

# News & Views

*First and Nativity  
Lutheran Churches  
April 2018*



Dear people of God,

Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed!* The chains of death no longer have a hold on us because our Lord and Savior has defeated the sting of death. Not through violence or fear, but instead through humility and service, through forgiveness and love.

In this season of Easter, I pray that we too have the strength and courage through and in the Holy Spirit to move into God's creation proclaiming from every mountain and every valley the abundance of salvation and love every person has received through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For it is through the empty tomb that you are set free. Free from the powers of death, free from the chains of sin, free from the evils that would seek to separate you from God. In his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has reconciled you to God the Father – Jesus Christ has brought you into relationship with God the Father in the same way that Jesus the Son, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit abide with one another and are in relationship with one another.

And so, in this season of Easter, I pray that you experience this freedom in Jesus Christ. The freedom to serve and love the world in the same manner that Jesus Christ first loved you: Abundantly. For now that our sins have been atoned for and we have been brought close to God we can truly experience the freedom of serving and loving the world.

For this day and always you have been set free in the redeeming love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A savior who lived for you, died for you, and rose to new life for you. Rose to new life so that you now have the freedom to live, to love, and to serve.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Burt".

**TUESDAY MORNING  
BIBLE CLASS  
AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

During the month of April we will continue our study of the book of 1 Kings. This book is a historical narrative of the building of King Solomon's Temple and his subsequent fall from grace. All are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Bring your Bible and join the discussion. (No class on April 17<sup>th</sup>) John Bennethum is our Teacher.



Teacher Lori Marquez helped the Sunday School class make salt dough palm prints.

**GUS BARNES WILL LEAD WORSHIP**

Be sure to attend worship at either church on the weekend of April 28-29. Pastor Bryant will be on vacation and Gus Barnes will lead us in worship. Gus will be graduating from Wartburg Seminary in May, and hopes to receive a call soon after.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
APRIL 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. We colored fish made out of foil and learned about how Jesus fed fishes and loaves to 5,000 people. Our lessons for Jesus Calms the Storm and Jesus Walks on Water concluded with making a rain storm. Using secret ingredients that only the Sunday School children know, we created clouds, rain and even a thunder storm in a jar. In the middle of March Linda presented a lesson on Transfiguration. She will also be making maracas and teaching music related to Spring. Lori taught the lesson on Palm Sunday and made praying hands.

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 your spare change in the barn that Marie LaPage made for us in the Narthex. As of March 11<sup>th</sup> we added another \$1.36, this brings our total to \$10.36.

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

Sunday School Staff: Lori Marquez, Linda Grulke and Greta Plicka

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**COMMUNITY  
WORSHIP**  
March 14



Father Lawrence Frankovich

First Lutheran hosted an ecumenical worship service on Wed., March 14th. Joining us were First United Methodist Church and St. Augustine Catholic Church. A choir made up of members of all three churches enhanced the music, and a reception in Hammerling Hall provided an opportunity to get to know our neighbors.



**SAVE THE  
DATES!**  
**June 25-28**

*Vacation Bible School  
at First Lutheran*

Watch for more information and registration details in the May issue of News & Views



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

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

# Nativity Lutheran News



## **NATIVITY 85 YEARS AGO – FURTHER REFLECTION**

Nativity is 85 this year. Here are some of the events, 85 years ago, in March and April of 1933, that were occurring the year that like-minded people established our church.

In March, the Volstead Act was amended for the sale of 3.2 beer and light wine, Dachau (the first Nazi concentration camp) was opened, the board game Monopoly was invented, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp) was established, Adolph Hitler was legally named dictator of Germany, and FDR declares a week-long "bank holiday" to close all banks, and freeze financial transactions.

In April, Bonnie and Clyde survived a shootout with police in Joplin, Missouri, the Gestapo secret police were established, the United States officially goes off the gold standard, Jayne Mansfield was born, and 100 farmers in Le Mars, Iowa, kidnapped Judge Bradley from the Plymouth County Courthouse when he refused to stop signing mortgage foreclosures.

## **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.

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



**SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH**

Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

Family style bingo after dinner

**FREE BINGO!  
BAKE SALE!  
DRAWINGS!**

Tickets

Adults \$9.00

Children \$4.00 (3-11 yrs.)

See Lillian Ribnek or call the church office for tickets. Please reserve tickets by April 9th.

**SEE YOU THERE!**



## **A BIG THANK-YOU**

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's Via Dolorosa Concert a success. Pictures from the concert will be in the next issue of News & Views.



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

The annual Nativity May rummage sale is right around the corner and set for two consecutive weekends – May 11 and 12, and May 18 and 19.

Nativity is asking for your old political sign frames – these frames make good rummage sale signs. And because our signs don't always make it back to Nativity, more frames are always welcome.

So calling everyone with too much "stuff" – let Nativity help to lighten your load by bringing that "stuff" to Nativity. Volunteers for setup (scheduled for May 6 through 10), 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 please mark your calendars for the sale now!



**GREATER TOSA INTERFAITH**

We are looking for someone from our congregation who might be interested in serving on the Advisory Council. Nancy Jene could use a co-council member as she is traveling often and can't make all the meetings. One of the chief responsibilities of our Council members is serving as liaison between Interfaith and Nativity. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of older adults please call Amy De-dow at 453-5750 to see how you can help.

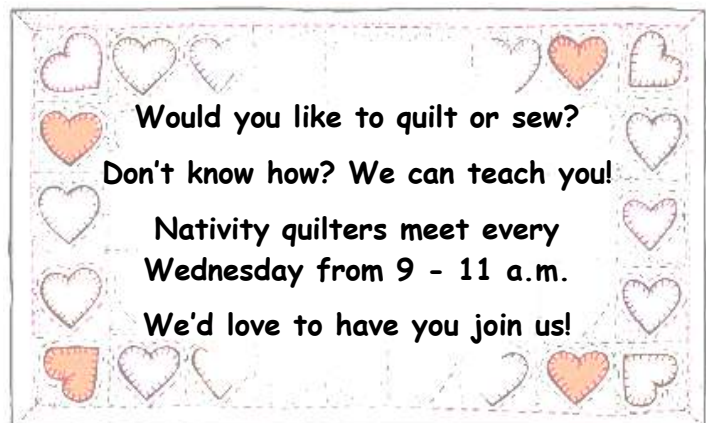


**WE NEED YOU!**

Have you bought your Spaghetti dinner tickets yet? Have you given flyers for the dinner to your friends and neighbors? Volunteers are needed for passing out and hanging flyers, planning, and prize donations.



Pentecost is right around the corner, so please think about ordering geraniums to decorate the church and your yard this year. Ask Jean Leppien about placing your order.



**Would you like to quilt or sew?**

**Don't know how? We can teach you!**

**Nativity quilters meet every  
Wednesday from 9 - 11 a.m.**

**We'd love to have you join us!**

# First Lutheran Happenings



We are a month into our new church year - the new church council has been installed. We are attempting to get all of our committees up and running. The Evangelism Committee and the Endowment Committee met on March 6th, the Social Ministry Committee met on March 13th, and the Worship and Music Committee is scheduled to meet on April 4th. We are trying to get as many people involved as possible. Hopefully the committees will generate some programs and activities to which we can invite neighbors and friends.

I'm hoping that all of our efforts will lead to growth. Lori Marquez and Carrie Muffler developed a survey last year to try to determine the interests of members and neighbors. This, together with the re-evaluation of the MET process we went through several years ago, can help us determine where to put our efforts.

The Evangelism Committee is studying the book "From Surviving to Thriving" and we are hoping to use this as a road map to growing and stimulating our congregation. This, together with the inspirational sermons and leadership of our Pastor and God's guidance, should help us to enter into an eventful and exciting year.

New ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Werner Bayer  
President church council, First Lutheran Church



2018 Council Members (L-R)

Pastor Bryant, Heidi Leiser, Joy Dowd, Joyce Favre, Carla Ullerich, Natalie Jaeger and Werner Bayer

Not Pictured: Lori Marquez, Jamie Schoberg

Thanks to everyone for their willingness to serve!



The Dixon family has been busy as two of their girls won in their age group for Miss West Allis Earth. The winner of MISS EARTH serves as the Ambassador to environmental protection campaigns worldwide.



**FIRST LUTHERAN'S  
ALTAR GUILD  
NEEDS YOU!**

Our Altar Guild has lost several member the last few years, and Nancy Krizan is retiring after many years of service. They could use a few new members willing to serve even once a month. The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up communion, changing altar cloths and candles. Call the church office if you're interested, or join them at their quarterly meeting on April 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

A special thank-you to Nancy for her years of service and dedication to First Lutheran's Altar Guild. She isn't completely retiring, though, as the quilters have tapped her for doing some home sewing! Thanks, Nancy!

**Join Us for a Fish Fry!  
Friday, April 20th  
6:30 p.m.  
Meyer's Restaurant  
4260 S. 76th St.**



Adults are \$16.25, and children 10 and under are \$10.55. Cost includes tax and gratuity. Sign up in the narthex or call the church office by April 15th. Make checks payable to Werner Bayer.



**Coming in May.....**  
Watch for information on a night (or afternoon?) of games and fun, sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to new member Curt Sokolowicz. Curt came to First Lutheran through the recommendation of a friend who told him about the nice people here and the great lunch we serve on Fridays. Through inspiring discussions with Pastor Bryant, Curt turned to God and decided to become part of our church family. He grew up in Milwaukee and attended Hamilton High School. He is the father of two sons, Matthew and Kevin, who also live in the area. He worked for 38 years in the fluid power industry in various positions including sales manager and expeditor. For the past 18 years, he has worked part time at State Fair Park and Miller Park. In his earlier years, Curt planted and maintained a huge garden. He now enjoys playing computer games and socializing with friends.



*Meet our Members...*



Carolyn and Don are long-term members of First Lutheran. They decided to join us after an in-home visit by Pastor Krumsieg. Don is originally from Hurley, WI and Carolyn from Bessemer, MI. They met while she was working in Ironwood, MI and were married in 1956. Carolyn worked for an accounting firm doing bookkeeping and proofing tax returns. Don worked in an iron ore mine, 4200 feet below ground. He remembers carrying packs of dynamite on his back. When the mine closed in 1959, Don left for Milwaukee. He was able to find work at some of Milwaukee's largest manufacturers (Kearney & Trecker, Allis Chalmers) so Carolyn and the family joined him in their apartment on 74<sup>th</sup> and Washington. They moved to their current home on 65<sup>th</sup> and Adler in 1963. Don worked for the Milwaukee County park system for 23 years. He has served on church Council, was head of the property committee for years and is currently a teller. He is "Mr. fix it". Carolyn says he can fix almost anything. He also maintains their backyard garden. Carolyn has been active in Coffee And...for many years and is a seasoned baker, as we all know after sampling her treats on Sunday morning! Carolyn also serves on the Altar Guild committee. They have 4 children, Colleen, Dawna, Lora and Paul. They have 8 grandchildren and their 13<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild was just born on March 21st!

**February Financial Summary Report**

	Income	Expenses	Over/-Loss
*Actual Income & Expenses	\$9,356.98	\$9,859.18	-\$502.20
	Income	Mo Budget	Over/-Loss
Giving to General Fund	\$7,090.36	\$9,558.27	-\$2,467.91
Giving to Benevolence	\$641.00	\$658.33	-\$17.33



Our snowy winter weather continued for the first two weekends in February. Happily, sunshine and warmer weather is just around the corner. Thanks to all of you for your generous gifting to our ministries!  
 Your Financial Team





### FOOD PANTRY THANK-YOU'S

Check out the display in the narthex of some of the plates filled out by our food pantry visitors.

"My significant other and I really appreciate the kindness, love and hospitality!"

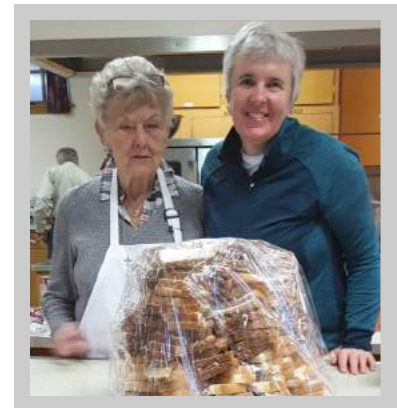
"Best Wishes! Thanks for everything"

"This is a great food pantry and a great church to have a meal."

"I thank God every time I walk through the door."

"Fantastic! The best meal of the week."

"Grateful. Thank you so much. The food was awesome."



Patt and Kelly serve up Friday desserts



*Taking Steps to*



*Hunger!*

**POST OFFICE  
FOOD DRIVE  
Sat, May 12**



First Lutheran will again be partnering with the food pantry at All Saints Church in Oak Creek for the Post Office food drive. We need people to spend the afternoon at All Saints receiving and sorting food (this does not involve heavy lifting) and people to unload the food and stock it at First, beginning in the late afternoon until about 6pm. Please see the sign up sheet on the welcome desk in the narthex. We usually receive a substantial amount of food, which helps support our pantry into the summer, but we can't do it without helpers.

**OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS  
STOCKING**



Operation Christmas Stocking is a year around project. Watch for the Menards T-shirt sale where you can buy up to 4 men's T-shirts and get a full rebate. Menards has this offer about 4 or 5 times a year.

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.

#### Taking the Hassle Out of Downsizing and Moving

Thurs., April 19, 6:30pm

#### "It's A Long, Long While"

Friday, April 20, 2 pm & 7 pm

Saturday, April 21, 2 pm

Luther Manor residents and UWM students will appear in an original drama which is a chronicle of a 50-year-old incident affecting the lives of four fictional people living at Luther Manor.

Luther Manor is located at 4545 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa. Call 464-3880 for information.

## Our Community



#### CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment  
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

#### "THE MAGNIFICENT MACHINES OF MILWAUKEE"

Presented by Thomas Fehring  
April 19, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

The story of innovation and enterprise creation in Milwaukee during the Century of Progress - the hundred years following the US Civil War, when Milwaukee became known as "the Machine Shop of the World".

#### *A message from interfaith....*

*Just once a month, that is all we are asking for from you. Join our Serve a Senior Once a Month program. The commitment is minimal, the impact is huge. Please contact the West Central Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Program office to discuss the many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of older adults in your community. 414-774-1747 or herro@unisonmke.org*

First Lutheran supports Interfaith through our benevolence dollars. Interfaith helps older adults with rides to doctor appointments and groceries, home chores, in-person and telephone visits, cards and gifts. They can help with taxes by providing homestead tax forms for renters or homeowners.



#### HUNGER TASK FORCE STOCK BOX DELIVERY

WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER ▪ 7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.

Stock Box provides a healthy and nutritious box of supplementary food to low-income seniors. The next West Allis distribution at the Senior Center will be on April 10th between 1-2 p.m. You can register there, or call Hunger Task Force's Rick Lewandowski at 414-777-0483 or IMPACT at 211 to apply.

## April Birthdays...

### First Lutheran

4/4 Patt Temke  
4/4 Natalie Jaeger  
4/5 Jessica Martin  
4/6 Kevin Lone  
4/6 Coleman Schultz  
4/9 Janell Cyrus  
4/9 Skylar Fox  
4/11 Jaden Mikolajczak  
4/13 Marie Casto  
4/13 Sandra Wymelenberg  
4/14 Louis Cyrus  
4/18 Jennifer Herbert  
4/20 John Bennethum  
4/22 LaVerne Williams  
4/25 Austin Barth  
4/26 Terry Favre  
4/29 John Dixon III  
4/29 Colleen Siarnicki

## April Birthdays...

### Nativity Lutheran

4/3 Beverly Neusen  
4/5 Susan Nekich  
4/5 Robert Nell  
4/6 Jill Mickelson  
4/10 Arin Leiser  
4/15 Cheryl Bruatigam  
4/17 Gabriela Martinez  
4/19 Michael Nekich  
4/23 Austin Leiser  
4/23 Mireya Martinez



## April Anniversaries...

4/2	Donald & Joan Brauch (N)	35 yrs.
4/4	Maureen & Peter Jones (N)	58 yrs.
4/15	Cynthia & Richard Barbian (N)	17 yrs.
4/27	Werner & Jackie Bayer (F)	61 yrs.

## Friendly Reminders



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.



In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate ..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd ..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

Answer: (See John 10:9, 11.)



## On the Lighter Side



"I thought your Easter message was great, except when you went off on a bunny trail."

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

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**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.