

News & Views

**First and Nativity
Lutheran Churches
May, 2019**



Dear people of God,

“Jesus is not here—he has risen!” The bedrock of our faith, Easter, has come and gone. We, like the women before us, discover that death is not the end. That through and in Jesus Christ we have the hope and promise of new life. Through and in Jesus we have been reconciled to God.

2,000 years before your birth you were saved. Not because you loved God or chose God, but because God in Jesus Christ loves and chooses you. Salvation is yours not because you have somehow earned it, but because Jesus has given it to you freely.

And yet, what exactly is salvation? Can you hear salvation? See salvation? Touch salvation? Taste salvation? Smell salvation? Yes. Yes, you can. Salvation is heard in our voices when we cry out against injustice and hate. Salvation is heard when we speak Jesus’ love into the world. Salvation is heard when we speak truth to power. Salvation is heard when we tell others about God’s Word.

Salvation is seen when you live it out: When you act justly, walk humbly, and love boldly. Salvation is witnessed by others by loving the world as Jesus first loved us.

Salvation is felt in the clothes we share with others. Salvation is felt when we tear down the societal systems of oppression and injustice.

Salvation is tasted in the breaking of bread and sharing of wine. Salvation is tasted when we share the abundance of food with our brothers and sisters.

Salvation is smelled in the beauty of God’s creation. Salvation is the fragrance of a blooming flower—new life springing forth.

Salvation is yours. Not through your own power. Not through your own doing. Not through your own goodness. Salvation is yours through and in the sacrificial love of Jesus. Salvation is yours through and in the faithfulness of Jesus.

You have been saved by Jesus Christ for mission in the world. *You*. Saved. Called. Loved. Sent.

Pastor Bryant



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. as we delve into some interesting topics of study and discussion. Some of the tentative topics for May are :

- Question of Suffering
- Why Does Evil Exist?
- Atonement Theories
- What is the Trinity?
- Women of the New Testament
- Learn to Translate the Bible
- Tradition and Biblical Stories
- Movie, TBD

We may also watch a movie one week, or do a joint book study. If there are any topics that you would like to discuss, please contact Pastor Bryant or call the church office. We're open to suggestions! All are welcome to these studies, whether you can come each week, or just occasionally. Join us!

PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING :

Dale Bennethum, Joe D'Amico, Shannon Irvine, Peter Jones, James Larson, Edward Nolinski, Lavone Reis, James Ribnek III, Jamie Schoberg, Mike Temke, Steve Tether, Sandy Wymelenberg and David Wegener



Deacon's Message:

Several weeks ago Marty and I traveled to our mobile home in Rosholt and the neighbor's donkeys were out in the pasture and I was inspired to think about the Biblical significance of the donkey. (You never know when the Holy Spirit will speak to you).



The donkey is charged with a rich and important symbolism in the Bible. Jesus, when he enters Jerusalem, is "riding on a donkey". The donkey is frequently mentioned in the KJV of the Bible with 455 references. The donkey is an animal of understated determination, strong will and peace versus a horse which was animal of war per Eastern tradition.

There are 3 reasons why Jesus rode a donkey:

- The riding of a donkey was the fulfillment of the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9, "making His triumphant entry while riding a lovely animal, a symbol of peace and common people".
- In the ancient Biblical world, a leader rode a horse if he was coming into war and a donkey to signify peace.
- Jesus used the donkey to connect with the common people. Jesus embraced the poor and sick and the donkey was God's way of saying Jesus will serve and save the oppressed.

So, the next time you see a donkey, think of the significance of this "special" animal.

I would invite you to also think about joining your 3 Deacon's --- if you're just sitting in a pew for Church, serving as a Deacon is an easy way to serve our God, Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

See you in Church,
Heidi Leiser-O'Neil, Sister in Christ



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 in May will continue to focus on Moses, including the Red Sea, Ten Commandments, Easter activities and David and Goliath. Along with the weekly lesson there are crafts, science, games and music. Lori did a lesson on the parting of the Red Sea including a science experiment using pepper, water and a secret ingredient. Greta and the children saved the Israelites from the Egyptian army by blowing up the Red Sea. Our lessons for the Ten Commandments included shaving cream art and making our own Ten Commandments Tablets out of handmade paper. Linda has been working on the patches for our vest of many colors.

The Sunday School children will present a program on May 12th which will give the congregation an overview of what they did this year. The congregation will be able to see their “vests of many colors”. The children will also help serve as ushers at the service.

This year the Sunday School participated in “God’s Global Barnyard” project. We raised \$221.00 to purchase bees, 2 goats, 3 pigs and baby chicks. Thank you to Linda Grulke for organizing the project and to Matt Grulke for being our “Global Barnyard” treasurer. We appreciated all the donations from members of the congregation who helped us make “God’s Global Barnyard” project a success.

Our final day of Sunday School will be on May 19th.

Submitted by: Teachers: Linda Grulke, Lori Marquez and Greta Plicka



The Sunday School class did a science experiment blowing up the Red Sea and getting rid of Pharaoh and the Egyptian army.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

If your children attended in the past, you’ll soon be receiving a letter with details about this year’s VBS. If they haven’t been here before, contact the church office for dates and more information. It’ll be a blast!

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.

SIGNING UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS?

When you sign up for altar flowers, please take a moment to note that the cost has increased to \$35.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Nativity regularly ships quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), but several months ago, some additional information was included with these quilts. This information could then be used to track the location of those quilts around the world. The latest information provided by LWR shows some of the Nativity quilts in Mauritania. If you would like track this information as well, here is how to do it.

Log onto the web address: <https://portal.brethren.org/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Enter the User ID: Donor01 and the password 2012BSC (this information is not specific to Nativity)

Select "See Where Our Quilts and Kits Have Gone". Use the Nativity donor id 114435, and enter dates in the format mm/dd/yyyy.

IT'S COMING! TIME FOR THE ANNUAL NATIVITY MAY RUMMAGE SALE!



The annual Nativity May rummage sale is right around the corner and set for May 10 and 11 from 8 AM to 4 PM both days..

Nativity **DESPERATELY** needs your help - volunteers for setup (scheduled for May 6 through 9), and the sale, and breakdown are urgently needed. Please take a moment to use the sign-up sheet in the narthex and add your name where you can. And don't forget that Nativity can use your tasty treats for the bake sale! And if you have too much "stuff" – Nativity is the place to bring it!

Nativity is also asking for your old political sign frames – these frames make good rummage sale signs. And because these signs don't always make it back to Nativity, more frames are always welcome.

Thank you, and please mark your calendars for the sale now!



Nativity's WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sun., May 12th, at 10:00 a.m. in the "Upper Room" All women in the church are welcome!



The Women of the ELCA had their Spring Gathering on April 6th, with the theme of "Winged Wonder". Bishop Paul Erickson and his wife, Pastor Lynn Erickson, shared their journeys to save the Monarch butterflies that are becoming extinct.

Elaine Lindstrom and Cheryl Isotalo attended, and passed out packages of milkweed seeds, which the butterflies thrive on. Nativity members were given seed packets on Easter.

If you would like more information on planting milkweed and how you can help the monarchs, contact Cheryl Isotalo or the church office for the handouts from the gathering.

You know you want to share, and now here is the place to do it – let your Nativity family know about the joys and sunshine in your life! Maybe it is that special grandchild or a silly photo of a pet or even something going right for you in your life. You now have permission to brag. For more information, talk to Susan Platt



MEET NATIVITY'S NEWEST MEMBER, KERRY NEUSEN!

On April 28, Kerry Neusen will become an official member of Nativity Lutheran. As the daughter-in-law of Bev Neusen, wife to Bev's son Bob for the last 7 years, and a New Berlin resident, Kerry began attending Nativity about 2 years ago. Kerry was raised Catholic, but her church-hopping has led her to stay at Nativity, where she feels a sense of community and welcome. "I feel fulfilled ever Sunday I come to church", says Kerry, "I come to church for me". Please take a moment to greet Kerry and say hello!



Eggroll Class

NOW WE'RE EXPERTS!

We had 36 people attend on March 30th, who learned from Phey and her daughter the art of making Laotian egg rolls. We made over 300 egg rolls. Everyone had one to take along (or eat!!) and the rest were sold. Pastor Bryant thought he would learn, but Hazel had other ideas. Proceeds from the sale of egg rolls were used to purchase 5 ducks and 2 chickens from World Vision.



First Lutheran News

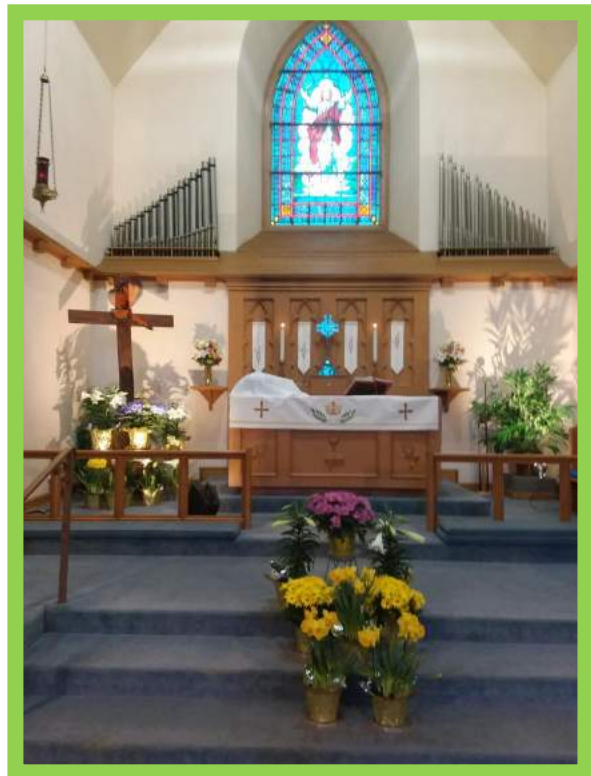


COUNCIL ACTIVITY

We're moving to all electronic banking and have changed banks to reduce fees. This will save a lot of time for the treasurer, and will make it easier for the next person who assumes that position.

The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on May 31st and June 1st. Pastor Bryant, Heidi Leiser and Jesse Rofritz will be attending. Look for information from them in the next newsletter.

The trophy case in Hammerling Hall is being emptied. It will then be removed and replaced with a bulletin board to be used to display information for our food pantry clients.



Mother's Day
A Mother's light always shines...

Bring your mom or someone who was like a mother to you to church on Mothers' Day weekend, May 11 & 12. They will cherish the time together...

As one who his mother comforts, I will comfort you.
Isaiah 66:13

Children are God's love-gift; they are heaven's generous reward.

"To the world you are a mother, but to your family you are the world."

—Adapted from Dr. Seuss

"Any mother could perform the jobs of several air-traffic controllers with ease."

—Lisa Alther



DID YOU KNOW.....

First Lutheran offers an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Authorization forms are available in the narthex or the church office.

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. 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 May we have collected 30 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 for your continued support.
Respectfully submitted
Co/Chairs Jacqueline Bayer/Greta Plicka

Thank You!

We couldn't offer the meals and food food bags through our food pantry without the generous donations from outside groups. This past month we've received donations from Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Allis, and St. Luke's Lutheran in Greendale. We also received a large amount of food through Feeding America which was collected by the Boy Scouts. We greatly appreciate all of these contributions. Thank you!



Social Ministry

FACES OF GOD

The Easter Sunday brought our annual food pantry fundraiser to a close. As of this printing, we have received about \$2,000.00 in cash donations plus hundreds of pounds of food that was donated by individuals, area churches and organizations. We are grateful for the resources and the wonderful, caring people that God provides to support this caring ministry!

"We offer food for body and soul".



We welcome the Village At Manor Park Senior Living as a community partner. Peggy Savatski, Director of Independent & Assisted Living and Jay Wendelberger, Sales and Marketing Coordinator, (above) volunteered in our food pantry in March and April. Other staff will be visiting us soon.

Volunteers....the reason they're not paid isn't because they're worthless,, it's because they're priceless.



GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS-IN-CHRIST,

Your Church Council is busy at work in attempts to streamline processes of the Treasurer, alignment of accounts to facilitate needed purchases and lower (and in a few cases eliminate) bank fees. Thank you to Dave Grulke for your insight and efforts with the Treasurers duties.

We are brainstorming ideas to bring exposure to FLC with hopes for increased membership and church attendance. The Council is working in concert with the following committees: Evangelism, Christian Education, Stewardship, Worship and Music. Discussions have included, special church services, guest speakers, musicians and choral groups, kids programming, Game Fest, theater outings and family activities. Please bring your children to church as Pastor Bryant is restarting the children's message to promote inclusion and let the children know the importance of their participation during services. Watch and listen for future updates and if you know of opportunities, entertainers or activity ideas, your Council welcomes your thoughts and ideas.

Watch for the following spring face-lifts: Painting of the lower level bathrooms, outside landscaping and trophy case and lower hall clean-up. Thank you to Jesse Rofritz, Colleen Siarnicki and the Property Committee for your assistance with these projects.

See you in Church,
Heidi Leiser-O'Neil, Council President

Meet Our Members...

Warren (Bud) and Joan Hirschinger are long-time members of First Lutheran. They were high school sweethearts at WA Central and were married in a candlelight ceremony at the old First Lutheran on 73rd and Orchard in 1951. After high school, Joan worked in an office at Allis Chalmers and Bud began his career in finance in the bookkeeping department of Milwaukee County Bank. He later worked as a teller and attended the American Institute of Banking in the evenings. With the breakout of the Korean conflict, Bud enlisted in the Air National Guard, served on active duty and later finished out his time in the Air Guard. He was promoted to Head Teller at the bank and eventually became an officer as Assistant Cashier. In 1964, he was elected as the West Allis City Treasurer and held that post for 26 years until he retired in 1990. Bud enjoyed helping others and was very active in many civic organizations and charities. He was one of the founding fathers of West Allis Charities, Western Days, the Christmas Parade, West Allis Civic Theater and the West Allis Historical Society. He served several terms as Treasurer of First Lutheran. Joan worked at Clark Oil and was the "wind beneath his wings". She, and her sister-in-law LaVerne Willams, worked in the FLC food pantry. Bud and Joan raised 3 children, Joy, Jeff and Jill, have two grandsons Jerin and Jace (wife Alana) Dowd, and two great-grandchildren Logan and Bailey. Bud and Joan recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. They currently enjoy winters golfing in Florida and return to Wisconsin to enjoy summers with family at their cottage on Pewaukee Lake.





SAVE THE DATE!

Our July Theatre outing will be on Friday, July 19th. We'll see Greendale Community Theatre's production of "Momma Mia!" Everyone is welcome. Tickets will probably sell out so we will need to know if you plan to attend by around the end of June. Watch for announcements and the sign-up sheet.



Welcome Summer!

*You're Invited..
Join us for Fun and games!*

*What: First Lutheran GameFest,
Lunch and Ice Cream Social
When: Saturday, June 8th from 1 to 3p.m.*

*Free hot dogs, chips,
beverages and ice cream.*

*Bring your family's favorite game
or use one of ours.*

Card groups invited!



*Take time in your busy life to enjoy your
kids and friends. You will be glad you did.*

*The mark of
a great
church
is not its
seating
capacity,
but its
sending
capacity*

...Mike Stachura

Several members attended the Oak Creek Assembly of God presentation of "This is the Moment" The outing was organized by the Evangelism Committee.



This and that around here.....



Memorial Day, May 27, is the day set aside for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country.

CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

"THE REST OF THE STORY"

Presented by John Horgan
May 23, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Learn the story of the moment, individuals and photographers who are represented and capture the moment behind some Pulitzer photos of the modern age. \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members.

Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12 p.m.

May 7 - Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult
June 4 - Bear Town by Fredric Backman

MANGIA SPAGHETTI PER CARITA.....

When translated, it means eat spaghetti for charity. National Regency New Berlin, 13750 W. National Ave., will host a dinner on May 9, from 4-8pm to support the New Berlin Police Dept. Tickets are \$10.50. Enjoy live music, a silent auction, raffles, picture booth and games for kids.



WALLFLOWER TO WOW VENDOR FAIR & FASHION LUNCHEON

Village at Manor Park, 3023 S. 84th St., offers several events on Friday, May 3rd: a Vendor Fair will be held from 8a-4p, a Fashion Luncheon at 11 a.m., and a Wine and Whiskey, Chocolate, and Cheese Tasting from 3-4 p.m. Call 607-4186 for information and reservations.



LUTHER MANOR
A Life Plan Community

INDEPENDENT LIVING OPEN HOUSE

Tour models of the most popular independent living floor plans. Check out the newly renovated common areas and dining updates. Hear about life at Luther Manor from residents.

ANY GRADUATES IN THE HOUSE?

Please notify the church office if someone in your family is graduating this year - whether it's from grade school, high school or college.

WHAT HAS GUS BEEN DOING?

Besides being really busy at his church, he and Steve welcomed 12 lambs this Spring!



May Birthdays First Lutheran

5/1 Judy Keene
 5/2 Garrett Labadie
 5/3 Jaqueline Bayer
 5/4 Daniel Sopa
 5/12 Megan Rowe
 5/13 Heidi Leiser
 5/14 Jill Bayer
 5/14 Shirley Cogan
 5/14 Lori Marquez
 5/15 Amy Guthrie
 5/16 Jennifer Caras
 5/20 Jan Salek-Anderson
 5/22 William Hansen
 5/25 Stephen Andrade
 5/25 Robert Long
 5/26 Jamie Schoberg
 5/27 Robert Gardner
 5/30 Patricia Zuback
 5/31 Jennette Sigler



May Birthdays Nativity Lutheran

5/20 Jack Schmanski
 5/30 Donald Brauch
 5/30 Nancy Jene

May Anniversaries

5/2	Mike & Greta Plicka (F)	32 yrs.
5/4	Dale & Sharon Phillippo (F)	56 yrs.
5/6	Mike & Megan Rowe (F)	2 yrs.
5/20	Gary & Cheryl Brautigam (N)	52 yrs.
5/25	Nancy & Bernie Jene (N)	56 yrs.
5/27	Terry & Joyce Favre (F)	41 yrs.

May the 4th Be With You...

On a date NOT far, far away....
 take advantage of Unity Lutheran's
 Partnership Dinner and Silent Auction..

Saturday, May 4th
 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 1025 E. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee

Advance tickets : 744-6311 or
 RSVP at www.unitymilwaukee.org
 Adults \$20, Children (10 & under) \$10



In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, to what two women is Boaz connected?

- A. Rahab and Ruth
- B. Tamar and Rahab
- C. Ruth and Bathsheba
- D. Bathsheba and Mary

Answer: (See Matthew 1:5.)



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 May 14th, between 1-2 p.m.

Friendly Reminders

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.



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 4-25-19

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 4-29-19



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

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.