

News & Views

**First and Nativity
Lutheran Churches
July-August, 2018**



Dear people of God,

At 2:08 A.M. a sound wakes me up. Groggy, I make my way through the dark room, across the hall, and into the nursery of my fourteen-month old daughter. This journey has been repeated countless times throughout the past year – including, at times, countless times per night.

However, after fourteen months of having your sleep interrupted every so often, repeating this pattern night after night is only a bother for a passing moment. A moment that passes once I am holding the miracle that is my daughter. It is a cliché, but I would lose all the sleep in the world to make sure she has a good night – all the sleep in the world if *that* was the sole requirement for having a child.

It is asinine, certainly. But when is love not? When does love not do everything in its power to do what is often the very opposite of rational? When does love not do everything in its power to showcase just how much love there is?

And all for a child. My child, of course – I am biologically predisposed to respond to *this* child if only for the reason she is mine. But this argument is apathetic. Ridiculous. Pathetic.

And yet, here it is. An argument which has resulted in thousands of children being separated from their parents. An argument which asks us to view these children, these families, as anything but. It is an argument used to describe “these people” – people who are aliens in this land (“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself.” – *Leviticus 19:34*), people who are human beings created in the image of God – like you and me (Genesis 2), people who are our brothers and sisters (“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” – *Hebrews 13:1-2*), and people who have the very presence of Jesus Christ within them (“I was a stranger and you invited me in... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – *Matthew 25:40*).

When we dehumanize the other, when we claim that only our *own* children should be cared for and loved, when we weaponize language to eviscerate the humanity of those we consider different – we find ourselves opposing God.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are each called to help the least of our brothers and sisters. There are no exceptions. We are called to love each and every person on this planet not because Christ calls us to, but because they *are* Christ.

All 7.6 billion of us – every single person a beloved child of God; every single person endowed with the very presence of Christ and made in the image of God.

It is 2:08 A.M. in the United States. Thousands of children are crying. There is only one answer: To love our neighbors as ourselves. To love as Christ loves us; to love as a parent loves their child: “Love burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away.” (Song of Songs 8:6-7)

It is 2:08 A.M. A cry pierces through the night. As Christians we respond to the cry because the cry is God. We respond because we love God and we love our neighbor. “All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:40)

There are no exceptions. May God’s mercy be with us and the Holy Spirit’s courage empower us.

God’s peace and love,

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



**TUESDAY MORNING
BIBLE CLASS
AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

During the summer of 2018 we will study the subject of Heaven. We will not meet on July 3rd due to the holiday. Arnie Garber, our friend and Orthodox Jew, will join us on the 17th. Heaven will be our focus on 7/10, 7/24 and 7/31. In August we hope to see Pastor and Lois Peterson; go to Gaspard's (parament Store) for a visit and lunch; hear about pre-arrangements for a funeral and finish our study of Heaven. John Bennethum is our Teacher.



HEALING SERVICES

We will be having Services of Healing at all three services on July 28-29. The service is an opportunity for all who seek God's healing in any aspect of their life to join in prayer for others and themselves. Any person may come forward to receive a word of blessing, prayer and anointing with oil, signs given to all of us in our Baptism.



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

Annie Bartlett, John Bennethum, Aaron Behnke, Elsie Boese, Wally Buske, Steve Clark, Tony Krizan, Hildegarde Mullarky, Becky Murray, Kerry Neusen, Lavone Reis, Marlene Smith, Curt Sokolowicz, Jane Tesch and Dick Turtenwald

Remember in your prayers Mike and Greta Plicka following the death of Mike's father, Tony Plicka.



DID YOU KNOW....

that Luther Seminary offers a daily devotion that you can receive in your email each day? Go to luthersem.edu, scroll down and sign up near the bottom of the welcome page.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The food pantry at First Lutheran is in need of cook to help with meal planning, food prep and cooking on Thursdays and Fridays. Contact the office or Joy Dowd if you can help.

About 50 years ago First Lutheran needed new paraments—altar coverings—but at over \$1500 per set we couldn't afford them. So my mother (1912-1992) and I decided to make our own at much less cost. We started with the blue set. Then the white using upholstery material. We made the altar frontal, pulpit, lectionary, pastor's stole, deacon's stole, usher badges and offering bag. Next we made the purple set with material from Belgium. After purple we made the red set and then the green. Finally the gold set for Easter. Pastor Hammerling told us not to make black as it is not used. June Munkwitz finished the gold set after Mom became ill. All sets have been used since they were made. The only new set we have is the white one donated by Jackie Judkins.

The old sets need repair. The decorations are coming off and the cording is becoming loose. We need someone (or a team) to open the back and reattach the cloth pieces. This could be done while the color is not used. We also have Pastor Hammerling's stoles which need some repair. Help is needed. Can you help? If you're willing, or have any questions, give me a call.

..... John Bennethum

Greater Milwaukee Synod



LUTHER MANOR
A Life Plan Community

July 24, 6:30 p.m. - The Assassination and Funeral of Abraham Lincoln

Mark Krause will present the unique circumstances of the assassination and the 3-wk. series of events mourning his death. Free - but space is limited.

August 21, 6:30 p.m. - Getting Over the Sticker Shock of Senior Living. Liz Eaton will discuss the real costs of Senior Living.

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



Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization 31st Annual Convention "WOMEN CREATE CHANGE"

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Registration begins at 7:30 AM
Opening Worship begins at 8:30 AM

St. John Lutheran Church
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

*Early Bird Registration \$50.00
(must be postmarked by Wed., August 15)*

Beginning Thurs., Aug. 16th
Registration will be \$60.00

Special offer to first time attendees:
REGISTRATION FEE IS \$35.00!

Registration forms available in the church office
or from Cheryl Isotalo at Nativity

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



Registration is now open at ofhbikeride.com !!
There is something for everyone at the Family Bike Ride supporting 23 ministries of the Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Many ways to participate...

Casual rider – includes families and children – a trail ride on the paved Glacial Drumlin Trail in Waukesha County and on the Interurban Trail in Ozaukee County.

Avid bicyclist – various trail and road rides available.

Everyone – catered picnic lunch
Volunteers welcome! – see website for details
Visit the website to learn about ways to raise funds and have them multiply!

Non- bikers – you don't have to ride to impact lives - simply donate at ofhbikeride.com

"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right."

—Peter Marshall



Happenings at Nativity Lutheran



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 9, 2018

We've Come This Far By Faith!

Plan to enjoy Nativity's 85th anniversary celebration leading off with an 11:00 a.m. outdoor worship, followed by the church picnic and corn roast, and other activities.

And like a real southern church Homecoming, let's contact as many members and former members as we can. Especially if you are in contact with former members, please give the church office their information so we can be sure to send them an invitation!



NATIVITY 85 YEARS AGO – FURTHER REFLECTION

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

- Winston Churchill made his first speech publicly warning of the dangers of German rearmament
- Gandhi is sentenced to prison in India and announced that he would “fast up to death”
- The first major league All-Star game is played at Comiskey park in Chicago
- Nazi Germany enacts law to allow compulsory sterilization of people with genetic disorders
- The first singing telegram was introduced by Western Union
- The Vatican signs an accord with Germany,
- The Blue Eagle emblem of the NRA is displayed publicly for the first time
- More than 3000 Iraqi citizens are killed by Iraqi government troops in the Simele massacre
- Babe Ruth announced that he would retire from baseball.



RUMMAGE SALE



NATIVITY'S 2018 RUMMAGE SALES!

Thank You!!! Goes out to all of the people who generously gave of their time &/or possessions to make Nativity's rummage sales possible. Without you, these events could not have ever taken place... I am happy to report we had 866 Shoppers come through our doors.

Rummage Sale Profits:

May 11th & 12th	\$ 1,737.23
May 18 th & 19 th	\$ 1,575.49
Total Sale Profits	\$ 3,312.72

All profits from our sales go to help support our church and it's missions.

Jill R. Mickelson



First Lutheran News



Our Ice Cream Social and Game Fest on June 24th was the kickoff for our Vacation Bible School.

We are fortunate to have Gary Hanson join us as a full time organist beginning July 2nd. He is an experienced and accomplished church organist. You have probably heard him when he served as our supply organist over the past several months. Let's all welcome Gary to our church family.

Custodian, Natalie Jaeger and sons Maxx and Dorian will be moving to Beaver Dam sometime in July. Natalie leaves a major vacancy in our First Lutheran ministry. She is currently serving as vice president of the church council, is on the Evangelism and Social Ministry Committees, is a member and brownie baker of the quilters, and is a shopper, cook and all around volunteer of the food pantry. We wish Natalie and her family God's speed and blessing. Now how are WE going to replace HER?

If you haven't heard the "Gospel Quartet Plus", we are continuing to sing at the 2nd and 4th Saturday evening services each month. We've been joined by visiting artists - guest preacher Gus Barnes and supply organists Gary Hanson and Lisa Weiss-Cornelius.
..... Werner Bayer



The Saturday evening crowd gathers in the narthex for coffee and treats before each service. Twice a month, the "Gospel Quartet -Plus" provides music during the offering. Anyone is welcome to join the group in singing or playing a musical instrument. Our sub-pianist, Lisa Weiss-Cornelius, joined the group in June.



Thanks for an awesome Game Fest and Ice Cream Social. Over 60 people enjoyed the fun! Special thanks to everyone who supplied games, food, supplies, door prize donations and entertainment. Lots of kids had lots of fun! It was a great kick off to Vacation Bible School.

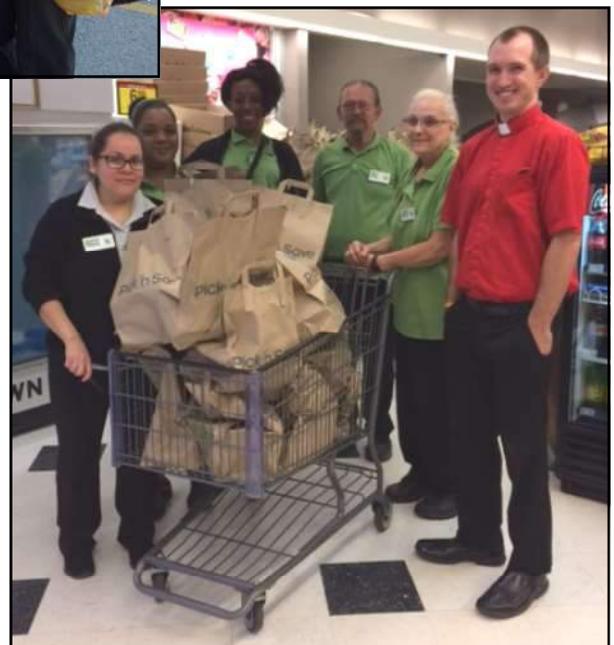




***Ice Cream Social & Game Fest
June 24, 2018***



Dean, Judy, Judi, Pastor Bryant and a Milwaukee officer sell brats at “Stuff the Squad” (above) while Elaine and Marlene enjoy theirs (right). John (below) opens some of the over 800 bags we received. Store employees (bottom right) helped load bags for us.



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



Thank you to our hard working crew who worked on the “Stuff the Squad” food drive, which was a partnership between Feeding America, Pick n Save, the Milwaukee Police and area pantries. We were so blessed to be partnered with the store on 84th and Bluemound. The Food Pantry received over \$400 from the food sales and received 800 bags of food! We are so blessed.

Meet our Members...



Mike Plicka has been a lifelong resident of West Allis. After graduating from West Allis Central he attended UW- Whitewater before joining the Army. During the Vietnam War he was stationed in Germany in the Army Security Agency. He retired from the Postal Service after 35 years and is an active community volunteer, having served as the Vice-President of the West Allis Association, West Allis Block Grant Committee and being a member of the American Legion Post 219 for 38 years. He has been a member of First Lutheran Church since the late 1970's and has played a vital role in the Food Pantry for over 20 years. He was also President of the Church Council, and played on the First Lutheran Church basketball team. On May 2, 1987 Mike married Greta Molland at Ascension Lutheran Church. Greta was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. After graduating from West Allis Central, she attended UW- Whitewater, taught for the Milwaukee Public Schools and retired after 38 years of service. Greta has been a member of First Lutheran for 11 years. She has been on various church committees, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She is co-chair of Operation Christmas Stocking and is a Food Pantry Volunteer. Mike and Greta have three daughters. They enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren and look forward to welcoming a new grandson in August. They have enjoyed traveling both here and abroad. Their free time is spent bowling and playing golf.



We bid farewell to Natalie Jaeger and her sons, Maxx and Dorian. The family will be moving to Beaver Dam where they'll join Natalie's sister in a home where the boys will each have their own bedroom and plenty of outdoor space to have fun.

Natalie has served as our custodian, and has been on the church council for several terms. Most importantly, she has given an amazing amount of time to helping our food pantry ministry run smoothly and continue to grow.

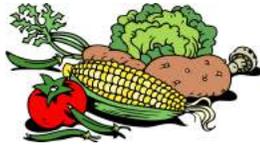
We wish them all much happiness and God's blessings.



Out and About in Our Community



The West Allis Independence Day Parade will be held on Mon., July 2nd, at 7 pm. The parade route will go from 77th and Greenfield to Vets Park on 70th and National.



Tosa Farmers Market

Saturdays,
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
7720 Harwood Avenue,
Wauwatosa

West Allis Farmers Market

Tues. & Thurs., 12:00-6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 1:00-6:00 p.m.
6501 W. National Ave.

The Blood Center of Wisconsin will be holding a community blood drive at West Allis City Hall on July 30 from 3 - 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 7525 W. Greenfield Ave. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcomed. For appointments, call 1-877-232-4376



HUNGER TASK FORCE STOCK BOX DELIVERY
WEST ALLIS SR. CENTER · 7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.

The next West Allis distribution at the Senior Center will be on July 10th between 1-2 p.m.

Turkish Fest

July 21 from 10 AM - 8 PM
6011 South 27th St, Greenfield

Hosted by the Turkish American Society of WI Includes Turkish folk dancing and art, children's rides and activities, and lots and lots of food!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Keep your eyes open this summer for the sales on t-shirts at Menard's. They frequently offer the t-shirts that come with a full rebate. You can buy up to 4 at a time. The most needed sizes are large and x-large, but we'll take any size or color.



INTERFAITH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

West Central Interfaith is in need of volunteers to help with older adults in the community. Drivers are needed for stock box delivery, doctor's appointments and grocery shopping. They also need people to serve as senior companions for four hour periods with a client. This may involve light housekeeping or just sitting and providing company for the client. A small stipend is available for the companion position. If you would like more information, contact the Interfaith office at (414)774-1747.

July-August Birthdays...

First Lutheran

7/1 Bradley Noack
7/6 Jenny Schultz
7/8 Gregorio Calderon
7/9 Jackson Masch
7/11 Greta Plicka
7/16 Joyce Gardner
7/17 Gary Biorn
7/18 Matthew Grulke
7/18 Michael Weisnicht
7/19 Sierra Weisnicht
7/22 Ronald Berka
7/26 Michael Plicka
8/1 Maya Noack
8/2 Stephanie Andrade
8/2 Lily Weisnicht
8/10 Kristin Lewandowski
8/11 Parker Zehe
8/19 Anne Felton
8/20 Jan Stasiak
8/25 Chris Guthrie
8/25 Earl Junck



July-August Birthdays...

Nativity Lutheran

7/16 Doris Vokovitch
7/28 Michelle Jones
7/31 Beth Sadowski
8/1 Dennis Klotz
8/6 Jayln Robinson
8/12 Mary Simmers
8/15 Arne Sandberg, Jr.
8/16 Nathan Nekich
8/18 Sandra Larson
8/21 Shirley Gruetzner
8/21 Kyle Wilcox
8/22 Victor Sifuentes
8/24 James Cockroft
8/25 Guyon Metzen

July, August Anniversaries

7/19 Dennis & Jamie Schoberg (F) 12 yrs.
8/9 Gene & Dawn Reynolds (N) 43 yrs.
8/16 John & Odemaris Dixon (F) 12 yrs.
8/19 Arne & Jill Sandberg (N) 6 yrs.
8/27 Randy & Donna Schwartz (F) 2 yrs.

Friendly Reminders



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

What's the Church Council doing?

First Lutheran's church council minutes and reports are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office as soon as they are available.

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.



"Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff."

-Catherine M. Wallace

Be Transformed

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 6-26-18

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 6-30-18



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

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.