helping men choose recovery from addiction, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, and assists us in meeting the daily needs of our recovering residents and helps us provide quality programming as they learn to live in recovery.”

Blessings,
Ellen Blathers, Executive Director
**TosaFest 2017**

Friday, Sept. 8, from 6p.m. to 11:30p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 9, from 11a.m. to 11:30p.m. Join with Wauwatosa for Tosafest 2017, that continues Wauwatosa’s 42 year tradition of music, food, and family fun, celebrates our historic village, and supports our community. www.tosafest.org

**Tosa Farmers Market**

Every Saturday through October 14 from 8a.m. to noon at 7720 Harwood Ave, Wauwatosa.

**Wood and Wings!**

Visit West Allis Downtown from 11a.m. to 5p.m. on Sat., Sept. 16th, to watch artists embellish log chairs and taste some of the best wings in West Allis. All chairs will be auctioned off to support the Downtown West Allis Business Improvement District’s beautification efforts. Tickets for the “Best Wings in West Allis” Cook-off are available at downtownwestallis.org.

**Keynote Speaker at Clement Manor**

On Thurs., Sept. 28th, from 1:30-3p.m., author Gavin Schmitt will present the history of organized crime in southeast Wisconsin as revealed in previously secret FBI files. From Prohibition to Las Vegas casinos and beyond, learn how Milwaukee gangsters impacted the world around them. Call 546-7302 to register. Located at 9405 W. Howard Ave, Greenfield.

**Classic Car Show**

Start your engines for the 27th Annual Downtown West Allis Classic Car Show! Over 500 classic cars line Greenfield Avenue for an afternoon of vintage vehicles, local eats, and family fun! Sunday, Oct. 1, from 10a.m. to 3p.m. on Greenfield Avenue between 70th and 76th Street.

**GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD**

**OUTREACH FOR HOPE FAMILY BIKE RIDE**

At www.ofhbikeride.com you can register to take part in the 10th annual Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride (Sat., Sept. 9, at St. Bruno Parish in Dousman). You’ll find information on the various rides, volunteer opportunities, or how to donate to support 19 various ministry sites in Southeastern Wisconsin supported by the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

The goal for this year is $110,000. Your participation or donation will enrich the lives of so many people of faith as we support food pantries, after school tutoring programs, meals and food bag distribution, parish nurses or medical clinics and so much more.

Registration is easy and enables you to participate in a great day of exercise, food (catered picnic lunch), and fun.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this amazing event... whether you ride a bike, provide financial support and/or volunteer, the needs are many... the rewards are greater than you can imagine!

See you out and about!
**BEING GREEN**

Do you have a printer at home? Do you print out many things that are not something you necessarily need to keep? 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. Check with the office.

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**Congratulations to the following block party drawing winners:**

- All 10 Nails gift certificate – Camille Sopa
- Forever Yours Floral Designs - Terrarium - Dave Wegener
- Handmade Quilt – Peggy Phillips
- Handmade with Love handmade knit glove/scarf set - Samuel Holt
- Cat Basket – Milena
- Kitten Basket – Daniel Wenzler
- Kitty Litter - Natalie Jaeger
- Super Soup Day basket – Mark Militello
- Brewers Bobblehead basket – Ethan Valusek
- Family Video basket – Gloria Grassell
- State Fair tickets – Dave Wegener
- Mexican Fiesta tickets – Shirley Cogan
- Germanfest tickets – Judi Mueller & Laura Musack
- Irishfest tickets – Janet Zeinert
- Pick N Save gift card – Dan Sopa

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**On the Lighter Side**

“Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice.”

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**Bible Quiz**

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, “I am about to spit you out of my mouth,” because it is metaphorically blank (fill in the blank).

A. too hot  
B. too cold  
C. tasteless  
D. lukewarm

**Answer:** (See Revelation 3:16.)
The Church Is The People

Anniversaries...

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<thead>
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<th>Names</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Dale &amp; Cheryl Isotalo (N)</td>
<td>34 yrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Bryant &amp; Katie Bakkum</td>
<td>4 yrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Colleen &amp; Spencer Siarnicki (F)</td>
<td>16 yrs.</td>
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Birthdays...

First Lutheran

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Jeanette Zeinert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Pamela Jacobson</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>John Vella</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>Lily Rees</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
<td>Jesse Rofritz</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
<td>Nadia Bivens</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Angelina Calderon</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Mary McNeal</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Jessica Bayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Dale Phillippo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Werner Bayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Sharon Phillippo</td>
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Nativity Lutheran

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>James Ribnek III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>James Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Breven DeBack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Darren Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Cheryl Isotalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Jedrek Avendano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Marvelyn Cockroft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.

Please keep in your prayers the family of Kammy Selear, who died on July 31st. May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Gayle Falk, Tom Hackl, Elya Lam, Carolyn Moncher, Ron Phillippo, Lavone Reis, Kathy Stenzel, 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 Isaacsion, Earl Junck, Elle Konetzki, Alfred Korth, Myra Shields, Dennis Schoberg Sr., Joyce Staub, Lois Taylor 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

Need pastoral care?

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. If you have a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.), you can reach Pastor Bryant by calling him at (414)856-7672.

I teach Sunday School. What’s YOUR superpower?
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

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

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI
www.firstlutheranelca.org
E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net
Phone: 414-476-4664

NATIVITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
6905 W. Bluemound Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI
www.nativitylutheran.us
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853

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