Worship
With Us

Wednesday Worship
April 3 and 10
10:00 a.m. At First Lutheran
12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran

April 3
7:00 p.m. at St. Augustine’s Catholic
6762 W. Rogers, West Allis

Maundy Thursday, April 18
10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran
12:00 noon at Nativity Lutheran

Good Friday, April 19
10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. at First Lutheran
1:00 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran

No Saturday Service

Rejoice with us on
Easter Sunday, April 21
9:00 a.m. at First Lutheran
11:00 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran
**Tuesday Morning Bible Class at First Lutheran**

The tentative schedule for Bible Study topics 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!

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.

"The resurrection ... was only the beginning of a great, grand and vast outreach that has never ended and will not end until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again."

—A.W. Tozer

Dear people of God,

We are a resurrection people! Because of Jesus Christ we need not fear death—for death is not the end! And yet at times our society seems to be built around the concepts of scarcity, fear, and hatred. Our society tells us to take what we can get, to race to the finish line and leave others behind, mock and show disdain for those different than ourselves, and to strive for greatness.

For what purpose? Jesus poses this question to his disciples and us: “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” (Matthew 13:26) What good is there for us to live in fear? What good is there for us to celebrate our own salvation in Jesus Christ while condemning those we consider damned? What good is there for us to achieve greatness at the expense of others? Again, Jesus tells us, “The greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:26-27)

The first will be last and the last will be first. (Matthew 20:16) Again, we are a resurrection people! A people who need not fear the powers of this world, a people who need not be consumed by the calls to wealth, power, and greatness.

As followers of Jesus Christ we find that as we prepare for the empty tomb on Easter morning that death is not defeated through power. Death is not defeated through wealth. Death is not defeated through strength.

Humility, service, and love. This is how death is defeated—these are the marks of discipleship. As a resurrection people, it’s through the service and love of your Savior, Jesus Christ, that new life is yours now and always.

Peace,
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. The last few weeks in February the children learned about Moses and the plagues. As part of the lesson the children made jumping frogs and fly rockets. Our lessons for March continued to focus on Moses, including the Ten Commandments, as well as doing some Easter activities. 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.

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

Sunday School Staff:

The monthly Deacon’s report will hopefully incorporate a Christian holiday or celebration taking place during the month. As I read the story of St. Patrick, the Holy Spirit called my attention towards the similarities in my own personal Christian journey.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was a sheep herder with a limited education and reluctant for a long time to respond to the call by the Holy Spirit because of his doubts of his fitness for the task(s) that God was calling him to do. God never gives up and St. Patrick’s confidence grew and soon he started out in the fields of Ireland baptizing and confirming the Irish folks. St. Patrick taught the Irish people about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity using the shamrock, a three leafed plant to illustrate the Christian teaching of three (3) persons in one (1) God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thus, the shamrock became a central symbol for St. Patrick’s Day.

This is a hymn written by St. Patrick “I Bind Unto Myself Today” because for me, the words take on a Spiritual affirmation and confirmation of my faith:

- Christ before me
- Christ behind me
- Christ beneath me
- Christ above me
- Christ when I lie down
- Christ when I rise ..... 

Use all of your senses to listen, see and feel the Holy Spirit calling to you. Never fear for God will give you that’s needed to meet the service to which you are called.

See you at Church ------ And all God’s people say, Amen!!!!!

Heidi Leiser-O’Neil
Sister-in-Christ

AS A COMMUNITY
WE PRAY FOR THOSE
WITH IMMEDIATE NEEDS
OF HEALING AND STRENGTH:

Dale Bennethum, Peter Jones, James Larson, Edward Nolinski, James Ribnek III, Mike Temke, Joyce & Don Thornwal, Rachel Tripi, David Wegener and Sandy Wymelenberg
**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.

**Nativity Lutheran Church Receives 2018 Best of Wauwatosa Award!**

Nativity Lutheran Church has been selected for the 2018 Best of Wauwatosa Award in the Places of Worship category by the Wauwatosa Award Program. These exceptional businesses help make the Wauwatosa area a great place to live, work and play. The Wauwatosa Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in the Wauwatosa community.

**Amazon Smile**

Nativity is ready for you to shop! Now you can let Amazon donate a percentage of everything you buy through Amazon to Nativity Lutheran Church. Donating this way is easy and it doesn’t cost you any extra money. Every time you want to make a purchase at Amazon.com, login through Smile.Amazon.com instead! You will see the same great Amazon web site, but now you can designate Nativity as your charity of choice. Immediately below the search bar, click the SUPPORT-ING pull-down menu, and then select “Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church” - that is all there is to it. After that, please feel free to shop often! Nativity will receive any donations quarterly. Thank you!

**Nativity’s WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sun., April 14th, 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

**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.
Introducing your 2019 Nativity Church Council!

Just to let you know, here are the names of the 2019 Nativity Church Council:

Jim Ribnek, President
Jill Mickelson, Treasurer
Nicole DeBack, Secretary
Maureen Jones
Sandie Larson
Jean Leppien
Lillian Ribnek
Susan Platt
Dennis Wolfgang

Please see a council member with any questions or concerns you may have, or just to say hello!

There is a strong link between faith and health

For the past 50 years, significant research has focused on the strong link between faith and health. Studies have shown that those who believe in a higher power and that "God is on their side" tend to be healthier, and have a lower risk of disease. And most importantly, if they become ill, they tend to recover more quickly, and spend less time in the hospital and with fewer complications. Studies have also shown that when a strong effort to meet the spiritual needs of patients undergoing treatment for serious illness, then these same patients have shorter hospital stays and better outcomes. This research, done with the Veterans Affaires Health System, indicated that not only was health improved but cost savings were real and substantial.

Most health care providers believe that it is inappropriate for them to discuss issues of faith with their patients. There is concern that this may imply a wish to impose their beliefs on those of their patient. This view is changing. Studies have shown that in the appropriate setting, virtually all patients welcome a discussion of faith with their physician. This particularly applies to the annual physical and care during a serious or life-threatening illness.

The health care provider can simply ask "Is religion important in your life?". In most cases, the answer is almost always yes. But it does not matter whether the answer is yes or no, whether the patient is devout, an agnostic or atheist. Because the impact of faith on health is not related to what religion or denomination you belong to, whether you attend religious services or not, but rather on being spiritual. It is difficult to identify anyone, good or bad, who does not believe he is a spiritual human being.

And the elements of spirituality that link to health are as follows:

First, seek peace. A stressful and unhappy life leads to illness. Stress is a major contributor to heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, depression and obesity. Living a stress free, happy and purposeful life prolongs life expectancy.

Second, have faith. Not only faith in a higher power but faith in yourself and in the goodness of others.

Rev. Paul D. Erickson, bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, visited Nativity just this past February. He preached our “Good News”, and afterwards, shared some good food, and good fellowship with all of us – and that in both Spanish and English! Thank you, Bishop Erickson!
**Faces of God**

Each Friday we see many visitors to our food pantry, each with a unique life story and God given gifts, all created in God’s image. Just think, God of all loved us so much that he made us a representation of himself. Each week we see many “faces of God” visiting our pantry for food and fellowship. This spring, join us in sharing God’s love by supporting our food ministry fundraiser. It runs through Easter Sunday. As of this printing we've received about $1000! For each $10 donation or 10 lbs. of food we will post a star in the narthex. Let’s fill it with love.
**Operation Christmas Stocking**

Operation Christmas Stocking is a year-round project that was started in 1979. The past several years we have concentrated on providing gift bags for the 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. 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 March 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 take them to 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,

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**Thank You**

**TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

We owe a huge thanks to Friends of LaFollette Park for their generous donation of $442 and boxes of food, all of which were collected at their annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

**A WORD OF THANKS TO FIRST LUTHERAN:**

Thank you and the congregation of First Lutheran very much for your gift of $26.31. Your very generous support of Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc. will allow seniors in our community opportunities to engage in meaningful experiences which help to improve the quality of their lives.

.............Cathy Wood, President

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EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE

Whatever GIFT you have received

70 SERVE OTHERS AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF God’s GRACE

The Sunday School studied Moses and did an experiment on parting the Red Sea using pepper water and dish soap.
Meet Our Members...

Anne Felton was born in Jefferson, WI, where her dad owned the pharmacy in town which had a soda fountain. Naturally, Anne became a “soda jerk”. She attended St. Marks Lutheran where she and Pastor Maurie attended youth group, and they were married there in 1958. Maurie went to seminary in Minneapolis, and from there they moved to Sioux City, IA, followed by a move to a church in Hartford, WI. Before moving to First Lutheran in West Allis, they had four children: Tom, John, Dan and Susie. Susie quickly became her father’s “favorite daughter”, and was only 2 when they came to First Lutheran. “We had so many fond memories of First Lutheran and its members, it was truly the best move we ever made. My job through the years was mainly to be the ‘pastor’s wife’, raising four children and one husband. Right now I am living in a wonderful senior community in Franklin where I now read a book a week and knit while enjoying my rocking chair which has many miles on it. The Food Pantry has become most important—look forward to Friday mornings where I get to help in the food pantry. God has blessed me beyond belief with a wonderful husband, family and friends. My cup runneth over!”

Greetings brothers and sisters-in-Christ,

I’m humbly blessed to write my first report as Council President. After prayerful consideration when asked if I would like to take on this position, I had a dream that I was leading the Church Council meeting. (Yes a dream!!) Many times I have had a dream when praying for a concern or really almost anything that requires an answer to a decision.

My Spiritual journey has taken many twists and turns including turning my back on God because of my pain and anger when my daughter died at 8 months of age. Even at my lowest moments the Holy Spirit continued to work --- God never turned His back on me. I believe you learn lessons during all of life’s experiences---miracles surround us every minute of our days. Use all of your senses and recognize the Holy Spirit’s glorious workings.

Shortly after my return to West Allis, I originally was going to a Sunday Service at another Lutheran Church in the area, noting no cars in the parking lot and rereading the service times I was too early. I turned around to return home when I passed First Lutheran and noticed cars and the service to begin in 10 minutes. I parked my car and walked in. I knew instantly that the Holy Spirit brought me to First Lutheran. Many guests to mine and Marty’s celebration on January 20th remarked, “There’s a warm and special feeling when you enter these doors”---My response, “That’s the Holy Spirit”.

The Council wants to move FLC forward in a positive direction in partnership with Church committees ie: Special Services, Family Fun events, community exposure, Inviting and responding to groups/families requesting use of the Church for meetings/activities. We need to think “outside the box” and try new things with the main goals to 1) Listen and answer the call of the Holy Spirit 2) Meet the needs of the Church and community and 3) Special services including music, presentations and events/celebrations with hopes for Church growth. I envision a growth of 24 members this next year---that’s only 2 new members per month. If we all work together this goal will me met. I invite you to offer your thoughts and ideas.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as Council President. See you in Church....

Sister-in-Christ,
Heidi Leiser-O’Neil
Easter Field Trip

Please join us on Saturday, April 20th for an "Easter 80 minute experience celebrating life and moment of Christ’s resurrection that changed history forever". The concert is at the Oak Creek Assembly of God Church, located at 7311 S 13 St. Meet at First Lutheran at 1pm to carpool or meet at the church in Oak Creek for the 2 pm show. The event is free but they will accept a free will offering. Reservations required by March 30th. This show is for all ages. See the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk.

Games, Dogs and Ice Cream!

Bring your family’s favorite games, board games, card games, whatever you enjoy, to our second annual Gamefest on Saturday, May 18 from 1 to 3 pm. Great for kids or your card club group. Hot dogs, chips and ice cream treats available.

God planted First Lutheran at the corner of 74th & Lapham for a reason. God planted you in this faith community for a reason. We are a place of sanctuary and hope for the world. We are a place where we tell each other’s stories of faith. We are a place where we give away what we have so others might know someone cares for them. We are a place that shares the love of Christ.

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

“How Prohibition Played Out in Wisconsin”
Presented by Jerry Janiszewski
April 25, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Jerry will lead a presentation on what led up to the 18th Amendment, outlawing the use of tobacco, as well as the driving forces to enforce it. He’ll also discuss what breweries survived during that period.

$3 for members, $5 for non-members.

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12 p.m.
Apr. 2 - The Address by Fiona Davis
May 7 - Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Monthly Mystery Book Club - Mondays 1 pm
April 15 - A Hard Ticket Home by David Housewright

AARP Smart Driver Course
Tue., Apr. 16, 12:15 - 4:30 p.m.
Call 414-546-7394 for fee information and to register. Class size limited to 18.

LUTHER MANOR
A Life Plan Community

“What is Senior Living Really Like?”
April 16th, 10:00 a.m.

Find out what senior living is really like! A panel of Luther Manor residents and their loved ones will tell their own stories and answer common questions about senior living. They will also take your personal questions, so come prepared!

RSVP to 414-464-3380

On Tuesday, February 26th, members of the Bible Study class, along with members and Vicar David from Redeemer Lutheran in Wauwatosa, visited the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek. They had an interesting and informative tour led by our guide, Nimal, who was delightful. We were then served lunch by members of the temple, who exemplified their hospitality.
April Birthdays
First Lutheran
4/3  Patt Temke
4/4  Natalie Jaeger
4/6  Kevin Lone
4/9  Skylar Fox
4/11 Jaden Mikolajcak
4/13 Marie Casto
4/13 Eli Gruke
4/13 Sandy Wymelenberg
4/18 Jennifer Herbert
4/20 John Bennethum
4/22 LaVerne Williams
4/24 Cassandra Hopkins
4/24 Kenneth Masch
4/26 Terry Favre
4/29 John Dixon III
4/29 Colleen Siarnicki
4/30 Hazel Bakkum

April Birthdays
Nativity Lutheran
4/3  Beverly Neusen
4/5  Robert Nell
4/6  Jill Mickelson
4/10 Arin Leiser
4/15 Cheryl Brautigam
4/17 Gabriela Martinez
4/23 Austin Leiser
4/23 Mireya Martinez
4/24 Lillian Ribnek

April Anniversaries
4/2  Don & Joan Brauch (N) 37 yrs.
4/4  Maureen & Peter Jones (N) 60 yrs.
4/27 Werner & Jackie Bayer (F) 62 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 April 9th, between 1-2 p.m.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS NOW!

Both churches are now taking orders for flowers to decorate the sanctuaries on Easter Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex at each church.

Don’t Forget 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.

Bible Quiz

After Jesus raises Lazarus from death, what does his family do to thank Jesus?

A. They host a dinner for him.  
B. Martha serves the meal.  
C. Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with an extravagant amount of expensive perfume.  
D. All of the above.

Answer: (See John 12:1-3.)

“I thought your Easter message was great, except when you went off on a bunny trail.”
First Lutheran Church
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI  53214

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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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.