**Worship With Us**

**During Lent**

**Ash Wednesday, March 6**
- 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran
- 12:00 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran
- 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

**Wednesday Worship**
- March 13, 20 and 27
- 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran
- Coffee and refreshments served
- 15 min. prior to service
- ___________
- 12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran
  - “Brown Bag Worship” – Bring your lunch
  - Water and coffee provided, other items at nominal cost.

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**Tuesday Morning Bible Class at First Lutheran**

Pastor Bakkum has been leading the class since John Bennethum’s retirement. After taking into consideration the suggestions of the group members, we’ll have a variety of topics that will be covered this spring. The tentative schedule is below – although it’s subject to change depending on the length of some discussions! Check the topics, and come for just a couple, or every week. Join us in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome!

- 3/5 Why Ashes?
- 3/12 Prayer
- 3/19 Sharing Faith
- 3/26 Prayer
- 4/2 Why Holy Week
- 4/9 Seven Last Words/John’s Farewell Discourse
- 4/16 Communion: Bread, Wine & Jesus
- 4/23 Four Gospel Endings
- 4/30 So much more.....

If there are topics that would interest you that are not listed above, please let Pastor Bryant know.

In case of bad weather, please call the church office to see if class has been cancelled.
Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Together we embark on a journey to the cross in this season of Lent. As the days pass by us, as the nights grow shorter, and as the days burst into spring—hopefully soon—we are called to notice the mundane and forgotten pieces of creation along the way.

With each breath we take, each movement we make, each heartbeat that soars through our body—we can know that God is with us.

We do not make this journey to the cross on our own. In fact, we find the way already paved for us: Jesus Christ has already taken the burden and weight of all our sins—sins we are fully aware of, sins we are blissfully ignorant of, and sins we have yet to make—all of them nailed to the cross.

All of them destroyed in the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All of it done not so that we would be promised perfect lives, or lives free of anxiety, fear, or rejection. But, instead, Jesus forgives you all your sins by journeying to the cross for you, so that death is not the end.

In this season of Lent we find the Holy Spirit present in the midst of chaos, fear, anxiety, and burdens that surround us. We find the presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of the mundane and ordinary. And we find the presence of God the Father in every inch, every corner, and every nook of creation.

In this season of Lent we are made fully aware of the weight of our sins, anxieties, and burdens. And yet, we are made fully aware of the saving love, grace, and forgiveness that we receive fully and freely through and in our friend and shepherd Jesus Christ.

You do not make this journey alone. Jesus Christ is with you. Always.

Peace,

[Signature]

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

Joan Brauch, James Larson, Heidi Leiser, Edward Nolinski, Bob Pekrul, James Ribnek III, Mike Temke, Joyce & Don Thornwal, Wayne Wagner and David Wegener
What Is Sabbath?

Keeping sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

“Sabbath — time for God — is a gift in its origin and in its keeping,” Schaper writes in Sabbath Keeping (Cowley Publications). “It is not another must; it is a may. God invites us to keep sabbath; God does not demand it.”

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, “is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. [It] is lightness, not heaviness.”
**Happenings at Nativity Lutheran**

**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.

**Let's Get Cooking!**

Learn to make Egg Rolls

Saturday, March 30

10:00 a.m. - noon

For only $5 you can learn how to make egg rolls, and have one to sample, too!

Please RSVP by March 24 to Cheryl Isotalo or contact the church office.

**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!

“Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.” — Jim Davis

**It's Coming!**

Time for the annual Nativity May Rummage Sale!

Calling everyone with too much "stuff" - it is time for the annual Nativity May rummage sale! Let Nativity help to lighten your load by bringing that "stuff" to Nativity. Volunteers for setup, 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 mark your calendars for the sale now.

**Brown Bag It Lent**

At Nativity

Don't have time to attend weekly Lenten Services? We have the Answer,

Brown Bag It Lent

Bring your brown bag lunch. We'll furnish coffee, water and other items. Dine while attending an informal Lenten Worship Service. Wednesdays in Lent

March 13 through April 10th, 2019

12:00 noon

We will be done in less than 25 minutes!

Nativity Lutheran Church

6905 West Bluemound Road

Nativity’s WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sun., Mar. 10th, at 10:00 a.m. in the "Upper Room" All women in the church are welcome!
**Scouting for Food**

Scouting for Food is happening again this year. You will get a bag on your door on March 10, and the donated food in your bag will be picked up on March 17. BSA Venture Crew 999 (a co-ed unit that meets regularly at Nativity) will be manning the collection point at the West Allis Farmer’s Market. This will mark the 30th year in which Scouts have collected food for the hungry in the local BSA Three Harbors council. To date, over 6 million pounds of food have been collected.

**A Quilts and Kits Update……….**

**This is an excerpt from a letter that was just received from Lutheran World Relief …**

Dear Friends at Nativity Lutheran Church,

Greetings from Lutheran World Relief! We’re so thankful for your partnership, and for your energy and enthusiasm for this ministry. I’m excited to be able to share some details about where some of your items traveled in the last year. You may already have spotted in your online Tracker** record that your Mission Quilts have gone to Mauritania…. This shipment of Quilts and Kits is estimated to reach 60,000 individuals in various places, especially the Mbera Malian Refugee Camp on the periphery of Nouakchott….

A little history ….the Mbera Malian Refugee Camp in Mauritania is home to thousands of people who fled Mali in the early 1990s to escape rebel attacks in Timbuktu. However, this temporary refugee camp by the Malian border has now become the fourth largest town in Mauritania. And this “temporary” refugee camp will certainly make good use of Nativity quilts.

**More on the online Tracker next month**
FACES OF GOD

Each week we see the “face of God” in those who visit our food pantry asking for help, food and fellowship, as well as in the volunteers who faithfully serve. Please help us support this ministry through your cash donation or donations of food. Our fundraising campaign is active from now through Easter. For each 10 lbs of food or $10 donated, we will put a post-it in the narthex.

“Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening...”

Mother Theresa of Calcutta
OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Operation Christmas Stocking is a year around project that was started in 1979. The past several years we have concentrated on providing gift bags for ELCA Synod Serenity Inn Program and our First Lutheran Church’s Food Pantry weekly visitors. We also provide stockings filled with age appropriate items for children in need. You can help us out by checking 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 a few times a year. For the men and women we need gloves, socks and deodorant. For the children we are focusing on coloring books/activity books, bubbles, play dough and match box cars. We also hand out mugs filled with hot cocoa and chocolates. We usually hand out about 125 each year. As of February we have collected 25 Christmas themed mugs.

If you would like to donate any of these items please put them in the Operation Christmas Stocking barrel in the narthex or put them in the church office. Items are collected all year long. If anyone would like to sew Christmas Stockings for the children let Greta know.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions please contact Greta Plicka or Jacqueline Bayer.

Thank You,
Respectfully submitted,
Co/Chairs Jaqueline Bayer/Greta Plicka

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

The West Allis Community Improvement Foundation for a $400 donation to the First Lutheran Food Pantry which was part of the proceeds from the 2018 Community Breakfast of Thanks and Giving. They also gave the pantry a large number of food items donated at the breakfast.

We also thank Judi Mueller and the Women’s Club of West Allis for their continuing support and donations! We appreciate our community partners!

AND A THANK YOU FROM INTERFAITH OLDER ADULT PROGRAMS:

“On behalf of West Central Interfaith I would like to thank you all for your financial commitment and support for our Neighborhood Outreach Program. In 2018 your benevolent donations total provided almost $390 to our program. We also gratefully accepted a $1,000 donation from First Lutheran. This means a great deal to our office as we strive to continue our efforts in the community. As always, we greatly appreciate your commitment to supporting our work and the clients we serve. First Lutheran has been very generous to us over the years and we are grateful to be included as one of the important missions that your congregation supports.”

.....Tammy Hero, Director
Focus On Our Members...

Colleen Siarnicki has been a member of First Lutheran since she was 5 years old. She grew up in a foster home, raised by Bill and Mary Nyback. She taught Sunday School for three years, volunteers at the food pantry and currently serves on the Church council. Along with Heidi Leiser, Colleen organized a fundraiser last fall for the church. Colleen has been married for 17 years to Spencer and lives in Mukwonago - we appreciate her traveling so far to come to church! Colleen went to WCTC to study Hotel/Restaurant management. She has been a nail technician for 25 years, has her own business, “Forever Yours Floral Designs” and enjoys dog-sitting for friends whenever she can.

CELEBRATING JOHN

During the worship service on Sunday, Feb. 3, First Lutheran celebrated the ministry of John Bennethum who has served as Bible Study leader for over 20 years. John recently retired from leading the study, but hopefully will return occasionally as a participant. John has also served First Lutheran as a deacon, Sunday School and Confirmation teacher, council member, choir member and in many other ways. John was presented with a mantle clock engraved:

“To John Bennethum in appreciation for the many years of dedicated service to First Lutheran Church. 2019.”

At the Annual Congregational meeting following the service, John’s service to the church was again recognized. A reception was held in the Fireside Room after the meeting. Thank you, John, for your tireless dedication to the church.
CELEBRATE QUILTING!
Saturday, March 16, is National Quilting Day. First Lutheran has had a quilting group for almost 70 years, meeting weekly to create quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. Since beginning to keep records in 1979, our quilters have shipped 2,083 quilts to LWR.

Our quilters are always looking for more members. You don’t have to be able to sew - there’s cutting, tying and just laying out designs. They meet weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9am. Every week’s quilting session is followed by dessert - who can resist?

If you’re looking for a new creative outlet, and a wonderful group to spend time with, contact Jackie Bayer or call the church office. And keep in mind - men are welcome, too!

Easter Field Trip
A group of us are going to the Easter program at the Oak Creek Assembly of God church in Oak Creek on Sat., April 20th (Easter weekend), at 2pm. The production is titled “This is the Moment” and runs about an hour and a half. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Barb in our office. You can meet us in Oak Creek or meet at First Lutheran to carpool. Reservations are required by March 30 so we can order a block of tickets. There is no charge but they will accept a free will offering. There will be coffee and dessert back at First after the show.

Opportunities Abound!
Holiday activities are over, decorations put away, meetings and reports completed. Now is the time to take a look back to see what you’ve accomplished in 2018. Did you reach your goals or did the time slip away? Did you say “I will do it tomorrow” but tomorrow never came? The awakening of spring brings new life and energy to the earth and within each of us. What is the Holy Spirit urging you to do to carry out his service and commands to “love thy neighbor”? There are lots of opportunities to share God’s love here at First, such as deaconing, ushering, quilting, joining a committee such as Worship and Music, Evangelism, Social Ministry, helping with Operation Christmas stocking, serving coffee, folding newsletters, teaching Sunday school or VBS or serving on the Church Council.

Coffee and Conversation
Be sure to join us for Coffee and Conversation before each Saturday service at 5:15pm in the narthex, and on Sunday’s after service at 10am in the Fireside Room. If you can help with this ministry, let the host know and we’ll get you started. No experience necessary!
Out and About in Our Community

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

“LAURA INGALLS WILDER”
Presented by Jessica Michna
March 21, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
How did her life really evolve? What motivated her to put her experiences on paper? Come meet Mrs. Wilder, older, wiser, and reflecting back on her life. She will tell you her life story and how she came to produce her literary works.
$3 for members, $5 for non-members.

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12p
- Mar. 5 - The Bartender’s Tale by Ivan Doig
- Apr. 2 - The Address by Fiona Davis

Monthly Mystery Book Club - Mondays 1pm
- Mar. 18 - The Darling Dahlias and The Cucumber Tree by Susan Wittig Albert

AARP Smart Driver Course
Tue., Apr. 16, 12:15 - 4:30 p.m.
Covers defensive driving, and the normal changes in vision, hearing and reaction time associated with aging. Learn current rules of the road. Call 414-546-7394 for fee information and to register. Class size limited to 18.

NEW BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
15101 W. Library Ln., New Berlin

Trivia at the Library - March 7th, 10:00 a.m.
“The Explosive Era of the Baby Boomers”

2019 Quilting Series, Tue., March 5th, 6-7 p.m.
Vote for your favorite! The New Berlin Historical Society joins will display historic quilts from the area and will share the history behind the quilting designs!

LUTHER MANOR
A Life Plan Community

“How to Make Downsizing & Selling Your House Easy”
March 12, 10:00 a.m.
Bruce Nemovitz, Senior Real Estate Specialist, and Melinda Stuart, Certified Senior Move Manager at Smart Moves, will outline ways to make downsizing and selling your home easier.
RSVP to 414-434-1768

WAUWATOSA RECREATION DEPT.
WAUWATOSA WEST HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY PLANETARIUM SHOWS
March 7 & 11 at 7:00 p.m. explore the Secret of the Cardboard Rocket. Free shows in the Gary E. Sampson Planetarium. Reservation required at 414-773-3390.

FINANCIAL PLANNING
Programs available in March include “How to Make the Most of Your Roth IRA” and “Long-term Care Planning”. Cost is $15. Call 414-773-3390 for registration information
**March Birthdays**

First Lutheran

- 3/2  Audrey Enloe
- 3/3  Jason Zehe
- 3/4  David Grulke
- 3/5  Bryant Bakkum
- 3/11  Joyce Favre
- 3/11  Roger Gray
- 3/12  Jonathan Flores
- 3/13  Gus Barnes
- 3/16  Joan Hirschinger
- 3/18  Isabella Dixon
- 3/27  Dolores Hurst
- 3/27  Adriana Rees
- 3/28  Samuel Marquez
- 3/31  Melissa Weisnicht

**March Birthdays**

Nativity Lutheran

- 3/3  Donald Nell
- 3/5  Bryant Bakkum
- 3/9  Arthur Gruetzner
- 3/13  Gus Barnes
- 3/17  Evan Reynolds
- 3/19  John Gordon, Jr.
- 3/22  Nicole DeBack
- 3/22  Carol Monfort
- 3/26  Dawn Reynolds

**March Anniversaries**

- 3/1  William & Janice Hansen (F) 37 yrs.
- 3/2  Michael & Melissa Weisnicht (F) 12 yrs.
- 3/21  Marcus & Nicole DeBack (N) 21 yrs.
- 3/24  Lori & Joel Marquez (F) 12 yrs.

**March Anniversaries**

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**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 March 12, between 1-2 p.m.

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**In John 9, Jesus’ disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, “Neither. ... [It was] so that God’s works might be revealed in him.” What was this man’s disability?**

A. Deafness  
B. Lameness  
C. Blindness  
D. Epilepsy

Answer: (See John 9:1-7)

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**Before you go to bed on Saturday night March 9th!**

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**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.
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
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NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 W. Bluemound Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI
www.nativitylutheran.us
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853

Family of Faith

If you no longer wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office.