



Nativity Lutheran Church

Allison Park, PA 15101

Caring, Witnessing, Serving

April 2022

From the Pastor's heart...

There's a popular story about two children playing together while a movie about Jesus' life was on television. One of the children was Christian; the other was not. When the movie got to Jesus' crucifixion, the second child became more interested in what was happening and stopped playing. The other child, was frustrated that the other stopped playing, and reassured the other "Never mind about that! He gets out of it in the end!"

I think at times, this is our attitude towards Easter. It's tempting for us to fast forward through the suffering and death of Jesus right to the happy ending of his resurrection. We long for happy endings in our broken world.

During that final week, the last thing that the disciples expected was a happy ending. We know from the gospels that Jesus told the disciples three times that he must suffer and die, and that he would rise again on the third day, but the disciples didn't understand him. They couldn't believe it; what they understood about death, was that it was final.

The first time Jesus spoke about his upcoming death and resurrection, Peter talked back, rejecting his words. The disciples ran away when Jesus was arrested. John's gospel account tells us that the disciples hid away together in fear after the death and burial of Jesus. Mark tells us that the women who found an empty tomb where Jesus was supposed to be didn't tell anyone because they were afraid. Luke's account tells us that the women told the other disciples, but they didn't believe them. The disciples witnessed the real, slow, painful, and shameful crucifixion of their friend and teacher. They were convinced, that this was it, this was the end. They couldn't imagine that death would not have the last word.

We of course know that was not the end of the story. We know that's when everything changed. Jesus was raised from the dead. Easter is commonly referred to as the Resurrection of our Lord, reminding us of the deep and loving power of God that saves. The same God that created the world out of nothing, also created new life on the other side of death. Easter isn't simply celebrated that Jesus go out of it at the end. We celebrate that Jesus saw things through to the end; he experienced the cross, death, the grave, and God raised him up to new life.

In our creeds and confessions, we boldly proclaim that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried, and on the third day he rose again. Jesus' mortality reminds us of our own. Without death there can be no resurrection. Through Christ's death we are reminded that death does not have the final word and that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessings to you as we come to the end of our Lenten journey with Christ, towards the cross; as we remember the hope, love, and promises of salvation we are given in his death and resurrection. Blessings, Pastor Jennifer Soltis

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 8:3-5)



March Council Highlights

Council Highlights

At our council meeting on March 8, we discussed a number of things, including...

- We decided to continue the current masking policy of masks optional.
- April 24 will be Commitment Sunday. Commitment cards will be emailed/sent sometime in April.
- The tentative date for our annual meeting is May 22.
- We discussed our summer worship service times. We will send out a poll, asking if folks would rather switch to worship at 9:15 in the summer, or to keep worship at 10:15 throughout the whole year.

The council regretfully accepted the resignation of our Administrative Assistant, Dottie Zaffuto. We wish Dottie the best as she settles into retired life and enjoys time with her family, especially her granddaughter, Stella. We thank her for her excellent work, she will be missed. Kim Brandt will fill in for this position until another Administrative Assistant can be found.



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

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

- Tues., April 5, 10:00 a.m. - Project Day – Quilting
- Tues., April 12, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
- Tues., April 19, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study – The Kingdom of God:
Session 4: “Living Forever with God”
- Tues., April 26, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review: The Perfect Wife by J. P. Delaney

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday, May 15 the Nativity WELCA group will co-sponsor the coffee hour for May following the 10:15 Worship Service. We plan to highlight contributions to our designated outreach group, NEW START FURNITURE MINISTRY, a ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Glenshaw. We will be collecting gift cards from Target or Walmart, new mattress covers, new towels and cash donations for this worthy charity.



On Sunday, April 10 following the 10:15 Service we will sponsor a Family Friendly Easter Event. It will include an Easter Egg Hunt, Bible Story, Easter Craft and refreshments. Everyone is invited. Please sign up on the bulletin board sign-up sheet or on the "Sign-up Genius" on the Nativity website so that we can plan for this interactive activity.



Social Ministry Announcements

1. The Personal Care Products collection concludes on April 10. Right now especially needed are body wash and body lotion. Unscented varieties are preferred.
2. The next Sharing Project is the Spring Cleaning collection. These products are also not eligible for purchase with SNAP [food stamp] benefits. The requested items include: Laundry Detergent 100oz. or less, Anti Bacterial Wipes, All-Purpose Cleaner, Dish Detergent, Pack of Sponges, Paper Towels, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, and Canvas Shopping Bag. This project will continue April 17, through June 5.



March 2022 Attendance & Offering

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>On-Line</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sunday, 3/6/2022	39	36	\$ 5,091
Sunday, 3/13/2022	30	19	\$ 1,383
Sunday, 3/20/2022	35	25	\$ 1,403
Sunday, 3/27/2022	36	15	\$ 948

Attendance and Offering Report

We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

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

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.

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:

Ken & Jean Johnson
Pat Brick
Lorraine Howell
Joe Lambert
Eric Holsinger
Rachael Faulkner
Carol Gustafson
Allen Kirkland
Connie Whittiker
Sharon Greer
Rev. Mont Bowser

Service Personnel:

Sarah Foster



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!



April 2022 Kantor Korner

Remembering Carol

It is an amazing gift to write a hymn: to return to the Lord what he has first given to us. There have been a variety of Christians who authored an infinite number of them. The authors have come from numerous vocations: many were pastors, some theologians, some in Holy Monastic orders or Evangelists; others were simply lay people

intent on expressing their gratitude to God. Carol Zigler Kusserow was in this last category of vocations. She was a music teacher.

In a way all of those mentioned above would say that the words, and maybe even the music, just came to them. It perhaps is one of the best expressions of Faith, to write a hymn. What we need to give back to God, he has already given to us. He creates the very faith we need to express the love of him to our inner soul. I am reminded of the Black spiritual: "When the Spirit says sing I just gotta sing." It was that way for Carol.

What is highly unusual was that no one knows if Carol wrote the hymn far earlier in her life or in the twilight of her years. The hymn was just recently discovered by her surviving husband, Pastor Ralph Kusserow. Carol was born into Eternal Life on February 23rd of this year.

The text of her hymn is unique. It centers on her desire for a grateful heart and seeks God's help to make a witness to others. It reflects her Personal Mission Statement which sees her being shaped into the character of God's own Son, so that others may see the God she worships. The hymn, I am sure, was deeply influenced in her formative years since Carol was a daughter of missionary parents to India and brought to fruition in marrying a Lutheran Pastor, Ralph Kusserow, both of whom proclaimed the Gospel as missionaries in Malaysia, Singapore, and Tanzania.

Looking more closely at the tune, which as a musician she composed, there are some musical surprises. Her musical suspensions, her choice of secondary dominants, her use of diminished and augmented chords reflect her musical sophistication. All of these along with a very simple melodic line make the hymn unique. However, there is no Hymn Tune that has been designated. I will communicate with Ralph, Carol's husband, and inquire if he would like to give the tune a name in her honor. We at Nativity were fortunate to have both Carol and Ralph be part of us before they began their new chapter in Zelienople. Our lives and ministry have been enriched because of the both of them.

The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak, *Kantor*



Unnamed Hymn by Carol Kusserow

1. Fa - ther, my heart gives thanks that you have blessed me in so.
2. Oh, Fa - ther may your will be done on earth in me.

May all I do be re - done to that glor - i - fy your name,
May I be so re - solved that men might know your word,

May that I time be filled with and love skill wher - ev - er I may go be,
and wealth and and skill what - ev - er it may be,

that all may see in me the Savi - our I pro - claim.
I may use all to share the the mes - sage I have heard.



ANNIVERSARIES

Norman & Linda Ryan 25

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Charlotte Bisese	4/07/02
Lori L. Coon	4/07/91
Tresa L. Coon	4/07/01
Jonathan N. Fabian	4/30/00
Carol J. Francis	4/ /35
Linda Halcoussis	4/11/63
Michael D. Huffman	4/ /91
Keith L. Huffman	4/17/94
Charlene S. Ott	4/25/48
Linda J. Ryan	4/ /48
Erika L. Wetzel	4/ /81
Alan Wolfe	4/10/04
Wendy Wolfe	4/10/77
Joyce B. Zelnis	4/23/61
Betty L. Weller	3/26/50

BIRTHDAYS

Wendy Wolfe	7
Melissa Chantz	8
Andrew Werner	11
Carol Francis	12
Taylor Radebaugh	12
Atius Samuel Anson Weller	12
Victoria Hoburg	13
Kyra Sever	15
William Chapman	17
Richard Chapman	17
Rafael Romero Lauro	18
Sarah Rembe	18
William Lamberson	19
Judy Beecher	20
Shaun Price	21
Kerry Bishoff	23
Tim Bishoff	23
Diana Mitchell	25
Alexandra Lamberson	27
Joyce Zelnis	27
Marlene Grimes	30
Charlene Ott	30
John Ott	31



Offering Counters for the month of March are Jane Dollhopf and Heather Johnson.



Many members are now using the online service VANCO for donations. Please go to the Nativity Website

<https://nativitylutheranchurch15101.org/> and

select GIVING. If you need assistance, please call the church office.

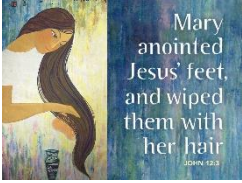
Serving Altar Guild this month:

Linda Ryan





Scripture Readings and Psalms for April



Sunday April 3, 2022

Isaiah 43:16-21 *The LORD gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people*

Psalms 126 *Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings*

John 12:1-8 *Mary anoints Jesus for his burial*



**Sunday, April 17, 2022 –
EASTER SUNDAY**

Acts 10:34-43

God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits

Luke 24:1-12

The women proclaim the resurrection



**Sunday, April 10, 2022
Palm Sunday**

Processional Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

Entrance into the final days

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the LORD submits to suffering

Psalms 31:9-16

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Philippians 2:5-11

Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Luke 22:14--23:56

The passion of the Lord



Sunday, April 24, 2022

Acts 5:27-32

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus

Psalms 118:14-29

You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

Revelation 1:4-8

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

Lenten and Holy Week Services:

Midweek Lenten service Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - 7pm.

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 10:15am

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022 7pm


Good Friday, April 15, 2022 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 10:15am

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

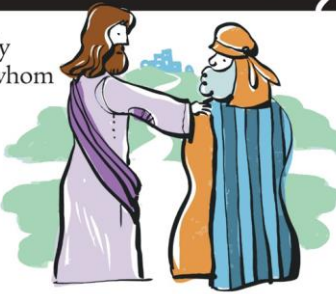
A. Matthew
B. Mark
C. Luke
D. John



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

A. John
B. Paul of Tarsus
C. Joseph of Arimathea
D. Cleopas



Answers to March Quiz Questions

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

Answer: B. a time to mourn and a time to dance. (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground? Answer: C. three times – Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2

Answers to April Quiz Questions

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event? Answer: D. (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19)

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he? Answer: D. (See Luke 24:18)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 7 pm - NA Mtg	2
3 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	4 8 pm – AA Mtg 7pm Lenten Bible Study via Zoom	5 10am WELCA mtg 6pm Confirmation Class	6 2-4pm Estate Planning Seminar 7pm – Lenten Service 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	7 7pm – Worship & Music Committee (Zoom)	8 7 pm - NA Mtg	9
 PALM SUNDAY 10 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service Family Easter Event!!	11 8 pm – AA Mtg	12 10am WELCA mtg	13 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	14 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service	15 7pm - Good Friday Service	16
 EASTER SUNDAY 17 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	18 8 pm – AA Mtg	19 10am WELCA mtg 6-8pm Estate Planning Seminar	20 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	21	22 7 pm - NA Mtg	23
24 9 am – Sunday School 10:15am – Worship Service	25 8 pm – AA Mtg	26 10am WELCA 6pm Confirmation Class	27 7 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	28	29 7 pm - NA Mtg	30

