God’s Great Outdoors!
Vacation Bible School
July 8-11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
See p. 10 for details

Register soon and join in the fun!
Contact the church office for information.
Dear people of God,

It has been a privilege to serve as your Minister of Word and Sacrament these past four years. To be with you in moments of joy, sorrow, and the gamut of our shared humanity. Day in and day out, you have leaned into the presence of the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the good news—that through and in Jesus Christ death is not the end, new life is yours now and always!

And so, the journey continues. A journey that is led wholly through and in the Holy Spirit: Our comforter, advocate, and guide. A presence that creates faith, instills hope, and equips and empowers you to be a witness for Jesus Christ in the world!

To forgive as Jesus forgives. To show mercy as Jesus shows mercy. To love as Jesus loves. These foundational elements to our faith lives are the core of our calling as disciples of Jesus: To love in humble service.

And yet, as humans we’re adept at making things complicated. 2,000 years since Jesus was born, lived, and died has given us plenty of time to come up with complicated theologies and systems of beliefs. It has given us more than enough time to make what was once simple, difficult.

And yet, there is nothing simple about forgiveness. There’s nothing simple about grace and mercy. There’s absolutely nothing simple about loving others as Jesus loves us. And yet, this is our calling: To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and deed to neighbors both near and far.

And so, the journey continues. It continues down paths unknown. It will take courage and strength. Hope and persistence. And a tenacity to stand in the void between oppressor and oppressed.

You do not journey alone, and you need not be afraid. Jesus Christ surrounds you and clothes you so that you can do all these things and more. The Holy Spirit equips you with faith, courage, and every blessing you need for the path ahead. And God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—blesses you and keeps you, until the day our journeys meet in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

[Signature]

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Sunday School will start on September 8th. Our Fall/Spring Sunday School theme this year will be “Builders in the Bible”. Each week we will include a lesson about a well-known Bible character and their story. Along with the weekly lesson there will be crafts, science, games and music.

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

**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. Go to: milwaukeesynod.org/events/.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. as we dig further into the summer study being used at weekend services, which covers different topics of our faith lives. We may also be discussing other topics or watching movies. We will continue to meet weekly after Pastor Bryant leaves. Come see what it’s all about. If you have topics you’d like to discuss, please contact Pastor Bryant or the church office.

All are welcome to these studies, whether you can come each week, or just occasionally. Join us!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Bring your children, grandchildren and their friends to join us for VBS from 5:30-7:30 pm July 8-11. Children will be served a meal from 5:30-6, and then will enjoy crafts, games and Bible Stories until 7:30. Registration forms are available in the narthex of each church. Volunteers are welcome, too!

**THE GREEN BOOK SCREENING AND DISCUSSION**

Wednesday, July 24th, at 5:30 p.m.
Atonement Lutheran, S70W16244 Martin Dr., Muskego
Light dinner and childcare provided
Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

**Nativity Annual Parish Picnic - Save the Date!**

Plan to enjoy Nativity’s annual church picnic and corn roast beginning at noon, Sunday, September 8, 2019. This year, we have invited the Redemption Church folks as well – so come and mingle! Remember to please bring a dish to pass – Nativity will supply the main course and beverages and of course the corn! But if you have that particular comfy chair, or want to BYOB, or have a game you enjoy, please bring that as well. Come one, come all!

**It’s Time for the Blessing of the Pets**

Weather permitting, please bring your pets and come join us outside for a special blessing at Nativity Lutheran’s Annual Blessing of the Pets, to be held Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 10 AM. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, you can find us in the church. Please bring a photo if your pet cannot attend. And for everyone’s comfort, please leash your pet, or use a carrier.

And a big Thank You! in advance to anyone and everyone who could bring some bakery like cookies and bars for this event as well.

See you soon!

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**Rummage Sale Wrap-up**

Check one thing off your long to-do list ...... the spring Nativity rummage sale is now over! Week One brought in $1,721 with 453 people stopping by to see what they could find. For Week Two, everything was half-price and brought in an additional $1,133, spread among 327 lucky shoppers. Total - $2,854 from 780 delighted customers!

And last but not least, a BIG BIG BIG round of thanks to everyone for all your help – many hands make for a MIGHTY large amount of work!
You now have permission to brag!
For more information, talk to Susan Platt

Jean Leppien is a proud first-time great-grandma! Brooks Wyatt Bunke, son of Matt Bunke and his wife, Alysa Christiansen, was born on January 5, 2019. Brooks lives in Apple Valley, MN.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
Here are upcoming Nativity concert dates, so mark your calendars now to keep those dates clear!

October 26, 2019 at 2 p.m. - Halloween Spooktacular featuring the return (and back by popular demand) of the Rev. Gus Barnes, Jr.!
December 28, 2019 at 2 p.m. - A Nativity Christmas Still in the works, is the return of R. Stuart Mitchell!

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.

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!
First Lutheran Happenings

“Stuff the Bus”
Our stuff the bus fundraiser on June 8th, sponsored by Kroger, Pick N Save and MPD, resulted in a donation of $245.00 to our food pantry. We had a great time selling brats and hot dogs, all of which were donated by Pick n Save. Plus, thanks to the generosity of shoppers at the 84th and Bluemound Pick N Save, we received 429!! bags of food, which had been purchased by shoppers for $5. Many thanks to Manager Rose, and her staff, for selecting us and promoting the event. Thanks to our food pantry volunteers who helped sell food, load and unpack the bags!

Grow, Garden Grow!
Our food pantry visitors always love fresh vegetables. If your garden has an over-abundance, consider sharing with the food pantry.

Thanks, but No Thanks....
We appreciate all of the donations we receive, but for now we have to call a halt to egg cartons and paper grocery bags. We have enough of each to last a long time. We’re still accepting plastic grocery bags - preferably folded as they take up less room that way. We’ll let you know when our supplies run low. Thanks!

Reminder
The food pantry will be closed on Friday, July 5
**Operation Christmas Stocking**

Save your quart jars as we will be using them next year (2020) as part of a Christmas gift to our food pantry visitors. For this year, we are still collecting the following items: 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. Bring donations to the church office.

**Save the Date!**

We’re going to the Greendale Community Theatre’s production of “Momma Mia!” on July 19th. Tickets are going fast, so if you’re interested in joining us, sign up soon. The cost is $12 with checks made out to Werner Bayer.

**Endowment Fund**

The deadline to apply for funds from the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is 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.

**Corn Roast!**

American Legion Post 219 invites you to a corn roast on Sat., July 27th, from 12-5 p.m. at $15 per person or 2/$25 (kids under 12 eat free). This is Mike Plicka’s Sons of the American Legion Post that has helped us with cooking for our food pantry on numerous occasions. Raffle tickets are available in the church office. Corn Roast will be held at Prohealth Care Park, on Sunny Slope between National & Cleveland in New Berlin. Proceeds provide benefits for veterans.

**First Lutheran Happenings**

Dale Phillippo has been a lifelong member of First Lutheran, having been baptized, confirmed and married here to Sharon in 1963, who he met while dancing at the Eagles ballroom. Sharon also became a member. They’ve been blessed with 2 wonderful daughters, and four terrific grandkids ranging in age from 10-28! Dale served in the Marines, then enjoyed a career in banking, retiring from North Shore Bank. Sharon enjoyed various careers from being a legal secretary to teaching Exceptional Ed and finally retiring from the Medical College of WI as an executive medical assistant. Dale is a sports enthusiast enjoying all WI colleges and pro teams, especially the Brewers! He was at one time selected for the Milw. Journal All Star team and the Silver Sluggers. He also enjoys golf, daily walks, crossword puzzles and gardening. Sharon is a sports enthusiast, enjoys music, gardening, volunteering at Whittier Elementary and helping her brother, Marty and his group home friends. Together they love spending time with family and friends, travel, going to movies, the theater and playing Bunco. Sharon and Dale have been active through the years at First, serving on council, various committees, active in years past in Couple’s Club, Youth Group, baseball, dartball, VBS, choir, ushering, etc. Currently Dale is a teller and is on the audit team. Sharon heads up the decorating committee for Christmas and is on the Memorial Committee. Together the serve on the Endowment Committee and help at the food pantry desk. They love First Lutheran and the members of their First Lutheran family.
**Council President and Deacon’s Report:**

What a month this has been so let’s do a short re-cap....

The month started with Jesse Rofritz and I representing First Lutheran at the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly. The theme was “For Everyone Born—A Place at the Table” with nearly 400 in attendance. The Holy Spirit could easily be experienced with every meeting, discussion, service and interaction. I left with a vision for positive changes required for growth and empowerment through the Holy Spirit to “get out of the box” to meet the needs of our congregation, community and the Church in today’s world. I have read the Core Values multiple times and am confident that the Church Council will continue to work for the Christian welfare of all through **Curiosity** (Acts 2:1-24), **Courage** (Isaiah 42:5-9), **Compassion** (Luke: 10: 25-37) and **Collaboration** (Ephesians 4:1-16). Being at church and participating in worship, committees and the many activities offered is the only time when multi-generational individuals “Come to the Table Together”. I never thought about this before but it certainly opened my mind to the value and scope of possibility at First Lutheran, our community and Church as a whole. WOW!!!

Saturday, 6/8 was a busy day including Pick n’Save Brat Grill Out, “Stuff the Squad” and delivering the food to church to benefit the Food Pantry. This same day we held our Gamefest, which was well attended and successful—a lot of fun had by all. The day ended with worship on the front lawn with a nice attendance and great opportunity to share the Word and bring visibility to our community. Coming events include: **Friday, 7/19 Mama Mia theater party.** This is a great opportunity to experience quality family theater and positive interactions for all ages. Vacation Bible School, 7/8, 9, 10 and 11 from 5:30-7:30 with the theme: “God’s Great Outdoors” with activities around water, soil, air and ground. You are needed to attend and volunteer to assist.

Thank you Pastor Bakkum for sharing your book “The Way: Called. Loved. Sent.” The book is a thought provoking, comprehensive study guide and weekly and daily devotional to bring us closer to our God as we journey and strengthen our faith. I encourage everyone to get your copy and begin this 12 week journey. I have been starting each day with my cup of coffee and reading the daily devotions and pray that you will join me in starting your day knowing that we are loved and saved through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. These activities are all opportunities “For Everyone Born—A Place at the Table”.

Heidi Leiser-O’Neil, Your Sister-in-Christ

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We had a lot of positive feedback after our outdoor worship service. It was well attended, and the weather really cooperated!
GAMEFEST THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated food, treats, and door prizes for GameFest, held on Sat., June 8. Special thanks to Pastor Bryant, Barb and Bill for developing and delivering our flyers and door hangers! We had over 55 people attend and enjoy a free lunch, ice cream, music and fun with family and friends. God smiled on us that day and sent some great weather. Quite a few stayed for a fun, informal outdoor service following the festivities. Congratulations to the following door prize winners: Susie Bethe, Lori Marquez, John Cervantes, Kurt Sokolowicz, and Audrey Wiefelspuetz.
**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.

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**Clement Manor**
Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

**Lifelong Learning Book Club - 1st Tue. at 12 p.m.**
July 9 - *The Fallen* by David Baldacci
August 6 - *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty

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

**Used Book Sale - Aug. 13-14, 9a-1p**
Drop off books at 3939 S. 92nd St. from 8a-7p daily

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**Hunger Task Force**
**Stock Box Delivery**
West Allis Senior Center
7001 W. National Ave.
The next distributions at the Senior Center will be on July 9 and Aug. 13, between 1-2 p.m.

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**Check Out What Lutherdale Bible Camp Has to Offer this Summer!**

**Dinners at the Lake**

- July 26 - Summer BB1 - Pulled pork on a pretzel bun, BBQ chicken, grilled polish sausage, veggies, watermelon, salad bar, brownie
- Aug. 9 - Quilt Fest Fish Fry - Battered & baked cod, roasted potatoes, veggies, cole slaw, warm bread, berry bars
- Aug. 30 - Summer Fish Fry - Battered & baked cod, clam chowder, potato pancakes, veggies, cole slaw, warm bread, salad bar, pumpkin bars.

*Dinners served 4:30-7pm. Adults/$16, Children under 10/$8*

**75th Anniversary Celebration!**
July 27, 10a-4p
Camp activities for all ages! Held rain or shine! Call 262-742-2352 to register or for more information.

**32nd Annual Quilt Fest & Auction!**
Aug. 11, 8a-4p
Over 300 quilts to bid on. Food, door prizes, bakery, crafts, pontoon rides on the lake.

*See flyers in the narthex at each church for more information*
**July/August Anniversaries**

7/19   Dennis & Jamie Schoberg (F)       13 yrs.
7/21   Kerry & Robert Neusen (N)        7 yrs.
8/9    Gene & Dawn Reynolds (N)         44 yrs.
8/16   John & Odemaris Dixon (F)        13 yrs.
8/19   Arne & Jill Sandberg (N)         7 yrs.
8/27   Randall & Donna Schwartz (F)     3 yrs.

**July/August Birthdays**

First Lutheran
7/9    Jackson Masch                     
7/11   Greta Plicka                     
7/13   Olive Muffler                    
7/15   Curt Sokolowicz                 
7/16   Joyce Gardner                   
7/17   Gary Biorn                      
7/18   Matthew Grulke                  
7/19   Sierra Weisnicht                
7/26   Michael Plicka                  
8/1    Maya Noack                      
8/2    Stephanie Andrade               
8/2    Lily Weisnicht                  
8/10   Kristin Lewandowski             
8/17   Harrison Rowe                  
8/19   Anne Felton                     
8/20   Jan Stasiak                    
8/22   Susan Winter                    
8/25   Chris Guthrie                    
8/25   Earl Junk                       
8/28   Justin Grohall

Nativity Lutheran
7/16   Doris Vokovitch                 
7/28   Michelle Jones                  
7/31   Beth Sadowski                   
8/1    Dennis Klotz                    
8/6    Jaylin Robinson                 
8/7    Kerry Neuson                    
8/12   Mary Simmers                    
8/15   Arne Sandberg                   
8/16   Nathan Nekich                   
8/18   Sandra Larson                   
8/21   Shirley Grutzner                
8/21   Kyle Wilcox                     
8/22   Victor Sifuentes                
8/24   James Cockroft                  
8/25   Guyon Metzen

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**Bible Quiz**

At the burning bush, Moses asks God's name. What is God's answer?

A. The Lord  
B. I AM     
C. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob  
D. All of the above

Answer: See Exodus 3:14-15

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**Come to worship!**

**We’re open between Easter and Christmas**

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**Please remember…….**

If you’re out of town this summer, don’t forget your offering. The churches don’t close, and expenses don’t take a vacation!

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**PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING:**

Joe D’Amico, Brian Gerl, Shannon Irvine, James Larson, Edward Nolinski, Lavone Reis, James Ribnek III, Kathy Santos, Steve Thether and Anne Wehausen

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**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 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

9/7 Pet Blessing at both churches
9/8 Sunday School starts at First Lutheran
9/8 Nativity Lutheran Church Picnic
9/21 First Lutheran Quilting Bee
10/26 Nativity Halloween Concert