Dear people of God,

The 2018 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly is wrapping up for another year. Present in the discussions this year will be the draft social statement titled “Women and Justice”. As described in the document itself, “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is preparing a social statement on women and justice to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as mandated by the 2009 assembly. This ‘Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice’ is an invitation to everyone in the ELCA to join in conversation and discernment about this concern as people of faith.”

The ELCA has a dozen social statements dating back to 1991 ranging from economic life, to peace, to genetics. These social statements “are teaching and policy documents that assist members in forming judgments and in guiding action on social issues. They also set policy for this church, guide advocacy efforts and support its public voice. Social statements are developed through an extensive process of deliberation involving the whole church and must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.”

On page one of the draft statement it says, “Grounded in this understanding of the Triune God, we believe God’s intention for humanity is abundant life for all. This calls us to equity and justice for all with respect to issues of gender and sex.” As we read through the Gospel of John this past winter and spring we heard time after time Jesus speak about an abundance of new life for the world. We heard Jesus proclaim an abundance of blessings and gifts and love for all of God’s people.

This abundance at times can be hoarded by those in power; power that throughout the centuries has often been concentrated in the hands of men. As followers of Jesus Christ we are each empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to the oppressed and freedom to the captives. We are each called to recognize and disrupt systems of power when they create an imbalance of God’s abundance for all people.

This is not an easy endeavor. Systems of power do not willingly relinquish their grip on those they hold power over. As we discuss this draft social statement together as a synod and a national church we each do so with the Holy Spirit as our helper and guide. For as one people of God, a people who each richly share in the abundance of gifts from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we do so with an eye toward the new creation that we are called to bring forth on earth as it is in heaven.

Peace,

[Signature]

Pastor Emerit
Sunday School concluded on Sunday, May 20th. Throughout the year the children gathered at the altar for Pastor Bakkum’s children’s sermon and received a blessing.

Our Fall 2017/Spring 2018 Sunday School themes were The Lord’s Prayer and The Ten Commandments, and “Celebrating the Seasons of the Church” as well as Miracles/Parables performed by Jesus.

The children learned the Lord’s Prayer with the help of the “Lord’s Prayer Action Song” as well as songs that were presented at the Christmas Program in December. In February children invited their friends to Sunday School to stuff bears, decorate cookies and make valentines. Other lessons in the Spring included making salt dough hand prints, tie dye butterflies, Mother’s Day puzzle cards, making a variety of musical instruments, learning new songs and the magic of science.

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 LePage made for us in the Narthex. We collected about $3.00 during the last weeks in April bringing our total to $16.67.

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

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

On May 9, Linda Muth, a Synod representative to El Salvador spoke at First Lutheran about the sewing school in El Salvador that is supported by the First Lutheran and Nativity quilters.

She also gave a lot of information about life in El Salvador, the history and the Lutheran Church there. More information can be found at:

partnerswithelsalvador.org

Above: Linda with Pastor Santiago, pastor of Heroes in the Faith Lutheran Church in El Salvador that supports the sewing school.

CONFIRMATION 2018

On May 20th, five members of First Lutheran were confirmed. They are (L to R) Sharan Kruschka, Sara Sopa, Makaila Kurtz, Jamie Schoberg and Gloria Grassell. God bless you all!

Greater Milwaukee Synod
Outreach for Hope
Family Bike Ride
Sept. 8, 2018

The 2018 Family Bike Ride offers two locations: Waukesha and Ozaukee Counties, each supporting Outreach for Hope ministries in low-income communities throughout the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

There are many ways to participate...
- Casual rider – includes families and children
- Avid bicycler – various trail and road rides available
- Everyone – catered picnic lunch
- Volunteers welcome! – see website for details
- Non-bikers – you don’t have to ride to impact lives - simply donate at ofhbikeride.com

Please consider joining forces with hundreds of other bikers riding with a purpose. Visit the website for updates and registration information: ofhbikeride.com

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Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

Nativity is in the middle of the rummage sale push, so no time for much information, but here are some pictures so far. More information to follow, once the rummage sale is all wrapped up.

Nicole was one of many who manned the bake sale in the kitchen (R), while Joan handled her plant sale (below). Don and many others handled check-out (bottom), along with pricing, cleaning and organizing the sale.
Nativity is 85 this year. Here are some of the events, 85 years ago, in June of 1933, that were occurring the year that like-minded people established our church.

In June, California boxer Max Baer knocked out Germany’s Max Schmeling. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace announced a farm subsidy program to pay farmers to plow under as much as ten million acres of cotton (and not to grow it to reduce production and boost the price), the first drive-in theater opened in Camden, NJ (showing Wife Beware), Joan Rivers (nee Joan Molinsky) was born, films, plays, music, art, radio and the press were placed under the direction of the German Propaganda Ministry (controlled by Joseph Goebbels), and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was formed.

The Fellowship Hall was ‘filled to the brim’ with furniture, china, house wares, decoration, small appliances, clothing and plants.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Plan to enjoy Nativity’s 85th anniversary celebration with an 11:00 a.m. outdoor worship followed by the church picnic and corn roast.

If you’re in contact with former members, be sure to let them know about the celebration, and contact the church office with their addresses so we can be sure to send them an invitation. We’d love to reconnect with some of our old friends!
On May 29th, Gus Barnes served as supply pastor at First and Nativity. While at First, the Tuesday Bible Study group presented him with a stole, and the quilters presented him with his banner which was displayed at the reception following the graduation ceremony at Wartburg Seminary.

On the second and fourth Saturday each month, you’ll find a different tune at First Lutheran. Werner Bayer and his guitar lead the “Gospel Quartet Plus” - the plus meaning anyone who’d like to join in! Try a Saturday evening service for a change of pace!
Expenses this month included some outlay for our new Toshiba copier. Barb is happy to have a more reliable machine! Your offerings to our General Fund cover operating expenses such as salaries, insurance, utilities, worship supplies, etc. Your offerings to Benevolence support missions such as synod operations, local social agencies (LSS & Interfaith) and the El Salvador sewing school.

Your Financial Team

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<th>April Financial Summary Report 2018</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Over/-Loss</th>
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<td>Giving to General Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giving to Benevolence</td>
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DID YOU KNOW……

First Lutheran offers an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Contact Joy or the church office for information.
POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE Update

Thanks to everyone who helped sort and transport food during the Post Office food drive at All Saints Lutheran on May 12. The people of Oak Creek were very generous! All Saints was kind enough to share 75 bins of food with our pantry, which will help us to help families during the summer.

“STUFF THE SQUAD” PICK ‘N SAVE AND THE WAUWATOSA P.D.

On Sat., June 16th, the Pick ‘n Save at Bluemound Rd. & 84th St. will be selling grilled food to shoppers. All profits from the sale will go to the First Lutheran Food Pantry.

Feeding America matched our pantry with this Pick ‘n Save, and will be collecting donated food at the store which will be “stuffed into squads” and delivered to the church later that day.

Please stop by the store on June 16th, grab some lunch, and thank store employees and the Police Dept. for their support.
Meet our Members...

Adriana Rees grew up in Appleton, and discovered First Lutheran when she went for a walk around the block almost 9 yrs. ago and decided to give it a try. She's been on council and many other of the committees. She worked in the food pantry for a few years and has served as deacon almost that entire time she's been a member. Adriana is engaged and soon to be married to a wonderful man, John Halvorson, and together they have 4 beautiful and amazing daughters.

Adriana just graduated from University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee with a degree in Biomedical Sciences. She is a medical laboratory scientist. Her degree offers her all sorts of job opportunities. She could work for the CDC, intends to work in a hospital laboratory. She chose this field because she loves science and wants to help people. Adriana has gained knowledge and skill in hematology, chemistry, immunohematology, microbiology, and many other things that she will utilize in her job as a medical scientist. Other than science her hobbies include cooking, gardening and reading.

Congratulations to both of our graduates: Gus Barnes received his Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Seminary and Adriana Rees received a degree in Biomedical Sciences from U.W.-Milwaukee.

Scholarship News

The Scholarship Committee honored three requests for funding this Spring. Joy Dowd and Natalie Jaeger received $100.00 each for their “Food Safety” class. They are now Food Safety certified. Carla Ullrich received $10.00 for educational materials. If anyone is interested in applying for a Scholarship please notify the First Lutheran church office.
**Out and About in Our Community**

**CLEMENT MANOR**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

“HowLOMENM THE RISE”
Presented by Gregg Trojanowski
June 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Gregg will take you on a colorful adventure as he describes and shows pictures of a recent road trip down Rt. 66 to Albuquerque, NM to the annual hot-air International Balloon Fiesta.

Call 546-7302 to register. $3 for members, $5 for non-members.

**Music Under the Stars - Outdoor Concert**
June 19, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
“Songs for the Heart”

**Tosa Farmers Market**
Saturdays,
June 2 - October 13
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**LUTHER MANOR**
A Life Plan Community

JUNE 19, 6:30 p.m. - Evaluating a Senior Living Community: 10 Things to Consider
What we value and the things we require for living changes as we age. There are questions that both seniors and their families should be asking in retirement.

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

**Milwaukee Art Museum**
Meijer Free First Thursday

Beginning June 7 at 10:00 a.m., admission to the Milwaukee Art Museum is free for individuals and families (excluding groups) on the first Thursday of each month, thanks to Meijer! The Milwaukee Art Museum’s collection comprises more than 20,000 works of art from ancient to contemporary, from 15th to 20th century European and American paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, decorative arts, folk art, Haitian art and outsider art. MAM’s cafe also offers great lunches in a luminous setting with lake views. For more information, call MAM at 414-224-3200.

**50th Kids From Wisconsin Premier Performance**
Thursday, Jun 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Pius XI High School
135 N. 76th Street
414-266-7067

**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 June 12th 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.
June Birthdays…

First Lutheran
6/4 Ronald & Diane Berka (F) 52 yrs.
6/4 Robert & Marion Saur II (N) 49 yrs.
6/6 Arthur & Shirley Gruetzner (N) 65 yrs.
6/7 Robert & Joyce Gardner (F) 60 yrs.
6/9 Roger & Elizabeth Gray (F) 34 yrs.
6/9 David & Linda Grulke (F) 45 yrs.
6/16 Kristin & Brian Lewandowski (F) 18 yrs.
6/18 Nancy & Theodore Krizan (F) 69 yrs.
6/20 Jill & Jeffrey Mickelson (N) 20 yrs.
6/21 Chris & Amy Guthrie (F) 10 yrs.
6/23 Don & Carolyn Moncher (F) 62 yrs.

Nativity Lutheran
6/5 Gary Brautigam
6/5 Michael Schiessl
6/6 Candace Robinson
6/11 William Metzen
6/13 Jacqueline Steffes
6/30 Ronald Reinert

June Birthdays…

June Anniversaries…

6/4 Ronald & Diane Berka (F) 52 yrs.
6/4 Robert & Marion Saur II (N) 49 yrs.
6/6 Arthur & Shirley Gruetzner (N) 65 yrs.
6/7 Robert & Joyce Gardner (F) 60 yrs.
6/9 Roger & Elizabeth Gray (F) 34 yrs.
6/9 David & Linda Grulke (F) 45 yrs.
6/16 Kristin & Brian Lewandowski (F) 18 yrs.
6/18 Nancy & Theodore Krizan (F) 69 yrs.
6/20 Jill & Jeffrey Mickelson (N) 20 yrs.
6/21 Chris & Amy Guthrie (F) 10 yrs.
6/23 Don & Carolyn Moncher (F) 62 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. Just click on the Media button. Some also include a video.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:
Annie Bartlett, John Bennethum, Aaron Behnke, Tony Krizan, Becky Murray, Lavone Reis, Marlene Smith, Nanette Steves, Dick Turtenwald and LaVerne Williams

Please keep in your prayers the family of Linda Kaehler, who died on May 4th. May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Operation Christmas Stocking is a year-round project that was started in 1979. The past several years we have concentrated on providing gift bags for ELCA Synod Serenity Inn Program and the men and women of First Lutheran Church’s Food Pantry. We also provide stockings filled with age appropriate items for children/grandchildren who attend the Food Pantry. You can help us out by checking 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. Our goal is to have 70 T-shirts.

As of May we have 8. For the children’s stockings we are focusing on coloring books/activity books and crayons/markers. They do not need to have a Christmas theme. You can also help us out by saving those hotel/motel toiletries you collect while on your vacation travels.

Thank you for your continued support.
Respectfully submitted
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. Blumound 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.