

Nativity Lutheran Church

Allison Park, PA 15101

Caring, Witnessing, Serving

February 2022



What is an epiphany? According to the dictionary, an epiphany is:

A usually sudden manifestation of perception of the essential nature or meaning of something. (2) An intuitive grasp of reality through something (as an event) usually simple and striking. (3) An illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. B – a revealing scene or moment (Merriam-Webster.com)

Epiphany is a church festival celebrated every January 6. It commemorates the coming of the Magi, as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or, in the Eastern

Church, the commemoration of the baptism of Christ. Yet Epiphany is so much more than remembering and celebrating the magi visiting the baby Jesus. The season after Epiphany, which goes from the feast day of the Epiphany until the Transfiguration of our Lord, speaks of God being shown to the world and being manifested among God's people. Throughout this season, we celebrate that in Jesus, God is born to us; revealed to us in mysterious, unexpected, and wonderful ways. There is a theme throughout all of the Epiphany gospel readings; Jesus brings new life into the lives of those around him and into our lives as well. Think of how Jesus is being manifested among God's people today.

Throughout this season I encourage you to think about the following questions...

1. How did you first come to see Jesus?
2. How do you see Jesus now?
3. How do you show Jesus?

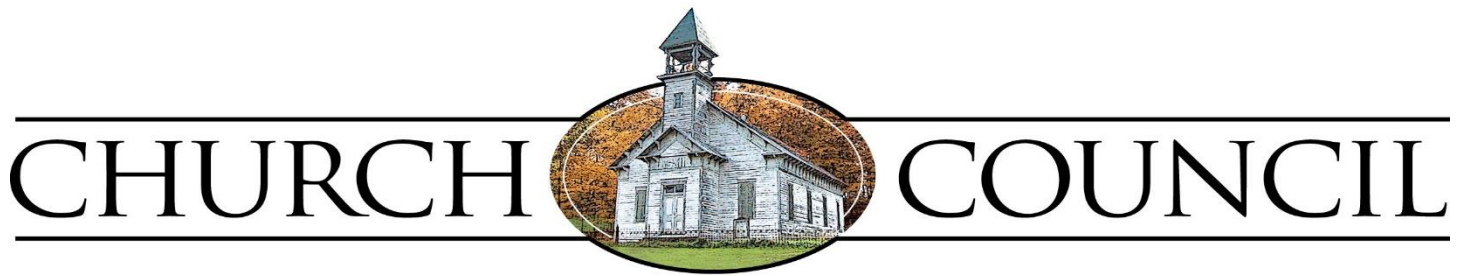
I first came to see Jesus through witnessing and experiencing how God's love enables us to care for one another. I saw it in the devotion of wonderful teachers of faith; in the faithful example and encouragement from my grandmother and so many others. I have seen Jesus in strangers, in friends and family, all who show and remind me how loved I am. I see Jesus now in all sorts of unexpected, mysterious, ordinary and wonderful ways. I see Jesus when people gather for worship, when we pray for and help those in need. I see Jesus in the many and various ways we live out our calls. Showing Jesus to others can be a challenge for us, especially since we are called to love everyone, including those who are difficult to love; and when we ourselves are feeling broken and unloved. We show Jesus to others in the same ways that we see Jesus ourselves. We show others Jesus when we love one another, when we show up for people with acts of kindness, when we reach out to others in prayer and aid, when we forgive each other.

God continue to use us to show God's love, grace, and mercy with the world. May we keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to when we are called to step out in faith, that God would use us and our ordinary gifts in extraordinary ways, to show Christ's love with the world God loves so much.

Generous God, throughout time, you have given us people who have shown us the gift of your grace. Inspire us by their faithfulness to serve you and all your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jennifer Soltis



January Council Highlights

1. Gonzalo (ILO) Romero Lauro accepted an appointment on council and to the Communications Committee.

2. Bids from three contractors for the replacement of the sanctuary air conditioners were reviewed and a company was chosen. We will have a special brief congregational meeting on January 30th, after worship for congregational approval.

Covid 19 Updates

As you may be aware, the current Omicron variant is the 14th iteration of Covid-19, which was first identified in 2019. Medical and scientific findings have shown that this is the most infectious and fastest spreading of all the variants thus far. Over the last month, we have seen the number of new confirmed cases increase exponentially.

For the last almost two years, how we do worship during a pandemic has been a main focus of the Worship and Music Committee. Each month, the Worship Committee looks at current data, and looks at guidelines and recommendations from the Office of the Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, the CDC and the Allegheny Health Department. At times, they also confer with other local Lutheran congregations on their policies, and have found that they are similar. The discussions are long and prayerful, with the health and safety of the congregation being a top priority. Based on their findings, they make monthly recommendations to the council. Council then meets and prayerfully discerns and votes upon the guidelines that are put forth to the congregation, again with the health and safety of the congregation at the forefront.

As a reminder, committee meetings and council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Worship and Music typically meets the first Tuesday of the month over zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Linda Ryan. Council meetings are held in person on the second Tuesday of the month. If you would like to be put on the agenda, please contact Charlie Brandt. We are grateful for the time and careful discernment that the committee and the council have used in analyzing this continually changing pandemic for our health.

At the January council meeting, council discussed and prayerfully discerned all things related to the current status of the Covid 19 pandemic and the Omicron variant surge in Allegheny County. Council is continuing to ask all worshipers to mask up in love and respect for others; especially those who are not fully vaccinated, our children and those who are immunocompromised.

We are also asking worshipers to continue keeping a safe distance between families and be mindful of those with different comfort levels while indoors. As we go through the latest covid variants and waves and as we enter the cold and flu season, please take advantage of the live streamed service if you need to stay home. In addition to that, if you test positive for covid and need help notifying people you had close contact with in church, you may call Pastor Jen, and she'll help do so anonymously. We want to help keep everyone safe. Council will continue to be in conversation regarding Covid guidelines each month, as things are always changing.



All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings which will be held in person.

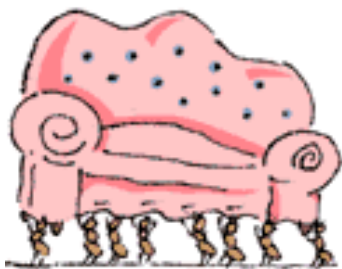
Our schedule for **February** is as follows:

Tues., Feb. 1, 10:00 a.m. - Project Day – Quilting

Tues., Feb. 8, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

Tues., Feb. 15, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study – *The Kingdom of God: Mysteries of Kingdom. Session 2: Parables, Banquets & Children*

Tues., Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review: The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah



“NEW START FURNITURE MINISTRY” is a mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Glenshaw. This is the designated outreach organization for the SWPA W/ELCA group for the year, 2022. They collect donations of furniture and household items such as small appliances, lamps, pots and pans, mattress covers, bath size towels etc. to give to others in our local community who are in need. The group works with many local outreach organizations to identify the people they help. New Start accepts used furniture and housewares in good condition as well as monetary gifts to pay for storage and truck rentals for delivery. If you have items to donate, you may contact Larry Nugent at 412-897-0117.

What If?

There may be a time when we will need to cancel in person worship on short notice, due to the weather, or some other cause. If that happens, we would send an email from the church and post it on Facebook and our website. For the few without internet from the congregation, someone will contact them by phone. If the weather looks dicey, check your email for any notices.



Flowers: If you would like to provide altar flowers for your special Sundays in 2022, please sign the flower chart on the bulletin board across from the nursery. The cost of each altar vase is now \$30. Thank you to all who provide the beautiful altar flowers each week!



NHCO Food Pantry Needs

The NHCO (North Hills Community Outreach) Food pantry is currently in short supply of these groceries:

- Granola Bars/Canned Fruit
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal
- Chunky Soups/Canned Pasta
- Tissues/Toilet Paper
- Toiletries
- Cleaning Products
- All donations appreciated!



Plan Ahead for NEXT WINTER's COAT Drive

The NHCO Winter Coat Collection doesn't start until September-October but NOW is the time that local stores and on-line vendors put those very needed winter coats and accessories on clearance sale. Keep your shopper's eye out for good sales on children's & teen coats, gloves and hats to put away for donation next autumn. New baby, children's and teen sized articles are requested.



ATTENDANCE

January 2022 Attendance & Offering

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>On-Line</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sunday, 1/2/2022	31	21	\$ 1,896
Sunday, 1/9/2022	28	20	\$ 4,700
Sunday, 1/16/2022	34	25	\$ 1,733
Sunday, 1/23/2022	31	17	\$1,620



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers



Prayer List: You may use this prayer as you pray for those on our prayer list, and all those for whom you wish to pray....

Almighty and merciful God, you are the source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our siblings, an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Prayer from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Occasional Services for the Assembly. Copyright 2009 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Published by Augsburg Fortress, Publishers)

Need to submit a Prayer Request? You can do so on-line. Visit our website's home page [Nativity Lutheran Church – Nativity Lutheran Church of Allison Park, PA \(nativitylutheranchurch15101.org\)](http://Nativity Lutheran Church – Nativity Lutheran Church of Allison Park, PA (nativitylutheranchurch15101.org)) and click the link for the Prayer Request form. Your request will be automatically sent to the church office and the Outreach Committee!

Also, there are Prayer Request forms in the Narthex. Complete the form and leave on the church office door. You can also call the church office and leave a message. Please don't forget to leave YOUR name so we can follow up on the prayer request.

Our On-going Prayer List:

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

Service Personnel:

Sarah Foster



Remember
These
Members
in Their
Sorrow

We remember in our prayers those who have recently lost loved ones. We pray especially for the family and friends of: Ruth Duessel. Ruth was the sister of Carol Messner and the aunt of Diana Mitchell.



Sing psalms and
hymns and
spiritual songs ...
singing and
making melody to the
Lord in your hearts.

February 2022 Kantor Korner

For some reason, I have never explained what the word "Kantor" means and why I have chosen the word to define my music ministry here at Nativity. The concept goes back to 18th Century German Lutheranism. A Kantor was a church musician who had theological training. In the sense that I have two master's degrees: one in theology and another in church music, I felt that this word would be a good word to represent what I do. The word is unique to our own Lutheran Heritage. Perhaps, the best known is Johann Sebastian Bach who was Kantor at St. Thomas Kirke [church] in 18th Century Leipzig Germany. German Lutherans spell the word with a "K" in contrast to Jewish synagogues which spell the word with a "C" when referring to a vocal soloist that leads the congregation in the singing of the psalms and other parts of the Jewish Sabbath service.

In light of this coming June, I will have been your Kantor for three years and I must say I have enjoyed the experience of serving a very caring congregation while playing a magnificent German Baroque organ. I too have missed the opportunity since this pandemic began in March of 2020 to direct the choir. We were doing great things in 2018 and 2019 and the overall sound of the choir has improved. And then came COVID. Now we cope with the risks of COVID aerosols in our worship space and hallways.

But this soon will end. It is hard to plan given the numerous setbacks. We have landed on letters from the Greek alphabet from Delta, Omicron, and that's enough. We have been using soloists to provide vocal offerings. Our choir did sing for Pastor Soltis' installation as well as on Christmas Eve. I think we are all praying that this too shall pass so that we can resume rehearsals.

In the meantime, I would like to thank those who have rehearsed and performed: Alisa Michael, Nathaniel Hazelton, Pastor Jim Dollhopf, and Pastor Jennifer Soltis. I am planning to rehearse with other members of the choir as we transition back to full choir rehearsals when it is safe to do so. We certainly have a Godly Heritage and to express this musically has been a real joy. Both Chris and I are so glad to have found you all.

Pastor Cyril Hurnyak

Kantor

FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

James & Ruth Sakala	4
Richard & Joyce Burkett	17

FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Alexis N. Davis	2/26/89
Milan M. Glock	2/24/57
Meiling Glock	2/28/16
Christina Hurnyak	2/ /50
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



SCRIPTURE READINGS AND PSALMS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

Psalms 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am the least of the apostles

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water

Psalms 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water

Psalms 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone

Psalms 99

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain



Biblical love notes

The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine's Day: "I compare you, my love, to a mare

among Pharaoh's chariots" (1:9). "Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead" (4:1). "Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing" (4:2). "Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses" (4:4). "[Your] eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set" (5:12). "Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat" (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (4:7).



Bible Quiz

Answers in Next Month's Shared Life Newsletter!



In the book of Revelation, who or what is "prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband"?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem

?? ?
Bible Quiz
? ??

Complete this proverb: "Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn

F



FEBRUARY 2022

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10am WELCA mtg	2 7 pm – Harmony Line Chorus Ground Hog Day	3 7 pm – Worship & Music via ZOOM	4 7 pm - NA Mtg	5
6 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	7 8 pm – AA Mtg	8 10am WELCA mtg	9 2-4pm Estate Planning Seminar Abernathy & Hagerman 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	10	11 7 pm - NA Mtg	12
13 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	14 8 pm – AA Mtg Valentine's Day	15 10am WELCA mtg	16 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	17	18 7 pm - NA Mtg	19
20 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	21 8 pm – AA Mtg	22 10am WELCA 6-8pm Estate Planning Seminar Abernathy & Hagerman	23 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	24	25 7 pm - NA Mtg	26
27 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service Transfiguration Sunday	28 8 pm – AA Mtg					

