

# News & Views

## First and Nativity Lutheran Churches March, 2019



### 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.



### 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

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12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran

"Brown Bag Worship" – Bring your lunch  
Water and coffee provided,  
other items at nominal cost.

# Christian Life



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,

## DEACON'S CORNER:

This is my first report on behalf of the deacons and thought a short testimony from me would be a good place to start. First Lutheran has been a great blessing to me and I know that the Holy Spirit brought me to this church and blessed me with sisters and brothers in Christ that are caring, giving and share God's grace with others. When the opportunity was offered to serve as a Deacon presented itself, I felt and heard the Holy Spirit moving me in this direction to enhance my faith journey.

The word deacon is defined as an appointed officer having various defined duties. Historically, the church has many traditions that span over hundreds of denominations and the role of a deacon is one traditional area that has had seen many changes over the years. Today, deacons work closely with the Pastor and assist with the worship service as designated. 1 Timothy 3:13 notes the following "Deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the Faith".

I would invite others to join Jesse and myself and let the Holy Spirit move your heart and soul in this service to our Lord and Savior and First Lutheran Church. Your Faith will grow deeper and that sense of good standing and boldness as described in 1 Timothy will have your cup over-flowing.

Thank you Jesus for opportunities to serve you and First Lutheran,

Your sister in Christ,  
Heidi Leiser-O'Neil



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*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Our Spring Sunday School theme is “SUPER-HEROES of the Bible”. Each week we include a lesson about a well-known Bible hero and their story.

Our lessons for February focused on Young Moses, The Burning Bush, Plagues and the Red Sea. Along with the weekly lesson there are crafts, science, games and music. Linda has been working on the patches for our vest of many colors. Lori did glitter pop-sicle stick stars and a paper chain on “I Serve People”.

Lori and Greta worked together on Moses and the Burning Bush lessons. After hearing the story of the Burning Bush the children did a science project using special chemicals that created a safe burning bush in a glass. We also did a burning bush craft that lights up in the dark.



The children also made valentines for the bulletin board in the narthex and to mail to homebound members.

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

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

The traditional Ash Wednesday day words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.

### 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.”

REMEMBER THE  
**SABBATH DAY**  
BY KEEPING IT HOLY.  
EXODUS 20:8

# Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

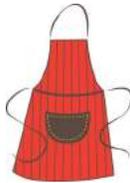
## GOOD SAMARITAN OUTREACH CENTER



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.

## Women of the ELCA

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!

### 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



## 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.

## 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 Maruritania. And this "temporary" refugee camp will certainly make good use of Nativity quilts.

\*\*More on the online Tracker next month

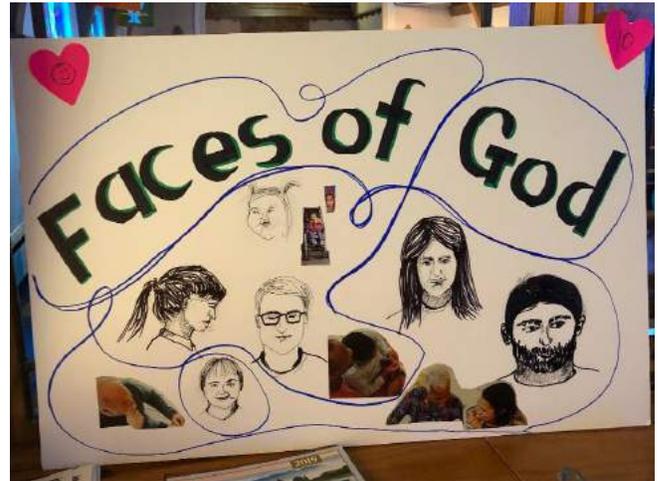
# First Lutheran News

## 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



## Social Ministry

### 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...*



### **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.

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.





## 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 20<sup>th</sup> (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.



## 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!



## 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!



*There's a Place for You!*



# 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 Cucum-  
ber 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.



**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

## 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!



## 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  
 3/11 Alfred Korth  
 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.



**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.

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



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)



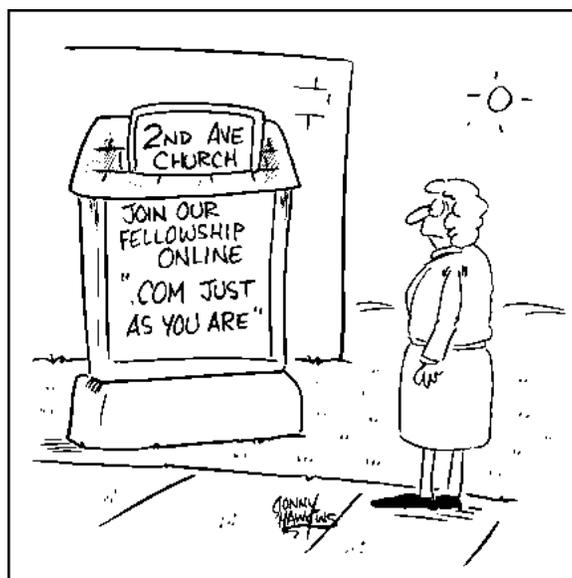
## Friendly Reminders



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 3633

Mailed on 2-21-19

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material  
Please deliver by 2-25-19



## 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](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org)  
E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)  
Phone: 414-476-4664

### **NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

6905 W. Bluemound Rd.  
Wauwatosa, WI  
[www.nativitylutheran.us](http://www.nativitylutheran.us)  
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853



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