

# News & Views

*First and Nativity  
Lutheran Churches  
February, 2020*



*“Never be  
afraid to trust  
an unknown  
future to a  
known God.”*

*— Corrie ten Boom*

**Worship With Us On  
ASH WEDNESDAY**

**FEBRUARY 26**

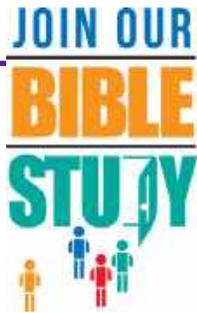
**FIRST LUTHERAN  
10 a.m. & 7 p.m.**

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN  
12 p.m.**

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

# Christian Life



## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. Our 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.

On Tues., Feb. 18th, we'll be watching the movie "Paul, Apostle of Christ" starring Jim Caviezel.

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:

Diane G., Jackie Gottwald, Shannon Irvine, John Isaacson, James Larson, Edward Nolinski, Carrie Pflugrad, James Ribnek III, Lillian Ribnek, Kathy Santos, Myra Shields, Steve Schilcher and Rachel Tripi



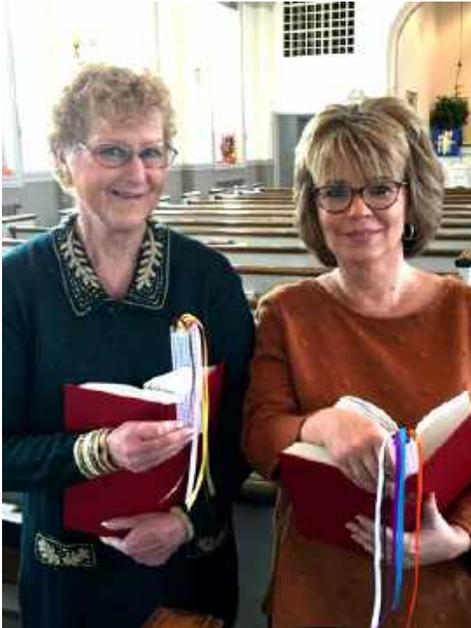
Our Spring theme this year is "Builders in the Bible". Each week we include a lesson about special events and people in the Bible. Along with a weekly lesson there are crafts, science, games and music. Our January/February lessons include David's Harp, The Disciples, Jesus Commands the Winds/Wave, Jesus Walks on Water, Fishes & Loaves, Wedding in Cana and Jacobs Ladder. Linda

taught the children about the Disciples and the Disciples at First Lutheran. Ask one of our Sunday School children who they think are First Lutheran's Disciples. On January 26<sup>th</sup> 'Jesus Commands the Wind/Waves', Greta and the children created a storm that erupts in a bottle and made their own snow storm in a jar to take home.

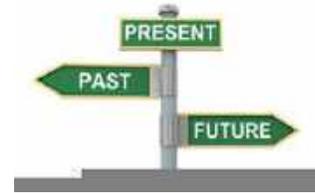


Bible Quiz Answer: C

# Happenings at Nativity Lutheran



Women of the ELCA members Cheryl Isotalo (left) and Kerry Neusen hold hymnals sporting the new bookmarks made by WELCA.



## 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!**



## AMAZON SMILE

I am a shopper and I love Amazon. If you are a shopper too, you can now let Amazon donate a percentage of everything you buy through Amazon to Nativity Lutheran Church. Donating this way is easy and it doesn't cost you any extra money. Every time you want make a purchase at Amazon.com, login through **Smile.Amazon.com** instead! You will see the same great Amazon web site, but now you can designate Nativity as your charity of choice. Nativity will receive any donations quarterly. Thank you!



## 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!

Nativity's next concert is coming soon, so mark your calendar now to keep the date clear!

### MARCH 14 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.



Nativity's WELCA, Women of the ELCA, will meet on Sunday, Feb. 9th, at 10:15 a.m. in the "Upper Room". All women are welcome!



### BROWN BAG IT LENT

Don't have time to attend weekly Lenten services? We have the answer at Nativity: BROWN BAG IT LENT! Bring your brown bag lunch. We'll provide coffee, water and other items. Dine while attending an informal Lenten worship service.

**Wednesdays in Lent:**

**March 4th through April 1st  
12 noon.**

We'll be done in less than 25 minutes!

### A NATIVITY CHRISTMAS WRAP-UP!



A lovely crowd of brave souls came out of the cold and into the warmth of the Nativity Christmas concert held December 28, 2019. Nativity helped to bring in the New Year with a Victorian Christmas at Nativity. Special thanks go out to everyone who helped make this possible, and to all the concert-goers who brought a can-do attitude to our caroling. And last but not least, deserved thanks to everyone who brought the treats for the reception.

Pictures to follow!

### 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.



### 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.

# Our Shared Partnership 2010-2019

Since this is our last joint newsletter issue, I thought I'd include some pictures from the past. Blessings to both Nativity and First on their new ventures. ....Barb



# First Lutheran Happenings



Hoping everyone had a Blessed Christmas and good New Years. We are now on the other side of 2019 with 2020 looking very promising and exciting. Going into 2020, I think we all need to be mindful the world is shifting dramatically and “we” (FLC family) need to respond to the changes that are needed to sustain into the future. We have a God who loves us and this is my stronghold every day.

Today, the traditional faith practices may not meet the spiritual needs of many and how we meet the spiritual needs for all of us is challenging. While we’re anchored in the foundation of our faith, how that carries out in a multi-generational culture such as our congregation requires faith, trust, respect and prayer within this evolving process.

I thank the worship assistants for all their work this past year especially needing to be flexible with our fill-in Pastors and their Service preferences/practices. Jesse Rofritz, Carla Ullerich and I welcomed Katie and Justin Kocan to the Worship Assistants Committee and now extend a warm welcome and thank you to Janelle Cyrus for volunteering to be a reader.

So 2020 will be exciting with the changes and a new Pastor. I know that God will continue to bless us and the Holy Spirit will remain a strong presence.

See you in Church.  
Heidi Leiser-O’Neil  
Sister-in-Christ

**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?
- What about quilting? No sewing required - pinning, cutting and tying knots are useful skills!



Thank you to Dolores Hurst, Marie LePage and John Hrovat for cleaning and hanging new curtains in the pastor’s office!

## HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

**A Friend Invited Me - 86%**

**Organized Visitation - 6%**

**Invited by the Pastor - 6%**

**Advertising - 2%**

[churchgrowth.org](http://churchgrowth.org)

## Food Pantry News



### SHARING OF GOD'S LOVE AND ABUNDANCE...

Thanks to your support and the support of other churches, schools, area businesses and community organizations (and our awesome volunteers! ), the food pantry was able to provide families, seniors and the homeless with 1,413 bags of food in 2019 and served 3,820 hot meals!

*Thanks to Dave Berther and to Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, for their generous donations of food for our food pantry. Their support of our ministry means a great deal.*

*Thanks to the West Allis Community Improvement Foundation, Inc., for their gift of \$250 and groceries, which were proceeds of the 2019 Community Breakfast of Thanks and Giving. We appreciate the support of our community.*

### *Thanks FROM our community*

*"Thank you for your generosity in 2019. Your support of Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc. allows older adults in our community to engage in meaningful experiences which improve the quality of their lives. Your gift will support SOA's ongoing efforts to provide older adults with an opportunity to enrich their physical, intellectual and emotional health. With gratitude, Cathy Wood, President"*

*"Thank you so much for your generosity and thoughtfulness over Christmas. Your heartfelt gesture means so much. ...."*

*The staff and residents of Serenity Inn*

### LIKE FOOD?

The food pantry is looking to add to its cooking team. Most of the cooking is done on



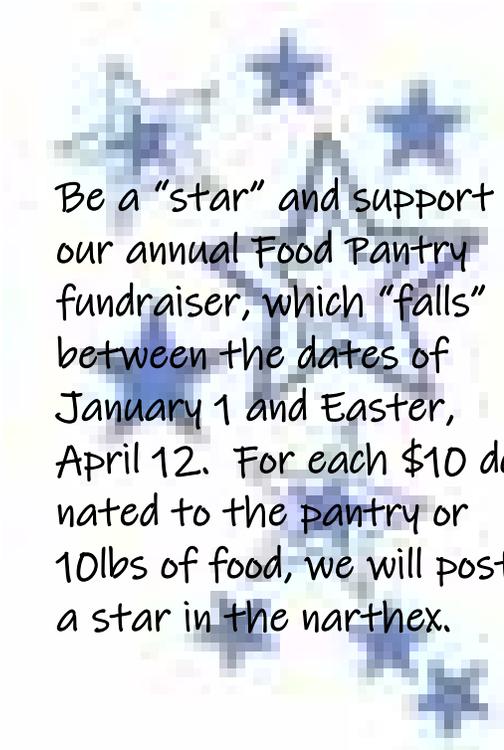
Thursday mornings and finished on Friday mornings prior to lunch being served at 10am. A basic understanding of food safety and previous cooking experience in a commercial setting is helpful.

## First Lutheran Happenings

### TOTALLY DOABLE 2020 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Start your day with a life-giving bible verse instead of scrolling through your phone.
- Be more generous with your smiles, they look good on you!
- Delete one harmful word or phrase from your vocabulary and replace it with something more constructive. Remove it from your thoughts about yourself, too!
- Say "thank you" to others.
- Give up your spot in line to the person behind you.
- Pray for others every day.
- Compliment your spouse or significant other.
- Whisper to your kids when you feel like yelling.
- Be a good neighbor.
- Test your comfort zone by trying something new.
- Love God and people more than you did in 2019.

.....Life Church, by Beth Castle



Be a "star" and support our annual Food Pantry fundraiser, which "falls" between the dates of January 1 and Easter, April 12. For each \$10 donated to the pantry or 10lbs of food, we will post a star in the narthex.

Operation Christmas Stocking is a year-round project that provides gift bags for ELCA Synod Serenity Inn Program, clients at First Lutheran's Food Pantry and stockings filled with age appropriate items for their children/grandchildren. You can help us out by donating the following items:

For men and women: Socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, bar soap, travel toiletries, gloves and hats for men, pocket tissues.

For children: coloring books and activity books (they don't have to be a Christmas theme), crayons/magic markers, mittens, toothbrushes/toothpaste, small toys (Matchbox cars, Playdoh, card games etc.).

We also accept cash donations to purchase the above items.

Respectfully submitted

Co/Chairs Greta Plicka and Colleen Siarnicki



## First Lutheran Happenings



## Meet Our Members...

Dave and I grew up 3.5 miles apart on family farms in Iowa. We met when I took piano lessons from Dave's aunt. She would take us to civic music concerts where he would tease me. Our first date was the junior prom at our high school. We dated through college and got married in 1973. We had Beth in 1979 in Iowa. In 1981 we moved to Wisconsin for Dave's job. In 1982 we had Laurel and in 1987 we had Matt. Dave has worked in advertising sales, commercial insurance and home improvements. Linda has worked as an Aurora nurse since 1982 in the ER and disease management. The kids went to Sunday School, VBS and confirmation at First Lutheran. Beth and Don were married at First. Dave has been on the church council multiple times and is currently the treasurer. Linda's first Sunday School class was co-teaching with Miss Lola a long time ago. We have three dear grandchildren, Gwen, Seth, and Eli and a dear dog named Abby.

.....Linda Grulke



# This and that around here.....

## VILLAGE AT MANOR PARK

8536 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis  
414-607-4186

### AARP TAX ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26  
By appointment only from 10:30a-2:30p

Counselors will assist low to moderate-income taxpayers with their returns, especially those 50 and older. This service is not available if you have income property.

### ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT WITH THE FESTIVAL CITY CHORUS

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Milwaukee Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society share their joy of singing. A minimum free will offering of \$3.00/person is suggested. Refreshments served afterwards.

### EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT

**Famed Chimpanzee Expert Dr. Jane Goodall**  
Thursday, Feb. 27, 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a presentation of Dr. Jane Goodall's life, education and lifelong love of animals and her work to preserve their habitat.

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**FEBRUARY OUTINGS**

### **SIMPLY SWINGIN' - Sinatra & Friends**

at the Riverside Theater  
Sun., Feb. 9, Leaves at 1:30 p.m.

### **AN AMERICAN IN PARIS**

at Drury Lane, Oakbrook, IL  
Thurs., Feb. 13, leaves at 9:30 a.m.

Other outings are available. Contact the office at VMP for ticket pricing and further information.



## HUNGER TASK FORCE STOCK BOX DELIVERY

WEST ALLIS SENIOR CENTER  
7001 W. NATIONAL AVE.

The next distributions at the Senior Center will be on Feb. 11 between 1-2 p.m.



Stop in a little early for our Saturday service and enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a treat before worship. Coffee is served beginning at 5pm.

Do you enjoy having coffee and treats on Sunday mornings after worship, and having a little time to visit with friends? Consider signing up to bring treats for one Sunday. Coffee is set up ahead of time - all you need to do is plug it in. We've had some very faithful treat providers, but they deserve a week off now and then. Sign up in the Fireside Room. Thanks!

## CLEMENT MANOR

Center for Enrichment  
9405 W. Howard Ave., Greenfield

Keynote Speaker

### **50 YEARS UNDER THE DOMES** **Presented by Friends of the Domes** **Feb. 27, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Learn about the amazing historical significance and unique engineering feat of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. What is the history of the Menomonee Valley and why were the domes designed and constructed?

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

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

Feb. 4 - The Library Book by Susan Orlean  
Mar. 3 - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Call 546-7302 to register for above programs

**February Birthdays  
First Lutheran**

2/1 Shirley Armato  
2/10 Nora Kocan  
2/14 Shirley Fisher  
2/14 Kent Nicolet  
2/15 Thomas Herbert  
2/25 Lavone Reis



**February Anniversaries**

2/15 Warren & Joan Hirschinger (F) 69 yrs.

**February Birthdays  
Nativity Lutheran**

2/1 Jill Sandberg  
2/8 Juan Sifuentes  
2/11 Cynthia Barbian  
2/12 Shirley Zauner  
2/17 Bryce DeBack  
2/26 Dennis Wolfgang

*To fall in love with God is the  
greatest of romances,  
to seek him  
the greatest adventure,  
to find him t  
he greatest human achievement.  
—St. Augustine*

*Morning is God's way of saying one more time,  
Go make a difference,  
Touch a heart,  
Encourage a mind,  
Inspire a soul  
and enjoy the day.*



The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900



Answer found on p. 2



*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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**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](http://www.firstlutheranelca.org)

E-mail: [firstlutheranelca@att.net](mailto:firstlutheranelca@att.net)

Phone: 414-476-4664

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

6905 W. Bluemound Rd.

Wauwatosa, WI

[www.nativitylutheran.us](http://www.nativitylutheran.us)

Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853