

News & Views

First Lutheran Church

March, 2020



REPENT – A WORTHY WORD FOR LENT

What pops into your mind when you hear the word “repent”? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist’s shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word “repent” mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God’s direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life – a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.



Special MEETING

We will have a special congregational meeting on Sunday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m., immediately after the worship service. This is an important meeting where we will be voting on calling a new pastor for a 3 year term call. If you need additional information, please contact the church office.



Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 p.m.
Combined ecumenical worship at
First United Methodist Church,
76th & Lapham, along with
St. Augustine Catholic. Church.

Christian Life

Spring
Bible
Study



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran. We've been studying the book "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter". During Lent we may do a different study, so come and check it out. You don't need to have attended previously to come.

On Feb. 18th, we watched the movie "Paul, Apostle of Christ" and learned a lot about Paul, Luke and how some of the books of the Bible were formed.

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 Gallegos, Jackie Gottwald, Gary Hanson, Shannon Irvine, John Isaacson, Carrie Pflugradt, Jan Stasiak and Rachel Tripi



Please remember in prayer the family of Myra Shields who died on January 30th. May God's love enfold them as they grieve.



Sunday School Happenings

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 February/March lessons include Fishes & Loaves, Wedding in Cana, Jacobs Ladder, Jacobs Bowl, Ruth & Naomi, A Room for Elisha, The Last Supper and The Cross. On Sunday February 9th it was snowy and cold so we decided to go ice cube fishing. Lori taught the lesson on Fishes & Loaves and Greta took the children ice cube fishing. We didn't catch enough to feed 5,000 but we had fun trying.

First Lutheran Happenings



I can't believe that January is a memory and we are forging ahead into Spring with the following:

The Council continues to work closely with the Call Committee to secure a new pastor. The Call Committee has either interviewed or reviewed resume's for pastors indicating an interest in First Lutheran. The field has narrowed after an interview with a prospective pastor who performed services on February 1st and 2nd at which many of you had the opportunity to meet and talk with him. The Call process can be slow but we are moving forward and following Synod processes. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to be a strong presence in this process as we vote on March 8th.

With Mike Plicka and John Hrovat needing to retire from snow removal detail, we have contracted with a snow removal company to care for our property.

Colleen Siarnick and I are planning a Spring Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, May 2nd. We will be looking for volunteers to serve food and beverages, sell baked goods and work the Raffle and White Elephant tables. We also are seeking crafters and/or vendors, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please let us know and we will contact them.

Our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2nd was well attended. Thank you to all for your support and I look forward to another successful year. 2020 is going to be a year of changes but I know that God continues to bless us and will move us in His direction.

This month's report may be short but not the tasks at hand. Please consider volunteering for the above requests or participate in any committees requiring assistance. Although there may be some work, the benefits are immense in service to FLC and God's Church and you will have FUN---that's a guarantee!!!!

See you in Church,
Heidi Leiser-O'Neil
Sister-in-Christ/Council President 2019

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND READERS

We all remain flexible with the weekly change of substitute pastors and their practice preferences, but always enjoy serving our church and God in this capacity.

We are always seeking additional Assistants and Readers to help---the more the better. After all, when at church for services, why not

Thank you to Jesse Rofritz, Carla Ullerich and Katie and Justin Kocan and Janelle Cyrus for your continued service in this service to the FLC congregation.

Heidi Leiser-O'Neil
Worship Assistant

SPRING CRAFT FAIR



Before you know it, winds will be warmer, daffodils up, trees budding...time to "spring to life" and refresh your home and life with new spring and Easter décor. Save time and money by shopping our "Spring to Life" Craft Fair, Saturday, May 2nd, from 9am to 3pm. Crafts, bake sale food and raffles abound! We will be looking for lots of helpers. Watch for the sign-up sheet in March.

Dare to Care!

“Dare to Care” about the homeless and families in our community facing food scarcity. But How??? Donate to our food pantry fundraiser, which runs from now until Easter Sunday, April 12th. As of Feb 24th, we collected \$985 and 150 lbs of food! Help us to feed those in need. All donations are used to directly purchase food or meal supplies. For each \$10 or 10lb of food donated, we post a “star” in the narthex. Let’s fill it!



Pastor Dean Willich (above), one of our faithful supply pastors, visits with food pantry clients. We appreciate all he has done for us here at First Lutheran.

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 accepts the following items year-round:

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



CARING VISITS WITH OUR HOMEBOUND

Some of our homebound members haven’t been visited by First Lutheran in a while. If you can share some of your time with one of our homebound members, chat for a while, share a prayer or serve communion, consider participating in this caring ministry. The church office can provide a list with addresses.



Hold the Date!

The Post Office food drive is May 9th. We will need helpers at All Saints Church in Oak Creek and here at First Lutheran. Watch for information next month.



COMING SOON TO FIRST LUTHERAN!

Join us on Tuesday, March 24th at 7p.m. for an engaging discussion of the book “White Teacher/Black Momma,” by Anita Kelley D’Abbraccio and Tiffy Lott Stevenson. This author reading event is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by Barb Reed’s chapter of the PEO women’s group and First Lutheran Church. The authors will be joining us in a community discussion about honesty, acceptance and courage:



“Before she got the phone call, Tiffany Lott Stevenson was at the end of her rope. Her son Oscar was having major behavioral problems in school. No one was willing to help. Instead, the white teachers and administration were all ready to write Oscar off as a “troubled black youth.” Tiffany was sure that his newest teacher, Anita Kelley D’Abbraccio, would be exactly the same. When Anita finally called, Tiffany was sure she too was giving up on Oscar. Instead, Anita proposed a different solution. She wanted to work with Tiffany to come up with an action plan to address Oscar’s issues and change some of his troubled behavior.

As the two women began meeting to discuss Oscar’s progress, something amazing happened. They became friends. The two bonded based on their shared Christian faith and experiences as mothers. Tiffany wasn’t the only one who needed help with her family, and the two promised to be there for each other through the troubled times ahead.

In this heartwarming memoir, both the “white teacher” and the “black mama” show what this friendship has meant to them and how their bond has helped them through times of extraordinary hardship”. Join us for an opportunity to meet the delightful, dedicated authors.

Donations of cash or non-perishable foods to our food pantry are appreciated.

Meet Our Members...

Earl Casto was born on October 17th, 1946, in Charleston, W. Virginia, to Marie and Earl Casto Sr. Soon after his birth, they moved to West Allis and joined First Lutheran Church at the previous location on So. 73rd Street. In 1953 they returned to W.VA., only to return to West Allis in 1959 and rejoin FLC at the present location. At that time, Pastor Haker taught Saturday Confirmation classes in what is now the Fireside Room. Earl was an active member of Luther League and played on the FLC boy's junior basketball team, moving on to the senior men's team when he was eligible. As an adult, Earl has served three terms on the Church Council, and three terms as Council President. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Endowment Committee. Earl and Jean were married on May 10, 1968. They have four daughters and nine grandchildren, all of whom live in other states. While this does impose limitations on family time, it affords opportunities to get together in warmer climates. Earl has been a professional sales person since the early 1970's. He began in retail sales, first in sporting goods, then furniture, moving on to wholesale and industrial sales. For the past fifteen years he has been a Realtor with Shorewest Realtors, in which capacity he has assisted several families at FLC with their real estate needs.



This and that around here.....

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Jan. 29, 2020 Meeting

Property Committee - Effective 2/2/20, Mike Plicka and John Hrovat will no longer be responsible for snow removal on church property.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pastor for Lenten services is on hold until a call is extended.
- Together In Mission synod event - no council members attending
- Pastor Pres Hoffman's help to First Lutheran will be acknowledged
- Tech Specialist - on hold until next meeting
- Weather Closings - services will NOT be cancelled due to weather conditions.
- Spring Craft and Vendor Fair will be held on May 2nd.
- Pastor Kelly Taylor-Schaus will be contacted about leading Ash Wednesday services.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nominations for council will be taken from the floor at Annual Meeting.
- Benevolence giving will continue in same manner as in previous years.

Discussion held regarding church safety protocols.

Next meeting will be held on 2/19/20.

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICES

President - Heidi Leiser
Vice President - Colleen Siarnicki
Treasurer - Dave Grulke
Secretary - Lori Marquez

Be sure to thank them for being willing to serve!



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

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



HONOR FLIGHT ART SHOW
TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH
2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Library Square
1820 S. 75th St., West Allis

View a professional collection of the most moving images taken from the Stars and Stripes Honor Flights. Guest speaker Mike Bakus.

RSVP 414-774-4411 by March 9th

SYNOD EVENTS

**Ankeny High School Concert Choir,
Luther College Aurora
and Wartburg College Castle Singers**

Enjoy a celebration of song on Wednesday, March 4th, 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 300 Carroll St., Waukesha. A free will donation will be taken to benefit all three ensembles.

Carthage College Choir

St. John's Lutheran, 20275 Davidson Rd., Brookfield, will host a concert on Sunday, March 8th. Contact the church office for time.

March Birthdays

3/2 Audrey Enloe
3/3 Jason Zehe
3/4 David Grulke
3/11 Joyce Favre
3/11 Roger Gray
3/12 Jonathan Flores
3/13 Gus Barnes
3/15 Erin Anderson
3/15 Wesley Anderson
3/16 Joan Hirschinger
3/18 Isabella Dixon
3/18 Katelyn Kocan
3/27 Dolores Hurst
3/28 Samuel Marquez
3/31 Melissa Weisnicht

MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Anniversaries

3/2 Michael & Melissa Weisnicht 13 yrs.
3/24 Joel & Lori Marquez 13 yrs.

"May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door." —Irish blessing

"Thank you for being a part of our mission to end homelessness and create healthy communities. We truly appreciate your support."Jim Farrell, Development Director at Hope House.

Received by Katie Kocan for the donation made with profits received from bracelets made and sold by her daughter and a friend at the Holiday Craft Fair.



Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."



Answer: See John 3:1-16

Your future is as bright as the size of your faith.

Dr. Terry K Anderson



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 2-25-20

Electronic Service Requested

Dated Material
Please deliver by 2-29-20



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

7400 W. Lapham St.

West Allis, WI

www.firstlutheranelca.org

E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net

Phone: 414-476-4664

Worship With Us:

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am to 12pm
Office located at 7400 W. Lapham, West Allis
(414)476-4664

