



I Shared Life

Nativity Newsletter | February 2021

“Compassion”

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. (*Mark 1:40-42*)

Here we see that Christ had compassion and healed the leper. Throughout Christ's earthly ministry, he acted with compassion. He cured the lepers; he fed the 5,000 persons on the mountain. He brought healing to the ill. He cured diseases. He enabled the lame to walk. And the list goes on!!! Finally, he died on the cross for our sins. Yes, for those who came to Christ with a need, he responded with love and compassion.

Thus, we know that we have a compassionate Christ. Our God is compassionate and loving. And what does that compassionate Christ expect from you and me? He has given us a clear mandate: we are called to be compassionate! The example Christ has set is to be followed by those who call themselves by his name. Christ calls us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Have you ever thought of compassion as a source of power? It is. Every time we exercise our sense of compassion, we are making the world a better place for somebody. That's power. At such times we are godlike. We can't touch the leper and make the leper clean. But we can touch the leper and give them hope for another day.

According to the late Charles Schultz, creator of the comic strip **Peanuts**, "The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones who care." Is that not true?

We see in our text a compassionate Christ who reached out to the lowest members of society with love and healing. This is the same Christ who listens to our prayers and cleanses us and makes us whole. Yes, Jesus is compassionate and concerned about each and every one of us. What we also need to remember: "the people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They are the ones who care."

And what does our compassionate Christ expect from you and me? We, as his children and members of the body of Christ, are to follow his example: we are to be compassionate to others. When we do that, we make a difference in the lives of others just as Christ makes a difference in our lives.

~ Pastor Bish





Lights, Camera, Action!

Please consider joining the behind-the-scenes team that produces the live streaming of Nativity Lutheran's worship services. The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers that would be willing to learn the technical aspects of delivering our message over the internet, in particular

- Camera Operator – coordinate the streamed service and use remote control to position cameras during the service.
- Technical Editor - operate technical aspects of initiating stream, editing video and publishing service

These volunteers will work with Heather Johnson, ILO Romero and Kevin Hoskins to build a team of individuals that can consistently and reliably deliver the Nativity Worship Service for remote viewing and participation now and in the future.

Please reach out to Heather Johnson (rlromerolauro@gmail.com) with any interest and to establish a training schedule.

Sharing Winter Warmth

NHCO's current assistance campaign is "Sharing Winter Warmth". Monetary donations are being sought to assist their clients with heating bills. Please donate by mailing a check to NHCO, 1975 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101, or by designating a contribution along with your offering.

NHCO Food Pantry

NHCO's food pantry continues to have extra demand due to the pandemic slowed economy. Please refer to Nativity's web site for groceries that are most needed. If you would like to have your groceries picked up, please contact Jim Zaffuto or Jim Kiefer.

Christian Education News

We received another thank you for the Advent Bags from a small child: I wanted to thank you for the Advent bag of goodies and treats from Santa and Baby "cheeze-its" (Jesus).



Ash Wednesday February 17, begins our Lenten journey of 40 days as we look forward to Easter on April 4th. We are putting together Lent / Easter bags for Nativity families like we did for Advent. We plan to have these ready and delivered by February 14th. We will also be sending out devotional materials electronically as well. We hope you enjoy these items as you continue your devotions during Lent and we look forward to our Risen Christ on Easter Day.

Merlinda



- **Ruth Kiefer and Merlinda Bisese** for assembling the Advent Resources for our members.
- **Merlinda Bisese, Carol Huffman, Mary Lynne Bennett and Jeremiah, Joan Smith and Jack Brookman, Rafael and Quentin Romero Lauro, Diana Mitchell and Adam, Judy Beecher and Janey Roefs** for delivering the Advent Resources to our members.
- **Heather Johnson, Quentin and Luca Romero Lauro** for producing and starring in the Christmas Program, "A Beautiful Night," which was shared on our webpage.
- **Ed Banks, Tom Beecher, Kevin Hoskins, Jim Kiefer, and Joanne Smith** for dismantling the Nativity Scene.
- **Ed and Carol Banks** for taking down the Christmas Tree, removing the decorations, and removing the decorations from the sanctuary windows.
- **Tom Beecher** for taking down the aisle candelabra.
- **Linda and Norman Ryan** for preparing the sanctuary for the season of Epiphany.
- We also received a card from the President of Glade Run thanking us for our generous participation in their Angel Tree program. Thank you, Charlene Ott, for organizing it!
- We received a Facebook message from a community member who thanked us for putting up our Nativity scene outside for all to see. This is their 2nd Christmas Season in the area.

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 quilting.

Our schedule for **February** is as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Tues., Feb. 2, 10:00 a.m. | - | Quilting - CANCELED |
| Tues., Feb. 9, 10:00 a.m. | - | Business Meeting |
| Tues., Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m. | - | Bible Study – <i>"Journey with Angels,"</i>
<i>Session Two: Repentance & Route changing Angels</i> |
| Tues., Feb. 23, 10:00 a.m. | - | Book Review: <u>The Giver of Stars</u> by JoJo Moyes |

The Zoom meeting code for February meetings is **821-5770-8458** and the passcode is **792954**. 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.



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**



♡ Kantor's ♡ Korner ♡

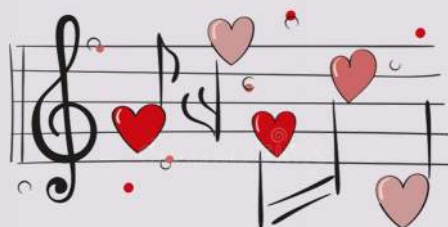
"Haus come you play so much Bach?" This is what she said to me [in Pittsburghese, of course]. I gave two answers to this inquisitive woman from our congregation.

One, the Moellor/Laukhoff, the name of the Nativity Tracker organ, reflects Baroque [18th Century] Tonal design. This means that of all organ music written, Baroque music sounds the best. Of course, Johann Sebastian Bach is the culmination of the Baroque sound. He died in 1750. There is no greater Baroque composer.

But secondly, and more important, Bach's music has such depth because it comes from the soul of his human emotion. I love to play Chopin or Debussy on the piano, but they are so "ethereal" as you slide your fingers quickly over the keys. Bach's music, however, has depth. Ironically, there was a good reason as to why Bach reflects such human emotion. He knew intimately the depth of human suffering. When Bach was only nine, both he and his brother were orphaned because of the simultaneous death of his parents. The both of them went to live with their older brother, Michael, in Arndorff. Michael was the organist in the Lutheran congregation there.

Also, when Bach was at Cothen, as the Kapellmeister to the prince, both he and his prince were off on a business trip to return to the sad new that Bach's wife died and was buried while he was gone. Maria, Bach's first wife, gave him 4 children: the most famous were Johann Friedemann and Carl Philip Immanuel Bach. There were two others but in the short time they were married, Maria and Johann lost 4 children. 4 other children lived to adulthood. But yet there was good news. Because a year after his wife died Bach met his second wife, Anna Magdalena, who possessed a magnificent Soprano voice and also gave him another family of 18 children. She also was the lead soloist in the choir at St. Thomas, Leipzig, where she sang many of Bach's Passions and solo Cantatas. Bach knew intimately of the reality of death and used his Christian Faith to speak to the glorious victory won over it through Jesus Christ.

There are 8 chorales that Bach harmonized in our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. He is the greatest hymn tune arranger in our hymnal. Perhaps, we are most familiar with "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." #351 ELW. In my opinion of all the composers of music within the Church, he is the most deserving. I hope I answered her question.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY

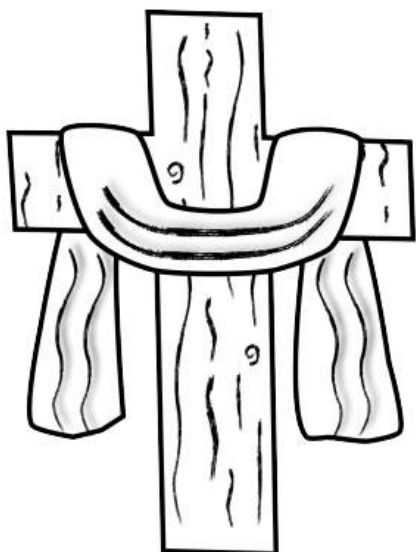
Baptisms

Jonathan Knapp	3
Kaylee Sever	5
Erin Bessemer	12
Tresa Coon	12
Caroline Bukauskas	15
Jonathan Fabian	16
Charles Brandt	19
John Maier	20
Raymond Smith	24
Rev. James Dollhopf	28

Alexis N. Davis	2/26/89
Milan M. Glock	2/24/57
Meiling Glock	2/28/16
Christina Hurnyak	2/ /50
Rebecca J. (Henne) Kara	2/24/08
Cheryl L. Kilbert	2/27/47
Emma P. Krop	2/22/04
Andrea M. Specht	2/15/81
Katherine L. Stoehr	2/19/78
Sarah M. Rembe	2/ /06
Gianna L. Sander	2/02/14
Tyler A. Zelnis	2/15/98

ANNIVERSARIES

James & Ruth Sakala	4
Richard & Joyce Burkett	17



Find all ten words:

Jesus
Lent
Ash
Wednesday
Dust
Prayer
Alms
Fasting
Sacrifice
Purple

W	J	E	P	S	A	C	T	A	P
E	Q	L	L	U	F	A	W	L	R
D	J	G	E	O	R	V	R	M	A
N	E	A	F	N	V	P	C	Q	Y
E	P	R	R	I	T	E	L	W	E
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R
D	U	S	T	F	W	Y	R	Z	N
A	R	Y	H	V	A	L	M	S	D
Y	Z	B	J	E	S	U	S	H	U
Z	J	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD _____

HSESA _____

NLTE _____

TISFGNA _____

One thing I can do during Lent to
bring me closer to God...



Ash Wednesday Service

We will have our Ash Wednesday service on **Wednesday, February 17th**.

It will be live streamed that evening at 7:00 p.m.

There will be the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This service will be live streamed but not recorded. In preparation for Holy Communion, you will need to have the communion elements, bread and wine or grape juice, with you.

ASH WEDNESDAY
First Day of Lent



Lenten Mid-Week Services

We are planning to have Lenten Mid-week Services during the season of Lent which will be live-streamed - as our Sunday services are occurring.

The services will begin on Wednesday, February 24th, at 7:00 p.m. and continue each Wednesday evening through March 24th.

More information on these services will be shared in the future through our Friday News.

Worship Participation

December 13, 2020	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 55 viewed on live-stream, 39 viewed on webpage
December 20, 2020	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 32 viewed on live-stream, 27 viewed on webpage
December 24, 2020	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 42 viewed on live-stream, 20 viewed on webpage
December 27, 2020	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 31 viewed on live-stream, 15 viewed on webpage
January 3, 2021	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 32 viewed on live-stream, 8 viewed on webpage
January 10, 2021	E-mailed/Live-streamed	- 28 viewed on live-stream, 19 viewed on webpage



Prayer Request

On-Going Prayer List

Pat Brick
Linda Tozier
Rob Miller
Kenny Shoemaker
David & Karol Emmert

Service Personnel
Sarah Ashmore

Need to submit a Prayer Request?
You can do so on-line by visiting
our website's home page and
click the link for the Prayer
Request form. Your request will
be automatically sent to the
church and the outreach
committee!

Famous HIS and HERS of the Bible

(Match the correct Him and Her by placing the correct number on the blank.)

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Moses | _____ Zipporah |
| 2. Abraham | _____ Xerxes |
| 3. Jacob | _____ Salome |
| 4. David | _____ Hannah |
| 5. Martha | _____ Delilah |
| 6. Issac | _____ Abigail |
| 7. Boaz | _____ Eunice |
| 8. Joseph | _____ Ruth |
| 9. Samson | _____ Bathsheba |
| 10. Elkanah | _____ Anna |
| 11. Simeon | _____ Elizabeth |
| 12. Esther | _____ Eve |
| 13. Herod | _____ Lazarus |
| 14. David | _____ Mary |
| 15. Zechariah | _____ Sarah |
| 16. Adam | _____ Rebekah |
| 17. Timothy | _____ Rachael |



The correct answers will be included in next Friday's "News."

Coffee Hour

We will be having a coffee hour on the last Sunday of the month (via Zoom), following our worship service – beginning in February. The Zoom link will be different each month – so pay attention to the Nativity News email. Once we are back to in-person worship, we will continue to provide a Zoom link for those at home, so we can all Fellowship together.



HELP!

I need help. I am looking for ideas on how we can stay better connected, while we are apart. Even now, as the vaccines are being administered, I'm sure it will be a while yet before we are all back together. And if you're like me, then you're probably feeling really disconnected.

One of the ideas was to restart the coffee hours. Virtual only, for now. But not everyone has access to a computer.

Please send any ideas to me at:

sixbrandts@yahoo.com

Thanks,
Charlie Brandt
Council President

Council Notes:

Below are highlights from January's Congregational Council meeting:

1. Our current financial secretary, Gayle Henne, will be retiring from this position in the near future. If you would like to volunteer for this position or learn more about it, please contact Charlie Brandt or Lori Coon.
2. Pastor Bish's contract was extended to March 30th.
3. Council authorized moving \$25,000 from our bank account to the ECLA Pooled Trust which earned 8 percent interest this past year. Since we are not currently paying a full-time pastor, those savings will be needed when one is called.
4. Congress approved changes to the Cares Act on December 27th which included a second round of Payroll Protection Program loans. Nativity qualified for and received a \$9,000 loan last year which will be forgiven. The council authorized the Treasurer to apply for a second loan/grant once the bank has begun soliciting applications.





February

FEBRUARY 7 - 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

- First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- Second Reading: First Corinthians 9:16-23
- Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

FEBRUARY 14 - 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures: Transfiguration of our Lord (White)

- First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 4:3-6
- Gospel: Mark 9:2-9



He was transfigured before them ...
and his clothes became dazzling white ...
Mark 9:2-3, NRSV

FEBRUARY 17 - 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures: Ash Wednesday (Purple)

- First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- Psalm 51:1-17
- Second Reading: Second Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

FEBRUARY 21 - 10:15 a.m.
Scriptures: First Sunday in Lent (Purple)

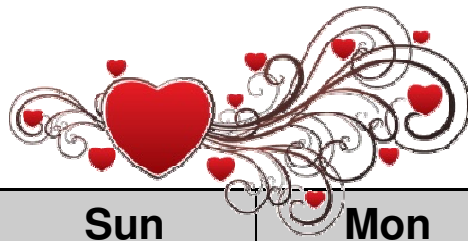
- First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

FEBRUARY 28 - 10:15 a.m. COFFEE HOUR!!!
Scriptures: Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)

- First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25
- Gospel: Mark 8:31-38


Offering Tellers for February: Kevin Hoskins & Bonnie Varley
Altar Guild: Linda Ryan & Merlinda Bisse





February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 2:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg. on Zoom	3	4	5	6
7 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming” 11:30 am – Christian Ed. Meeting on Zoom	8	9 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Business Meeting on Zoom 7:00 pm – Council Meeting on Zoom	10	11	12	13
14 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”	15	16 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Bible Study on Zoom	17 Ash Wednesday Service Live-Streamed 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Deadline for the March Newsletter	20
21 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”	22	23 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Book Review on Zoom	24 Lenton Mid-Week Service Live-Streamed 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming” 11:15 am – Coffee Hour “via zoom”					Pastor Bish's hours Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	