Dear people of God,

God has blessed you to be a blessing! You too are on the pages of God’s story in creation. A story that began with Abraham and Moses and continued on through the prophets and disciples and now you!

As prophets and witnesses to the amazing acts of God we can only marvel at what our God is up to in the world around us. And yet, at times, it may feel as though God is absent. Absent in your life, absent in the life of your family and friends, absent in the life of the world.

It is in these moments where we find the Holy Spirit in the most unusual places. It is during these times where the presence of Jesus Christ surprises us. Just when all seems lost and hopeless God blesses us once again.

Whether rich or poor, hungry or full, sick or healthy, broken or whole – God is with you.

Present with you through and in Jesus Christ: A presence that brings about an abundance of new life, hope, forgiveness, and love.

This rich blessing is given to you freely. A blessing that guides and leads you, a blessing that provides hope, a blessing that can never be lost or stolen – for Jesus Christ has claimed you as a child of God; the Holy Spirit has sealed you with the promise of new life this day and always.

With this presence of our gracious and loving God by our side and empowered by the Holy Spirit we move out into the world proclaiming the good news. For you have been blessed: Blessed by Jesus Christ with an abundance of new life and love. And by the power of the Holy Spirit we each have the opportunity to move out into God’s creation proclaiming to people near and far that they too are blessed.

Blessed by a God who loved the world so much that God sent God’s own son to dwell with humanity – to dwell with you always.

Peace,

Pastor Rupp
During the month of November we will continue our study of the Book of Acts. We will NOT have class on the 20th due to Thanksgiving. We will have class on the 6th, 13th, and 27th.

Bring your Bible and join us in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran at 10:00 a.m. for an interesting discussion. John Bennethum is our teacher. All are welcome.

As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:
Elsie Boese, Harry Grieshaber, Monica Lam and David Wegener

Give thanks unto the Lord for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Psalms 107:1
HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
First Lutheran Church
Saturday, Nov. 3rd
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Do your early Christmas shopping! Tupperware, Partylite, knitted goods, board paintings, stamped goods, handmade greeting cards, Arbonne make-up, jewelry, handmade wooden carved pens & pencils, handcrafted purses and much more!
Bake Sale, Raffle and Hot Dog/Chili Dog Lunch, too! Come Join the Fun!

“CHURCH” RUMMAGE SALE!
Nativity Lutheran Church
November 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th
8am to 4pm
Shop for household items, dinnerware, jewelry & decorations.
Hot dogs, chips, soda and bakery.

DON'T MISS THESE OPPORTUNITIES!

Nov. 2 & 3, 8a-4p - Nativity Lutheran Rummage Sale
Nov. 3, 9a-3p - First Lutheran Holiday Craft Fair
Nov. 3 & 4 - All Saints Weekend
Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - Celebration Brunch at First Lutheran
Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. - Thanksgiving Eve Worship at First Lutheran followed by dessert fellowship
Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Sunday, December 2, immediately after the service, to “Deck the Halls” at Nativity and get a head-start on the upcoming Christmas season. Hope to you see there!

The Quilts and Kits Have Been Shipped...

Nativity just shipped 290 quilts and 107 school kits this October to the Lutheran World Relief (LWR). This means that for EVERY DAY for the last year since the last shipment, the tireless quilters and school kit assemblers completed at least 1 item. EVERY DAY! There are not enough ways to say thank you...

Call for Altar Flowers!

Looking for an opportunity? Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or talk to Jean Leppien if you would like to brighten the altar (and your church) with flowers.

Nativity’s WELCA will meet on Sunday, Nov. 11th, at 10:00 a.m. All women in the church are welcome!

Good Samaritan Outreach Center

Please continue to bring donations of food for Good Samaritan Outreach Center. They are also requesting donations of Bibles. There is a box in the narthex at Nativity for your donations.
**2018 Fall Rummage Update**

The dates are set for the Nativity annual fall rummage sale this November. Mark your calendars now for November 2 and 3 AND November 9 and 10 from 8 AM to 4 PM. Nativity needs YOUR STUFF, YOUR BAKED GOODS and YOUR TIME to volunteer for set-up, clean-up and the actual sale dates. See Jill Mickelson with questions or to volunteer. Or ask Don Brauch about the sign-up sheet! So start your holiday season early by lightening your spirit (and load)!

**Bishop Erickson to Visit Nativity**

Please mark your calendars now! Bishop Erickson will be visiting Nativity on February 24, 2019. Come join us at worship at Nativity then with your Nativity congregation and Bishop Erickson.

**Congratulations!**

On September 29, Mireya Anai Martinez celebrated her Quince Años at Nativity with family and friends. Congratulations Mireya! We are so glad that Nativity could join with you and yours to celebrate with you on your special day!

**Trying Out A New Recipe?**

Too many brownies? Bring your favorite treat, a box of donuts, or a bag of bagels to the Nativity coffee hour. Nativity and your fellow churchgoers will appreciate your delicious donations. You can co-ordinate those tasty treats with Don and Joan Brauch.

**It’s Time!**

It’s time to check your entry in the Nativity church directory. Please see Jill Mickelson, who has the master list, and take a moment to let Jill know if all is well, or what changes need to be made. Thank you!
Called... Sent... Loved

Our theme this year as we look at Stewardship is “Called..... Sent...... Loved”. As you think of these words remember how we are each called in different ways to keep the ministries at First Lutheran going strong.

We will celebrate stewardship on Sunday, November 18th, with a breakfast immediately following the service. The breakfast will be potluck style and there will be a sign up sheet for food items and volunteers in the Narthex. Join us as we celebrate our commitment to God, First Lutheran, and each other!”

After a rather serious illness, we are glad to have Pastor Bryant back with us full time again. Good luck, Pastor, in your recovery. Thank you to Pastor Lund for filling in during Pastor Bryant’s illness.

The Evangelism committee is planning to distribute 500 flyers in the neighborhood in October to advertise our Fall schedule. We are constantly looking for people to help with this effort.

Lori Marquez continues to lead our Stewardship drive, ending with a luncheon in November, and hoping to continue to bring our stewardship efforts to the forefront the entire year.

Heidi Leiser and Colleen Siarnicki are heading up a neighborhood craft fair at our church during November. A significant number of people have reserved tables for their displays.

Approximately 50 quilts designed and made by our quilters were delivered to the box car for shipment to Lutheran World Relief on Oct. 13th.

We want to thank Dave Wegener and Colleen Siarnicki for agreeing to fill the vacancies on our church council.

Let’s continue and expand this exciting ministry.

Werner Bayer, President

<table>
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<tr>
<th>September Financial Summary Report 2018</th>
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<td>Actual Income &amp; Expenses</td>
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<td>Year To Date 2018</td>
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<td>Giving to Benevolence</td>
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*From Council President*
**Operation Christmas Stocking**

Operation Christmas Stocking will be collecting items for our December Christmas 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: men’s socks, hats and gloves. For the children we would like activity books for ages 8, 9 and 10 year olds. Items can be dropped off in the Operation Christmas Stocking barrel in the narthex, or in the Church office.

We would like to thank the Leonard and Plicka families for their generous support of the project.

Remember to save your leftover Halloween candy for our bags & coffee mugs!

Respectfully submitted,
Co/Chairs Jaqueline Bayer/Greta Plicka

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**Sew and Sew Quilters**

On September 22nd, twenty quilters, family members, new friends and old gathered at First Lutheran for a Quilting Bee, fellowship and lunch. Twenty quilts were tied!

This year 44 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for distribution to those in need worldwide. In addition, $194 were contributed towards shipping costs.

A BIG thank you from the Sew and Sew Quilters to everyone who helps with this ministry.

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Always needed for the quilting ministry:
Gently used sheets, blankets, bed pads and yarn to be shared with Operation Christmas Stocking.
Please leave in church office or narthex.

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Members of First, Nativity, and St. John’s Lutheran churches, along with four generations of the Bayer family (right), participated in the Quilting Bee.
SHARE ABUNDANCE

In celebration of our food pantry ministry, we invite everyone to bring non-perishable food items to share each weekend in November and to our special Thanksgiving ‘s Eve worship on Wednesday, Nov. 21st at 6:30.

FACES OF HUNGER

For some, November is the season of anticipation, shopping, feasting and family. For others, it is a season of cold winds, gray skies, loneliness and hunger. This is the reality in which some of our pantry visitors live. When they visit us to receive a warm cup of coffee, hot, delicious food, respect and a kind word, they feel “cared for”. When we pray, we come together as one. We, as volunteers in this ministry, know that we are seeing God in the face of each of our visitors. Sometimes God tests us by appearing disagreeable, confused or belligerent. But we always know that we are appreciated.

We’ve been sharing God’s abundance and love at our Food Pantry for over 51 years. It is amazing that something so small as a grant from the Rotary club, an passionate leader in Pastor Felton and support from Jackie Judkins, Lorraine Prahl and many others over the years, would keep this ministry strong. This should not be a surprise! Every time we think “well, this must be the end”, some new and wonderful miracle happens to make us stronger than ever. We know that we are working God’s plan and doing the right things. Over time, our many volunteers and donors have been the backbone of this ministry and we thank them whole-heartedly for allowing us to continue to share God’s blessings with our community. We look forward to another 50 years. Awesome!

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. – John 6:36
Meet our Members...

Dolores Borchardt Hurst grew up in West Allis. She attended Sunday School, was confirmed and married at First Lutheran. She was Sunday School secretary when Walter Kotwitz was superintendent, joined the Luther League and sang in the choir. Dolores married George, whom she met in church, in September of 1953. They have four sons, John, Mark, Brian and Kevin. All were baptized, attended Sunday School and were confirmed at First.

After Dolores and George retired, they moved to Coloma, where they had 20 acres of land and held campouts for family and friends. Sometimes as many as 15 families. They enjoyed camping and traveling. Dolores and George found Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Coloma, and sang in the choir. Dolores served on the funeral committee, as church treasurer, president of WELCA, teller, member of the Piecemakers quilting group, helped in the church office when needed and also the food pantry.

George died of cancer in 2005, and several years later, Dolores moved back to this area to be closer to her family and friends. She has 10 grandchildren and 7 step great-grandchildren. Dolores serves as a teller, is a member of the Sew and Sew Quilters, and is on the memorial committee.

Food For Thought....

When the most worthy, qualified people neglect to step up and lead, results — and morale — suffer. Where can your expertise and passion best be put to use in God’s kingdom?

Fellowship Time

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!

Thanks to the endowment fund, we’ve been able to upgrade lighting in various areas of the church. We’ve improved the lighting in the chancel, office, fellowship hall and outdoors. Thanks to Werner Bayer, Mike Plicka and John Hrovat for setting up and taking down the scaffolding for the electrician. The new lighting looks great!
Out and About in Our Community

**Clement Manor**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

"The Portland House: A 70’s Memoir"
Presented by Jim Landwehr
Nov. 15, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Jim’s stories of living with his five siblings in Minnesota in the 1970’s will spark memories for all. See photos, a video snippet, and have an open discussion with Jim.

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

**Hunger Task Force**
Stock Box Delivery
West Allis Senior Center
7001 W. National Ave.

The next West Allis distribution at the Senior Center will be on Nov. 13th between 1-2 p.m.

**What’s Happening in West Allis?**
Residents are encouraged to support the small businesses in their communities on the Saturday after Thanksgiving; however, West Allis celebrates all month long. Keep your receipts from locally owned, small West Allis Businesses starting November 1st. On November 24th, the staff of Downtown West Allis will be outside West Allis City Hall Centennial Plaza redeeming receipts for raffle tickets to our prize baskets, filled with West Allis goodies.

**Luther Manor**
A Life Plan Community

“Digging Into The Past: An Introduction to Genealogy.”
Want to learn more about your ancestors or unravel a family myth? Genealogist Eleanor Brinsk, of Carlton Genealogical Svcs, will present an introductory course and talk about how to start the process, printed resources to use, helpful websites and more. Tues., Nov. 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Linden Room. RSVP to 464-3880. Luther Manor is located at 4545 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa.

**Just a “Click” Away**
If travels, illness or schedule conflicts have kept you away, Pastor Bryant’s weekly sermons are available on our webpage. You can either listen to an audio recording or read them online. If you are receiving this newsletter online, use this link to access the sermons at: https://bryantbakkum.wordpress.com/. Read them online by selecting the MEDIA tab on our web page at firstlutheranelca.org or at firstlutheranelca.com.

**Ways to Serve...**
If you are thinking of “giving back” this fall, we could use more help at the Food Pantry check-in desk signing people in, cooking, dishwashing, serving food and cleaning up.

The food pantry could use gallon and quart sized Ziplock style bags to “downsize” big bags of vegetables into smaller bags, so we can help more people. Drop them off in the office.
November Birthdays…
First Lutheran
11/6  Makinon Herbert
11/6  Karlie Marquez
11/7  Katlynn Trader
11/8  Dominic Dixon
11/10 Lorenzo Dixon
11/26 Elsie Boese
Thanks be to God for Elsie’s 100 years.

November Birthdays…
Nativity Lutheran
11/3  Jean Leppien
11/3  Noel Maitine, Jr.
11/7  Arne Sandberg
11/9  Helen Peterson
11/14 Jeanette Mortier
11/15 Julieta Espino
11/20 Ruby Horst
11/22 Marlene Smith
11/23 Rebecca Reinert
11/25 Gene Reynolds

November Anniversaries
11/15 Jerry & Gayle Falk (F) 43 yrs.
11/19 Kenneth & Lona Masch (F) 33 yrs.

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

Mailed on 10-23-18
Electronic Service Requested

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.