



Newsletter of Nativity Lutheran Church

June 2026

From Pastor's Heart

Rev. Jennifer Soltis

Rest is so important for our minds, bodies, and spirits. Yet, finding real rest and refreshment is something that so many of us struggle with in our lives. We are instructed and invited to keep the Sabbath, which mostly refers to Sundays as a day of rest, yet the summer months often create opportunities for us to take well-deserved rest and time away from our chaotic everyday lives. Whether you are traveling or staying at home this summer, I encourage you to be intentional about resting. You may find this rest in reading good books, spending time gardening or biking, hiking, swimming or enjoying creation. Perhaps you find rest and refreshment in traveling to visit new or favorite places and people.

During the summer months, we often struggle to keep regular routines, and fall out of good habits that we keep the rest of the year. Living out your faith in the summer months can be difficult. One routine item that can be difficult to keep up with all year round, but especially the summer time, is our faith life. Here are a few ideas of living faithfully during these summer months.

While visiting other places, you may visit a different house of worship. I'd love to see bulletins, or hear about your experiences visiting with other congregations. We may just get a wonderful new idea for something; (please remember that it may not work for our context). If you are traveling with family or friends; you can do a check in with each other about where you see God present on your vacation. You may share about feelings of peace when you lessen your screen time, or when you take the time to enjoy a beautiful sunrise or sunset. You may feel God's presence as you enjoy quality time with loved ones and explore new things and meet new people.

There are also a number of online devotions you may do. One that I like to use, can be found at d365.org. There are 5 steps of the devotion; Pause, Listen, Think, Pray and Go. Each day there is a Bible verse, brief devotion, prayer, and something to think about and do. It's a few minutes of devotion that you can use to center yourself and prepare for the day. Many people also use the Word and Season booklets (available at church). These too include a scripture verse



‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’ (Matthew 11:28-30)

From Pastor’s Heart (*cont’d*)

and devotion. If you’d like some ideas for your prayer life - the ELCA website has prayer ventures available each month with suggested prayer prompts. June 2026 Legal - ELCA Resources.

Growing up, whenever my family would travel long distances, my dad would say a prayer before we left and when we arrived. I continue to keep this practice up during my travels. Traveling can be both stressful and exciting. No matter where we may go - we pray for God’s safety and protection on our journeys, reminding ourselves and others of God’s loving presence that is with us always.

Here is a prayer you may use as you travel and as you seek to rest and refresh this summertime...

O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (pg 86 ELW)

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer Soltis

ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance for May

In-person	YouTube
39	36

Serving This Month

Offering Counters

Pam Hoskins & Charlie Brandt

Altar Guild

Joanne Smith

NHCO Deliveries

Heather Johnson

Coffee Hour

volunteer needed



Sunday,
June 7

Also in June

June 2 – Worship & Music

June 7 – Annual Meeting
& Picnic

June 11 – Council Mtg

June 12 - Synod Assembly

June 13 – Synod Assembly

June 14 – Christian Ed
Flag Day

June 19 – Juneteenth

June 21 – Father's Day

June 21 – Summer arrives!



Birthdays

Faith Pabla	14
Heather Johnson	15
Nancy Sever	18
Bonnie Varley	19
Kim Brandt	21
Luca Romero Lauro	23
Helga Williams	23
Jerry Sever	26
Carol Huffman	28
Alisa Michael	28
Kevin Hoskins	29
Justin Kirkland	30

Anniversaries

Robert & Marlene Grimes	4
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Melissa Chantz
Tom Beecher
Michael Johnson
Reese Sander
Brody Bukauskas
John Ott



Reflecting the Father's Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us, children of the only perfect Father may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.



Puzzle!

A Father's Love

Directions: Match the biblical children to their father, using the clues by the father's name. Then write the corresponding letter on the lines to complete the Bible verse below.

Shem, Ham & Japheth = M	John the Baptist = N
Solomon = O	Jacob & Esau = A
Jonathan = I	Cain, Abel & Seth = O
Jesus = C	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar,
Rachel & Leah = S	Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Gad,
Isaac & Ishmael = P	Naphtali, Asher & Dinah = S

God:	"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."	_____
Adam:	God gave him another son because the older killed the younger.	_____
Noah:	His sons were blessed and told to multiply and replenish the earth.	_____
Abraham:	God promised he would be a father of many nations. The Jews and Arabs descend from these two sons.	_____
Isaac:	His older son sold his birthright, and his younger son tricked Isaac and received the blessings for the firstborn.	_____
Laban:	He had two daughters; the older was tender-eyed and the younger was very beautiful. Both married Jacob.	_____
Jacob:	Two wives and two handmaids gave him 12 sons and a daughter.	_____
Saul:	His son was David's best friend.	_____
David:	He had many children, but one was known for his wisdom, for having many wives and for building God's temple.	_____
Zechariah:	His son, a cousin of Jesus, was born to be a messenger of repentance.	_____

As a father has _____
on his children, so the LORD has
_____ on those who
fear him. *Psalm 103:13, NIV*



POTLUCK PICNIC

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*)
- ♥ Andy & Linda Halcoussis (*Nativity Members*)
- ♥ 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*)
- ♥ Matt Fickes (*Friend of the Coon's*)
- ♥ 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*)

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—

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.

Need To Submit a Prayer Request?

Call the Church
(412) 346.4971

Email the Church
NativityLC@verizon.net

submit one through our website's **on-line form**



A Prayer for Peace

Let us pray without ceasing for peace in world, for peace in our homes, for peace in our hearts.

Almighty God, all thoughts of truth and peace come from you. Kindle in the hearts of all your children the love of peace, and guide with your wisdom the leaders of the nations, so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day for Peace,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 63)

NHCO's Back to School Collection

This next project gathers school supplies for families in need. There was an increase need last year compared to previous years, so the need is there. Donations can be brought to the church and placed in the marked bins under the coat rack. The collection begins on June 14th and will run through the beginning of August.

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.



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 June is as follows:

- June 2** Project Day – Quilting
- June 9** Business Meeting
- June 16** Bible Study: “I Am Worthy,” Session One: I am Created in God’s Image.”
- June 23** Book Review: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- June 30** Project Day – Quilting



Some of the pop-up choir members posed for a picture with Alex on his last Sunday with us before he moved.

Photo Credit: Judy Beecher

Called Friends by Christ

According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15–16, ESV).



The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13–14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

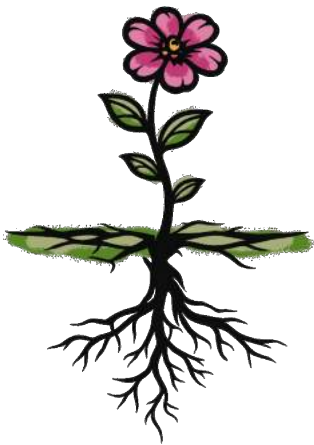
From Gratitude to Faithful Praise

Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.



Scripture Readings for June

June 7

- [Hosea 5:15—6:6](#)

God desires steadfast love

- [Psalm 50:7-15](#)

Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God. (Ps. 50:15)

- [Romans 4:13-25](#)

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

- [Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26](#)

Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter

June 14

- [Exodus 19:2-8a](#)

The covenant with Israel at Sinai

- [Psalm 100](#)

We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (Ps. 100:3)

- [Romans 5:1-8](#)

While we were sinners, Christ died for us

- [Matthew 9:35—10:8 \[9-23\]](#)

The sending of the Twelve

June 21

- [Jeremiah 20:7-13](#)

The prophet must speak despite opposition

- [Psalm 69:7-10 \[11-15\] 16-18](#)

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

- [Romans 6:1b-11](#)

Buried and raised with Christ by baptism

- [Matthew 10:24-39](#)

The cost of discipleship

June 28

- [Jeremiah 28:5-9](#)

The test of a true prophet

- [Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18](#)

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

- [Romans 6:12-23](#)

No longer under law but under grace

- [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

Welcome Christ in those he sends



Prayer prompts for June

June 2026 - ELCA Resources

- For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and for fair and compassionate immigration policies and enforcement...
- For LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities during this upcoming Pride month...
- For graduating students and all experiencing the transition of the school year into summer and beyond...
- For safe travel for all those going away on vacations...
- For synods of the ELCA as they gather in their assemblies, that the Spirit would enliven and guide them...
- For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...



Back to School Supplies Collection

June 8 - August 10

[NHCO.org/sharing-project-donations](https://nhco.org/sharing-project-donations)

Because of our generous supporters, 889 students received back to school supplies last year.

Help even more students start the **2026** school year strong by donating needed items.

We are collecting:

Pens and Pencils

Pencil Boxes

Sharpeners

Highlighters

Markers

Binders

Pocket Folders

TI Graphing Calculators

Loose Leaf Paper

Notebooks

24 Packs of Crayons

Erasers

Glue Sticks

New Backpacks

Rulers and Scissors

Colored Pencils

Donations can be dropped off at any of our three offices Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm. Our Allison Park location also accepts donations the first Saturday of every month between 9am–noon.

You can also order from our Amazon Wishlist and have the items delivered directly to NHCO.

Questions? Contact Vicki Burstynowicz, Sharing Projects Coordinator
412-487-6316 x3143 • vdburst@nhco.org



June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 AA - 8p	2 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p W&M - 7p	3	4	5	6
<i>Sunday School Picnic</i> Potluck 7  Annual Meeting	8 AA - 8p	9 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	10	11 Council Mtg - 7p	12 Synod Assembly	13 Synod Assembly
14 FLAG DAY Christian Ed Mtg	15 AA - 8p	16 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	17	18	19 	20
 21 AA - 8p	22 AA - 8p	23 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	24	25	26	27
28	29 AA - 8p	30 WELCA - 10a NA - 6:30p	1	2	3	4
5	6 AA - 8p	Notes				
We worship every Sunday at 10:15 am						