

# SharedLife

Monthly Newsletter of Nativity Lutheran Church

*September 2026*

## From Pastor's Heart

Participating in Christian education is important for our discipleship journeys. It helps us to grow in our faith, deepens our scriptural knowledge, and helps strengthen our relationships with God and one another. Christian education and faith formation happen in many different ways; it happens when we gather on Sundays for worship, as we hear the word of God in hearing God's word read and the gospel proclaimed. As we travel through the different seasons of the church year, and hear the same stories of God's love in our three-year lectionary, we recognize how the Spirit guides us in our faith journeys. Learning happens as we read and reflect on scripture by ourselves and when we're in a group. Our faith is formed and strengthened as we are sent out in service showing and sharing God's love with others.

Most people agree the Christian education is important for children and youth. Yet once people complete confirmation, the importance of taking part in Christian education seems to lessen. Learning is a lifelong process. There is so much to learn about the Scripture and how our faith influences our everyday lives. Getting together with other Christians to engage with scripture and talk about our faith is an important part of our calling as disciples of Jesus.

Learning about the Lutheran tradition, theology, and how scripture relates to our faith is meant to create a base for critical thinking of how we are called to live in this world. Discussing our questions helps strengthen our faithful witness of the church and is a way for us to be attentive to the needs and concerns of others so that we might respond with God's love.

Starting this month, there will be several opportunities for education and faith formation. Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday 9:15-10am, beginning Sunday, September 6. We will continue learning from the book "They Walked with God: 40 Bible Characters Who Inspire Us", by Max Lucado.

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## Serving This Month

### Offering Counters

Heather Johnson  
Tom Beecher

### Altar Guild

Diana Mitchell  
Carol Messner

### Coffee Hour

Sept 20  
Host: The Sever's

Weekly Worship helpers are needed  
**each week.**

Please consider helping by signing  
up either [on-line](#) or in person on the  
paper signup across from the  
nursery.

# ATTENDANCE

## Summer Worship Statistics (Average)

|        | <u>In-person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| July   | 31               | 30             |
| August | 30               | 28             |

## Pastor's Heart Continued ...

Our lessons include well known and lesser known people from scripture. Engaging with their stories helps us to engage with our own stories of how God works in our lives.

Faith Formation Lunches are returning! We will meet once a month after worship, (typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) and have a meal and devotional together. This year we will be discussing ELCA's Stories of Faith in Action. Our stories knit us together and help us to share encounters with God. As we learn about these stories that connect us together, we'll reflect upon scripture and how we put our faith into action. Our once-monthly Adult Faith Formation Luncheons will begin on September 27. We'll meet for lunch after worship, location -TBD.

There will also be a zoom Bible/Book Study offered during a weeknight in the fall. Date and topic to be determined. If you are interested in any of these options and would like to know more or have ideas, I'd be happy to speak with you.

Blessings as you learn and grow in your faith.

*Pastor Jennifer Sottis*



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 September are as follows:

- |                |                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sept 1</b>  | Project Day – Quilting                                                                                                |
| <b>Sept 8</b>  | Business Meeting                                                                                                      |
| <b>Sept 15</b> | Bible Study: “ <i>Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey</i> ” Session 1 : “ <i>Encountering God in the Wilderness</i> ” |
| <b>Sept 22</b> | Book Review: <u>Tom Lake</u> by Ann Patchett                                                                          |
| <b>Sept 29</b> | Project Day – Quilting                                                                                                |

Sunday School for all ages will began on Sunday, **September 6** at 9:15am.

**Children's Sunday school is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.** Students will follow the Spark Sunday School series. We are looking for interested individuals to help teach these classes. Please see Diana Mitchell or Pastor Jen if you can help

**Adult Sunday school meets weekly.** The Adult Class will be continuing the study of Bible people who inspire us from the book, They Walk with God by Max Lucado. Classes will meet weekly with Pastor Jen leading.

**Hope to see you all, young and young at heart, there!**

**BLESSING OF THE  
BACKPACKS**



**Sunday, Sept. 6**

Students brought their backpacks to worship for a special backpack blessing.



# SEPTEMBER

*birthdays & anniversaries*

## Birthdays

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Sharon Schmitz    | 7  |
| Ricky Edmonds III | 12 |
| Nicole Kirkland   | 13 |
| Rachel Schmitz    | 15 |
| Reese Sander      | 21 |
| Carrie Sander     | 22 |
| Ed Banks          | 23 |

## Anniversaries

Dan & Jean Chantz 20



# SEPTEMBER

*baptisms*

Bethany L. Roefs  
Carrie I. Sander  
Joanne Smith  
Nan Shuey



## A Prayer for the New School Year

**Gracious God,** As this new school year begins, we lift up every student, teacher, and parent into your loving care. Grant students curiosity to learn, courage to try, and kindness to share. Bless teachers with wisdom, patience, and joy in their calling. Surround our schools with safety, peace, and respect.

May each day be filled with growth, friendship, and purpose. Guide every step, every word, and every decision, so that this year becomes a season of blessing and learning. In your most gracious name we pray, **Amen.**



## Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.



# Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—

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

- ♥ Andy & Katy Greer (*Friends of the Heyne's*)
- ♥ Katie Wallaart-DeBeor (*Niece of the Dollhopf'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*)

## 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**

## PRAYER list

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.

Adult Faith  
Formation  
Luncheon

September  
27

## A History of the property to our North

Years ago, Joanne Smith, Ralph & Carol Kusserow wanted to see what was up there, so they went up the steps one day while they were doing grounds work at Nativity. There was still a path to the old site, and the parking lot plus foundation were obvious and the foundation is still a debris-loaded serious danger zone.

The Holy Ghost Convent in Hampton Township, PA—historically known as the Holy Ghost Home for Retired Nuns—served for decades as a residential care facility for aging sisters. It eventually became a nursing home, then closed. The building sat abandoned and fell into a state of structural decay. Lowe's bought it for a store, tore down the incredible house, then ran into issues with permits, parking and access and gave up. The site was still an attractive "exploration" destination, so the foundation was also filled in the 2000s.

By 1931, the Sisters had converted the Allen homestead convent into the Bishop Boyle Home for Aged Women. This was a beginning of the health care ministry for the Sisters.

As requests for such care increased, the Sisters purchased the Davidson estate in what is now Allison Park. This beautiful mansion was named Sisters of the Holy Ghost Guest Home. On weekends, several Sisters who taught at Holy Ghost Academy traveled to the Guest Home to teach art and music to children and adults from the surrounding area.

The Sisters received an invitation in 1942 to minister at St. Joseph Protectory for Homeless Boys which was located in Pittsburgh's Hill District. In a letter to the Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, bishop of Pittsburgh, Rev. F.J. Huber, Superintendent of the Protectory, wrote: "I feel that the presence of nuns and their example will wield a tremendous influence over our boys and help us to continue the marvelous work done at the other institutions from whom we receive the majority of our boys." The Sisters remained there for eight years until the boys were transferred to the Pauline Auberle Foundation in McKeesport, PA.



Holy Ghost Guest Home

## **Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day**



O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

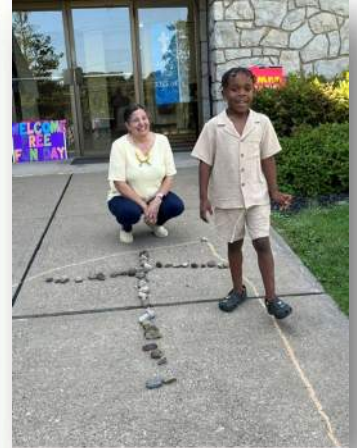
Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Jesus Feeds the 5000 at Nativity on our Family Fun Day!

Ricky made a cross on the sidewalk and drew Jesus walking on water!

We had special guests: Darrell the dog and Professor Goaty!

There was a puppet show for the kids telling the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000. We baked bread, played games, and had fun learning how God provides what we need and to share with our neighbors. The kids put their dancing and singing skills to the test by singing the "I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N" song as fast as they could! We collected lots of cereal for NHCO and the kids enjoyed making towers out of the boxes. We all had fun, including the adults!



## Kuhn's Grocery Collection August 8



## Church Picnic August 22

(This was only at the end – it was a nice day while we ate and visited)



## The NHCO "Coat Shop" Project

We are collecting new coats for children ages infant to 18-years-old. New hats, scarves and gloves are also being accepted. Gift cards to purchase coats are also greatly appreciated. Coats can be hung on the designated area of the coat rack in the hallway by the nursery. Other items can go in the designated bins in the same area.

This will run through October 11.



Lutheran  
Campus  
Ministry

Greater Pittsburgh

# BBQ Bash 2026

**Sep. 19, 2026**  
**6p-9p**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
2500 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090

**Food & Drinks | Fun & Games**

Join LCMGP at our  
fourth annual friend  
raiser to support the  
campus ministry.

\$40/person  
Or \$100/family  
(2 adults+kids  
13 & under)



**lucpgh.com | (412) 682-6886**



## Safety Fair on September 13



Do you ever wonder how Nativity would handle emergency events or situations? How would you handle emergency situations? Do you know how to use the defibrillator on the wall by the mailboxes?

Stay after church on Sunday, Sept 13 to find out answers to these questions and more.

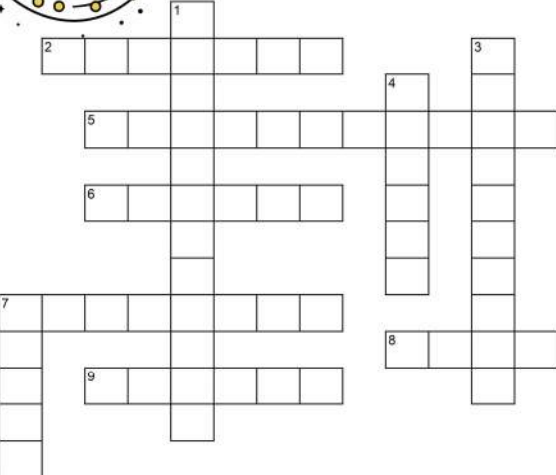
We will have blood pressure checks, an AED practice module, fire extinguisher demonstration/practice & discussions from local police officers on how to handle emergency situations. If you have questions, please see Jean Chantz

# Puzzle!



## BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



### ACROSS

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.  
5. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will see God.  
6. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and thirst after righteousness.  
7. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will receive mercy.  
8. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will inherit the earth.  
9. Blessed are those who hunger and \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be filled.

### DOWN

1. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
3. Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness' sake.  
4. Great is your \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.  
7. Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pure in heart, 6 Across: hunger  
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poor in spirit  
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn

## Bayernhof Museum Fellowship Event

Join us on **Saturday, October 24** as we tour This extremely unique, 19,000 square foot museum (the former residence of Charles B. Brown, III, the Museum's founder). It houses a world-class collection of music boxes and other antique automatic music machines, as well as many other fascinating items.

The building itself is a most enjoyable experience as you pass from one unbelievable room to another, at times through hidden doors and secret passageways. Almost the entire south side of the Museum is glass, affording fantastic views up and down the Allegheny River.

Join us at Bayernhof Museum for a truly one-of-a-kind adventure. Tours are limited to 12 people per tour and children must be at least 12 years old. Cost will be \$10.00 per person, Cash only. Watch for a signup sheet online and across from the kitchen. Since space is limited, be sure to reserve your spot soon!



## God's Work ~ Our Hands Sunday, October 18



Imagine the joy a child feels when they wake up on their special day to a celebration just for them. Now, imagine not being able to provide that for your child because of financial hardships.

Please join us as we **BUILD BIRTHDAY CAKE KITS** to help those in need celebrate birthdays with their children or loved ones by making kits to donate – complete with cake mix, candles and other essentials.

The Stewardship Committee is organizing this **BUILD BIRTHDAY CAKE KITS** event. The kits will be delivered to North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) and each kit will go to an NHCO household to ensure no birthday passes without the means to celebrate.

Each kit will include:

- **9×13 disposable aluminum foil pan**
- **a box of cake mix, any flavor you like**
- **a can of frosting**
- **1 can of sprite or other lemon lime soda (store brand will work) in case the recipient doesn't have eggs or oil**
- **birthday candles**
- **birthday cake kit directions on how to use the soda in place of the wet ingredients.**

Optional:

- **birthday tablecloths (Dollar Store)**
- **streamers**
- **birthday plates, etc.**

We are hoping to gather enough supplies to provide 25 birthday cake kits. Imagine the joy on their faces as they receive their happy birthday kit, complete with everything they need to bake a delicious cake!

So that we know that you will be available to help on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, please sign-up using the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or sign up using the Sign-Up Genius.

Also, please sign up to donate items such as a **box or two of cake mix, cans of frosting, disposable 9X13 cake pans, or party supplies** like **birthday candles, Happy Birthday banners**, and festive napkins. Don't forget to include **cans of lemon-lime soda** for each birthday cake kit. This takes the place of the required wet ingredients such as eggs and oil.

Last day to bring in donations is **October 11** since we will put them together on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

# Scripture Readings for September

## September 6

- [Ezekiel 33:7-11](#)

*The prophet's responsibility to warn the people*

- [Psalm 119:33-40](#)

*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

- [Romans 13:8-14](#)

*Live honorably as in the day*

- [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

*Reconciliation in the community of faith*

## September 13

- [Genesis 50:15-21](#)

*Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

- [Psalm 103:\[1-7\] 8-13](#)

*Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

- [Romans 14:1-12](#)

*Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

- [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

## September 20

- [Jonah 3:10—4:11](#)

*God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

- [Psalm 145:1-8](#)

*The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

- [Philippians 1:21-30](#)

*Standing firm in the gospel*

- [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

*The parable of the vineyard workers*

## September 27

- [Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#)

*The fairness of God's way*

- [Psalm 25:1-9](#)

*Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)*

- [Philippians 2:1-13](#)

*Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

- [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

*A parable of doing God's will*



### JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise.  
They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



|       |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| FEAST |  |  |  |  |  |
| KHAKI |  |  |  |  |  |
| MOUTH |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESSAY |  |  |  |  |  |
| LLAMA |  |  |  |  |  |
| ORBIT |  |  |  |  |  |
| CARRY |  |  |  |  |  |
| UDDER |  |  |  |  |  |
| BRUSH |  |  |  |  |  |
| ITEMS |  |  |  |  |  |
| APPLE |  |  |  |  |  |
| LEARN |  |  |  |  |  |
| CIDER |  |  |  |  |  |



