

Shared Life Newsletter

Caring, Witnessing, Serving
Nativity Lutheran Church

November 2020

A Note from Pastor Bish...

Christ's Call to Love

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

Indeed, Christ tells us that one of the basic characteristics of those who follow Him is the expression of love in one's daily life. Yes, love is a basic characteristic of a Christian!

As you look at the world and society in which we live, there is certainly a need for Christians to express this love in their daily lives. In my sermon this past Sunday, October 18th, I noted that an unknown author has described the world in which we live like this:

"We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers;
Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.
We spend more, but have less.
We buy more, but enjoy it less.
We have bigger houses and smaller families.
More conveniences, but less time.
We have more degrees, but less sense;
more knowledge, but less judgment;
more experts, but more problems;
more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life.

We've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.

We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We have higher incomes, but lower morals.

We've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

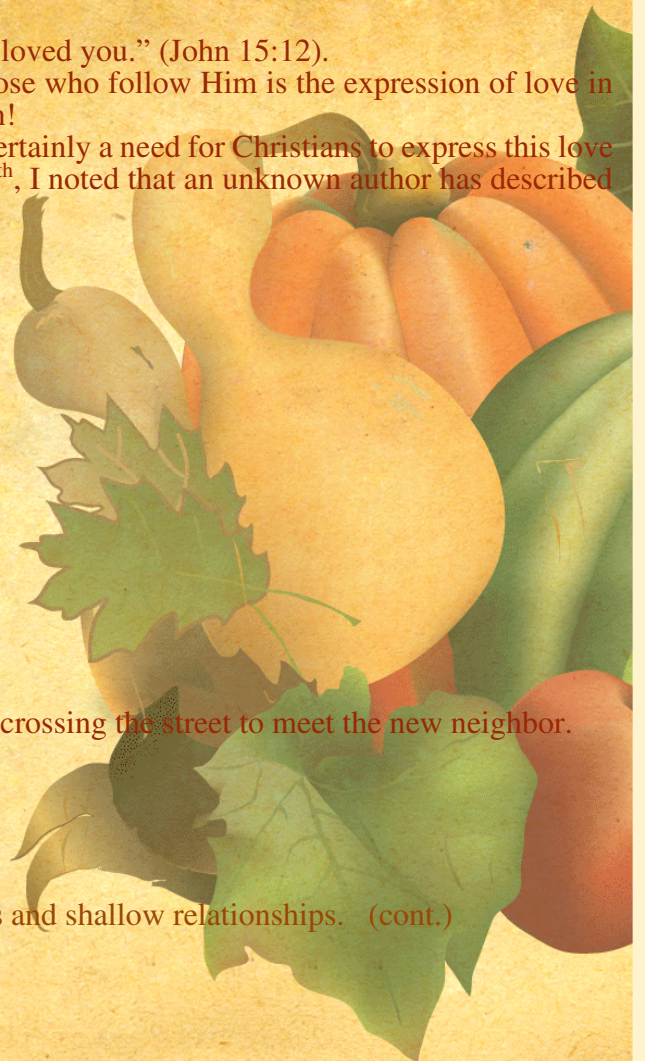
These are the times of tall men and short character; steep profits and shallow relationships. (cont.)

These are the times of world peace; but domestic warfare,

More leisure, but less fun;

more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; (cont.)



(cont. from page 1)

of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom.

Whoever that writer is, he or she has described our society well.

Yes, Christ needs Christians who live out their faith and express love and understanding in their lives.

John 15:12

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

Once there was a woman by the name of Dranafice. Dranafice, also known as Rose, was a poor woman who lived many years ago in Albania in eastern Europe. Rose and her husband opened their home to the poor and hungry in their town. Whenever one of Rose's daughters would ask who the new visitor at their dinner table was, Rose would answer that it was a relative. Rose's daughters grew up believing that they came from an enormous extended family. Even after Rose's husband died, and the family was plunged into poverty, Rose found a way to give food to the hungry and help to the destitute. One of Rose's daughters was greatly influenced by her mother's example of sacrificial love. And now, as Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story!

Their daughter, Agnes, grew up to become an advocate for the poor all over the world. She devoted her whole life to caring for those in need. For young Agnes grew up to become Mother Teresa, the 20th century's living example of Christ in the world.

Mother Teresa became who she was because of the example of her mother. Indeed, Mother Teresa centered her life on her love for her God and for her fellow human beings, especially the poor and the needy.

Examples do matter! The best hope that the world has is that, we as the people of God will understand that our lives are intertwined - that who I am and what I do affects who you are and what you do.

Indeed, “they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love, they will know we are Christians by our love!”

...Pastor Bish

WELCOME BACK

We resumed In-Person Worship on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020. A letter from Pastor Bish was emailed to all our members outlining the procedures for “in person” worship.

As like the rest of the world, we are trying to navigate our way in this Covid age, which requires a certain amount of patience and change. Please keep in mind the following if you wish to attend worship at Nativity:

Masks are required and Social Distancing is to be maintained the entire time you are in the building

We will need to keep attendance limited (26-30 persons), so registration will be required prior to attending. Simply call or text your name(s) to Kim Brandt at **412-585-0030 no later than Saturday Morning**. Once the amount of seats are filled for the week, anyone registering after that will go on a “waiting list” if someone cancels or will be given 1st spots the following week (if desired). If you register and then change your mind, please also let us know so we can move anyone on the waiting list to the participation list.

Temperatures will be taken upon arrival, if you have a fever, you will be asked to return home.

For Holy Communion, each member will bring their own bread and wine/grape juice. This will be consecrated with each member holding these elements in their hands

We will still be continuing to send a printed service each week. We are in the process of purchasing video equipment to “live stream” and record future services.



Celebrations

November Birthdays

Gianna Sander	1
Ivy Kara	2
Quentin Romero Lauro	4
Ruth Kiefer	6
Jane Dollhopf	7
Doug Messner	7
Jesse Coon	8
Braden Hoburg	12
Wilma Johnson	12
Meiling Glock	14
Joe Coon	17
Lisa Chapman	18
Katherine Stoeher	22
Holly Werner	22
Ruth Sakala	27
Susan Specht	30



November Anniversaries

Tom & Gayle Henne	9
John & Diana Mitchell	13
Ed & Carol Banks	23

November Baptismal Anniversaries

Kathryn Bishoff	11/1/05
Denis A. Britenbaugh	11/10/46
Jeremy A. Britenbaugh	11/21/82
Jonathan D. Chantz	11/5/95
Joyce A. Coon	11/23/70
Chese S. Davis	11/15/87
Kai Edmonds	11/27/16
Wilma J. Johnson	11/27/38
Ruth A. Kiefer	11/27/49
Allen Kuechenmeister	11/29/98
Kimberly Y. Price	11-0-70
Wade E. Sander	11/21/76
Rachel E. Schmitz	11/18/90
Allison M. Stover	11/28/04
David P. Rembe	11/25/65
Kelly A. Rembe	11/18/73
Grace Wolf	11/27/05



Prayer List

Dave Whittling – Friend of the Severs
 Kenny Shoemaner – Friend of the Henne Family
 David & Karol Emmert – Cousins of the Severs

Service Personnel:
 Sarah Foster



Kantor's Korner

MUSIC IN TIME OF TROUBLE

Sacred Music has always been a very present help in trouble, a way for us to express our deepest emotions and give sound to our connection to the divine. We use music to mourn, to celebrate, to give thanks, and to praise God corporately. When we sing, the sum is greater than its parts of both text and tune. When we sing corporately with sacred purpose, the inward breath becomes an outward prayer, carried on musical wings: a choir and congregation which takes a breath together stays together.

Now we are faced with a direct challenge to that breath. That act of deeply taking in air into our lungs, and expelling it under high pressure is dangerous in large groups and close quarters like our Nave. It is as dangerous as doing aerobics in a gym with enthusiasts not wearing any masks according to CDC guidelines. This is all the more critical as we are planning "In-Person" worship. Being aware of the most vulnerable among us in our congregation, however, is what we are called to do as followers of that carpenter from Nazareth. I believe that Christ calls us to be aware and cautious, but to also find a way to continue an important ministry. Like a carpenter in a shop, we have many tools at our disposal to make this happen.

Our worship might look and feel different: maybe even subdued with no singing. However, what we are planning will still be devotional. Rather than singing and thus removing the risk of any aerosols getting into the air [they can linger according to recent studies for 6 hours], I will be offering "Hymnic Contemplations" on the organ by improvising on the hymn tunes associated with the hymn texts printed in the bulletin. I am sure God understands both our devotion to him and the song which we are returning to him from the depth of our hearts in these perilous days.

- Kantor Hurnyak



Outreach

ADOPT A STUDENT:

All of our college students have been adopted by the following members:
Kim Brandt, Betty Weller, Jim Zaffuto, Heather and her sons, Rafael and Quentin, Ruth Kiefer and Charlene Ott.

This program, over the past thirteen years, has been a means of encouraging the students and reminding them that their church family cares. Before final exams in November a package is sent from the Congregation. In the interim and during the school year, the member assigned to a student keeps in touch with mail, texts, calls and maybe a small package on birthdays and holidays.

Hopefully, Nativity's' encouragement reminds them that their relationship with God is very important now and throughout their life. Thanks to all who participate in giving the students a boost!!!

Social Ministry

THANKSGIVING ON EVERY TABLE

COLLECTING ITEMS
OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 9

Donate Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm at
Any North Hills Community Outreach Office

Our Allison Park location will be open
from 9am - Noon on Saturday 11/7 for donations!

- Grocery store gift card of at least \$20 for a turkey
- Large box of stuffing mix
- Large box of instant mashed potatoes
- Can of yams OR cranberry sauce
- 2 cans of vegetables
- Any dessert mix
- Muffin mix (corn preferred)
- Turkey gravy mix
- Napkins



Items can be brought to the church
on Sunday Oct 25 and Sunday Nov
1.

There will be a box in the Narthex
for these items.

If you would like your donations
delivered, please contact Jim Kiefer:
412-487-7325
or
kiefer4618@verizon.net.

Thanks for your support.



Christian Education

A Third Grade Bible was presented to Reese Sander at our worship service on October 18th. A Bible will also be presented to Janey Roefs at a later date. We hope that this will enable these young people to grow in faith as they learn to read the Scriptures on their own.

The Christian Education Committee is working on a plan to distribute "Advent Boxes" to all of our families at the end of the month. Advent begins this year on November 29. These will include Advent calendars, an Advent Bible Study, and Advent crafts, as well as a "surprise". Keep your eyes open for an announcement about this in an upcoming Nativity News Blast..

WELCA NEWS

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings, which are held via the Nativity Zoom Account, with the exception of our Quilting meeting. This will be held in person in the Fellowship Room with Covid-19 precautions including face masks and social distancing.

Contact Ruth Kiefer at (412-512-6049) or kiefer4618@verizon.net if you wish to work on quilts in person.

Our schedule for November is as follows:

- Tues., Nov. 3, 10:00 a.m. - Quilting
- Tues., Nov. 10, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting on Zoom
- Tues., Nov. 17, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study, "Holy Time", Session three,
Holy Future, reimagining the time to come
- Tues., Nov. 24, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review, *Educated*, by Tara Westover

The Zoom meeting code for November meetings is: 822 4635 4158 and the passcode is 541977.

You will sign in and wait until the leader, Ruth Kiefer, lets you in to the meeting.
If you have questions or problems with this, contact Ruth at 412-512-6049.



Property Committee

thank you

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Joanne Smith, Jean Chantz, Jim Zaffuto, Jim and Nan Shuey, Pastor Jim Dollhopf, and Tom Beecher for all their work on Saturdays and some weekdays to get the Flower Beds along the church's sidewalk and the building removed. The Beds were found to be heavily root-bound and weed-infested. There are still bulbs everywhere.

Special thanks to Jim and Nan Shuey for the use of their rototiller. The ground was like a brick and turning over would have been impossible without this equipment.



Council Notes

Here are some of the highlights from the Congregation Council meeting on October 13, 2020. As usual, the official minutes will be approved at next month's meeting and posted to our website at: <http://www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org>

1. Lori Coon was appointed to chair the Finance Committee through June 30, 2021.
 2. The Property Committee has turned over the flower beds around the building which have become unmanageable and is looking for landscaping. Council approved the removal of two of the three conifer trees in the front yard which are diseased.
 3. The Worship and Music Committee has recommended that we resume in person worship Reformation Sunday, October 31st, following strict safety measures. The recommendation was approved. Remember to wear RED.
 4. The Communications Committee has recommended that the "in person" services be videoed and "live streamed" or viewed on demand via our website. This will require the purchase of video equipment, a computer, software, mounting equipment and installation. We will have a demonstration on one of the proposals on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 7:00 pm
 5. Since no one has expressed an interest in the position of Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant, we will suspend the search until after a new pastor is called. In the meantime, Pastor Bish will prepare the weekly bulletins, Kim Brandt will assemble the monthly newsletter, and Tom Beecher will take care of the mail and messages.
 6. Our WELCA ladies have been granted the use of the Social Hall when they work on quilting (usually the first Tuesday of the month).
- All Nativity members are invited to attend or view council meetings. Just contact Charlie Brandt so he can send you a Zoom invitation.

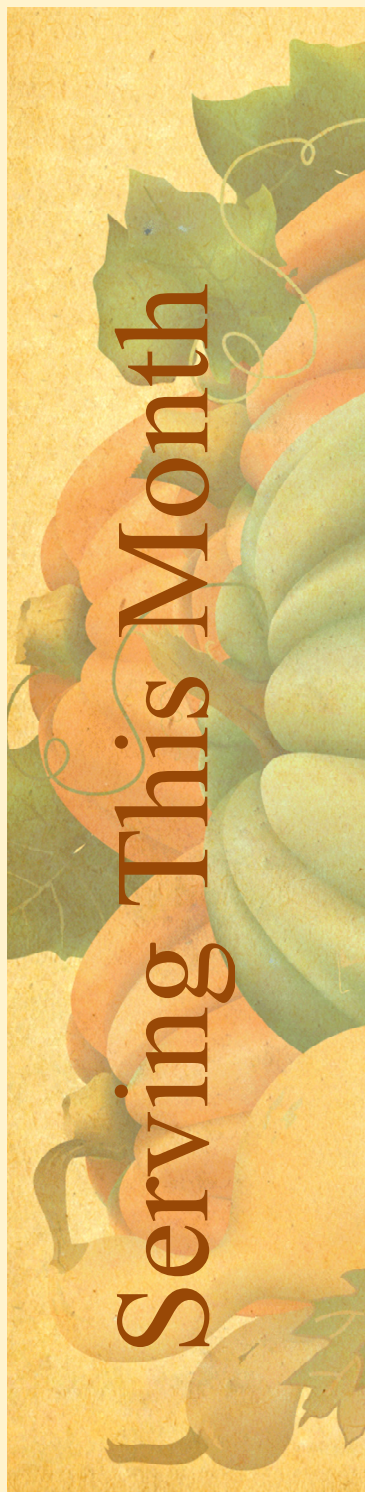
Expressions of Sympathy



We express our sincere sympathy to Joe and Lori Coon and their family upon the death of Lori's mother, Carol Miller, on October 13, 2020. May God comfort the family and keep them in His hands and care during this time of sorrow.

We have learned that Frank J. Kopta, Jr., a long-time member of Nativity Lutheran Church, who was living in Kingswood, Texas, departed this life on October 9, 2020. We express our sincere sympathy to Frank's family. May God comfort the family and keep them in His hands and care during this time of sorrow.

WITH DEEPEST
sympathy



NOVEMBER 1 - 10:15 am - Assistant:

Lector:
Acolyte:
Crucifer:
Ushers:
Greeters:
Altar Flowers: Rosemary Meyer



Scriptures: All Saints Sunday (White)
First Reading: Revelations 7:9-17 : Psalm 34:1-10, 22;
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3; Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

NOVEMBER 8 - 10:15 am - Assistant:

Lector:
Acolyte:
Crucifer:
Ushers:
Greeters:
Altar Flowers: Ken & Traci Saunders

Scriptures: Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
First Reading: Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

NOVEMBER 15 - 10:15 am - Assistant:

Lector:
Acolyte:
Crucifer:
Ushers:
Greeters:
Altar Flowers: Andrew & Linda Halcoussis - Joe Coon

Scriptures: Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)
First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:8-12;
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

NOVEMBER 22 - 10:15 am - Assistant:

Lector:
Acolyte:
Crucifer:
Ushers:
Greeters:
Altar Flowers: Ed & Carol Banks

Scriptures: Christ the King (White)
First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a;
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23; Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

NOVEMBER 29 - 10:15 am - Assistant:

Lector:
Acolyte:
Crucifer:
Ushers:
Greeters:
Altar Flowers:

Scriptures: First Sunday in Advent (Blue)
First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm: 8:1-7; 17-19;
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37


Offering Tellers for November: Charlie Brandt & Linda Ryan
Alter Guild: Kim Brandt, Linda Ryan & Carol Banks

Worship Attendance

September 13, 2020	Taped/E-mailed	- 36 viewed
September 20, 2020	Taped/E-mailed	- 29 viewed – 21 attended Outdoor Service
September 27, 2020	Taped/E-mailed	- 32 viewed – 28 attended Outdoor Service
October 4, 2020	E-mailed	
October 11, 2020	E-mailed	
October 18, 2020	Taped/E-mailed	- 28 viewed

The virtual Rally Day Program was viewed by 56

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class</p> <p>10:15 am – Worship All Saints Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am – Women of the ELCA - Quilting</p> <p>7:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class</p> <p>10:15 am - Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Business Meeting on Zoom</p> <p>7:00 pm – Council Meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class</p> <p>10:15 am - Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class</p> <p>10:15 am – Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Book Review on Zoom</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class</p> <p>10:15 am – Worship</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>30</p>					<p>Pastor Bish's hours: Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm</p>



Nativity Lutheran Church



<http://www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org>

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newsletter



The new format of our newsletter is a work in progress. Constructive feedback is much appreciated.