



# Nativity Lutheran Church

Allison Park, PA 15101

Caring, Witnessing, Serving

June 2022

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART



On the day of Pentecost, we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit for the early followers of Jesus. Before the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Pentecost is also known as the church's birthday.

The event of Pentecost is recorded in the book, the Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 2 begins, "And when the day of Pentecost had come, [the first followers of Jesus] were all together in one place. All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered. Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak."

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this church. They shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. They lived out their new faith together.

So what does Pentecost mean to us today? The day of Pentecost, is celebrated on the fiftieth day of Easter, we keep the resurrection of Christ by celebrating the Spirit of the risen Christ in our midst. Jesus Christ has not gone away but is here with us: in the words we remember from the gospels, and as we share in his body in the meal.

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord, empowers us to serve God, binds us together as the body of Christ, helps us to pray, and intercedes for us with God the Father. The Spirit guides us, helping us to live like Jesus.

During the season of Pentecost, we have an opportunity to reflect on how we live each day. Do we rely on God's Spirit? Are we open to listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Though we try, we are limited by fear, sin, distractions, and low expectations. Pentecost provides an opportunity to celebrate and look for the Spirit's work among us.

The Holy Spirit is given to us as individuals, and together as gathered people of God. Pentecost invites us to consider our participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as important members of the body of Christ, using our gifts to share the love and justice of Christ with the world. The Holy Spirit is given to all people, empowering us to minister to the world. We work together to be the hands that do God's work in the world. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

God's Blessings,  
*Pastor Jennifer Soltis*



### **May Council Highlights**

At our council meeting on May 10, we discussed a number of things, including...

- ❖ We decided to continue the current masking policy of masks optional.
- ❖ Most of the discussion was on preparing the annual budget for the Congregational meeting on June 12.
- ❖ Summer worship will remain at 10:15 am year round
- ❖ Website Redesign
- ❖ Phone service provider issues and changes required



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

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

- Tues., June 7, 10:00 a.m. - Project Day – Quilting
- Tues., June 14, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
- Tues., June 21, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study -“*Crafted in Christ*” Session One,  
*A Summer of rest and renewal*
- Tues., June 28, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review: The Red Tent  
by Anita Diamant



**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

May 2022 Attendance & Offering

	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>On-Line</u>	<u>Offering**</u>
Sunday, 5/1/2022	36	36	\$3,794
Sunday, 5/8/2022	45	23	
Sunday, 5/15/2022	49	15	\$815
Sunday, 5/22/2022	40	28	\$728
Sunday, 5/29/2022	35	14	

*\*\* includes on-line giving*

*thank you*

A special thank you goes to all who helped with and attended our special COFFEE HOUR TO SUPPORT NEW START FURNITURE MINISTRY. On Sunday, May 15 the Nativity WELCA group co-sponsored this event with the Communications Committee. We collected \$170 plus \$100 in Target gift cards, as well as several new towels and mattress covers for this worthy charity. **Your donations are appreciated!**



We congratulate Mae Davis on the birth of her second granddaughter, Olivia Jane. Olivia weighed 8lb 10oz and was 21” long. Praising the Lord for a safe delivery.

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:**

Lorraine Howell  
Joe Lambert  
Rachael Faulkner

Allen Kirkland  
Connie Whittiker  
Marilyn Veselak

**Service Personnel:**

Sarah Foster  
Quentin Schultz

**New Church Phone Number**

We recently changed phone providers and were unable to keep our old number. The new number for the church is

**412 346 4971**

*new phone number*

If for any reason there is an emergency while you're at the church, you'll need to dial 911 from a cell phone.

## June 2022 Kantor's Korner

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Every Christian Hymnal has strengths and weaknesses. Our Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal is no exception. This is our current hymnal.

According to the Introduction to Evangelical Worship, one of the thrusts has been to move away from the hymnody brought forth by European immigrants who bequeathed many hymns from their respective traditions.

They were found in predecessor hymnals throughout the last 100 years: the Common Service Book, the Service Book and Hymnal, and the Lutheran Book of Worship. Consequently, many representative hymns were never included and are forever lost. This is unfortunate. Another concern goes back to 1978 when the Lutheran Book of Worship began its planning phase. The dream that Lutherans in America would have one hymnal was the driving force.

Ironically enough, it was the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod that initially cast the vision, but changes in society and Lutheran responses to such changes resulted in Missouri withdrawing from this vision, originally cast by the Patriarch of American Lutheranism, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. The ELW has moved in a collective reflection of the trends within American culture, i.e. gender inclusion, which makes any further attempts at uniting with other Lutherans almost impossible.

Secondly, The ELW sought to bring a wide variety of musical styles in a time which reflects diversity. There are consequently 10 musical settings of the liturgy which reflect various musical tastes be they African or American Jazz. Despite this plethora of musical settings, I know of no congregation which has committed itself to learn any more than three. The rationale is that the church's mission is unique to many different places and consequently the diversity of styles should reflect the church's diversity in mission. Once again, attempts have been modest at best, so a lot of these settings never served the purpose for which it was intended.

Another difference has been to see the material in the hymnal as just one resource among many in the garden of Lutheran expression. Quite clearly, technology is driving a wide variety of expressions. The ELW is now just one among many. Computers are replacing hard bond red hymnals which abound in most of our congregations.

Despite my diatribe here, it should be noted that there are some welcomed surprises in the hymnal. I for one have been happy to see the inclusion of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Luther's words written in the first quarter of the 16th century are as relevant today as then.

Here is an opportunity to enable our congregational members to make such words easily available. This can be an excellent devotional resource as we “Prepare our Hearts and Minds for Worship.” [See page 1160]

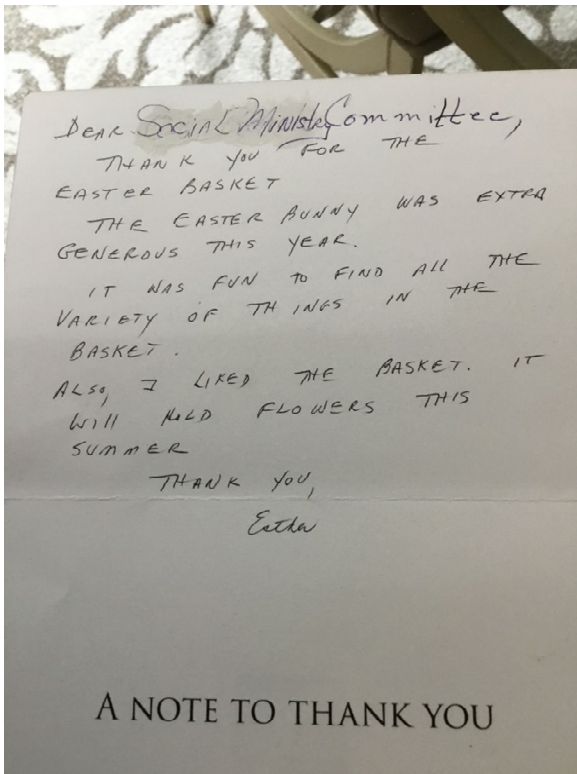
Another positive surprise has been the inclusion of a hymnody representative of our church’s outreach to the basic needs of people, particularly to families who are struggling. Space is a premium here so not all of these can be addressed. However, many families within our congregations must contend with issues such as Alzheimer’s. For example, I refer you to the ELW Hymn 792 “When Memory Fades.” Finlandia was chosen as the hymn tune but, it seems to be a strange choice, married to this text. The hymn catches well the sentiment of a family grieving for a member who has become afflicted. Perhaps you might even know of such a family and the words of this hymn would provide comfort.

As I wrote earlier: “Every Christian Hymnal has strengths and weaknesses. Our Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal is no exception.” The Church is always trying to bring the Gospel to a world which is forever changing. Putting the most charitable construction on the action of the designers of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, I feel, like with all new hymnals, time will tell as to what the “chaff” is and what also is the “wheat.”

The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak, *Kantor*



*Boy has time flown by... on June 15 Pastor Jennifer will have been with us for 1 year!  
Continued blessings for our ministry together!*



## Congratulations!

We celebrate with all those graduating this year, with special congratulations to our graduates:

**Quentin Romero Lauro**, son of ILO Romero Lauro and Heather Johnson

**Adam Mitchell**, son of John and Diana Mitchell

both graduated from Hampton High School.

We are so proud of each and every one of you and wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life!





## BIRTHDAYS

Esther Tolan	5
Craig Price	6
Shari Richardson	7
Kenneth Saunders	10
Matthew Werner	10
Brady Coon	11
Heather Johnson	15
Nancy Sever	18
Erika Wetzel	19
Bonnie Varley	19
Carolyn Cooper	20
Kim Brandt	21
Chauncey Roefs	23
Luca Romero Lauro	23
Helga Williams	23
Richard Burkett	26
Gerald E. Sever	26
Dorothy Zaffuto	27
Dorothy Bennett	28
Carol Huffman	28
Alisa Michael	28
Jane Roefs	29
Kevin Hoskins	29
Justin Kirkland	30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Marlene Grimes	4
James & Ruth Kiefer	5
David & Jean Amstutz	10
Tom & Betty Weller	10
Ken & Traci Saunders	13
Rev. Cyril & Christina Hurnyak	24
Craig & Kimberly Price	27

## BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas H. Beecher	6/08/47
Kelsey Bishoff	6/ /03
Brody Bukauskas	6/18/17
Joyce A. Burkett	6/30/46
Melissa M. Chantz	6/06/93
Shaine D. Coon	6/11/95
Tyler J. Coon	6/11/95
Nathaniel Hazelton	6/26/83
Victoria N. Hoburg	6/ /01
Michael J. Johnson	6/10/34
Olivia K. Messner	6/30/02
John L. Ott	6/27/37
Jane Roefs	6/16/19
Reese J. Sander	6/10/12
Kenneth Saunders	6/ /71
Gerry Schmid	6/09/29
Esther Tolan	6/29/30
Adam S. Zaffuto	6/28/87



Offering Tellers this month:

**Jane Dollhopf  
& Diana Mitchell.**



Serving Altar Guild  
this month:

**Joanne Smith**

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 June



**Sunday June 5, 2022**

**Acts 2:1-21**

*Filled with the Spirit to tell  
God's deeds*

**Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

*Send forth your Spirit and  
renew the face of the*

*earth. (Ps. 104:30)*

**Romans 8:14-17**

*The Spirit makes us children of God*

**John 14:8-17 [25-27]**

*The Father will give you another Advocate,  
the Spirit of truth*



**Sunday, June 19, 2022**

**Isaiah 65:1-9**

*The prophet sent to a  
rebellious people*

**Psalm 22:19-28**

*In the midst of the assembly I will praise  
you. (Ps. 22:22)*

**Galatians 3:23-29**

*In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer  
Jew or Greek*

**Luke 8:26-39**

*Jesus casts out demons possessing a man of  
the Gerasenes*



**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

*Wisdom rejoices in the  
creation*

**Psalm 8**

*Your glory is chanted above the heavens.  
(Ps. 8:2)*

**Romans 5:1-5**

*God's love poured into our hearts through  
the Holy Spirit*

**John 16:12-15**

*The Spirit will guide you into the truth*



**Sunday, June 26, 2022**

**1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

*Elijah says to Elisha, Follow me  
and do not continue plowing*

**Psalm 16**

*I have set the Lord always before me. (Ps.  
16:8)*

**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*Love is the whole law, gift of the Spirit*

**Luke 9:51-62**

*Jesus says, Follow me and do not look back*



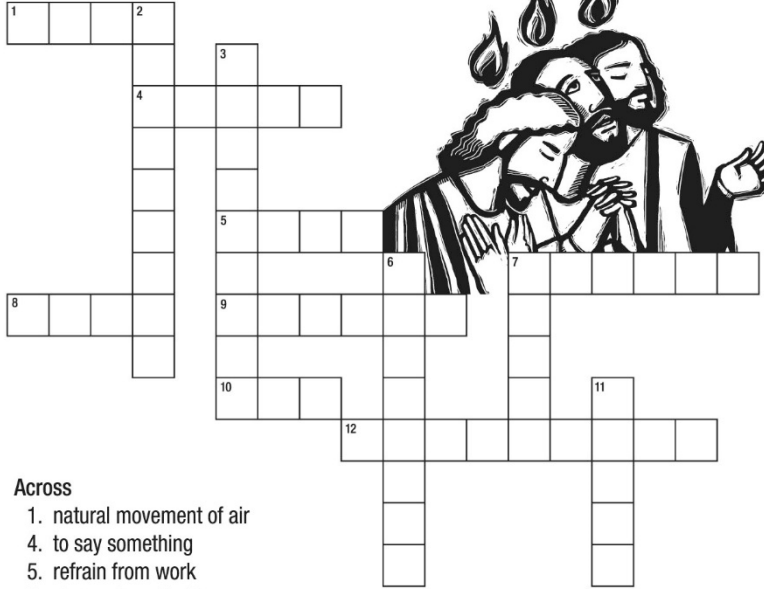


# PUZZLE

## The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY  
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



### Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

### Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

# PUZZLE

## Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love.  
How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

*Directions:* Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here:  
(12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

- (1) You really like ice cream! \_\_\_\_\_
- (16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. \_\_\_\_\_
- (21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. \_\_\_\_\_
- (17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. \_\_\_\_\_



♥ "Honor \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ your  
\_\_\_\_\_."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2 – 4 Abernethy Law Estate Planning Seminar  7pm – Worship & Music (Zoom)	2  7pm - NA Meetings	3	4
5  10:15 am – Worship  Christian Education Mtg (after worship)	6  8pm - AA Meetings	7  10am – WELCA 6pm - Confirmation	8	9	10  7pm - NA Meetings	11  Grocery Collection at Kuhns for NCHO 9am – 3:30pm
12  10:15 am – Worship <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b>	13  8pm - AA Meetings	14  10am – WELCA  <b>7pm – Council Meeting</b>	15	16	17  7pm - NA Meetings	18
19  10:15 am Worship	20  8pm - AA Meetings	21  10am – WELCA	22	23	24  7pm - NA Meetings	25
26  10:15 am – Worship <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	27  8pm - AA Meetings	28  10am – WELCA	29	30		