

# News & Views

**First and Nativity  
Lutheran Churches  
March 2018**



## Worship With Us During Lent

**Wednesday Worship March 7, 14 and 21**

10:00 a.m. At First Lutheran

Coffee and refreshments served 15 min. prior to service

12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran

“Brown Bag Worship” - Bring your lunch — water and coffee provided, other items at nominal cost.

6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran on March 7 and 21

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service on March 14

Joined by First United Methodist and St. Augustine Catholic

Come 15 min. early for coffee and refreshments

**Palm Sunday Celebrated March 24 and 25**

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran

**Good Friday, March 30**

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

1:00 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran

There will be no Saturday worship  
at First Lutheran on March 31st



*Greater love  
has no one  
than this,  
that someone  
lay down his  
life for his  
friends.  
John 15:13*



People of God,

A quote from a sermon by Martin Luther King, Jr., preached March 3, 1963:

“Now the other thing about [this idea that God is going to do everything for us] is that it leads to a tragic misuse of prayer. Some people feel that God must do everything and whenever people feel that they will end up asking God to do everything. And you know, for many people, God is a little more than a ‘cosmic bell-hop’ that they will call on for every trivial need. Others see God as so omnipotent and [humanity] as so powerless that they end up making prayer a substitute for working intelligence.

“A man said to me the other day: ‘I believe in integration but I know it will not come until God gets ready for it to come. You Negroes should stop protesting and start praying!’ Well, I’m sure we all need to pray for God’s guidance in this difficult and agonizing struggle for freedom and human dignity. But if you end up doing nothing but praying we will be living in segregation two hundred or three hundred years from now. We’ve got to do something else besides pray; as important as prayer happens to be. God will never allow prayer to become a substitute for working intelligence.”

I write this in the wake of yet another mass shooting, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. A question that swirls in our nation’s collective mind at times like this is, “How can we eradicate this evil?” We wonder what more can be done to protect our children. We wonder what system of our society and culture failed this time.

And so we assign blame. We shout and yell that only certain aspects of our society are broken. Whether it’s a mental health problem, a gun regulation problem, a misogyny problem, a political problem, a defense problem, an immigration problem... this list goes on and on.

And it would seem that in the midst of our finger pointing we all fall back on sending thoughts and prayers, on saying that right now just isn’t the time for any political discussions, that evil can’t be legislated... again, this list goes on and on.

In doing this we become paralyzed. Take for example, Columbine High School. Columbine occurred nineteen years ago. These nearly two decades later Columbine has become synonymous with one event – everyone knows what the word *Columbine* means. And yet, in all those years, what exactly has changed? Marjory Stoneman Douglas experienced, inexplicably, an even greater tragedy. But I can only imagine that as you read these words two weeks after they’ve been written, some fourteen days after seventeen people lost their lives, that the national conversation will once again be stalled – if not forgotten.

We’ll have considered our thoughts and prayers sufficient and claim that nothing can be done. And Marjory Stoneman Douglas will disappear from our national conscious – a massacre more tragic and deadly than the school infamous for a mass shooting will be forgotten – buried under inaction and acceptance.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said these many decades ago, prayer is not a substitute for action. As a nation we must lead, act, legislate, teach, dare to change what has become far too common and far too normal.

As a church we must speak out against the injustices at every level of our culture and society. We must speak out and we must act; prayers are important, but action must be coupled with them. You have the agency to affect great change. Empowered and strengthened by the Holy Spirit we as a church have the opportunity every day to demand and seek change at every level of culture and society where injustices reign.

This is our calling. This is our challenge.

Recently, President Trump quoted this passage from 2 Kings: “We can know that God will hear our prayers and see our tears; God will certainly heal.” However, in this 2 Kings text we find that after prayers have been said, action follows. We hear that Isaiah produced the remedy, Isaiah produced the cure, Isaiah acted, Isaiah saved a life. Now the question for us is: Will actions follow our prayers?

# NEVER STOP LEARNING

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

First Kings, a historical narrative, will be our topic during March. Come and hear about the building of Solomon's Temple. Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room from 10:00-11:00am. Join in the lively discussion and perhaps join us for lunch after class. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

### RETURN TO THE LORD

As we move through lent, a time of reflection, we need to re-set our hearts and return to the Lord...Leave behind all the pain and hate and come back to true life. Abandon our sins, abandon our fears and return to repentance and hope.

Return to the Lord. Discard our old ways. Give up our old sorrows, cling to the hope found in Christ. Turn away from the calls of worldly success.

Repent and turn back to God. Turn away from the desire to have what everyone else has. Turn away from greed and the race for power.

Repent and turn back to God. Seek forgiveness, healing and wholeness."

Taken from Joel 2

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH HAPPENINGS



Sunday School is offered every Sunday except Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Spring Session will conclude on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our Spring Sunday School theme this year is "Celebrating the Seasons of the Church" as well as Miracles/Parables performed by Jesus. Each lesson includes a Bible focus from our Spark Bible and a lesson.



On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> we held a Beary Special Event. Children got a stuffed bear to decorate and take home. The group enjoyed eating Valentine cookies and making a Valentine for someone special in their lives. "Our hearts belong to Jesus" was our lesson for the day. Lori, Linda and Greta were there to lend a helping hand.

Check the Sunday Bulletins for updates on our "God's Global Barnyard" project. There are Barn and Piggy banks to take home to put your spare change in. When they are full, return them and the children will use the money to purchase animals. You can also put you spare change in the barn that Marie LaPage made for us in the Narthex. We have collected about \$9.00 so far.

If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School please contact the Church office.



*Join us on Sunday, April 1st,  
as we celebrate our risen Lord!*

*9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran  
11:00 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran*

# Nativity Lutheran News

## BROWN BAG IT LENT ....

Our Lenten lunches continue the weeks of March 7, 14 and 21 at 12:00 noon. Bring your brown bag lunch, and we'll furnish coffee and water (other items at nominal cost).

We will be done in less than 25 minutes.



## NATIVITY 85 YEARS AGO – A REFLECTION

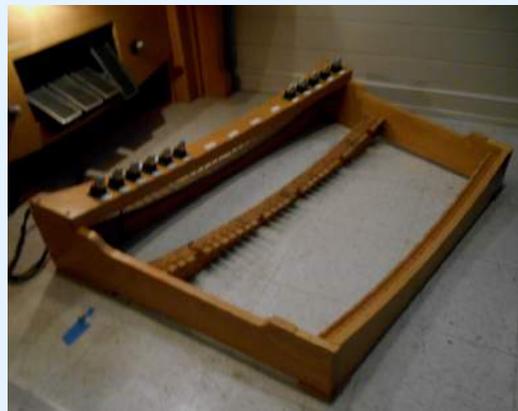
Nativity Evangelical Church was established in 1933. As we at Nativity look back from 2018, 85 years later, here is a reflection on the world and US economic and social climate at that time.

1933 was the worst year of the depression, with unemployment peaking at 25.2% and with 1 in 4 people unemployed. Prohibition was still the law of the land. Adolf Hitler became the chancellor of Germany and opened the first concentration camp at Dachau. Tens of thousands traveled the road and rail in America looking for work, and the US banking system, which was under great strain, was propped up by the US government (US banking act of 1933) to try and stop the panic of people withdrawing their money from the banks. The continuing drought in the Midwest made even more of the land into dust bowls.

Somehow through all the turmoil of 1933, a group of like-minded Lutherans decided to form a new congregation on the far southside of Wauwatosa. The world was a dark place, but our founders found courage and hope in their convictions to persevere.

## NATIVITY ORGAN MAINTENANCE

Dennis has recently restored the pedal-board on the Nativity organ. No longer will the sound of feet be heard, as the felt was replaced and the whole mechanism oiled and refinished. Thank you, Dennis, for all your time and work!



Before.....

and After!



## CONTINUE TO SAVE YOUR BOTTLE CAPS!

Nativity Lutheran has a bag in the narthex for the caps, and First Lutheran members can bring theirs to the office.



**IT'S COMING!  
TIME FOR THE ANNUAL  
NATIVITY MAY RUMMAGE SALE!**

Calling everyone with too much “stuff” – it is time for the annual Nativity May rummage sale! Let Nativity help to lighten your load by bringing that “stuff” to Nativity. Volunteers for setup, and the sale, and breakdown are always welcome. And don’t forget that Nativity can use your tasty treats for the bake sale! Thank you, and mark your calendars for the sale now.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER  
ON THE MENU  
FOR APRIL!**



Mark your calendars now for the Annual Nativity Spaghetti Dinner! This year the date is April 14. And we need YOU! Volunteers are needed for passing out and hanging flyers, planning, and prize donations. Please mark your calendars now for delicious food and company!



**SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

Scouting for Food is happening again this year. You will get a bag on your door on March 10, and the donated food in your bag will be picked up on March 17. BSA Venture Crew 999 (a co-ed unit that meets regularly at Nativity) will be manning the collection point at the West Allis Farmer’s Market. This will mark the 30th year in which Scouts have collected food for the hungry in the local BSA Three Harbors council. To date, over 6 million pounds of food have been collected.

**Palm Saturday Concert  
Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow)**

Via Dolorosa is the “traditional” route or way in old Jerusalem, the “way” that Christ carried his cross to his crucifixion. Join us at Nativity Lutheran Church, 69<sup>th</sup> and Bluemound Road, on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for our free Holy Week concert. The concert will feature beautiful music for this holiest week of the Christian Year, including highlights from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Jesus Christ Superstar”, performed by Dennis Jon Wolfgang – Organ, Milwaukee Favorite Susan Platt – Soprano, Rev. Bryant Jeremy Bakkum – Piano. and Gus Barnes, Jr. – Tenor, in his final Milwaukee appearance before his ordination and call to full time ministry. Special Event Parking will be allowed on both sides of Bluemound by the City of Wauwatosa. Donations to Nativity’s pipe organ fund will be accepted. A reception will follow where you may greet the artists.

# First Lutheran Happenings

## MEET YOUR NEW CHURCH COUNCIL



First Lutheran's Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 18th (after TWO weather delays!). The following members were elected to the church council: Werner Bayer, Joyce Favre, Natalie Jaeger, Heidi Leiser, Lori Marquez, Jamie Schoberg and Carla Ullerich.

Many thanks to the retiring council members Earl Casto, Mari Dixon, Dave Grulke and Carrie Muffler. We appreciate their time and effort serving our church.

Newly elected officers are:

President - Werner Bayer

Vice President - Natalie Jaeger

Secretary - Heidi Leiser

Treasurer - Joy Dowd



### INTERFAITH THANK YOU...

"On behalf of West Central Interfaith I would like to thank you for your financial commitment and support for our Neighborhood Outreach Program. .... First Lutheran has been very generous to us over the years and we are grateful to be included as one of the important missions that your congregation supports."

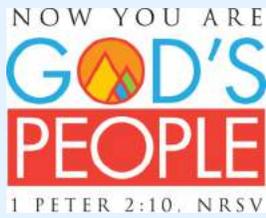
Tammy Herro, Director

### HOLIE SENIOR HOUSING

#### Housing of Limited Income Elderly, Inc.

Mike Plicka recently attended a board meeting of HOLIE. This church-affiliated group has developed apartments for elderly people throughout the Milwaukee area. The meeting was called to determine the future of HOLIE. Each member church (First Lutheran is a member) can have the pastor and three at-large members on the board. They are looking for other churches to become a part of the board. Congregation members are welcome to attend meetings along with the representatives. First Lutheran needs one or two additional board members. If you're interested in becoming a part of an organization that helps so many area residents, contact Mike Plicka.





### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Keith Martin. Keith became a member of First Lutheran after moving into his new apartment at Library Square. He heard that we had a good minister so he came to check us out and decided to make First Lutheran his church home. Keith grew up on Lloyd St. and attended Washington High in Milwaukee. He is the father of 3 sons, Rick, Rand and Reed and has 8 grand-children (all handsome boys!). He retired a “couple” years ago as the Superintendent of Schools in Two Rivers, WI and taught civics, math and shop class over the years. He also coached wrestling and was on the wrestling team while in the Army. Keith isn’t able to join us as often as he would like but tries to attend Pastor Bakkum’s services at Library Square.



### *Meet our Members...*

Marie LePage and her mother, Vi, came to First Lutheran, the little white church, on 73<sup>rd</sup> and Orchard, when Marie was a young confirmand. They lived in the neighborhood and needed a church within walking distance of their home. Marie shared that she and her mother once lived in that interesting, big house on the corner of 84<sup>th</sup> and National. Marie’s mother taught Sunday school at First. After Marie was confirmed, Ralph Bayer invited her to join the choir. Marie said she was lucky to sit between two great mentors, Ann Schumell and Lavern Guthrie. Marie graduated from West Allis Central and UWM, with a degree in Art Education. She taught in various West Allis schools and found it challenging to travel between them without a car, especially in winter. She recalls that Al Munkwitz was the bus driver at times. As times changed, Marie was able to teach at one school. She taught at Jefferson elementary for 28 years. After confirmation, Marie continued in the choir and has also been on council, worked with Bible school, is currently on the Social Ministry committee, the Memorial committee, volunteers at food pantry, is the “tree advisor” for her condo association, takes art classes at MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design), and helps with lots of miscellaneous projects related to landscaping and most everything that needs an artist’s touch.

### January Financial Summary Report

	Income	Expenses	Over/-Loss
*Actual Income & Expenses	\$8,505.21	\$9,940.68	-\$1,435.47
	Income	Mo Budget	Over/-Loss
Giving to General Fund	\$5,393.21	\$9,558.27	-\$4,165.06
Giving to Benevolence	\$518.00	\$658.00	-\$140.00

\*Includes \$2,500.00 from the endowment fund



Br...r January’s cold and snowy weekends had a big impact on attendance and giving. February has been rough but we’re praying for an early spring so we can catch up. One way for First Lutheran to have consistent monthly income in bad weather months is through Simply Giving. Consider electronic giving directly from your checking or savings account. Contact the office to get started. For those of you already using Simply Giving, thank you.

## EVANGELISM ON THE MOVE

Below are excerpts from a book titled *“From Surviving to Thriving, A practical Guide to Revitalize your Church”* by Reverend Dr. John Krahn. Pastor Bryant and the Evangelism Committee are working through the book this year to revitalize First Lutheran’s mission in the community, which is to know Christ and make Christ known (Reaching out in our community to share the word of God).

*“Thus it is the church’s and every individuals Christian mission to take the Gospel into the home, into the community and into the entire world. Tell people that your church is the place where they can be loved by God. It is the place where they will find the saving grace of Christ crucified and risen. Through your church, they will receive forgiveness and be assured of an eternal future. Invite them into your church family so they can also become part of God’s forever family.”*

Though we are just beginning to develop our plans, we trust that the Lord will lead us in the direction he wants us to go. We are grateful for the resources and the hope that he provides for us on our journey. If you are interested in joining us, come to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 1:30pm or talk to Joy, Barb or Pastor Bryant.



## COFFEE AND...

Stop in a little early for our Saturday service and enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a treat before worship. Coffee is served beginning at 5pm.

Do you enjoy having coffee and treats on Sunday mornings after worship, and having a little time to visit with friends? Consider signing up to bring treats for one Sunday. Coffee is set up ahead of time - all you need to do is plug it in. We’ve had some very faithful treat providers, but they deserve a week off now and then. Sign up in the Fireside Room. Thanks!



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## INDULGE FOR LENT?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God’s presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God’s magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus’ promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the “little things,” coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God’s answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you “sacrifice” the tendency to wallow in worry.



## Taking Steps to Hunger!

March is the final month for our “Take Steps to End Hunger” fundraising campaign for our Food Ministry. As of this printing, we’ve received about \$700 in donations, \$2,300.00 in Siebert Foundation grants through our affiliation with Feeding America and 18 post office bins of food from Holy Trinity church (thank you!) Last year, your donations helped us distribute over 1,500 bags of food and serve 5,563 meals to our “neighbors.” We are grateful for your support and pleased to share God’s love and abundance with about 400 men, women and children every month.



## *Our Ministries keep on rolling!*

We appreciate the many volunteers who help make our food pantry ministry possible. From the cooks who spend several hours on Thursdays and Fridays, to the meal and bread servers who help our visitors feel at home and receive the food they need. THANK YOU!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING



Operation Christmas Stocking is a year around project. Please keep us in mind as you shop the winter clearance sales especially men’s and women’s hats and gloves. Check the Menards T-shirt sale, you can buy up to 4 men’s T-shirt and get a full rebate. Menards has this offer about 4 or 5 times a year. For the children’s stockings we are focusing on coloring books/activity books and crayons/markers. They do not have to have a Christmas theme. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaqueline Bayer/Greta Plicka



## Synod Offerings



### *Sing a Joyful Noise of Faith!*

#### **Women of the ELCA, Clusters I-IV**

Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 14

St. Luke's Lutheran

6705 Northway, Greendale



Singing is worship and worship is song. The study, centered in Psalm 98, will look at the significance of singing in worship. Register by Wed., April 4th. Registration forms available from Cheryl Isoltalo or in the church office.

#### **MILWAUKEE OF YESTERYEAR**

March 20, 6:30 p.m.

The Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear will take you on a journey into store, pharmacies, clinics, toy stores and speakeasies of nearly 100 years ago. RSVP to Luther Manor at 414-434-1768

Luther Manor is a nonprofit Life Plan Community. The campus offers residents a loving, Christian atmosphere where they can enjoy carefree retirement living. We provide an array of amenities and services, including a variety of senior living options and exceptional health care services, conveniently located under one roof at 4545 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa.

## *Our Community*

#### **HUNGER TASK FORCE**

#### **STOCK BOX DELIVERY**

WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER

7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.



Hunger Task Force administers the Stockbox program—which provides a healthy and nutritious box of supplementary food to low-income seniors. Each month Hunger Task Force delivers nearly 9,000 Stockboxes to low-income seniors age 60+ who live in Wisconsin and have a monthly income of \$1,307 or less (or \$1,760 for a two-person household). Stockbox is a free box of healthy food that includes cereal, milk, canned veggies and fruits, pasta or rice, protein, fruit juice, canned meats and 2 lbs of fresh Wisconsin cheese. West Allis residents can register on March 13th between 1-2 p.m. For a Stockbox program near you, call Hunger Task Force's Rick Lewandowski at 414-777-0483 or call IMPACT at 211 to apply.

#### **CLEMENT MANOR**

Center for Enrichment

9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

#### **"THE 1,000 WORDS"**

**Presented by John Horgan**

**March 22, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

"A picture speaks a thousand words." This address will focus on a selection of the most iconic photos ever taken—the Pulitzer Prize winners. Learn the story of the moment, individuals and photographers who are represented. Call 414-546-7302 to register. \$5 for non-members.

#### **LIVING WELL WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

#### **Library Square**

1820 S. 75th St., West Allis

Tuesdays—March 20 through April 24

1:00-3:30 p.m.

Six-week workshop helps participants gain control of their lives through manageable action plans and support from peers. Call 414-774-4411 for more information or to register.

## March Birthdays...

### First Lutheran

3/2 Audrey Enloe  
3/3 Jason Zehe  
3/4 David Grulke  
3/11 Joyce Favre  
3/11 Roger Gray  
3/11 Alfred Korth  
3/13 Gus Barnes  
3/14 Sharon Smith  
3/15 Erin Anderson  
3/15 Wesley Anderson  
3/16 Joan Hirschinger  
3/18 Isabella Dixon  
3/27 Dolores Hurst  
3/27 Adriana Rees  
3/28 Samuel Marquez  
3/31 Melissa Weisnicht

Happy Birthday to  
Pastor Bryant on  
March 5th!

## March Birthdays...

### Nativity Lutheran

3/1 Audrey Fierst  
3/3 Donald Nell  
3/9 Arthur Gruetzner  
3/17 Evan Reynolds  
3/19 John Gordon, Jr.  
3/22 Nicole DeBack  
3/22 Carol Monfort  
3/26 Dawn Reynolds

## March Anniversaries...

3/1	Wm. & Janice Hansen (F)	36 yrs.
3/2	Michael & Melissa Weisnicht (F)	11 yrs.
3/21	Marcus & Nicole DeBack (N)	19 yrs.
3/26	Joel & Lori Marquez (F)	11 yrs.



## Friendly Reminders

It's Daylight Saving Time!  
Turn your clock ahead 1 hr.  
before you go to bed on  
Saturday, March 10th!



Remember to notify the church office of any address, phone or email changes!

### 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 (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.,) you can reach Pastor Bryant by calling him at (414) 768-3670.

### Missed One??

Missed a sermon? If you've missed one of Pastor Bryant's inspiring sermons, you can catch it on our website at [www.firstlutheranelca.org](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org). Just click on the Media button. Some also include a video.



We know that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. "Go, and from now on sin no more."
- B. "Not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
- C. "Peace be with you."
- D. "Tell no one what I have done for you."

Answer: (See John 8:11.)



## On the Lighter Side



"I'm playing a crowd member in the Passion Play. I was going to play Pilate 'til I found out I'd have to wash my hands."

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
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Mailed on 2-26-18

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Dated Material  
Please deliver by 2-28-18



### 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:*

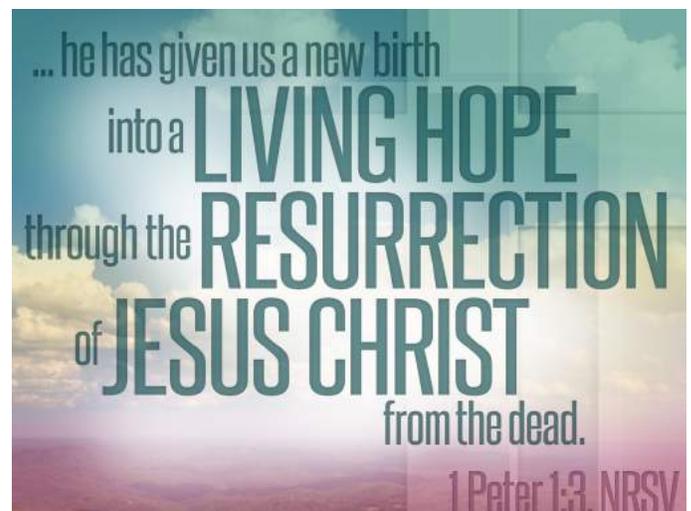
*Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. First Lutheran  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran  
Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran  
Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays  
at First Lutheran*

#### **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

7400 W. Lapham St.  
West Allis, WI  
[www.firstlutheranelca.org](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org)  
E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)  
Phone: 414-476-4664

#### **NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6905 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI  
[www.nativitylutheran.us](http://www.nativitylutheran.us)  
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853



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