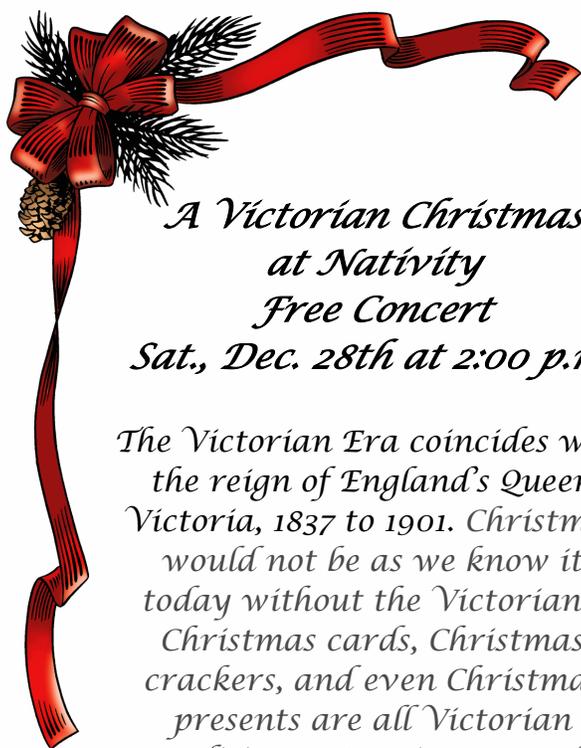


News & Views

**First and Nativity
Lutheran Churches
Dec., 2019 - Jan., 2020**



*A Victorian Christmas
at Nativity
Free Concert
Sat., Dec. 28th at 2:00 p.m.*

The Victorian Era coincides with the reign of England's Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1901. Christmas would not be as we know it today without the Victorians. Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, and even Christmas presents are all Victorian traditions. More importantly than all of that is the huge contribution Victorian composers made to Christmas music. We will present a few choice examples of music written before 1902 as well as some newer Christmas Favorites. With Dennis Jon Wolfgang, Susan Platt and R. Stewart Mitchell

Victorian reception to follow.
Free Will Offering to benefit
Nativity's Organ Fund.

*Miracle
In the Manger
Sunday, Dec. 8th, 9:00 a.m.*



Children will enjoy crafts, games and the Christmas story during the worship service. Children must be accompanied by an adult. After worship, all are invited for a light meal. See p. 2 for more details.

*Chain Reaction:
a Christmas Celebration
Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 9:00 a.m.*

Come and celebrate the birth of baby Jesus with our Sunday School children, and help us share the meaning of Christmas.





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:

Craig Bayer, Donna Behringer, John Bennethum, Cheryl Brautigam, Gayle Falk, Shannon Irvine, John Isaacson, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Edward Nolinski, James Ribnek III, Lillian Ribnek, Myra Shields, and Dontavious Steves



"Miracle In the Manger" sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, Sunday School Teachers and Operation Christmas Stocking will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9-10 a.m. Activities included crafts, games and the Christmas story. Christmas stockings will be handed out to children ages 4 to 10 (reservations required - contact church office). After church children and adults will join the congregation for a light lunch.

Our Christmas Program, **"Chain Reaction: A Christmas Celebration"** by Close Encounter Ministries will be presented on Sunday, December 22nd, during the 9:00 service. We are looking for four adult volunteers who are willing to participate in the program. If anyone is interested please contact Linda at 414-421-4542 or call the church office. We hope all of you will help us share the meaning of Christmas. Thanks to Linda Grulke for coordinating this year's Christmas Program.

"Be born in us today"

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*



Happenings at Nativity Lutheran

Hanging of the Greens

Please plan on staying after church on Sunday, December 8th, as we decorate our beautiful Georgian Revival church building for the Christmas season. Light refreshments will be made available; if you can bring some treats please let us know!



Christmas Eve at Nativity

Please join us this Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. as we welcome the Rev. Gus Barnes, Jr. as our guest pastor. We will return to a traditional Christmas Eve worship service with a wonderful Christmas message from Gus and beautiful Christmas music from our Susan Platt.



TIME TO PLACE YOUR ORDERS!

Sign up now for your Christmas poinsettia from Rose's Florist. Choose from red, white or pink. The cost is \$17.50, and the deadline to order is Sunday, December 15th. Sign up in the narthex. Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service.



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

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.



"A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS!"

A great big **THANK YOU** to Nativity's concert production crew for pulling off another successful concert extravaganza! Jim Ribnek, Jill Mickelson, Nicole DeBack, Susan Platt and Dennis Wolfgang cleaned, decorated, set out a reception, undecorated, cleaned up, along with a host of other things too numerous to mention. A big **THANK YOU** to Jim Ribnek for the organ console video and Danny D'Acquisto and Redemption Church for the loan of their fine projector.

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. Thank you.



A special thank-you to all of you for the many prayers, calls, notes and cards during my recovery from open heart surgery. I am On The Mend!

Thank you, Cheryl Brautigam



Nativity's WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sunday, Dec. 8th, at 10:15 a.m. in the "Upper Room". All women are welcome!



Mark your calendars for our annual Congregational Meeting on **Sun., Jan. 26th**, at 12:00 p.m.



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

2019 Craft & Vendor Fair
See details on next page!



First Lutheran Happenings



On a chilly November morning we came together as a congregation to celebrate God's goodness through Stewardship. While it was cold outside the warmth inside of the fellowship hall was felt as we ate delicious food, visited as a family of First Lutheran, and worshiped a God who loves us eternally. What a fantastic morning! What an exciting season!

Thank you to all who brought in food for us to enjoy, made a donation to the food pantry, or simply shared the gift of your time on Sunday morning. Thank you also to Greta Plicka for sharing your creativity and decorating the tables so beautifully, Linda Grulke for making my favorite egg dish and helping to hold down the fort in the kitchen, Werner Bayer for brewing a great cup of coffee, and Joy Dowd for doing a little bit of "everything" yesterday. Your help is so appreciated.

As I mentioned during my stewardship "chat" a few weeks back, change is not always easy and can be scary at times. However, when we let God take over the seasons of change can be beautiful and exciting. Let's celebrate our season of change by giving ourselves, time, and financial blessings to the God who's love is constant.

In Christ, Lori Marquez

HOW HAS GOD BLESSED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

If your New Year's resolution for 2020 includes giving back for God's gifts received, there are lots of ways to share your own gifts with others in the community and our family at First Lutheran. Just do It!



HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our craft fair a success: the volunteers who set up, welcomed, manned tables, baked, served food and cleaned up. A special thanks to all of the crafters and vendors who were what drew people to our church, and thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Santa, too! We raised 838.73 for our ministries, 259.29 for our food pantry and \$100 for the Hope House homeless shelter.



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



WE LOVE OUR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to our awesome dedicated volunteers who help us feed the hungry. On any given week there are about 25 volunteers available to do God's work and help set up, cook, distribute and serve food and beverages, shop for food, pick up food, pack and hand out bags and clean up. We could not be successful without you!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS STOCKING DECEMBER 2019



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. The Children's Christmas Stockings will be handed out on Sunday, December 8, 2019 during our "Miracle In the Manger" event. The mugs and men's / women's totes will be distributed on Friday, December 13th.

We would like to thank members of First Lutheran, Nativity Lutheran and Community Members who donated mugs, items for children's stockings and men/women's totes. We appreciate others who used their time and talents to knit hats, scarves, and mittens. Special Thank You to Colleen Siarnicki for donating decorated Christmas frames to be handed out on Friday, December 13th.

If you have any questions please contact Greta Plicka.
Thank you for your continued support.
Respectfully submitted
Co/Chairs Jacqueline Bayer/Greta Plicka



LIKE FOOD?

The food pantry is looking to add to its cooking team. Most of the cooking is done on Thursday mornings and finished on Friday mornings prior to lunch being served at 10am. A basic understanding of food safety and previous cooking experience in a commercial setting is helpful.



Thanks to St. Luke's and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches, and General Mitchell Grade School for their donations of food for our food pantry. We appreciate their support of our ministry.



Dear Friends:

On behalf of the residents, staff and board of Serenity Inns, we want to thank you for your generous financial gift given in November, 2019.

This gift assists us in meeting the daily needs of our recovering residents and helps us provide quality programming as they learn to live in recovery.

Blessings,
Ellen Blathers, Executive Director

First Lutheran Happenings

Church Council and Worship Assistants report:

Ephesians 1: 11---“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...”



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

Your Church Council continues to be guided by the Holy Spirit as we move forward with the Pastoral search. Recently five (5) of us attended worship at Christ Church ELCA in Mequon, the largest congregation in the Milwaukee Synod. Pastor Bob re-developed Christ Church and shared their story with us. We all came away inspired and focused on our development process. We agreed that FLC needs to move forward with the same focus theme “Being a church for those not here yet” which is a huge paradigm switch. We all know that we are blessed by God’s promises of eternal life, His grace and love for his children will never leave us. This being said, we need to focus on those who seek the same promises of our Lord Jesus Christ which will require a mission focus vs the historical liturgical framework. Therefore, the following redevelopment processes will be noted in the near future.

We will move forward with an Interim Pastor for stability and assist in the Pastor search process and completing the required Profile, a very in-depth job description of expectations of FLC.

A trial elimination of the Saturday evening service with the possibility of a mid-week service

Only emergent Pastoral visits will be conducted by the Interim/new Pastor and the formation of the “Visiting Care Ministry” committee to meet the needs of the homebound, hospitalized and/or requested visits by members.

A presence of the Interim/new Pastor at the Friday Food Pantry to meet the spiritual needs of those attending and seeking God’s promises and blessings----again meeting the new focus of those not here yet.

Reducing the Sunday bulletin to a single page document. We are searching for a volunteer to operate the audio-visual projector for the over-head for Sunday service.

Worship assistants may choose to wear street clothing vs white robe and stole and Pastors to wear clothing of choice to promote a greater level of comfort to “those not here yet”.

The Council recognizes that not all FLC members agree with the “re-development” decisions and choices being made at this time and going forward but we all agree that as a congregation if the re-development doesn’t occur the future of FLC is questionable. We ask for your prayers as difficult decisions (personal and as a church) need to be made and that our hearts and mind are open to the Holy Spirit and the will of God manifested in growth and increasing commitment to FLC and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your feedback is welcome---please contact any Council member. May God bless each of us during this transitional time.

Your sister-in-Christ,
Heidi Leiser-O’Neal
Council President

ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date for our annual meeting on February 2, 2020.

First Lutheran Happenings

Meet Our Members...

Dave Wegener was born in a farmhouse in Summit, WI. After his father passed away in 1945, his family moved to a farm south of Rubicon, WI, where he went to a one room schoolhouse for his first 6 yrs. until a new school was built in Neosho, WI. After graduating from Hartford High School, Dave worked in a foundry for 3 months and then Joined the Navy. He was trained as an aviation ordinance then was assigned to the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S Lake Champlain, a submarine hunter. They were assigned as the recovery ship for America's first astronaut Alan Sheppard. Dave met his girlfriend, Carolyn, at his going away party when he joined the Navy, and after his service, Dave asked her to get marry him. She said yes and they were married Oct 10, 1964 at Redeemer Lutheran in Hartford by Reverend Maurice Felton who was the minister there at the time. Dave and Carolyn had three children; their first son died soon after birth and their daughter passed away in July of 2017. His other son, Damon, lives not too far away, along with two grandsons and granddaughters. After becoming interested in trap shooting, Dave was asked by a friend if he would shoot on his Germantown American Legion Team, and they eventually went on to win the State of Wisconsin tour. Dave became more and more interested in the Legion and ran for office. He has served as Post Commander, District Commander, State Vice Commander then State Commander in 1999. Dave was also involved in the Forty & Eight, which is the Honor Society for Veterans. After his year as The State Commander of the American Legion, Dave went through all the chairs of the Forty & Eight reaching Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer which is like National Vice Commander. After the death of his wife in 2011, Dave has been getting more involved with First Lutheran, which we're grateful for. "That is my story so far. God only knows how long it will continue."



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.

Come in early for the Saturday service and enjoy fellowship, a cup of hot coffee and a treat before worship.



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettia to decorate the church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Order red or white for \$8. Deadline to order is Dec. 10th. Sign up in the narthex or call the office. They can be picked up after the Christmas Day service.



Be sure to Like us on Facebook and share our events!

This and that around here.....

WEST ALLIS FAMILY EVENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Friday, Dec. 6, 5:30-9pm

Saturday, Dec. 7, 11am-4pm

West Allis Farmers Market

6501 W. Greenfield Ave.

Shop a traditional outdoor European-style market featuring nearly 100 holiday gift vendors, specialty food retailers, and artisan crafters. Sample gluhwein, a hot mulled wine, or your favorite spirits. Enjoy hot foods and live music, plus carolers, a visit from Santa, and much more. Admission is free.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, Dec. 7

Tree Lighting Ceremony at Centennial Plaza, 7525 W Greenfield Ave., 4-4:30p.m. followed by the West Allis Christmas Parade on Greenfield Ave. from State Fair Park to 70th St., then South to Orchard Ave. Enjoy the premier nighttime Christmas parade in Milwaukee!

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY NIGHT

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5 - 9 p.m.

West Allis Central High School

8516 W. Lincoln Ave.

Ring in the New Year as a family with kid-friendly activities and an early balloon drop! Inflatables, basketball, swimming, DJ music, and other activities make this event a family favorite.



HUNGER TASK FORCE STOCK BOX DELIVERY

**WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER
7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.**

The next distributions at the Senior Center will be on Dec. 10 between 1-2 p.m.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

An Advent/Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 1st at 2:00 p.m.

Incarnation Lutheran,

1510 W. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee

Featuring Jim Stoebe, Dennis Wolfgang

and Byron Jones

Refreshments to follow. Free will offering to benefit their pipe organ restoration fund.

CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment

9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Keynote Speaker

"THE WISCONSIN STORY"

Presented by Dennis McCann

Dec. 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

From significant figures in our history, to important events like the Blackhawk War, 1960's campus protests and oleo smuggling, Calvin Coolidge's summer White House, and the "anti-corset" resolution, learn what makes Wisconsin, Wisconsin.

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

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

Dec. 3 - The Readers of Broken Wheel

Recommend by Katrina Bivald

Call 546-7302 to register for above programs

**December-January Birthdays
First Lutheran**

12/17 Gayle Falk
 12/17 Crystal Wegener
 12/18 Kathy Santos
 12/22 Maxx Jaeger
 12/27 Michael Temke
 12/28 Donald Moncher
 12/29 Joy Dowd
 12/29 Dorian Jaeger
 1/1 Nancy Krizan
 1/11 Carla Ullerich
 1/12 Christina Behmke
 1/21 John Isaacson



**December-January Birthdays
Nativity Lutheran**

12/4 Roger Reinert
 12/5 Marcus DeBack
 12/13 Maureen Jones
 12/31 Lorraine Kuchma
 12/31 Lori Leiser
 1/4 Gary Soerfass
 1/7 Alexander Leiser
 1/21 Anna Sullivan

December-January Anniversaries

No Nativity Anniversaries
 12/11 Carrie & Joseph Muffler (F) 9 yrs.
 12/12 Garrett & Cindy Labadie (F) 38 yrs.
 1/14 Wayne & Lucy Wagner (F) 59 yrs.



The deadline for the February newsletter is Jan. 12, 2020.

Biblical New Year's Resolutions

Resolve to:

- Live with eternity in mind.*
- Kill sin and pursue holiness.*
- Be thankful.*
- Read and meditate on the Scripture.*
- Commit to a local church.*
- Worship God through song.*
- Aim for the glory of Christ.*

Kristen Wetherell 2015

The church office will be closed on: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.



Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt



Answer: See Matthew 2:13



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

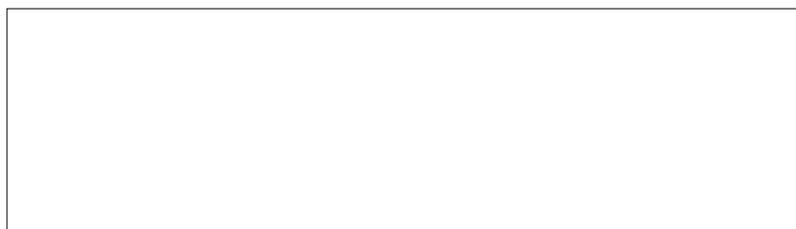
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Dated Material
Please deliver by 11-25-19



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



Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
Nativity Lutheran
5:00 p.m.

First Lutheran
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25
First Lutheran
10:00 a.m.

*Worship with us this
Christmas season*