



# Shared Life

## Nativity Lutheran Church

Established 1966

### Caring, Witnessing, Serving

October 2020

4517 Mount Royal Blvd.  
Allison Park, PA 15101  
412-487-1071  
NativityLC@verizon.net  
www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

#### “God Has Expectations of Us”

Hear these words from Holy Scripture: “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come before him. Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth.” (*I Chronicles 16:29-30*)

We know our God to be the Creator, maker, and designer of the world and mankind. We need only look at the marvelous intricacies of the human body and the mechanics of the solar system and we know that creation is a result of design - not blind chance. Our God is a God of might and majesty, but at the same time He is more than a remote architect and engineer. He is interested in the world and the human beings that He creates. He loves dearly and wants to help those whom He has created - you and me included.

But He also has things that He expects of us. God is a God of love; He has created each of us to serve Him and to love one another. This happens when you make God the center of your world, when your will is subject to His will. Now, this sounds tough and it is tough. The Church has always taught that to follow Christ and to love one another doesn't come easy. We don't just naturally love God or our neighbors; sometimes it seems hard enough to love some of the members of our own family. Our impulse is to put our own ego at the center of things, and expect all other people - even God himself - to revolve around us and our wants and desires.

You see one of the main purposes of worship is to “open oneself up” and let God's love get inside you, so he can kindle more love in the core and center of your life. And being with other people who are making the same attempt - to learn and to deepen their love and commitment to God - can help. A power is generated in the people of God coming together, that is greater than if all went it alone. There is of course nothing mysterious about this fact. I am sure that you have seen it happen in other aspects of your life.

After all, worship is an event of God, where His mighty acts of salvation are recalled and celebrated. The liturgy that we use each week nudges us to remember all that God has done, still does, and promises yet to do. However, that is not all our liturgy does. In this most purposeful of all moments, God uses His Word and Sacrament to instruct and to inspire His people, to equip and motivate them, to prepare them for the mission He has put before this congregation.

For it is in our worship that God makes his will known, renews His people, and enables them to fulfill their commitment to Him. When we truly believe in God, worship then is not something that we ought to do as much as it is something that we cannot help ourselves from doing. As Luther said it so well: “To have a God is to worship Him.” We worship then to share our light and our presence as part of the congregation in order to thank God, to thank Him for our lives, for His love, for His mercy, and for His forgiveness. We worship to seek His direction and guidance for our lives.

We worship to convey to God our needs and our desires. We worship to acquire the strength and fortitude to live our lives in obedience to His Word. We worship out of our love for our God who has shown His love for us. Let us, therefore, take our Sunday worship very seriously. Let the people of God - that we are -regularly worship our God who made us, who redeemed us, and who supports us in our daily living.

..... Pastor Bish

Our On-Line Worship

We recently received the following “critique” on our weekly worship services that we provide on YouTube and on our web page:

A critique of our ON LINE Worship

I appreciate the Liturgy on Sunday morning from Nativity Lutheran Church, Allison Park, PA.

Everything about it is done as well or better than most You Tube church services.

The worship leaders do their part quite properly and reverently. The music is tasteful and appropriate to the Day and themes. The videography is among the best work I have seen for a church’s doing “a new thing”. There is more professionalism and spiritual sensitivity in Nativity’s Service than in any others I have viewed. Thank you everyone involved.

The Rev. Raymond Sistek, retired pastor  
Northwestern PA Synod of the ELCA

-----  
Nancy Coon to Retire

Our Church Secretary, Nancy Coon, has announced that she will be retiring as our church secretary on September 25th after more than 44 years of dedicated service to Nativity.

As pastors and congregation members have come and gone over the last 44 years, Nancy has been the conduit as she maintained the parish register, prepared the weekly bulletins (prior to the pandemic), published our monthly newsletter, filed council minutes, fielded inquiries and basically kept the church humming.

Nancy has been dedicated to her work and has always completed her responsibilities with thoroughness and integrity.

As you have opportunity, please express your thankfulness to Nancy for all that she has done for our congregation.

We will miss Nancy but we wish her the very best as she moves into retirement. Thank you Nancy for all that you have done and accomplished!

-----  
Outdoor Worship Service – September 27

We will have an Outdoor Worship Service (probably our last one of this year) on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 a.m.

The following procedures and instructions will again be in place:

1. Members should call the Church Office on **Friday**, September 25<sup>th</sup>, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or call Pastor Bish on **Saturday**, September 26<sup>th</sup>, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and register to attend the service. There will be a limit of no more than 40 members at the service.
  2. The service will be held on the upper parking lot in front of the church. Members will park on the lower and side parking lots and along the road below. Members will be directed for parking and seating.
  3. Members are to bring their own chairs on which to sit. Members will wear a mask (except when they commune). Members will “social distance” with families staying 6 feet apart.
  4. In case of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled.
-

## CONGREGATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Charles Brandt Sr. – President & Fellowship  
Betty Weller – Vice-President & Christian Outreach  
Heather Johnson – Secretary & Youth  
Tom Beecher – Treasurer  
Carol Huffman – Christian Education  
Kevin Hoskins – Communications  
Jane Dollhopf – Mutual Ministry  
Joanne Smith – Property  
Jim Kiefer – Social Ministry  
Bonnie Varley – Stewardship  
Linda Ryan – Worship & Music  
Quentin Romero Lauro – Youth Representative  
Finance Committee – Open  
Gayle Henne - Financial Secretary (Appointed)

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

**RALLY DAY** – We did our first virtual Rally Day program on September 13, *Daniel Trusts God in the Lion's Den* Puppet Play. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out on the You Tube link from the Nativity News and/or go to the Church's website, it is for everyone to enjoy, not just for the kids.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Classes start on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Merlinda delivered Preschool / Elementary materials to Nativity family members. We also included crafts and a treat for the kids to enjoy.

We are finalizing a church zoom account to use for Sunday School. Adult class will meet via zoom at 8:30 a.m. with Pastor Dollhopf with the teaching of the Gospels. Watch out for information in the Nativity News.

Middle and High School will meet via zoom at 9:30 a.m. using the ELCA website materials: **ELCA.org / NewsAndEvents / Blogs / FaithLens**. Watch out for information in the Nativity News.

We hope all can join weekly classes to increase their Christian education. We miss all of you and we look forward to being together after the pandemic.

Merlinda Bisese

## KANTOR PAGE OCTOBER 2020

When I get to heaven I will be looking for my wife and family and then JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH. There are several questions that I would like to ask him. What follows is a small-partial list.

1. *Where did you find the time to practice all the music which you wrote?* In his last gig, he served at the Thomaskirke in Leipzig. The church had a magnificent tradition of Church Music. While at St. Thomas Bach composed a Cantata every week. There were usually 5 to 6 movements in each Cantata. Of course, each Sunday service would go for 2 ½ hours and there were two services every Sunday. The pastor preached for one hour. I gather that Bach had little time, for his beloved wife, Magdalena, gave him 22 children and she was also his featured soprano soloist in all of his Choral Works. He also composed the St. Matthew Passion, the St. John Passion, the Christmas Oratorio, a Mass, and the Magnificat along with 8 full choral motets. This does not include all the endless Organ compositions. When I say endless, I mean endless! His really advanced pieces are difficult to play and require much practice to perfect. It's one thing to compose, another to perform your compositions.
2. *Where did you also get all the time to compose in the first place?* Imagine raising 22 children! Being the Kantor of St. Thomas required him to supervise all of the Church Music being performed at the other 12 Lutheran Parishes. He also taught in the St. Thomas School [there were no public schools back then] except if you were a member of the parish your kids could pay modest tuition for their education. Maybe Bach received a discount with so many children? Bach was truly "prolific" in many and various ways.
3. *Why did the Church Council not give your poor wife, Magdalena, your pension, which was offered to you as a benefit, if you accepted the Kantor position at St. Thomas?*

Right after Bach's death and not knowing how to provide for her family, poor Magdalena made her request known to the Church Council who gave her a resounding: NEIN!!!! ["No" in German]. No Pension money to help raise the children.

4. *Did you have any idea how much your music would be venerated?* This year marks the 270<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death. Anyone who plays and studies music knows of Bach. His writing, I am convinced, was divinely inspired. I even know some non-practicing church musicians, who are not very devout in their Christian Faith, but who adore Bach. Down through the years Bach has been referred to as the "5<sup>th</sup> Evangelist." There is Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Bach. That is because in his compositions, for example, he will take music and compose it to reflect an integration of Music and Theology. One can see, for instance, how he will use a "sigh" motif in his passions to reflect upon the CHURCH crying out for Her savior. On Bach's piano and the desk he would have the theological works of Martin Luther and would often use some of Luther's hymns and poems to include within his compositions.
5. *Did you ever think your name would be so equally venerated after your death?* I mentioned above as to how the Church Council was definitely not nice to Bach's wife. But after Mendelssohn created a Bach Renaissance in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Bach's compositions had tremendous exposure and his writings came to be seen as magnificent. He was referred to as the culmination of the Baroque Age [18<sup>th</sup> Century]. At St. Thomas, would you believe, they created two large stained glass windows in his memory? Would you also believe that the property committee of St. Thomas, when it was discovered that Allied bombing was targeting Leipzig and for fear the stained glass would

be destroyed, removed all of the two large panels dedicated to him. They were all restored after the War. At the entrance of the Chancel Bach's ashes are entombed in front of the Baptismal font. Strange how the poor guy had to die before his Lutheran congregation would appreciate him.

To play Bach on our magnificent Moellor/Laukhoff organ is a real treat. Its tonal design reflects Baroque composition *par excellence*. This past summer I have enjoyed playing all his *Little Preludes and Fugues*: The prelude at "we prepare for worship" and the fugue as a postlude.

I better stop. I have too many other questions that I would like to ask which I will reserve and share with you another time. On a personal note, did you know that Pastor Jim Dollhopf is related to Bach? The Dollhopf's trace their family lineage through Bach's ancestry. Maybe after we all get back together, Jim would be kind enough to sing one of the magnificent tenor arias from a Cantata or Passion [no pressure, of course].

*Kantor Hurnyak*

\*\*\*\*\*

## MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The primary purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee at Nativity is to affirm and strengthen the mission of the Congregation and the ministry of the Pastor and the staff.

The Mutual Ministry Committee functions as a confidential and discreet listening post for the Pastor, staff, and members of the congregation. The committee maintains open communication by receiving input both positive and negative.

Through listening, interpreting, advising, recommending, affirming, and forgiving, the ministry of the Pastor, staff, and congregation is strengthened.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything related to Nativity, please feel free to contact any of the members of the committee who include: Jane Dollhopf, Chair (724-285-8212), Tom Beecher, Kim Brandt, Heather Johnson, Jean King and Ken Saunders.

## Women of the ELCA News

Since we have not been able to meet in person, our Nativity WELCA group has begun virtual meetings on the ZOOM platform. Our first meeting was held on Tuesday, September 22 with president, Ruth Kiefer, leading it. We have chosen to use the following schedule for our monthly zoom meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month = business meeting (Oct. 13)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month = Bible Study - (Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>)

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month = Book Review - (Oct. 27)

At this time we are not able to schedule our quilting/project days. Hopefully these will resume when the church building is open to our group. However, we will be sending 9 quilts, which were completed this past year, to Lutheran World Relief on Saturday, October 3.

We will hold our **FIRST BIBLE STUDY** since March on **Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 10:00 a.m.** using the Nativity Zoom Account. Ruth Kiefer will lead the study. If you would like to attend, please contact Ruth by email or phone so that she can send you the codes for the Zoom meeting in advance. You are also able to join by phone if you choose.

Our first **BOOK REVIEW** will be on **Tuesday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m.** The book for October is Educated by Tara Westover. Our book for November will be Ordinary Grace by William Krueger. All women of Nativity are invited to join us!

We are continuing to support our designated outreach organization, Blessed Bundles, which provides diapers and baby items to individuals who need them. Therefore, you are asked to continue to give monthly offerings to our treasurer, Judy Beecher, by mail or by dropping off at church. This will enable us to continue to support our synodical women's organization and their outreach as well as the Synodical Calendar of Causes.

Ruth Kiefer

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOCIAL MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The NHCO winter coat collection continues through October 18. Only new coats, gloves, and hats of child through teen sizes are being sought. Also, gift cards from Target or Walmart are requested. The final donation option is using Amazon's "Wish List" with NHCO entered as the recipient. Several coats will appear for purchase and donation.
2. Please watch your e-mail and Nativity News for the upcoming Turkey on Every Table details.
3. To support our church you can sign up for Shop 'N Save's "Perks to Pray and Play" program. Pick up the form at the Richland Shop 'N Save service desk, fill in your information, and designate Nativity as the recipient.

Jim Kiefer

\*\*\*\*\*

## NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The NHCO food pantry is currently in need of fruit juice, chunky style soups, canned pasta, canned potatoes and carrots, and canned chili. Thanks for all your continued support, and contact Jim Kiefer if you would like your donations delivered.

### NHCO Donation Days/Hours;

NHCO has returned to its regular donation days and hours. The hours are again Monday thru Friday, from 8:30 - 4:00 pm. Grocery donations are to be placed in shopping carts by the pantry. Please wear a mask when there. If you would like to have items taken to NHCO, please contact Jim Kiefer.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ADDRESS CHANGE:

**KILBERT, Cheryl G.**  
300 Cumberland Woods Drive  
Apt. 302  
Allison Park, PA 15101

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### Mike and Wilma:

Over the past year, several members have assisted the Johnson's. They have visited, provided meals, and just kept in touch. Mike continues to struggle with Wilma's decline, she is experiencing Motor Skill issues. Our team at present includes the Severs, Banks, Otts, Zaffutos and Shueys. There is no set schedule, but the Shueys go most Thursdays. If you are interested in helping with this situation, just call Mike at 412-600-7139. We realize during this virus debacle some member are not in a position to visit, but a phone call is always welcome.

### Jean Carter

Rebecca Residence is now permitting visitation outside and also in the Chapel. If you would like to visit Jean, go to the Rebecca website to set up an appointment . . . [www.rebeccavisits.weebly.com](http://www.rebeccavisits.weebly.com). A recent visit went well using the on line calendar.

\*\*\*\*\*

### To the Nativity Family,

Thank you for the many sympathy cards and comforting words sent at the loss of my mother, Hildegard Mellish. It's always difficult to say goodbye but we know she lived a remarkable long life.

Phil and I also received from the congregation a warm memory "serenity blanket." It contains many comforting words which will bring additional comfort and positive thoughts from your Nativity family.

Your thoughtfulness is and are most appreciated. We extend our blessings and gratitude to you.

As ever, Nancy and Pastor Phil Williams.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Please continue to remember in your prayers our following members:

Wilma & Mike Johnson - Jean Carter  
Pat Brick - Pastor Cyril Hurnyak and  
Esther Tolan

## Dear Congregation of Nativity,

I want to thank the congregation of Nativity for your kind words, cards of sympathy, the beautiful flowers and blanket when my mother died.

She had a good life, lived to within a week of being 104. She was fast fading in the last four months and lost most of her awareness and surroundings and family.

She is now at peace and surrounded by a love that never ends!

Sincerely,  
Jim, Jane, and the rest of the  
Dollhopf family

\*\*\*\*\*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Joseph Bisese	3
James Chantz	3
Kelly Rembe	3
Denis Britenbaugh	4
Lauren Chapman	4
Shirley Chapman	4
Ryan Bessemer	7
Donald Schmitz	9
Jeremy Britenbaugh	12
Carol Kusserow	12
Carol Messner	13
Terri Hoburg	14
Rania Sullivan	18
Emma Krop	20
Mary Hembrock	23
James Coon	25
Kimberly Price	26
Matthew Wolfe	26
Paul Specht	27
Sara Werner	27
Phil Specht	30

# Happy Birthday!

\*\*\*\*\*

**OCTOBER  
BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES**



Judy Beecher  
Dorothy Bennett  
Joseph Bisese  
Samantha Chantz  
Chad Fabian  
Shaun Price  
Declan McCartney  
Riley McCartney

Morgan McCrimmon  
Adam Mitchell  
Laura Richardson  
Nicole Schmitz  
Gerald E. Sever  
Gerald J. Sever  
James Zaffuto

**ERIN M. BRANDT**  
264 Center Street  
Box 40  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

**12-04-2001**

Indiana University of PA  
Punxsutawney Campus  
Major: Culinary Arts  
email: erinbrandt124@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\*

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Jim & Nan Shuey	10
Milan & Meiling Glock	16
Patrick & Terry Hoburg	20
Tim & Kerry Bishoff	24
Justin & Nicole Kirkland	30

**CONGRATULATIONS**

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR ON-GOING PRAYER LIST**

Dave Whittling – friend of Jerry & Nancy Sever  
Kenny Shoemaker - Friend of the Henne Family  
David & Karol Emmert – Cousins of Severs.

Service Personnel:  
Sarah Foster

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**CHARLOTTE A. BISESE**                      **12-17-2001**  
University of Pittsburgh  
3990 Fifth Avenue  
0618A Holland  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Major: Engineering  
e-mail: [beanier2001@gmail.com](mailto:beanier2001@gmail.com)

**TRESA L. COON**                                      **2-12-2001**  
Chatham University  
(letters) 1 Woodland Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

(packages by USPS)  
0 Woodland Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

(packages by FedEx or UPS)  
1 Woodland Rd.  
Pittsburgh, A 15232

Major: Media Arts with a concentration in  
Graphic Design & Minor in Marketing.  
email: tresa.coon@gmail.com

**AMANDA J. ZELNIS**                                      **5-1-1999**  
3401 Forbes Ave., Apt. 401  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

University of Pittsburgh  
Major: Environmental Engineering  
email: ajzelnis@gmail.com

**LIVING AT HOME:**

**CHARLES T. BRANDT JR.**                                      **12-04-2001**  
Butler Community College  
Major: Architectural Engineering & History  
Email: charlesbrandt124@gmail.com

**ANDREW L. BRANDT**  
Butler Community College  
Major: Political Science & History  
Email: andrewbrandt124@gmail.com

If we have forgotten anyone, please call the church office.





**OCTOBER 4** - 10:15 am - Assistant:  
Lector:  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Altar Flowers: Jim & Jane Dollhopf

Scriptures: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15;  
Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14; Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

**OCTOBER 11** - 10:15 am - Assistant:  
Lector:  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Altar Flowers:

Scriptures: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23;  
Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9; Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

**OCTOBER 18** - 10:15 am - Assistant:  
Lector:  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Altar Flowers: Andrew & Linda Halcoussis - Ken & Traci Saunders

Scriptures: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)  
First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 (10-18);  
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

**OCTOBER 25** - 10:15 am Assistant:  
Lector:  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Ushers:  
Greeters:  
Altar Flowers: Joanne Smith – Brian & Mary Lynne Bennett

Scriptures: Reformation Sunday (Red)  
First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46;  
Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28; Gospel: John 8:31-36

Offering Tellers for October: Joann Smith & Heather Johnson

Altar Guild: Linda Ryan

-----  
**Sunday Worship Attendance**

August 16 <sup>th</sup>	- 41 viewed	September 6 <sup>th</sup>	- 49 viewed
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	- 50 viewed	September 13 <sup>th</sup>	- 37 viewed
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	- 13 viewed	September 20 <sup>th</sup>	- 29 viewed
-	- 28 attended outdoor worship		- 21 attended outdoor worship

In addition, 56 viewed the virtual Rally Day Program.