

News & Views

First and Nativity Lutheran Churches November 2019



“Faithful stewardship of God’s creation and gifts...

As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God’s purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.”..... ELCA

Keep these words in your heart during this season of stewardship and Thanksgiving.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

Miracle In the Manger



You and your children/grandchildren are invited to attend the First Lutheran Church Sunday School’s “*Miracle In the Manger*” event on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m., at First Lutheran Church, 7400 W. Lapham Street, West Allis.

Activities will include crafts, games and The Christmas Story. Christmas Stockings will be handed out to children ages 4 to 10.

In order to make sure that all children receive a stocking that is age appropriate we are asking you to pre-register. Contact the office for a registration form. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are welcome to attend church while the children attend Sunday School. After church children and adults can join us for a light lunch.

This event is sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, Sunday School Teachers and Operation Christmas Stocking.

Christian Life



JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. Our a new study is "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter". After visiting for just one session, you'll see why we all think it's a great study. You don't need to have attended previously to come. Please join us and see what it's all about. All are welcome!



As a community we pray for those with immediate needs of healing and strength:

Donna Behringer, Cheryl Brautigam, Gayle Falk, Shannon Irvine, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Teri Miller, Edward Nolinski, Bernadette Obershaw, James Ribnek III, and Susan Winter

Please remember in your prayers the families of Patt Temke who died on Sept. 24, and Alfred Korth who died on Oct. 22. Also keep in prayer Maureen Jones and her family following the death of Maureen's husband Pete, who died on Oct. 21st.

May God's presence surround these families.

WHAT'S NEW IN NOVEMBER?



Our Fall/Spring theme this year is "Builders in the Bible". Each week we include a lesson about special events and people in the Bible. Along with a weekly lesson there will be crafts, science, games and music. In October, Linda shared Tower of Babel story and the children enjoyed playing Jenga. Lori and the children made prayer scrolls after learning about Jesus in the Temple. We learned about the Wise and Foolish Builders and did a science experiment to show that building on a weak foundation of sand is not wise. The children also learned about how Solomon Builds the Temple and what Daniel did in the lion's den.

Linda taught the children a variety of songs to go with our Fall lessons, and they practiced the Lord's Prayer action song, "A Wiseman Built His House Upon A Rock" and "Who's King of the Jungle".

Along with our weekly lessons we have been working on table decorations for the Stewardship Brunch, planning our activities for Miracle In the Manger and preparing the Christmas program. Our Christmas program this year is "Chain Reactions: A Christmas Celebration" by Close Encounters Ministries. Christmas program practice will begin on Sunday, December 1st. This is an intergenerational program and we will need at least 4 adults volunteers (no experience or rehearsal necessary). Interested victims or volunteers can call Linda at 414-421-4542 or the church office.

Happenings at Nativity Lutheran



ALL SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 3RD

We all have saints in our lives, whether they left us yesterday, or many years ago. On All Saints Day (celebrated Sunday 11/3 at Nativity), remember those saints with a candle and a prayer. At the service if you are able, you or a friend or family can light that candle and speak those names. Or if a little help is needed, you can have the Pastor do that for you. You can submit those names, especially for the pastor, in the offering basket. Or contact the church office.

Church Directory Updates

It's time to check your entry in the Nativity church directory. Please see Jill Mickelson, who has the master list, and take a moment to let Jill know if all is well, or what changes need to be made.



Hangings of the Greens

Join us on Sunday, December 8, immediately after the service, to "Deck the Halls" at Nativity and get a head-start on the upcoming Christmas season. Hope to you see there!



CALL PROCESS COMMITTEE

With the need to call a new pastor, change has come again to Nativity. And now you at Nativity can help to determine and direct that future by joining the Call Process committee. Part of this process is creating a ministry site profile that helps ELCA match Nativity with prospective pastors. Want to be a part of this process? See Jim Ribnek or any council member today!

Nativity Phone Numbers Have Changed!



There is a new telephone number for Fellowship Hall: (414) 988-2622. Please make a note of the change in your personal directories.

The main Nativity number has not changed - it is still (414) 476-1853.



Happenings at Nativity Lutheran



Remembering friends,
here and away.....



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

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

December 28, 2019 at 2 p.m.

A Victorian Nativity Christmas

Just confirmed is the return of R. Stuart Mitchell! Come and spend a proper Victorian afternoon after the rush of Christmas and enjoy the beautiful music – and tell all of your friends!

March 14, 2020

Irish Benefit Concert

Come celebrate St Patrick's Day with traditional Irish music for Voice, Organ and Bagpipes! Special post concert event follows to benefit Nativity Lutheran Church.

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!

Cheryl Isotalo has been elected to the board of the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization. We appreciate your hard work on behalf of the women of Nativity Lutheran.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nativity's WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sunday, Nov. 10th, at 10:15 a.m. in the "Upper Room". All women are welcome.!



Feel the need to vent?

Feel the need to vent? Then join the Nativity Church council and help shape the direction and purpose of your church - of OUR church!

Nativity needs you!

Please see a current council member if you are interested.

First Lutheran Happenings



THANKS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED GIFTS FROM FIRST LUTHERAN'S ENDOWMENT FUND:

"We, at **Good Samaritan Outreach**, are so very indebted to you for your recent gift for our food pantry. Please know that your donation will be put to good use. Thank you for your support,
Good Samaritan Outreach"

Thank you for your very generous donation to **Street Angels**. Our goal is to make an immediate impact on Milwaukee's most vulnerable population while also providing guidance toward a brighter path for their future.



Endowment fund donation to Street Angels, Inc. Receiving the check is Executive Director Eva Welch.

And WE Give Thanks !

We appreciate the generosity of Panera, Aggie's Bakery, GFS, Parthenon Foods and the Women's Club of West Allis for their contributions to our food pantry.



During this season of Thanksgiving, please bring donations of food for our food pantry, and place them by the altar on weekends during the month of November.

First Lutheran Happenings

COUNCIL AND WORSHIP ASSISTANTS REPORT:

Sorry, but as many of you know I suffered a mild TIA (Stroke) a week ago while at my Annual Crafting Week and ended up at Froederdt Intensive Care for hypertensive crisis. I'm home and feeling better and getting used to new medications. This being said I've needed to combine my reports and keep them short and as concise as possible.

Council continues to work on the Pastoral Call Process. We continue to seek 6 members to agree to participate in this process which entails interviewing the candidates and making your recommendations to the Council. Please inform myself, another Council member or Barb of your intent.

Council voted to have the Synod look into an Interim Pastor candidate to assist and support this transitional process vs Substitute Pastors for stability and consistency. Pastor Kristin from the Synod office remains involved, supportive and a great resource as needed.

The upcoming 2nd Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair is quickly approaching – Gosh the year went by so quickly!!!!. **PLEASE** promote and support this fun Church activity. I have been informed that a special guest from the North Pole will be attending---great photo opportunity for the kids (Even the young at heart!!) If you are available to volunteer some time, opportunities remain available. Please let Colleen, Barb or myself know. Thank you to all for your efforts thus far. We have doubled our crafters and vendors for this year-----really exciting!

Your Worship Assistants continue to serve as able but struggle with covering the 2 weekend services, especially with the holidays and family needs; therefore we continue to ask for volunteers to read and/or participate as a Worship Assistant. Again, let me know if you're interested.

I ask for prayers for the new Pastoral Call process, a successful Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair and for my continued healing and FLC as a whole. I believe the Holy Spirit is actively guiding and directly working within each of us.

Heidi Leiser – O'Neil, Council President and Sister-in-Christ. See you in Church.



THERE ARE A LOT OF AREAS THAT CAN USE ADDITIONAL HELP.....

- Have you considered helping with Altar Guild? Come one Saturday a month and set up the communion for the weekend.
- Could you come in once a month and fill the envelope pockets in the pews?
- How about bringing a treat on Saturday or Sunday for Coffee And....?
- What about quilting? No sewing required - pinning, cutting and tying knots are useful skills!
- Could you pick up the altar flowers at Pick n Save?

Food Pantry and Social Ministry News

STORY OF THE "FEEDING OF THE 5,000"

Last week our food pantry's visiting Pastor, Carl Lund, asked me how many meals we serve in a year. I responded with last year's total of "about 5,000." He replied, "You just gave me the topic for today's sermon for the opening prayer circle," and he proceeded to talk about this great ministry we have here and the opportunity it presents for *faith, food and fellowship*.

Each November we recognize the efforts of our congregation, community partners, many loyal workers, and donors and **thank you** for all that you do and provide.

Without you,

- we wouldn't have food to serve and provide safe refuge and comfort for a few hours.
- we couldn't cook and serve lunch to 100 hungry visitors a week.
- provide fresh vegetables, bread, canned food, soap, toothpaste and TP to take back to their home (be it to a house or a tent) .
- provide the spiritual sharing of God's Word, sort of a "mini church service", which has the room joined in prayer asking for His help or celebrating gifts received.
- provide a chance to share human struggles, problems, trouble and concerns.

One never knows how far kindness reaches.

..... Joy Dowd

OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING NOVEMBER 2019



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 ELCA Greater Milwaukee 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 still 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 October we have collected 100 Christmas themed mugs.

The Children's Christmas Stockings will be handed out on Sunday, December 8th, during our Miracle In the Manger event. The mugs and men's / women's totes will be distributed on Friday, Dec. 13th (snow date 12/20)

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. 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

*"A single
act of
kindness
throws out
roots
in all
directions,
and the roots
spring up
and make
new trees."*

*- Amelia
Earhart*

First Lutheran Happenings

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Join us at the Fair for some early Christmas shopping on Nov. 2nd at First Lutheran from 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.



There will be a large variety of crafters and vendors. Chili and chili dogs will be available for purchase. There will be benefit drawing baskets, a white elephant sale and a bake sale. Parking will be available in the First United Methodist Church parking lot at 76th & Lapham St.

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND, NOV. 2-3

On Nov. 2-3 we will be remembering members of our congregation who have died during the last year. If you would like other friends or family remembered in the prayers at the services, please contact the church office.



"Seasons of Change" at First Lutheran

This is a time of great change at our church. The departure of Pastor Bryant leads to our welcoming an interim pastor and searching for a new pastor, which all take an investment of your time, energy, and talents. Please take seriously your stewardship pledge for 2020, and consider how it can help the church in the future. Consider also some new ways you can get involved in the church - there are many opportunities, one of which is the Stewardship Brunch on Sunday, Nov. 17th following the worship service. To help us plan, a sign-up sheet is in the narthex. You can volunteer to bring food items if you wish, but we especially want your presence!

*Give
thanks
to the
Lord
for He
is good.
His
love
endures
forever.*

Psalm 136:1



First Lutheran Happenings

Meet Our Members...

Gary Hanson was raised in a German/Norwegian home in Manitowoc, WI, and after moving to Milwaukee, graduated from UWM. He studied piano and organ at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and has been organist and/or music director at churches for the past 40 years. Gary's life-long interests were in pianos and organs, especially the mechanical side of the instruments, and for many years as a "side job" and hobby, he bought, sold and restored pianos. He has worked on pipe organs for the past 50 years, including 9 months in Providence, R.I. installing stalling a Wurlitzer in the Ocean State Performing Center. Other organ work included many Milwaukee churches, the organ at Cooley Auditorium at MATC, the Barton organ in the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, and he still maintains the organ at the PAC, Marcus Performing Arts Center. Gary was featured on a TV show called "Kids World", demonstrating a theatre pipe organ. In 2003 the American Theatre Organ Society awarded him "Member of the year" for work done with theatre organs. He was a major player in the restoration of the Wurlitzer organ at the Riverside Theatre, as well as the organ at the Avalon Theatre. From 1985 until 2015 he owned Organ Piper Pizza. Prior to that he owned a downtown Milwaukee deli called "Palate Pleasers". How did he get into the restaurant business? When Pipe Organ Pizza opened in 1976, he was part of the installation crew, eventually playing the organ there, and becoming a manager. He gradually worked into the food end of the pizza business. Gary has been active in Lutheran churches, and was organist at St. Mark's for nearly 30 year, as well as Secretary for the Church Council, and chairman of Property. December of 2017, Gary "subbed" for some Christmas services at First Lutheran. He liked the change of pace, and also the social ministry food program that First Church does, which he now also volunteers with. We're glad to have Gary with us!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us decorate the church on Sunday, Dec 1, following the service. It only takes about an hour. We need helpers who can climb a ladder to reach the top of the Christmas tree! Many hands mean less work for everyone.



If you haven't done so already, please fill out a suggestion form located in the narthex. This is your opportunity to give your opinion of what you'd like to see as the direction of the church and the qualities you'd like in a pastor. Contact the office if you'd like a form mailed to you.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world."

—Bishop Desmond Tutu

This and that around here.....

A FESTIVAL OF PSALMS

Sun., Nov. 17, 3:00 p.m.
Mt. Carmel Lutheran
8424 W. Center St.

Massed choir and the Milwaukee Children's Choir featuring music by Vivaldi, Rutter and others. Presented by Mt. Carmel and the American Guild of Organists, Milwaukee Chapter



**HUNGER TASK FORCE
STOCK BOX DELIVERY**
WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER
7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.

The next distributions at the Senior Center will be on Nov. 12., between 1-2 p.m.

CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Keynote Speaker

"THE CONFEDERATE NATIONAL FLAGS"

Presented by Gary Giese

Nov. 14, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Historic information about the different flags and events of the time from 1859 to 1865. Replicas of different historic flags will be shown.

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

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

Nov. 5 - The Escape Artist by Jeanete Walls

Dec. 3 - The Readers of Broken Wheel
Recommend by Katrina Bivald

Call 546-7302 to register for above programs

REGENCY NEW BERLIN

13750 W. National Ave.

"Please, Call Me TEDDY"

Nov. 27, 1:30 p.m.

Learn about Teddy Roosevelt's life and accomplishments through portrayal by historian Peter Small.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST OF THANKS & GIVING

Nov. 25, 2019

Hampton Inn & Suites
8201 W. Greenfield Ave.

The Breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. Guests will enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast, followed by a guest speaker and short program beginning at 8:15 a.m. Guests are invited to bring non-perishables food items, which will be donated to West Allis food pantries. Tickets are \$30 – contact City Hall. No tickets sold at the door.

First Lutheran's food pantry receives food donated at this breakfast.

*It is not happiness that makes us grateful.
It's gratefulness that makes us happy.*

—David Steindl-Rast



**November Birthdays
First Lutheran**

- 11/6 Makinon Herbert
- 11/6 Karlie Marquez
- 11/7 Tybeigh Kocan
- 11/7 Katlynn Trader
- 11/8 Dominic Dixon
- 11/10 Lorenzo Dixon



November Anniversaries

11/15 Jerry & Gayle Falk (F) 44 yrs.

**November Birthdays
Nativity Lutheran**

- 11/3 Jean Leppien
- 11/3 Noel Maitine
- 11/7 Arne Sandberg
- 11/9 Helen Peterson
- 11/14 Jeanette Mortier
- 11/15 Julieta Espino
- 11/20 Ruby Horst
- 11/23 Rebecca Reinert
- 11/25 Gene Reynolds



During the dramatic experience when God called Isaiah to be a prophet, who or what filled the temple?

- A. 144,000 worshipers
- B. The bottom of God's robe
- C. Smoke
- D. Priests offering sacrifices

Answer: See Isaiah 6:1-8.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord of life, I worship you this day with thanksgiving! I praise your name now and always! Open my heart to encounter your work and equip me to proclaim your good news to the world. Amen

Pr. Bryant Bakkum



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 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.) contact Barb at (262)939-2728.

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 10-25-19

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 10-30-19



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

Let us come
before him with
thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2, NIV