

News & Views

*First and Nativity
Lutheran Churches
November, 2018*



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 Bryant



Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 21st,
 6:30 p.m., at First Lutheran to give
 thanks for our many blessings.
 Bring non-perishable food to place by the
 altar as part of your offering.
 This will be given to the food pantry.
 After worship, we'll enjoy dessert and
 fellowship in the Fireside Room.

*Gratitude can transform common days
 into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs
 into joy, and change ordinary
 opportunities into blessings.
 William Arthur Ward*

Dear First and Nativity Lutheran Churches,
 Thank you for your love and support, for all
 who celebrated with me at my ordination!
 Thanks to those who made goodies for the
 reception and for all you have done for my
 journey these past five years. My prayers
 are with you as you serve
 God's people.

Love,
 Pastor Gus Barnes

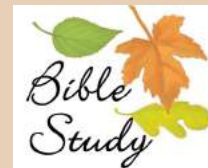


As a community we pray for
 those with immediate needs
 of healing and strength:
*Elsie Boese, Harry Grieshaber,
 Monica Lam and David Wegener*



NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH

On Saturday, November 3, and
 Sunday, November 4, we will
 remember our members who
 have died during the past
 year with a candle lit in their
 memory. We encourage you
 and your family to join us. If
 you have any additional friends
 or family you wish to have rec-
 ognized, please contact the
 church office.



**TUESDAY
 MORNING
 BIBLE CLASS**

AT FIRST LUTHERAN

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 Thanksgiv-
 ing. 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 dis-
 cussion. John Bennethum is our
 teacher. All are welcome.

*Give thanks unto the
 Lord for he is good.
 His love endures forever.
 Psalm 107:1*



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



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!

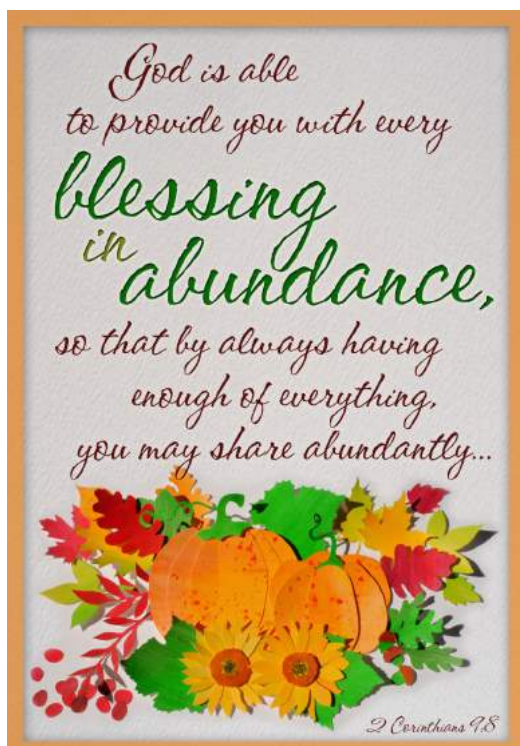
Bake Sale, Raffle
and Hot Dog/Chili Dog Lunch, too!
Come Join the Fun!



"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.



Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

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.



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...



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

NATIVITY 85 YEARS AGO – FURTHER REFLECTION



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

- In November, U.S. President Roosevelt unveils the Civil Works Administration (better known as the New Deal), an organization designed to create jobs for more than 4 million unemployed;
- “the great black blizzard” of North Dakota strips topsoil from desiccated farmlands (one of a series of disastrous dust storms that year);
- Girl Scout cookies were “created”;
- the Soviet Union was formally recognized by the United States;
- William Dick, aged 76, died (Mr. Dick was a Mohican Indian believed to be the last person who could speak the Mohican language, which was never written down);
- Thanksgiving Day was moved from the last Thursday of November to November 23 at the request of business leaders for department store marketing purposes;
- the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union begins after the Soviet Union takes a balloon to more than 60,000 feet in altitude, the United States two months later achieves 61,237 feet;
- the first purported photograph of the Loch Ness monster was taken.

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.

RUMMAGE SALE

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.

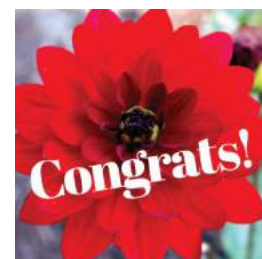


IT'S TIME!

It's time to check your entry in the Nativity church directory.

Update

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!



First Lutheran News



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

September Financial Summary Report 2018			
	Income	Expenses	Over/-Loss
Actual Income & Expenses	\$9,253.43	\$11,756.47	-\$2,503.04
Year To Date 2018	\$79,111.09	\$96,685.57	-\$17,574.48
	Income	Mo Budget	Over/-Loss
Giving to General Fund	\$6,155.00	\$9,558.27	-\$3,403.27
Giving to Benevolence	\$848.00	\$658.33	\$189.67

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

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



Social Ministry

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.



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

This & That Around Here.....



Food Pantry News

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, I passionate leader in Pastor Felton and support from Jackie Judkins, Lorraine Prah 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*

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FIRST LUTHERAN



Superheroes of the Bible

Our Fall 2018/Spring 2019 Sunday School theme this year is "SUPERHEROES of the Bible". Each week we will include a lesson about a well-known Bible hero and their story. Along with the weekly lesson there will be crafts, science, games and music. Our lessons in late September and October included "Jonah and The Big Fish", "Noah's Ark and "Joseph and The Coat of Many Colors". After our "Jonah and The Big Fish" lesson Greta did a science experiment which created an exothermic reaction. The foamy water showed how the water must have looked like when Jonah was pushed off the boat. The oxygen bubbles created the foam to shoot out of a bottle, which shows us what it must have been like to be spit out of the whales mouth. Lori reinforced the lesson with the creation of a stitched form whale. Come join us!

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. Our Global Barnyard account is \$70.00. Matt Grulke is counting our money and giving us updates.

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

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



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 superintendant, 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 Fire-side 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.



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 Brinko, 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.



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.

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.

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.

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
 11/10 Dominic Zehe
 11/26 Elsie Boese

*Thanks be to God for
 Elsie's 100 years.*



November Anniversaries

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

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



After Cain killed Abel, their parents, Adam and Eve, had another son. What did they name the baby?

- A. Seth
- B. Enoch
- C. Shem
- D. Lamech



Answer: (See Genesis 4:25.)

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.

We're going to be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias at both churches very soon. Watch for sign-up sheets!



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 10-23-18

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 10-26-18



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.
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**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.