Dear people of God,

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” - Emily Dickinson

Hope. What can we say about it? A longing, a dream, a wish, a driving force that pushes us forward. We hope for a better future. We hope for a good outcome. We hope things will get better. We hope and pray and then hope and pray some more.

But, what happens when hope turns into hoped? What happens when our longings, dreams, and wishes collapse before our eyes? What happens when the stock and energy we put into hoping for a better future, a good outcome, or that things will get better—what happens when it appears all for naught?

It’s in those moments—where it feels as if we’ve fallen into the depths of despair and pain—it is here where Jesus walks with us. It’s in the moments where we’ve given up hope where Jesus shows up in unexpected ways.

It is through faith and hope we lean into the promise of Jesus Christ: That death is not the end. That new life and salvation are yours. And, perhaps, it is in the quiet and desolate moments of our lives where we have given up all hope that Jesus perches in our soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.

Peace,

[Signature]

For I KNOW the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "... plans to give you HOPE and a FUTURE.” — Jeremiah 29:11, NIV
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 June are:

- Gospel Endings
- What is the Trinity?
- Learn to Translate the Bible

On Tues., June 4th, we’ll be watching the movie “Risen” about a Roman tribune sent to solve the mystery of what happened to Jesus following the crucifixion. 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!

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Volunteers Needed

From August 5-10, Milwaukee will be welcoming representatives from ELCA churches across the country. Approximately 600 volunteers are needed for positions such as: ushering, ironing robes, provide technology assistance to voting members, monitor doors, greet visitors, registration, airport greeters, banner transport, bus monitor, dining host, worship helper, hospitality booth, hotel greeter, packing gift bags, and more.

If you want to get a small glimpse of how decisions are made within the ELCA, this might be for you. For more information on the positions available go to: milwaukeesynod.org/events/.

God’s Great Outdoors! Vacation Bible School

July 8-11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
See p. 10 for details
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FIRST LUTHERAN

On Sunday May 12th the Sunday School children presented a program based on the our year long theme “SUPERHEROES” of the Bible. Each week during the Spring session we included a lesson about a well-known Bible hero and their story.

During the program, the children sang songs and presented science experiments related to the people they learned about. Linda and Junior showed the congregation how the Walls of Jericho tumbled. They did science experiments including the parting of the Red Sea, Jonah and the Whale, and destroying the Egyptian Army by blowing up the Red Sea. If you did not attend the Sunday Service you missed the Moses/Pharaoh face off.

The children handed out bulletins, handed our flowers for Mother’s Day and participated in the offering. It gave us an opportunity to wear our “Vests of Many Colors” that we worked on throughout the year. Matt Grulke played music during the offering.

Submitted by: Teachers: Linda Grulke, Lori Marquez and Greta Plicka
Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

Nativity is in the middle of the rummage sale push at the time of printing, so no time for much information. But here are some pictures so far. Stay tuned for a complete rummage sale wrap up, since the sale is being held over for May 17 and 18, but so far Nativity has had 453 people spend over $1700. And BIG round of thanks to everyone for all your help – many hands make for a MIGHTY large amount of work!
**From deservedly proud mom, Nicole DeBack, her son Bryce is graduating from high school this year as a member of the National Honor Society and in the upper 10% of his class! Congratulations, Bryce!**

**COULD I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?**

If you have a key to the keyed Nativity shed, then please see Don Brauch. He will gladly swap your key for the combination to the new combination lock.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

Here are upcoming Nativity concert dates, so mark your calendars now to keep those dates clear! More details to follow soon….

- October 26, 2019 at 2 PM  |  Halloween Spooktacular
- December 28, 2019 at 2 PM  |  A Nativity Christmas

**Sign Up Now**

**For Pentecost Flowers!**

Your geraniums for Pentecost can be ordered now until June 2! Use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to receive these flowers on June 9. This year, the flowers will come from Rose’s, cost $9 and be delivered in a 4-inch pots.

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**You now have permission to brag!**

For more information, talk to Susan Platt

**Women of the ELCA**

Nativity’s WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sun., June 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the “Upper Room” All women in the church are welcome!

**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!
CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to the newest member of the Memorial Fund committee, John Gordon!

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.

AMAZON SMILE
Have you replaced your regular Amazon links with Amazon Smile links yet? Nativity is ready for you to shop! Every time you want to make a purchase at Amazon.com, login through: https://smile.amazon.com/ instead! Same Amazon web site, but supporting “Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church” too, while you shop! Thank you!

First Lutheran Happenings

Thanks! to the many members and friends who helped during the Post Office Food Drive on May 11th. We had a crew sorting food at All Saints Lutheran, Oak Creek and a crew here at First Lutheran stacking our shelves. We received 68 bins of food for our pantry!
We are always collecting items for this project. For 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 can also use Christmas mugs - so keep your eyes open next time you’re at a thrift store or rummage sale.

If you would like to donate any of these items you can bring them to the church office. 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 Jaqueline Bayer.

We couldn’t offer the meals and food bags through our food pantry without the generous donations from outside groups. This past month we’ve received donations from the Village at Manor Park, the Women’s Club of West Allis and St. Luke’s Lutheran in Green-dale. Thank you!

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

Applications for funds from the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund are now being accepted until July 16th. Guidelines for who is eligible to apply and the application process are available from the church office.

The Endowment Fund is in need of an individual to serve as Treasurer of the committee. The duties of the Treasurer are limited, but very important.

If you have any questions regarding these two items, please contact Earl Casto.

We will again be partnering with Pick N Save on 84th and Bluemound on the “stuff the squad” food drive, sponsored by Feeding America and Pick N Save. Customers are encouraged to purchase a bag of food for $5.00. All of the bags of food purchased at this store will be given to our food pantry. We will also be cooking and selling brats and hot dogs from 11am to 1pm at the store on Saturday, June 8th, so stop by, shop and have lunch. We also need help transporting the bags of food that “overflow” the squad car, plus help unpacking the bags and stocking our shelves. We are grateful that Rose (manager) and her staff selected our food pantry. Last year they were the area’s top selling store.

The food pantry will be closed on Friday, July 5.
Deacon’s and Council President’s Note:
If you missed the Children’s Service on Sunday, May 12th, you missed our beautiful Sunday School children share their lessons learned this past year. The pride in their faces and confidence while presenting their lessons was amazing. To the children and the Sunday school teachers, “thank you” for sharing, the smiles and the warm hearted feelings—The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by all. The following is a prayer for our children from the Lutheran Prayer Book:

Father, we thank thee for the joy of having these children to love and care for and to bring up in faith in thee. Grant us grace to give them the full measure of our devotion and to set before them always a good example of the Christian life. Bless us in our growth together, and may our home be enriched by the simple joys that come from living and serving one another: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Church Council continues to strive for efficiencies for cost and time and working with the Committees associated with the needs. (Also the reason for my combining my reports this month).

Participation is needed in the following areas:
Gamefest/Ice Cream Social on June 8 from 1-3, followed by Outdoor Worship. We need food donations, and help with set-up, serving and clean-up. Then stay and participate in the worship service.
VBS: July 8,9,10 and 11 from 5:30-7:30 PM with the theme “God’s Great Outdoors”. Consider giving your time and talents in the ministry of our children ---- just maybe, you might learn something new and have FUN!!!
Lawn care: FLC is in great need of “weeder and mulch spreaders” to keep our lawn beautification efforts inviting and recognized in our community.
July Theater Outing: Friday, July 19 see the Greendale Community Theater production of Mama Mia. This is a great opportunity for young and old to enjoy family and friendship.

Thank you to the Church Council for all your efforts and work which I know is welcomed and recognized by the congregation. Love is the stuff God uses to glue His people together. Have a safe and healthy summer.

See you in Church,
Heidi Leiser-O’Neil,
Church Council President and Church Deacon

Meet Joyce and Terry Favre
Joyce was born and raised in Milwaukee and graduated from Juneau High. After graduation from college and nursing school, Joyce began work at St. Luke’s hospital as a registered nurse. She worked in various aspects of nursing for the next 43 years, until her retirement from Day Surgery. Prior to meeting Terry, Joyce traveled extensively and enjoyed inspiring trips to the Holy Land, Israel, Egypt and elsewhere. She has been baptized in the River Jordan and has visited the tomb of King Tut! Joyce and Terry met on a blind date and were married only nine months later. This year they celebrated 41 years together. Joyce was confirmed and married at Nativity Lutheran and joined us for Saturday services at First Lutheran. She has been elected to council 4 times, recently completing a 3 year term. She is a frequent reader at Saturday service and currently works at the registration desk in the food pantry, greeting visitors and helping them with their food requests. She has also helped with the kids at Vacation Bible School. Terry served in the Air Force and is a Vietnam vet. He continued on in the Air Force Reserves as a small arms instructor and retired from his law enforcement position at the 440th base at Mitchell Field. Both she and Terry traveled extensively and enjoyed trips to Las Vegas and California Wine Country. Terry is a wine connoisseur and has a collection of fine wines.
Welcome Summer!
Kick off Summer and have some fun at our second annual GAMEFEST on Saturday, June 8 from 1 to 3pm.
Spend some quality time with the family or friends while playing your favorite board games or cards (be sure to invite your card club).
Enjoy a free hotdog lunch and a delicious ice cream sundae!
Bonus:
Free drawing for a "movie" basket!
Bring your family’s favorite game or use one of ours.

Outdoor Saturday Service!
After Gamefest, join us for an outdoor worship service at 3:30 pm where we can connect with each other as we share God’s love through prayer and song.
Come as you are. Chairs are provided or bring your own.

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.

“Christinaity isn’t meant to simply be believed; it’s meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken and enacted in the presence of other people.”
Rachel Held Evans

ARE YOU A GARDENER?
We’re going to be having a load of mulch delivered soon, and before we do, we need to have all the beds weeded. Our gardening volunteers have dwindled, and we’re looking for new recruits! If you’re interested and able to help out, see Marie LePage or call the church office. Thanks!
**TOSA FARMERS MARKET**
Saturdays, 8AM - 12PM
7720 Harwood Avenue
Milwaukee (parking lot across from the Little Red Store)

**WEST ALLIS FARMERS MARKET**
6501 W. National Ave.
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12-6p.m.
Saturdays, 1-6p.m.

**CLEMENT MANOR**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield
Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12 p.m.
June 4 - Bear Town by Fredric Backman
July 9 - The Fallen by Daid Baldacci

**Music Under the Stars! - Outdoor Concert Series**
Musical entertainment provided by local musicians
3rd Tuesday from June through September, 6-7pm

**ALICE’S GARDEN URBAN FARM**
2136 N. 21st St., Milwaukee
You’re invited to visit the garden and walk the labyrinth for centering and reflection as individuals or groups. The labyrinth is hosted every Wed. evening, 6-8 pm, and the following Sun. afternoons from 12-2pm: June 16, July 21, August 18 and Sept. 15.

**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 June 11th, between 1-2 p.m.

**LUTHER MANOR**
A Life Plan Community
4545 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa

**HEALING YOUR GRIEF**
**ABOUT GETTING OLDER**
June 11, 6:30 p.m.
Explore how to cope with grief due to age-related loss, how to distinguish between what is helpful or necessary for you and what is not, and how to re-imagine your life with renewed confidence, purpose and meaning.
RSVP to 414-464-3380

**GOD’S GREAT OUTDOORS**
Vacation Bible School
Mon.-Thurs., July 8-11
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
We’re excited about First Lutheran’s Vacation Bible School is coming in July! Children ages 4 yrs. (with pre-school experience) through 5th grade are invited to attend. Children attending will be served dinner before activities begin. If you’re interested in having your children attend, or if you would like to volunteer to help or donate food for the dinners, contact the church office. More information will be posted on our website. Hope to see you there!
June Birthdays
First Lutheran
6/3    John Hrovat
6/3    Wayne Wagner
6/8    Carrie Muffler
6/11   David Wegener
6/13   Laurel Grulke
6/14   Austin Cyrus
6/17   Warren Hirschinger
6/18   Carolyn Moncher
6/19   Dennis Schoberg
6/21   Damon Wegener
6/29   Randall Schwartz
6/29   Audrey Wiefelspuetz
6/30   Mason Schoberg

June Birthdays
Nativity Lutheran
6/5    Gary Brautigam
6/5    Michael Schiessl
6/6    Candace Robinson
6/11   William Metzen
6/13   Jacqueline Steffes
6/30   Ronald Reinert

June Anniversaries
6/4    Robert & Marion Saur II  50 yrs.
6/6    Arthur & Shirley Gruetzner  66 yrs.
6/7    Robert & Joyce Gardner  61 yrs.
6/9    Roger & Elizabeth Gray  35 yrs.
6/9    David & Linda Grulke  46 yrs.
6/16   Kristin & Brian Lewandowski  19 yrs.
6/18   Nancy & Theodore Krizan  70 yrs.
6/20   Jill & Jeffrey Mickelson  21 yrs.
6/21   Chris & Amy Guthrie  11 yrs.
6/23   Don & Carolyn Moncher  63 yrs.

“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.

Which follower of Jesus reached to the crowds after receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?
A. John  
B. Peter  
C. Mary Magdalene  
D. Paul

Answer: (See Acts 2:14)
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.