



nativity

May 2020

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and Peace.

I greet with you with the words I always use; and in these days I mean them more than ever. *Grace to you and Peace.* As the world is ready to tell us, these days are unprecedented since 1918, when we last participated in a global pandemic - and few of us were born yet in 1918. So it feels "all new."

How we live in times that feel new and uncertain tells us about the stories and social conditioning that shapes us. Tough times are the "pokes" that illustrate the color of our character and the faith we actually trust. Some of you play golf - and golfers all know that a person's true character will show up somewhere on the course, often an hour into the game -as frustration and disappointment sometimes becomes publicly unavoidable.

So it is with our faith and the frustrations and disappointments of 2020 as we do our level best, using the full gifts and graces given by God, to make sense and safety of our lives and world. Sisters and Brothers, Grace to you and peace.

If we start with grace and peace, then our best and most spacious imagination and behaviors will follow. I invite these upon your lives. May the Lord bless and keep you, make his face to shine upon you, look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Pastor Chris

Nativity Lutheran and COVID-19

"An update during shutdown"

As different as winter is from Spring, so is ministry different at Nativity during this season of "Pandemic Emergency" in Oregon. I choose the word, "different" carefully, for things have changed dramatically but have not diminished. Here is an update:

1. Worship continues at full speed online. We shifted immediately to "Facebook Live" to stream our Sunday and midweek services. Total participation in these online services is roughly four to five times normal worship attendance. This is amazing!
 2. Midweek services continue, as interest and participation on Wednesday nights remains very high. Holden Evening Prayer carried us through Lent, now we are enjoying Compline. See you at 6:15 on Wednesdays!
 3. Our new website is live. Please go here to access worship materials, make online donations and find all the latest Nativity news!
 4. Food Pantry demand has increased 60% over normal, and we've changed distribution to be pandemic-adjusted, offering boxes through drive up distribution. As always, you can resource the Food Pantry with a check written to Nativity, with "Food Pantry" written on the memo line or with your credit card online.
 5. Nativity Finances are solid. Your giving has shown your commitment to our mission, and March and April giving appear to have exceeded last year's income. Thank you!
 6. Outreach Mission has a new focus. We are actively now partnering our Outreach Funds with the Family Access Network Advocate at Jewell Elementary and High Desert Middle School to keep fragile families in our community from going homeless. You can help resource this new mission by sending checks to Nativity with "outreach" on the memo line or with your credit card online.
 7. We gather socially on Zoom now - for Wednesday Bible Study, Thursday Happy Hour, Friday Theology conversation and Sunday Fellowship Hour. Join us!
- Nativity is thriving, and are as busy reaching out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ as we ever have been! Thanks for being Nativity! :)

Communion Class

The Communion Classes that were scheduled for April/May are being postponed until such time as these meetings can be held in person.

New Intergenerational Spiritual Practice Zoom Group

Join Jason during the month of May as he facilitates a new group for Nativity.

Why would I join a spiritual practice group, you may ask? Great question! Spiritual practices throughout the centuries have been a way to awaken ourselves to the presence and activity of God around us, along with open our hearts and souls to God's transforming love. Though some of these practices have been misused to bolster up one's own sense of spirituality, they are sincerely meant to open our eyes and hearts as we participate with God's mission in the world. What's a spiritual practice? There are many to choose from, but some initial ideas are: prayer, fasting, silence, meditation, studying or memorizing Scripture.

The group will meet every Tuesday via a Zoom meeting from 4 - 5 p.m. Jason will be facilitating the meeting, and every meeting will revolve around 3 questions: 1) How have I seen God at work in the world? 2) How have I experienced God working in my life? 3) What has God been teaching me this week?

So here are the nuts and bolts of it all:

- 1) Commit to a spiritual practice 3 - 4 times a week.
- 2) Join the Spiritual Practice Zoom Group every Tuesday from 4 - 5 p.m. during the month of May.
- 3) Be willing to actively listen and share. If you are interested in joining, please let Jason know and he will send you a Zoom invite.

The Nativity Office Is...

not open for our regular hours. Email, office@nativityinbend.com, is being checked daily or you can call 541-388-0765 and leave a message. If, for some really important, crucial reason, you need to come by, please call or email first to make sure someone will be here.

Please mail any contribution checks rather than bringing them in personally to:

Nativity Lutheran Church
60850 Brosterhous
Bend, OR 97702

Mail is being retrieved daily.

Live-streaming Worship Services

Worship services on Sunday are being live streamed from Nativity at both **9:00 am and 11:00 and 6:15pm on Wednesday on Facebook**. If you are currently on Facebook you should have no problem. Go to **Nativity in Bend** and you should be able to watch. Sue is preparing a Worship Guide for each service. You can find these on our website (the pictures are old but the information is new) at: nativityinbend.com

You can also join fellowship hour after the 11:00 service online using Zoom.

If you are not currently on Facebook, you don't have to sign up for Facebook to watch the services.

Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). At the bottom you will find an option to click on **Pages**. Then, at the top by magnifying glass, type in **Nativity in Bend** and hit **Search**. Nativity in Bend should pop up and you can click on it. This takes you to the Nativity in Bend Facebook page. Then a screen will come up asking you to log in or create new account. **BUT**, there is also a **Not Now** option. Click on that and there you are. If you are an iPad user, click on the gray X in the top right of the popup.

What is ZOOM?

It's a way to have a meeting remotely. Here is a link.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/176192283>

If you want to attend Heretics next Wednesday for example, click on the link above and it will direct you to the meeting. You will need to "allow" Zoom. Then, once the meeting is started you will be able to attend. You may also have to click on a button that says "join audio."

If you are "experiencing technical difficulties" with Facebook or ZOOM, call or email the office and someone will get in touch to walk you through this process. It looks like we may be **online only** for a while now and we want you to remain and feel like a part of the Nativity community.

Youth Ministry

As with all things at church, we continue to reimagine what youth ministry could look like in a time of social distancing.

Jason has been creating weekly 7 - 9 minute videos and releasing them on our website and Facebook. Jason is a storyteller; these videos begin with Jason sharing a story and then connecting these stories to our current situation and, ultimately, God's story. The videos are designed to be watched with families and end with a few questions that the family members are encouraged to discuss together.

A virtual Middle School group will occur at the end of April. Depending on attendance and feedback, these may continue on a regular basis until the end of the traditional school year.

We are awaiting word from Camp Lutherwood and the Yakama Reservation (along with state governments) as to whether Middle School Confirmation Camp and our High School Immersion trip will be occurring this summer. We anticipate receiving definitive answers by the beginning of May.

Jason has received a few inquiries about whether our youth will still be providing yard cleanup this spring as a fundraiser. Since all schools have closed and all extra-curricular activities have been cancelled until mid-June, we have also decided to be in accordance with our state and school district and cancel all youth group activities and

Happy Birthday to You...

May 1 McKenzie Kramer
May 2 Briella Staskal, Charlotte Gardiner
May 7 Lois Schuhr, Jim Hamey
May 8 Brian MacNeill
May 9 Dennis Scott
May 10 Caleb Krause
May 11 Judy Herron
May 12 Mary Jean Bestwick, Mike Ogden
May 15 Owen Kochersberger
May 17 Anton Johnson
May 18 Sue Steiger
May 24 Duane Cole
May 26 Bill Norris
May 27 Lisa Bailey, Yvonne Johnson, Christian Clark, Norma Glueck, Cyrus Tadjiki
May 28 Barbara Jensen, Donna Burklo
May 29 Kathy Kulow, Brian Mikkeltborg
May 30 Kalia Price

fundraisers that require a middle schooler or high schooler to leave their home.

As a weekly practice, Jason continues to pray for each and every one of our Middle School and High School students. If a youth or parent has a specific request, please let Jason know!

Bethlehem Inn

Our turn to provide dinner at Bethlehem Inn is April 24th. We are not providing food this time but rather donations to cover the cost of dinner. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check directly to : Bethlehem Inn P.O. Box 8540 Bend, Or 97708 Hopefully this is a temporary situation! We realize that we must continue to serve this vulnerable population. We're just working out the details as to how!

Children's Ministry

Hi families,

I hope you are well and finding fun things to do during this quarantine. I have found another website that I love called NomsterChef. You can go to this web address <https://www.nomsterchef.com/blog> and find many healthy recipes for kids to help make for any meal of the day. They also have videos, not only of how to prepare the food, but also how and where the food is grown. This is a wonderful website that I think the whole family will enjoy.

As most of you know, the Sparkhouse publishing company has come up with a free, easy to access Family Sunday School program at <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school>

They do a much better video than mine, with music and creative story telling for each weeks gospel lesson. They also include coloring & activity pages. There are games & are activities for you to do in your own homes. I will still send home my weekly emails for the kids. We are very hopeful that we will still be able to have a Vacation Bible School this summer. This year's VBS program "Wilderness Escape," where we learn that God guides us and provides for us, will be held the week of July 20-24 from 9am-12:30pm. If we are still unable to come together then we have plans to do a virtual VBS. We will send home kits of craft and game supplies and we can join together on Zoom or Facebook Watch. Let's keep praying that we will be able to be together at Nativity this summer and celebrate together.

I miss you all so very much. Know that we are praying for you and sending out air hugs to you. Peace to you all,
Bonnie

Readings for May

May 3 Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

May 10 Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 17 Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3: 13-22

John 14:15-21

May 26 Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10,32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5: 6-11

John 17:1-11

A Big Woodlot THANK YOU!

As a result of the theft last month of our two chainsaws we have two new saws!

To Pat and Kiri Simning for the new Husquvara and to the AA group that meets at NLC every Thursday for the new Stihl saw. We are back in business!



In order to be compliant with the Socially Distant protocol we are in partnership with tree service companies when they are in the process of removing the trees from the donor location. They do the loading for us.



And thank you to the anonymous donor for the \$2,000 gift for the purchase of our new wood splitter. \$8,000 has been pledged to date with

\$4,000 left to go. The new splitter will be a huge help in the Wood Lot and with much of the heavy lifting while splitting.

Nativity Camp Out

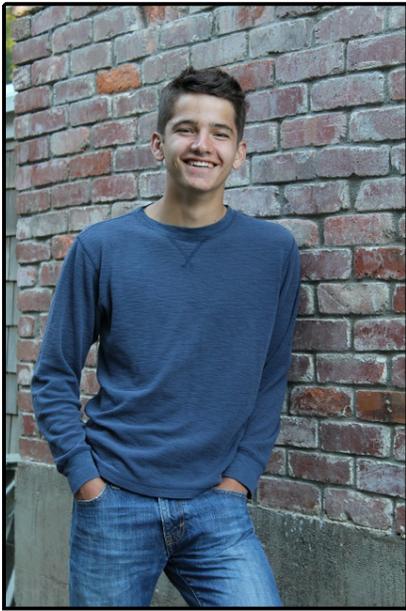
MARK YOUR CALENDARS. Nativity Camp Out is Thursday, July 30th through Monday, August 3rd at Newberry Group Camp along the shores of Paulina Lake.

It is a short 45-minute drive from Bend. Come for the entire weekend or come for the day. There is room for tents and RV's. No hookups but water is available. Saturday, August 1st, is the day for our worship service. It is held on the shores of Paulina Lake, with music, fellowship, and communion. The service starts at 4:30pm. Immediately afterwards, there is a potluck dinner with Dutch oven specialties, hot dogs, and whatever else is brought to share.

Paulina Lake is known for its great fishing (get your fishing license BEFORE you come to the lake), canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding. There are hot springs for you to soak in located on the far side of the lake. There are numerous hiking trails and mountain biking trails available. There will be camp fires with s'mores in the evenings. Of course, if sitting on the beach, reading a book or visiting with friends is more your style, then that is always an option too. Come join this long tradition of over 16 years of camping with Nativity in the Newberry National Monument.

Check out the display in the fellowship hall. There are pictures of all the fun we had last year. There will be more information and sign up sheets coming later in the Spring.

Questions? Contact Selina Berg 541-350-4252.



Jasper Tadjiki

Jasper Tadjiki is graduating this year from Bend Senior High School with an honors diploma. Throughout high school, Jasper always wanted to push himself academically and chose to take tough classes, especially his senior year, when he took IB Chemistry and IB Physics at the same time, which is almost unheard-of. Athletically, Jasper has been involved in cross country running, nordic skiing, and his favorite sport, ultimate frisbee, for which he was a captain last year and would have been a captain this year, with an eye towards winning at the state championships. For the last two years, Jasper has been working hard to qualify for the Chick Evans Golf Caddie Scholarship, which he was awarded this last March. Jasper will attend the University of Oregon in the fall and plans to study Chemistry.



Dylan White

Dylan played water polo all four years of high school, and was even a part of the 2016 State Champions 5A his freshman year. He was a member and student in the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band for 4 years at Mountain View High School. Dylan also played 2nd Trombone with the Central Oregon Symphony and is a current member of Central Oregon Community College: Big Band Jazz. This summer Dylan was invited to be a counselor at YMA, (Young Musicians and Artists) a band camp that he has been attending annually for many years. Last fall, Dylan had the amazing opportunity to be a part of a music group that played in Australia for a week and a half.

Dylan has been playing the trombone since 5th Grade and originally thought the trombone was a trumpet. As for college, his plan is to study Music Performance, and depending on the final decision of which college, will double major in Music Education.

Honor Bands:

- Western International Band Clinic 2016-2019
- NAFME All-National Concert Band 2017
- NAFME All-Northwest: Concert Band 2017; Orchestra 2019
- OMEA All-State Concert Band 2017 and 2020
- Pacific Honours Ensemble Program in Brisbane 2019 (Scholarship Recipient)

"Called by the grace of God, we reach out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ."



May 2020

The People of Nativity Staff

Pastor

Chris Kramer
chris@nativityinbend.com

Youth Pastor

Jason Medina
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Intern Pastor

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Parish Administrator

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Accompanist

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Bookkeeper

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Food Pantry

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Church Council

President

Jon Kochersberger

Vice President

Corky Senecal

Secretary

Donna Burklo

Treasurer

Bill Kuhn

Carol Guthrie

Marshall Herron

Ellen Logan

Deb Reynolds

Ann Ross

Bryan Senner

Julie White

For more information,
please visit our website at
www.nativityinbend.com

Office Hours (541.388.0765)

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Pastor Chris: Sun, Wed-Sat

Sue: Tues-Friday

Worship and Educational Opportunities

Sundays:

9:00 am - Informal Worship Service

11:00 am - Formal Worship Service

Wednesdays:

9:00am- Prayer Group

10:00 am - Morning Bible Study

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
60850 BROSTERHOUS ROAD
BEND, OR 97702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MAY 2020

www.nativityinbend.com