



# Shared Life

April 2026 | Monthly Newsletter of Nativity Lutheran Church

## Mark Your Calendar

- Apr 2** - Maundy Thursday Dinner Church
- Apr 3** - Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- Apr 5** - Resurrection Sunday
- Apr 7 - Worship & Music
- Apr 10** - Game Night
- Apr 12** - Christian Ed
- Apr 16** - Council Mtg
- Apr 18** - Hampton Clean Up Day
- Apr 19** - Coffee Hour by WELCA
- Apr 22** - Earh Day
- Apr 25** - Lutherlyn Clean Up Day

## From Pastor's Heart

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you. So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' (Matthew 28:1-10)*

We are in Year A of the three-year lectionary cycle, where the main gospel account we hear from is Matthew's gospel. Each of the gospels has their own resurrection story, each a bit different from the other. Yet the first Easter for all of the accounts was a different kind of Easter than the one we celebrate each year. Those that showed up

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 . . .

## Offering Counters

Margie Radebaugh

## Alter Guild

Linda Ryan

## Coffee Hour

WELCA (April 19)

## NHCO Deliveries

Mae Davis



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Worship Helpers**

**Needed!**

Please visit our Website and click the Red Button "All Sign-ups" to view the available Sign-ups for Lector, Usher, Greeter, Offering Counters & Videographer

ARTICLE CONTINUED . . .

to the tomb or heard stories from those who had, were surprised at the events that followed. Something unexpected and life changing happened that they didn't realize would completely transform the world.

I find myself thinking back to what that first Easter may have been like. That first Easter there were no hallelujahs, no trumpets, no jubilation. That first Easter, there were only mourners, the women who had come to anoint Jesus' body, as it had not been done before his burial.

As the women were approaching Jesus' tomb, suddenly there was an earthquake, and an angel of the Lord came and rolled the stone away and sat on it. The angel told the women, "Do not be afraid, I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. But he is not here, for he has been raised. Come, see the place where he lay." Jesus encourages the women to go and tell Jesus' disciples that Jesus had gone to Galilee and will meet them there. Even if the story had ended there, the tomb was empty, Jesus had been raised. In spite of their awe, death did not have the last word. The women went to share their story of what they experienced, and others added on to the story.

We know from experience that stories have the power to change lives and change history. We all have stories to tell. As Christians, we have stories to tell about how God changes us, uses us, and blesses us. When we tell our stories, we remember that we are characters in the living word, that we are beloved characters in God's story. As followers of Christ, we are called to share God's story, using what we have learned from scripture, history, and personal experiences to help us do so.

This is not the end of the story, it is only the beginning. It is up to us to fill in the blanks that the mysteries of scripture leave us, to write our own stories of the way Christ's resurrection gives us an abundant life.

As Christians, we believe that Easter is not the end of the story, it is a new beginning of our new life in Christ. The story of Jesus' resurrection continues today, and will continue still. In this new life in Christ, we read stories from long ago, while also writing our own stories into the living word of God as we are led deeper into the knowledge and love of God.

This Easter season may we take time to consider our part in the Resurrection story and our lives in light of the Risen Christ. May we celebrate that this is not the end of the story, it is only the beginning. Blessings to you all as you go and tell the good news that Christ is risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Pastor Jennifer Soltis*



# APRIL

*birthdays & anniversaries*

- Marina (Smith) Bradley 6
- Rev. Brian Bennett 7
- Lori Coon 7
- Mike Johnson 10
- Nancy Smith 11
- Coray Bennett 24
- Marjorie Radebaugh 24
- Dan Chantz 27
  
- Norman & Linda Ryan 25



# APRIL

*baptisms*

- Lori L. Coon
- Tresa L. Coon
- Charlotte Bisese
- Linda Halcoussis
- Keith L. Huffman
- Joyce B. Zelnis
- Carol J. Francis
- Linda J. Ryan
- Michael D. Huffman
- Alice J Jones



## WORSHIP WITH US

Average Attendance for March

In-person	YouTube
37	37



## There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There's something better coming.

# Church FAMILY PRAYER LIST

## Members, Family & Friends in need of on-going prayers

- ♥ Andy & Katy Greer (*Friends of the Heyne's*)
- ♥ Adam Brandt (*Charlie Brandt's Nephew*)
- ♥ Pr. Tony Schneck (*SWPA pastor*)
- ♥ Pr. John Cawkins (*SWPA pastor*)
- ♥ Beth Neese (*Friend of the Brandt's*)
- ♥ Carol Bednar (*Alex Bednar's mother*)
- ♥ Andy & Linda Halcoussis (*Nativity Members*)
- ♥ Matthew Frankovich (*Helga William's grandson*)
- ♥ Janet Liotta (*Nicole Kirkland's Aunt*)
- ♥ Tim Wargo (*Friend of the Bank's*)
- ♥ Terri Brandt (*Charlie Brandt's Sister*)
- ♥ Dave Miller (*Lori Coon's Father*)
- ♥ Dick Grance (*Bank's brother-in-law*)
- ♥ Matt Fickes (*Friend of the Coon's*)
- ♥ Paul Scalamonga (*Joanne Smith's brother-in-law*)
- ♥ Lorraine Howell (*Traci Saunder's mom*)
- ♥ Keith Huffman (*Carol Huffman's son*)
- ♥ Sandy Hutchins (*Friend of Ruth Kiefer*)

## Service Personnel:

- ☞ Sarah Foster (*Traci Saunder's daughter*)
- ☞ Allison Stover (*Cheryl Kilbert's granddaughter*)

## A Prayer for those in Need:

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.

## The Joy of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "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 6:4-5, NRSV*).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



Nativity will celebrate our church's 60<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary on

**Sunday, May 3, 2026.**

Signups are hanging up on the bulletin board  
across from the kitchen. Please consider signing  
up to help and **don't forget to RSVP!**

RSVP's are also available on-line through our  
website.

60<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  




All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings and activities which are held on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Our schedule for April is as follows:

- April 7** Project Day – Quilting
- April 14** Business Meeting
- April 21** **Bible Study:** “God’s Name, God’s Promise,” Session Two: “God the Protector: Gate and Shepherd”
- April 28** **Book Review:** Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis



We still have a number of Nativity t-shirts in various sizes available for \$10 each.

See Pastor Jen or Ruth Kiefer if you are interested in purchasing one

Nativity’s Women of the ELCA Group will sponsor the April Coffee Hour which will be on **Sunday, April 19** following the 10:15 service in the Fellowship Hall.

We invite the congregation and guests to attend.

## **WELCA’s Outreach Charity for 2026**

To support the Southwest PA Synodical WELCA group’s designated outreach charity for 2026, we will be collecting items for **“Reagan’s Journey.”** This charity collects gently used pediatric durable medical equipment and supplies, sanitizes them and redistributes them to children in need. They maintain an equipment and medical supply closet which helps make sure that all kids have access to the right equipment to reach their potential. Many times insurance will not cover all equipment as children grow, and this can be a hardship for families. The group also provides information sharing and family celebrations.

### ***The items which we are collecting for Reagan’s Journey are:***

\$25 Gift Cards to Amazon, Walmart, and Sheetz, as well as Baby Wipes and Adult Cleansing Wipes.

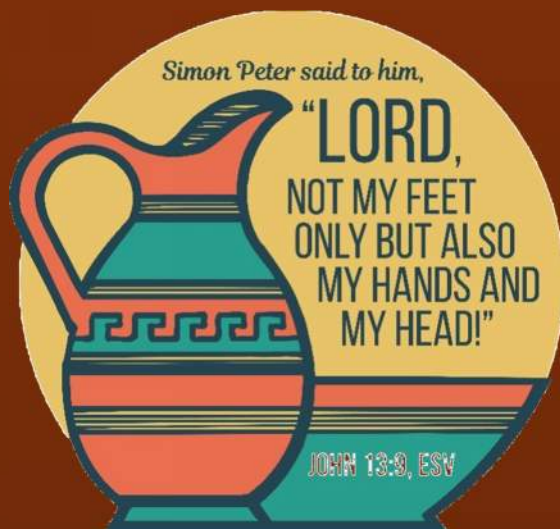
The group’s greatest need now is financial support. On average they serve 500 families a year with the average expense per family of \$150. Therefore, we will also be collecting a free will offering to support this valuable children’s charity. We thank you in advance for your help.

## Maundy Thursday Service

As we gather for worship on Maundy Thursday, we remember the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples. He took the role of a servant and washed their feet, gave them the commandment to love one another, and shared with them the Last Supper, where powerful words were spoken and promised. "This is my body, broken and given for you. This is my blood, shed for you."

Join us for Maundy Thursday Dinner Church service with Holy Communion at 6:30 . There will be hand washing for those who would like to participate.

Consider attending and feel free to bring a casserole, salad or bread.



## Maundy Thursday

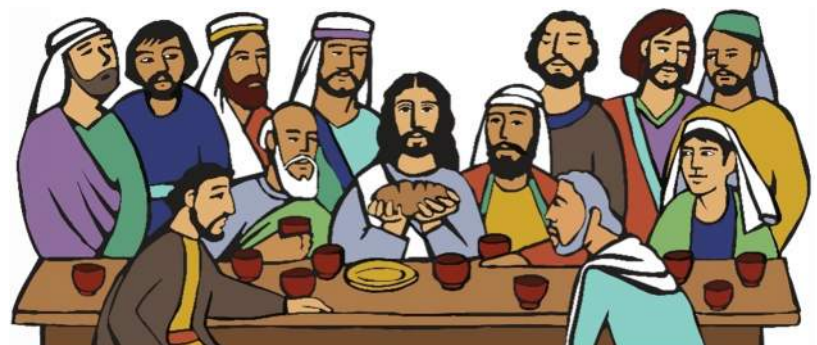
Dinner & Worship 6:30pm

## Good Friday

Worship 7pm

## Resurrection Sunday

Worship 10:15am



"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

Luke 22:15, NIV

## STEWARDSHIP AND THE CHURCH



The purpose of stewardship is to manage resources wisely for God's glory, the betterment of creation and the building of His Kingdom.

Managing our resources wisely for God's glory involves many things. Among them are taking care of God's creation, sharing our talents and abilities as well as our time to build God's Kingdom on earth, and managing our financial resources wisely to share God's Love with the world. Nativity Lutheran Church's Mission Statement is "Nativity is a caring community of believers in and witnesses for Christ, serving in response to God's love to meet human needs." The ways in which we respond as witnesses for God's love and respondents to meeting human needs are very important. When we give our time, abilities and money, we are carrying out our responsibility to show our gratitude for all that God has provided us.

In the next month we will be asked to respond to this responsibility not only with our actions, but with our sharing of the monetary gifts which have been entrusted to us. On April 16 Pledge Cards for the 2026-27 Financial Year will be distributed. On Sunday, May 17, "Stewardship Sunday," these Pledge Cards will be collected. Why is this important? Collecting the cards gives the Congregational Council's financial team an idea of the support they can expect to receive in the coming year. It helps to plan for the financial responsibilities which Nativity will face and to propose an accurate budget.

How individual members and families respond to this pledge request is a very personal consideration of what God has shared with us and how we discern the appropriate contribution for the coming year. Each of us has a different financial situation and different life responsibilities. By prayerfully examining our situation, we can propose an appropriate amount to be shared in our yearly offerings.

Our offerings go to many different things. The majority of our offering goes to support our worship life and outreach here at Nativity. This includes our basic expenses of salaries, utilities, building needs and supplies. It also includes programs such as education, worship, fellowship, property maintenance etc. We also contribute to something called "Mission Support" which involves both our synodical and churchwide organizations. This supports our church leaders and ministry partners (camps, colleges, seminaries and more) and helps support ELCA ministries which grow our church around the world.

When I first joined Nativity thirty some years ago, I was basically unsure of what my weekly offering meant. As I became involved in church activities as a Council Member and Committee member, I learned how important my offering decisions were. I tried to increase my giving each year to the degree that I was able. Some people use the suggestion of "tithing" or giving ten percent of their income. I have always felt that this was unrealistic for most people and families. However, I know that many of us here at Nativity probably come close to this with the various causes and charities which we support. Giving to our "Calendar of Causes" such as Lutherlyn, Campus Ministry, Lutheran Senior Life, and others is an important part of our giving. Supporting ELCA Hunger Ministries and Disaster Relief as well as local collections for NHCO, Mars Youth Home, and other groups make up a portion of our family giving.

Whatever your individual financial situation and needs, I hope that you will take the time this year to evaluate how you and your family can manage your resources and contribute to God's Kingdom at work here at Nativity and in our greater communities.

Ruth Kiefer, *Stewardship Committee Member*

# Outreach & Social Ministry

NHCO's Spring Cleaning Collection will begin later this month. This project gathers items to provide families with a bag of cleaning supplies. Donations can be brought to the church and placed in the marked bins under the coat rack starting on April 26th.

Additional information for specific items needed are on the flyer posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, on the table in the Narthex, on our website under [Missions/NHCO](#).

Please see Carol Huffman if you have any questions.



The Christian Outreach committee is putting together a group to participate in **Hampton Community Clean-up Day on Saturday April 18**. If you can help out, please give your name and T-shirt size (gift from the township) to Carol Huffman who will register the entire group. We would like to finalize the group by April 6. If you cannot work by the roadside but wish to participate, you could possibly be a driver and/or transporter of refreshments! Although we will be issued safety vests, we would like to have everyone wear a Nativity T-shirt to the initial meet-up at the Community Center.

From the Hampton Mag: Roadside areas will be cleaned from debris Saturday April 18 from 8 a.m. to noon. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by at least one parent / guardian who can drive the children to the clean-up locations. All volunteers/volunteer groups must have a driver.

# Fellowship



## March's Game & Mahjong Night



Mark your calendar for an unforgettable night of candlelight music!  
We are planning a night out to *Pittsburgh's Candlelight Concert series: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac* at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on **Friday, May 8**.

The 1 hour concert begins at 8:45pm.  
Ticket prices are by seating section.  
(\$57.50 & \$ 37.50)

Please consider bringing a friend.  
These sell out quickly so please sign up soon or let Charlie know if you are planning to attend or have any questions. Carpooling will be coordinated closer to the event date. Money can be given to Charlie or earmarked on your offering envelope as Fellowship Concert.





Join us for a fun game night with  
family, friends and neighbors.  
**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

**Friday, APRIL 10 at 6pm**

Enjoy board games, card games, dice games and mahjong.  
Please bring a friend, a game and a snack to share!



**Nativity Lutheran Church**

4517 Mt Royal Blvd  
Allison Park, PA 15101

[nativitylutheranchurch15101.org](http://nativitylutheranchurch15101.org)



# Scripture Readings for April

## April 5 Easter Sunday

- [Acts 10:34-43](#)  
*God raised Jesus on the third day*
- [Psalm 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)*
- [Colossians 3:1-4](#)  
*Raised with Christ to seek the higher things*
- [Matthew 28:1-10](#)  
*Proclaim the resurrection*

## April 12


- [Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)  
*Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David*
- [Psalm 16](#)  
*In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)*
- [1 Peter 1:3-9](#)  
*New birth to a living hope through the resurrection*
- [John 20:19-31](#)  
*Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

## April 19

- [Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#)  
*Receiving God's promise through baptism*
- [Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19](#)  
*I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)*
- [1 Peter 1:17-23](#)  
*Born anew through the living word of God*
- [Luke 24:13-35](#)  
*Eating with the risen Christ*

## April 26

- [Acts 2:42-47](#)  
*The believers' common life*
- [Psalm 23](#)  
*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*
- [1 Peter 2:19-25](#)  
*Follow the shepherd, even in suffering*
- [John 10:1-10](#)  
*Christ the shepherd*






## PUZZLE

### FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

		
1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition 5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners 5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart 5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

\*... fixing our \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ . For the \_\_\_\_\_ set before \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_, and sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Consider \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ such \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, so that you will not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answers: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

# April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	31 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	1 W&M Mtg - 7p	2  MAUNDY THURSDAY	3  GOOD FRIDAY	4
5  EASTER SUNDAY	6 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	7 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	8	9	10  Game Night	11
12 Christian Ed Mtg	13 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	14 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	15	16 Council Mtg - 7p	17	18
19  COFFEE HOUR	20 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	21  THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S PSALM 24:1 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	22	23	24	25
26	27 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	28 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	29	30	1	2
3	4 Art Group - 1p AA - 8p	Notes  <b>We worship every Sunday at 10:15 am</b> <b>Adult Sunday School</b> meets each Sunday from 9:15 am <b>Children's Sunday School</b> will meet on <b>April 5th &amp; 19th</b> at 9:15 am				