



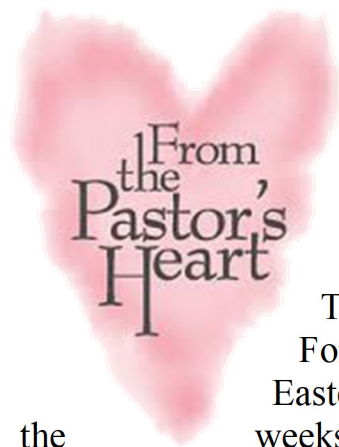
# Nativity Lutheran Church

Allison Park, PA 15101

Caring, Witnessing, Serving

May 2022

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART



Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter is not a day, but a season of the year, a seven-week season. Easter Sunday begins a season in the church year that ends with Pentecost Sunday, the day Christians remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the earliest believers in Jesus.

Throughout the season, there are some obvious signs we are still in Easter. For one, the paraments stay the color of bright gold. And we try to keep the Easter lilies around for as long as we can. We sing Easter hymns throughout the weeks of the Eastertide. The ELW, and other resources, have so many amazing Easter hymns, and we get to enjoy them for seven weeks! It may feel weird to sing “Christ the Lord is Risen today” in May. But I think living in this Easter season for so long enables us to reflect on what Jesus’ resurrection means to us.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! On Easter Sunday, we celebrate this good news, rediscovering for ourselves what the earliest followers of Jesus realized on that first Easter Sunday. Yet this is big stuff to try and ponder for one day, so we have weeks to do so!

The season of Easter gives us a chance to reflect more broadly and deeply on the complex meaning of the resurrection of Jesus. Our readings for each week help us to do this. We hear about the first apostles that experienced the resurrected Christ. We read about their fear, their confusion, and how experiencing the risen Christ changed their lives and sent them out to proclaim the good news. We hear the story of Jesus as the good shepherd, confirming the promises that Christ lays down his life for all of us. We learn that Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches; as disciples, we bear much fruit. Jesus tells us to keep God’s commandments, and gives us his commandment: to love one another as I love you. And in the last week of Easter, we celebrate Jesus’ ascension. (Thursday May 26, 2022)

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit. On this day he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and said “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” (Luke 24:46-48)

As disciples of Jesus, we too are called to be witnesses of these things. We are to carry on his mission; to proclaim the good news, to teach, to live as Jesus did, and to serve the most vulnerable throughout our communities and world.

At the empty tomb of Jesus, as Mary is met with the risen Lord Jesus. After her amazing encounter she runs back home proclaiming “I have seen the Lord!” Where do you see Jesus? We see Jesus everywhere. We see Jesus in others faces. We see Jesus in word and sacrament. Let us proclaim that good news, to share with others how we have seen the Lord and the difference that hope, grace, and peace that comes from our Lord Jesus Christ makes in our lives. Amen.

Blessings in your proclamations!

*Pastor Jennifer Soltis*



## April Council Highlights

At our council meeting on April 12, we discussed a number of things, including...

- ❖ We decided to continue the current masking policy of masks optional.
- ❖ May 1 will be Commitment Sunday. The date for our annual meeting is June 12
- ❖ A Nominating committee is being formed to seek applicants to fill some vacant seats on Council as the terms end for those leaving. Those nominated will be presented to the congregation for vote at the Annual Congregational meeting in June.



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

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

- Tues., May 4, 10:00 a.m. - Project Day – Quilting
- Tues., May 11, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
- Tues., May 18, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study – Across the Generations:  
“One Act of Welcome can Beget Another”
- Tues., May 25, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review: The Book of Lost Names  
By Kristin Harmel

**SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TO SUPPORT NEW START FURNITURE MINISTRY.** On Sunday, May 15 Nativity’s WELCA group will co-sponsor an Italian-themed light lunch & coffee bar with the Communications Committee. We will be collecting donations for our designated outreach

charity, New Start Furniture Ministry. This group provides gently used furniture and household goods to people in need in southwestern PA. Requested donations are new towels and zippered mattress covers (sizes T F & Q), as well as gift cards from Target or Walmart. Cash donations are also appreciated.

**New Start Furniture Ministry** is a ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran in Glenshaw. It provides gently used furniture and household goods to people in need trying to get a new start. Volunteers collect donations and deliver them to people in Southwestern PA at no cost. This ministry is the designated outreach project for the SWPA Women of the ELCA group for the year 2022.



**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 Bags. This project will continue through June 5.



Attendance and Offering Report

#### April 2022 Attendance & Offering

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>On-Line</u>	<u>Offering**</u>
Sunday, 4/3/2022	46	22	\$ 14,038
Sunday, 4/10/2022	53	22	\$ 1,542
Sunday, 4/17/2022	91	18	\$ 3,839
Sunday, 4/24/2022	28	27	\$ 4,007

*\*\* includes on-line giving*

*thank you*

Thank you to everyone who sent in commitment cards for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Thank you all for the many ways you use your time, talents, passion, and money to serve God here at Nativity and beyond. The sharing of all your gifts is vital to our mission and ministry we share and is greatly appreciated.



**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 has returned to \$27, thanks to the generosity of Z florist! Thank you to all who provide the beautiful altar flowers each week!

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

**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 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

Allen Kirkland  
Connie Whittiker  
Sharon Greer  
Rev. Mont Bowser  
Linda & Andy Halcoussis

### **Service Personnel:**

Sarah Foster



## May 2022 Kantor's Korner

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### ***Welcome Back Choir***

The choir is back. We will resume Thursday night rehearsals, after a two-year hiatus, at 7:00 p.m. on May 5th. The pandemic has been hard on congregations and especially choirs.

We will be rehearsing through May and concluding on Trinity Sunday, June 12th, for the summer. If you often thought about singing and would like to "try it out," the next six Sundays would be a good "test run." Unlike other aspects of congregational ministry, choir involvement is different. The benefits aid our well-being and support our health. In addition to building our social network, singing frees the body to energize our health and enables us to return a life of praise to God, the author of that breath of life.

These last two years have been especially hard on our choir. We have lost 6 people through death, illness, or moving away. These were all good people whose commitment and loyalty served Nativity very well. To have almost a one-third reduction in membership certainly leaves a hole.

As you reflect upon what your commitment would be to our congregation, might you consider the next six weeks to "come and see" what it would be like to sing in a choir? Might this be a ministry that you would not only enjoy but contribute to our congregational life and worship?

The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak

*Kantor*



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**Southwest Pennsylvania Synod Assembly** will be held online via Zoom on Thursday June 16, 6-9:30pm and Saturday June 18, 9am-5:30pm. There will be choices for in person worship services and zoom on Friday June 17 at 7pm. If you are interested in being a voting member or have questions about doing so, please talk to Pastor Jen. Registration deadline is May 18.





## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Ray & Louise Smith	1
Matthew & Holly Werner	5
Joe & Lori Coon	11
Kevin & Pam Hoskins	11
Robert & Merlinda Bisese	26

## **BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES**

Rev. Brian Bennett	5/ /71
Corey Bennett	5/15/03
Rev. Kirk Bish	5-06-45
Tim Bishoff	5-02-71
Denise L. Britenbaugh	5/ /63
Jack Brookman	5/28/06
Caroline Bukauskas	5/03/92
Carolyn J. Cooper	5/09/43
Marlene Grimes	5/ /39
Mary A. Heyne	5/18/86
Ivy Kara	5/25/17
Samuel H. Kara	5/18/14
Elijah G. Krop	5/23/99
Alisa Michael	5/ /86
Rosemary D. Meyer	5/16/37
Kaylee G. Sever	5/28/06
Marina J. Smith	5/03/98
Andrew J. Werner	5/07/06
Emily L. Werner	5/16/10

## **BIRTHDAYS**

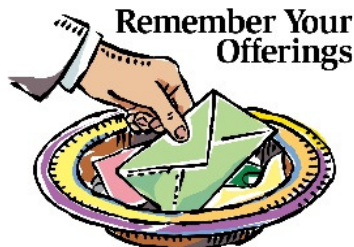
Tom Henne	1
Amanda Zelnis	1
Carl Heyne III	6
Joyce Burkett	6
Merlinda Bisese	6
Jeremiah Bennett	9
Nancy Coon	9
Kathleen Knapp	9
Tom G. Richardson	13
Donna Heyne	18
Joanne Smith	21
Kelsey Bishoff	25
Evelyn Rosenberger	25
Rev. Ralph Kusserow	27
Nathaniel Hazelton	28
Allen Kuechenmeister	31



**Offering Counters** for the month of March are Jim Keifer and Bonnie Varley.

Serving **Altar Guild** this month:

Carol Huffman &  
Linda Ryan



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.

# Scripture Readings and Psalms for May



## Sunday May 1, 2022

**Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]**

*Paul's conversion, baptism, and preaching*

### **Psalm 30**

*You have turned my wailing into dancing.  
(Ps. 30:11)*

### **Revelation 5:11-14**

*The song of the living creatures to the Lamb*

### **John 21:1-19**

*Jesus appears to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias*



## Sunday, May 8, 2022

**Acts 9:36-43**

*Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead*

### **Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

*A white-robed multitude sings before the Lamb*

### **John 10:22-30**

*Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep*



## Sunday, May 15, 2022

**Acts 11:1-18**

*Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life*

### **Psalm 148**

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

## **Revelation 21:1-6**

*New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem*

## **John 13:31-35**

*Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you*



## Sunday, May 22, 2022

**Acts 16:9-15**

*Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul*

### **Psalm 67**

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)*

### **Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5**

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God*

### **John 14:23-29**

*The Father will send the Holy Spirit*



## Sunday, May 29, 2022

**Acts 16:16-34**

*While in prison, Paul speaks to the jailer, who is then baptized*

### **Psalm 97**

*Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)*

### **Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

*Blessed are those who wash their robes*

### **John 17:20-26**

*Jesus prays that the disciples will be one and abide in his love*





# A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets \_\_\_\_\_ while it is still \_\_\_\_\_ ;



she provides \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ....



Her \_\_\_\_\_ rise \_\_\_\_\_ and



\_\_\_\_\_ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call



# Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

## MOTHERS

## CHILDREN

Eve <sup>31</sup>	bore	Cain, Abel and Seth <sup>11</sup>
Sarah <sup>23</sup>	bore	Isaac <sup>18</sup>
Rebekah <sup>7</sup>	bore	Jacob and Esau <sup>15</sup>
Rachel <sup>13</sup>	bore	Benjamin and Joseph <sup>41</sup>
Leah <sup>12</sup>	bore	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah <sup>30</sup>
Zilpah <sup>44</sup>	bore	Gad and Asher <sup>36</sup>
Bilhah <sup>34</sup>	bore	Dan and Naphtali <sup>38</sup>
Jochebed <sup>19</sup>	bore	Moses <sup>20</sup>
Naomi <sup>2</sup>	bore	Mahlon and Kilion <sup>32</sup>
Ruth <sup>14</sup>	bore	Obed <sup>5</sup>
Hannah <sup>26</sup>	bore	Samuel <sup>21</sup>
Bathsheba <sup>42</sup>	bore	Solomon <sup>9</sup>
Elizabeth <sup>10</sup>	bore	John the Baptist <sup>37</sup>
Mary <sup>3</sup>	bore	Jesus <sup>16</sup>
Eunice <sup>6</sup>	bore	Timothy <sup>4</sup>



“ \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ !”

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: “May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!” Proverbs 23:25, NIV



# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Commitment Sunday</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am – Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am – WELCA 6pm Confirmation Class	<b>4</b> 2 – 4 Abernethy Law Estate Planning Seminar 7pm – Worship & Music (Zoom)	<b>5</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7pm - NA Meetings	<b>7</b>
 <b>8</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am – Worship	<b>9</b> 8pm - AA Meetings	<b>10</b> 10am – WELCA <b>7pm – Council Meeting</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 7pm - NA Meetings	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am – Worship <b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	<b>16</b> 8pm - AA Meetings	<b>17</b> 10am – WELCA 6pm - Abernethy Law Estate Planning Seminar	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 7pm - NA Meetings	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am – Worship	<b>23</b> 8pm - AA Meetings	<b>24</b> 10am – WELCA	<b>25</b>	 <b>26</b> 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7pm - NA Meetings	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am – Worship	 <b>30</b> 8pm - AA Meetings	<b>31</b>				