



Shared Life *Newsletter*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CEDER WOODS FELLOWSHIP
NOVEMBER 2025 – VOLUME 6

Reconnecting with God

Martin Luther said: "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Fall is my favorite season. I think that fall truly captivates our senses. Outside, we see the bright hues of the leaves on the trees, we feel and smell the crisp and fragrant air, we hear the sound of the leaves crunching as we walk upon them, and we taste the pumpkin and apple flavors that are so popular this time of year.

During this time of year, I especially enjoy spending time outdoors, taking the time to appreciate the beauty of God's beautiful creation. In creation I become centered and relaxed, as I forget about to-do lists and focus on the work of our creator. As I walk along the trail, I feel the crisp air, embrace the quietness of the woods, and enjoy the songs of the birds; I begin to feel refreshed and rejuvenated. It is in this sacred time and space that I reconnect with God, and embrace God's love for me and all of creation.

I encourage you all to take some time for yourself and do the things you do that help you relax, get centered, and reconnect with God. Whether it be taking a walk, praying, reading devotions, worshipping, whatever it is; give yourself the time to spend time with God.

Life can be complicated and stressful, yet when we put God first in our lives, everything else seems to fall into place. That doesn't mean that life will be easy or fair, but it does mean that God will be there to help us bring order out of chaos.

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of creation. Help us to be stewards of your wondrous creation. We thank you for time to reconnect with you and what is important in our lives. We ask for your peace to embrace us when we feel stressed with the demands of life. We thank you for your continual grace and love in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

~ Pastor Jennifer

Turkey on Every Table

Our church will again take part in the Turkey on Every Table Collection for NHCO. This will begin October 10, and end November 7. There will be shopping lists of needed groceries, cash donation designated along with your offering, and baskets placed for your grocery contributions. Please refer to the October bulletins for further details.

Sunday School wants you

Beginning at 9 a.m. every Sunday, we offer Sunday School both in person and also via ZOOM, for those not comfortable with in-person gatherings.

Adults meet in the back classroom on the right with Pastor Jennifer leading discussions and bible study.

Children in grades K through 12 meet with their respective teachers in the designated classrooms.

If you have questions please contact Merlinda at



SAVE
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DATE

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Pastor Jennifer's installation, with communion, will be on October 17th at 3:00 p.m.

A reception will follow the service. The service will be live streamed and uploaded to our website

WELCA News

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings which will be held in person at Nativity with the option to join via the Nativity Zoom Account. Quilting is only in person.

Our schedule for October is as follows:

- Tues., Oct 5, 10:00 a.m. - Project Day – Quilting
- Tues., Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
- Tues., Oct. 19, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study – The Gift of the Spirit: Session Two – Breath of God: “Reviver and Reformer”
- Tues., Oct. 26, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review: For Whom the Book Tolls by Laura Gail Black

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers and baby items for our designated outreach organization, Blessed Bundles. These were delivered at the SWPA WELCA retreat on Sept. 18.

We will continue to support this group until the end of December, 2021. **YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING “TARGET GIFT CARDS”** which the group can use to purchase diapers, etc. Please give any gift cards to our treasurer, Judy Beecher, so that she may forward them to Blessed Bundles.

Farewell and Godspeed

Due to continual health issues, Tom and Betty Weller have moved to Florida to be closer to family. They are currently staying with their daughter until they can find something more permanent. They will be back in the spring to sell their house and say good-bye. God's blessings to them as they start this new journey.

Mailing Address:
6128 Golden Dewdrop Trail
Windermere, FL 34786

Tom's Cell 412 491 7686
Betty's Cell 412 855 2519

Adopt a College Student

Every year Nativity sends a care package to our college students in November before mid-term exams. Based on their thanks you notes and calls, we know they truly appreciate our prayers, concerns and especially the goodies! Although, there is much joy associated with the college years, there is also a lot of stress and students are often overwhelmed. Hopefully, our encouragement reminds them that their relationship with God is very important now and later in life. Knowing that their church family cares is a major boost. All our college students have been adopted and their sponsors will keep in touch in various ways. If you would like to participate in this worthy project, you may donate your leftover candy by November 7. If you have questions, please contact Charlene Ott or Diana Mitchell.

Tresa Coon (Chatham University)
1 Woodland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Major: Media Arts Graphic Design
Birthday: 2/12
Email: tresa.coom@gmail.com
Sponsor: Nancy Sever

Rafael Romero Laura (University of Pgh)
University of PGH
Forbes Hall Room 506
Pgh, PA 15213
Major: English
Birthday 3/18
Email: rar196@pitt.edu
Sponsor: The Ott's

Andrew Brandt (Butler Community College)
167 Burtner Road
Butler, PA 16002
Major: History & Secondary Education
Birthday: 12/4
Email: andrewbrandt124@gmail.com
Sponsor: Jim Zaffuto

Coray Bennett (R.I.T.)
Ellington 4053
5000 Nathaniel Rochester Hall
Rochester, NY 14623
Major: Computer Exploration Program
Birthday- 4/24
Sponsor: Heather Johnson, Luca, and Quentin

Kyra Sever (Elgin Community College)
3650 Provence Drive
St. Charles, IL 60175
Major: Photography & Fashion
Birthday: 3/15
Email: knsever@gmail.com
Sponsor: Diana Mitchell

Erin Brandt (IUP Academy of Culinary Arts)
*Erin is currently on an internship at French Lick
Resort & Casino in French Lick, IN.
Birthday: 12/4
Email: erinbrandt124@gmail.com

No student has allergies.

Kantor's Korner



The last two years have required us to cope with quite a bit. In addition to the COVID Virus, there has also been our national reaction to it. To say the least, if you have been like me, you have been concerned about what is happening and how collectively we have to cope with so much misinformation. Because the Coronavirus is still such a threat, we must continue to lessen our singing lest we further spread the virus.

Perhaps, the words of Martin Luther will bring clarity to us when he writes in his essay ON CHRISTIAN FREEDOM. Luther wrote "The Christian is forever in bondage because we are either in Bondage to Christ or we are in bondage to sin, death, and the devil. So, no matter which way we go, we are forever in bondage. Our only freedom is to whom we swear allegiance. There can be no Freedom apart from our responsibility to our neighbor."

If this is not complicated enough, we have an element in our personality that opposes the will of God. It is called "The Old Adam." We carry around a part of us in our personality which is an enemy of God; its concern is to make ourselves the true God and center of the universe. It is the side of us that has no use for God because WE are the center of our universe. It is what Meister Eckhart calls "The inner deceiver," and we love living under it. Whenever we insist on "our rights" apart from our neighbor we are coming out of our "Old Adam." We all have an old Adam. We all fall victim to its distorted voice and by doing so; we thwart the will of God.

St. Paul requires us, as stated in Romans 6:4, to drown our Old Adam in the waters of baptism to allow the new person to arise. Martin Luther wrote this: "What does the daily drowning of our Old Adam mean for Christian Baptism," in his Catechism:

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.

Maybe it is because I am old and crotchety. But I am concerned about so much "selfishness" I see in the public arena. As I wrote, whenever people feel that their rights have been violated, they are into "Old Adam" stuff. As Christians, we need to have a framework that encourages us to be responsible for our neighbors.

There is a hymn that describes this state that we all find ourselves in. It is called In Adam We Have All Been One, written by the contemporary hymn writer/pastor Martin Franzmann. The Hymn text is married to an old Southern tune "The Saints' Delight," of 1835. It is found in The Lutheran Book of Worship Hymn 372.

In Adam we have all been one, one huge rebellious man;

We all have fled that evening voice That sought us as we ran
We fled thee, and in losing thee we lost our brother too, each
singly sought and claimed his own: each man his brother
slew

But thy strong love, it sought us still And sent thine only Son
That we might hear his shepherd's voice and hearing him, be
one.

O thou who, when we loved thee not, Didst love and save us
all;

Thou great Good Shepherd of mankind, oh, hear us when we
call

The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak
Kantor

** Blessings **

Congratulations to Pastor Kirk as he celebrates the birth of his first great-grandchild, Luke Eric Bertels, on September 27, 2021, in Orem, Utah.

Luke is the son of Brandon and Kasie Bertels.

Recent Worship Participation

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>YouTube</u>
Aug 29	26	37
Sept 5	31	26
Sept 12	41	32
Sept 19	42	18
Sept 26	51	25



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Joseph Bisese	3	Jim & Nan Shuey	10
James Chantz	3	Milan & Meiling Glock	16
Kelly Rembe	3	Patrick & Terri Hoburg	20
Denis Britenbaugh	4	Tim & Kerry Bishoff	24
Lauren Chapman	4	Justin & Nicole Kirkland	30
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		



OCTOBER

Baptisms

Judy L. Beecher	10/03/48
Dorothy E. Bennett	10/17/10
Joseph Bisese	10/31/99
Samantha Chantz	10/19/97
Chad L. Fabian	10/04/98
Shaun M. Price	10/26/08
Declan McCartney	10/30/16
Riley McCartney	10/30/16
Morgan E. McCrimmon	10/20/96
Adam R. Mitchell	10/24/04
Laura E. Richardson	10/06/85
Nicole E. Schmitz	10/25/92
Gerald E. Sever	10/03/48
Gerald J. Sever	10/12/69
James J. Zaffuto	10/03/54
Jim Kiefer	



Notes of THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you - the members of Nativity - for the fine reception on Sunday, September 26th, at which time you honored me for serving again as your interim pastor and to celebrate my 80th birthday. Thanks so much to the Fellowship Committee for the surprise and delicious luncheon - it was a "real spread"!

In addition, I have to tell you that I was dumbfounded and humbled when I opened the gift bag that you gave me at the reception. I am not usually speechless - as you well know - but I was speechless when I viewed the contents of the gift bag - the gift cards and the monetary gift. Thank you so, so much for your great and amazing gift. You are indeed a unique, loving, and caring congregation. I am so blessed to be a part of the Nativity Lutheran Church family.

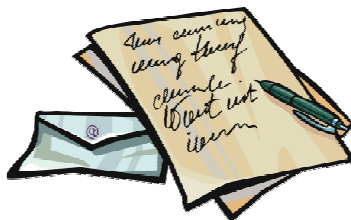
May God continue to bless each of you and our congregation as a whole.

... Pastor Kirk Bish



On-Going Prayer List

Mary Pataky
Ken & Jean Johnson
Pat Brick
Lorraine Howell
Joe Lambert
Eric Holsinger
Rachael Faulkner
Carol Gustafson
Allen Kirkland



Service Personnel

Sarah Ashmore

Our Deepest Condolences


We extend our deepest Christian Sympathies to:

The Johnson Family on the passing of Wilma Johnson on September 11, 2021

The Carter Family on the passing of Jean Carter on September 12, 2021

The Chantz Family on the sudden death of Jimmy Chantz on September 17, 2021

May the love of those around you and the love of God, help you through the days and months ahead.

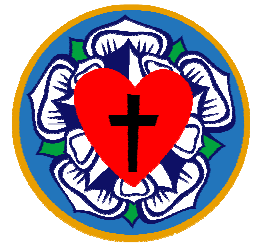


*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law.
Galatians 5:22, 23*

Church Council Highlights from the September Meeting

- Pastor Jen's installation, with communion, will be at 3:00 on October 17th. Pastor Brian Bennett, Conference 2 Dean, will officiate.
- Pastor will be on vacation October 5th through the 11th.
- A memorial gift from the Kopta family will be used towards the replacement of the sanctuary air conditioning which was one of their visions.
- AA and NA have resumed their meetings at Nativity
- Choir Rehearsals will resume in October
- A new laptop was purchased to replace the old desktop tower in Pastor's office
- We will start utilizing the online checking feature to pay vendor invoices. Reimbursement expenses and payments to individuals will still be via printed check

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR OCTOBER



October 3 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 19th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Ken Saunders

- First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24
- Psalm 8
- Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
- Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

October 10 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 20th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Tom Beecher

- First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
- Psalm Psalm 90:12-17
- Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16
- Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

October 17 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 21st Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Cheryl Kilbert

- First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12
- Psalm 91:9-16
- Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10
- Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

October 24 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Assistant: Kim Brandt

- First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9
- Psalm 126
- Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28
- Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

October 31 - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: Reformation Sunday (Red)

Assistant: Pr. Jim Dollhopf

- First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 46
- Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28
- Gospel: John 8:31-36

Offering Tellers for August: Ken Saunders & Jean Chantz
Altar Guild: Carol Huffman



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7 pm - NA Meetings	2 
3 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	4 8 pm - AA Meetings 7:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg (Zoom)	5 10:00 am – WELCA Quilting	6 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	7 7:00 pm - Choir	8 7 pm - NA Meetings	9
10 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	11 8 pm - AA Meetings	12 10:00 am – WELCA Business Meeting 7:00 pm – Council Meeting	13 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	14 7:00 pm - Choir	15 7 pm - NA Meetings	16
17 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 3 pm – Pr. Jen Installation	18 8 pm - AA Meetings	19 10:00 am – WELCA Bible Study	20 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	21 7:00 pm - Choir	22 7 pm - NA Meetings	23
24 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship Christian Ed. Mtg.	25 8 pm - AA Meetings	26 10:00 am – WELCA Book Review	27 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	28 7:00 pm - Choir	29 7 pm - NA Meetings	30
31 						