



Nativity

September 2020

²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
-Hebrews 10

Sisters and brothers, Grace to you and peace.

As we look with curious and hopeful eyes into fall, many questions arise. Chief among them in my world as your pastor, is this: "How will the church be the church this fall?" Church is so many things. According to our Lutheran Confessions, we are the people who gather around Word and Sacrament each week. We are also One with Christians around the world. We are holy, we are catholic (which means global and universal) and we are apostolic (which means we are sent into the world with good news of God's salvation in Jesus.)

For two thousand years the church has gathered, in various ways and circumstances to be church. In rare occasions, we have been persecuted, and have hidden in basements, catacombs and in the woods. During pandemics (like the bubonic plagues and the 1918 Flu) we have taken radical precautions to avoid public infection.

But always, we have found ways to be the church. Always. Always we have found ways to cook our food – over fire, gas flame, radiant electric heat and microwave.. Always we have transported ourselves – on foot, oxcart, horse & buggy, automobile, heelys and one wheeled electric skateboard.. We adapt and we persevere. So too with the church.

The 10th chapter of Hebrews reminds us – as we have this assurance of our salvation in Christ Jesus, that we need to "*consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.*"

The temptation in the early church was to give up meeting together in order to "hunker down" in anticipation of Jesus' return. Our temptation can be similar, and scripture has taught us from the earliest days of Christianity to keep our day jobs and figure out how to live fully, faithfully, and well now.

Let us not give up meeting together, Nativity. For we need mutual Christian encouragement, and God has told us that "it is not good for the human to be alone."

How? How shall we meet? I am convinced that the way is being revealed more and more each week. We know now that we can meet together safely outside in small groups, socially distanced, wearing face coverings. Many of us are now visiting our friends outside-on porches and patios.

How about you? Who should you go encourage? Let us not give up meeting together, Nativity.
- Pastor Chris



Nativity Office

The office is *not* open for regular hours yet.
Email at office@nativityinbend.com,
Please mail any contribution checks to the church
rather than bringing them in personally.
Mail is being picked up daily.
Nativity Lutheran Church
60850 Brosterhaus
Bend, OR 97702 is being checked daily or you can
call 541-388-0765 and leave a message. If you must
come by, please call or email first to make sure
someone will be here.

Bible Readings for September

September 6

Ezekiel 33: 7-11
Psalm 119: 33-40
Romans 13: 8-14
Matthew 18: 15-20

September 13

Genesis 50: 15-21
Psalm 103: (1-7) 8-13
Romans 14: 1-14
Matthew 18: 21-35

Bethlehem Inn

Even though we aren't able to prepare a meal &
take it to Bethlehem Inn, we at Nativity are still
responsible for dinner on the last Friday of each
month. The best way we can help during
quarantine is to send a check to help with that
evening's meal. Please send it to:
Bethlehem Inn, PO Box 8540, Bend, 97708.
We don't know how this will change
during the coming months, but we will keep you
posted. Thank you very much.

September 20

Jonah 3: 10 -- 4:11
Psalm 145: 1-8
Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 20: 1-16

September 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21: 23-32

Youth Ministry News

Fall is here, and so is our reimagined youth ministry. Taking our cues from the school district, most of our youth ministry will be meeting online again this fall.

However, our Nativity Middle School Kickoff will take place here at church on the outside patio and green-space. Incoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to an hour of socially distanced games and mixers, followed by ice cream sandwiches! Wednesday, September 9 from 6:30 - 7:30 @ Nativity.

Online Middle School Zoom meetings will occur the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, beginning Thursday, October 1.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84927245822>

High School group will have a meeting component and service component this coming year. High School will be meeting via Zoom the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7 - 8 p.m. and will also be serving at Family Kitchen once a month. More details to come.

Nativity Monthly Hang Out!

Join Jason as he hosts our very first virtual Nativity Hang Out night. This is a time created for the entire Nativity community, from ages 0 - 99!

Grab your Quaranteam (defined as anyone you share close space with: roommate, friend, significant other, spouse, kids, grandkids, in-laws) and join us for a time of games and fun connection. A prize will be awarded to the winning Quaranteam, hand delivered by Jason (who was that masked man?)

Our hangout will take place on Zoom, so each Quaranteam needs to share one screen to participate.

When: Sunday, September 27

Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89161405789>

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina, Latin for "divine reading," is an ancient spiritual practice from the Christian monastic tradition. In Lectio Divina, we seek to experience the presence and Spirit of God through reading, listening, prayer and meditation.

Our Lectio Divina group, facilitated by Jason, will meet every Tuesday afternoon on Zoom, beginning September 8. This is not a time of Bible



Happy Birthday!

September 2 Michael Johnson, Diana Steinbach, Brad Pinkert
September 3 Don Elsom
September 4 Kimberlee Nunez
September 5 Kearina Staskal, Griffin Jacobsen
September 7 Carol Beuschlein, Connie Staerk, Bill Nelson
September 8 Sandy Cahl, Kathleen Jacobson, Stephen Simmonds, Brad Kent
September 12 Kaia Kochersberger
September 13 Vera Wesenberg
September 15 Mary Ellen Larkins, Rheta Johnson
September 16 Erik Rustand, Eli Cloward, Carolyn Boddie
September 17 Matthew Phillips, Jo Jorgenson
September 18 Natalie Meulink
September 19 Garrett Banton, Bob Banta, Ray Horgen
September 21 Liz Jacobson, Melva Stirm
September 23 Pat Hassey, Leslie Schauer, Shirley Olsen
September 24 Frank Barnes, Larry Bird
September 26 Doug Pike, Brandon Olin, Warren Tausch
September 27 Bob Jackson, Inga Larwin
September 29 Scott Schauer
September 30 Sally Watts

Study focusing on knowledge. Rather, our time together will be spent slowly and meditatively reading through one of our upcoming Lectionary Texts while we listen and are attentive to the Spirit's leading and guidance.

If you are interested but the day/time do not work for your schedule, please contact Jason as he would consider adding a second group on a different day/time.

When: Every Tuesday, beginning on September 8

Time: 4 - 5 p.m. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89161405789>

Nativity Food Pantry

The Food Pantry schedule hasn't slowed down as the shopping-style food pantry has been replaced by prepared food boxes that are loaded into vehicles at the front door. We started doing boxes for 50 households each Tuesday – 50 boxes of dry food, 50 of produce and 50 frozen/dairy boxes. We have taken in 113,000 lbs of food through July. Last year we did 140,000 lbs for the whole year. Demand has now slowed down so we are serving 35-40 households but the numbers are expected to pick up now that fall is just around the corner.



Due to the increased volume, it became necessary to get a larger trailer to haul food. The cargo capacity of the old trailer was 1,500 lbs. and we were hauling 3-5,000lbs! (Not safe!) Our new trailer has a cargo capacity of 5,500 lbs. The Food Pantry program has been blessed in many ways with several special gifts and an additional grant this year. Since April, Neighborhood Impact has supplied the Food Pantry with tons of food for little to no cost. We have a great volunteer group of 7-8 helpers every week. When we're done for the day, we celebrate with wine and snacks in the back yard of the church.

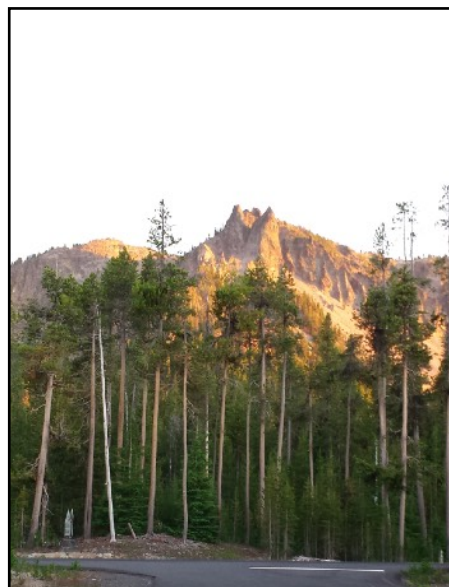
Thanks for all your support,
Bill

Nativity Campout

2021 will be the 20th year that there has been a Nativity Camp Out! WOW!

Over the next 12 months there will be a series of interesting fun facts about the history of the Camp Out...

The first camp out was held in 2002 at Ogden Group Camp with ten people there.



All the camp outs have been held within the Newberry National Monument at 3 different group camp sites.

The weather has been everything from freezing nights to warm sunny days (mostly). In the years that the camp out has been held, there has been only one year that the worship service has been held in the rain.

Do you have a fond memory or a favorite photo from one of the Nativity Camp Outs? If so, please share with Selina Witt (541-350-4252 or pwittnberg@cs.com). She would love to hear from you.

Mark your calendars for next year and join the fun filled weekend on the shores of Paulina Lake. Thursday, July 29 – Monday, August 2, 2021.

Children's Church

Hi families, I am so happy to hear and see that the kids have been enjoying this year's VBS. Wilderness Escape was so much fun to put together and I am so grateful for our volunteers who worked very hard to bring it together. I'm just so sorry to say that Group

Publishing is making us take down the videos by September 1st. Be sure to watch them all before then.

It is time for us to start thinking about going back to school. This year we will not be able to hold our traditional Rally Sunday. We have however decided to do a drive-thru student and teacher blessing. Come to the church on Sunday, September 13 and we will bless you in your vehicle (possibly with some water) and give the students something to remember to keep God in their

hearts as they head back to an interesting and unknown school year. Remember to rely on God and everything will fall into place. We have tentatively scheduled this for 12:30-2:00pm. I will be starting to post weekly Jr. Church videos to Facebook starting that morning of September 13.

On a final note, I want our children to know that I'm working hard on planning some sort of fun Halloween activity. I can't wait to let you know what our final decision will be. I'm very excited as I have decided on my costume and even got a face mask to go with it. My prayer is that our families, especially our children, go into this school year with God's peace in your hearts.

Bonnie

Saints Alive

Saints Alive has begun emailing letters from members about life in this sheltering time so we can continue our connection. With Ruth's permission, the following is a letter from Ruth Burleigh as told to Marci Padgett. Ruth is now receiving visitors on her deck with social distancing and would love for you to come and visit. Just give her a phone call.

"I am doing very well. I am still living in my home on the west side and I have arranged my deck so that I can receive visitors with social distancing in place. My deck looks out over Bend and I have arranged my chairs so I can always have a seat in the shade. I spend a great deal of time on my deck looking out over Bend, enjoying the garden, reading and watching the birds.

In the mornings, I go for a walk up one side of my street to the end, turning and going to the other end and return home. It is 1/3 to 1/2 of a mile. And along the way I sometimes see neighbors to chat with.

Speaking of neighbors, I have a wonderful neighbor (Barb) living next door. She checks in on me daily, brings food and has driven me to haircuts, etc..

I am blessed with wonderful people like Ann Malkin who calls me at least 4 or 5 times a week and brings me books from the library. I love reading! And I talk to other friends on the phone. If you wish, give me a call.

My sons also visit and my son Bill from Eugene visits about every 3 weeks, cooks up very good meals and leaves them in the freezer for me! So I am able to have delicious food every day! Last weekend, Bill's grandchildren, my great-

grandchildren (ages 8 to 15) visited from the east coast. Bill picked me up and we went to a lake near Crescent Lake for the day. It was wonderful to watch the kids play in the water and I was able to catch up on their lives. It was a great day of family time. They come every year and I am glad that we did not miss this year.

So I am well. I am grateful for the people who help me stay independent so I may enjoy my life in the home I have lived in for 54 years.

Over the years you have become part of my family. I will be so happy to see you all!

Ruth Burleigh

Wood Lot



Ted Wilson is asking how we're doing getting ready for winter?

The Wood Lot has a new number for distribution reservations 541-678-4867.

Janis Harp will be taking reservations beginning in September.



The People of Nativity Staff

Pastor - Chris Kramer

Youth Pastor - Jason Medina

Intern Pastor - Shanna Sharp

Director of Children Ministries
Bonnie Norris

Parish Administrator - Sue Peringer
office@nativityinbend.com

Minister of Music
Luke MacSween - Praise Band

Accompanist - Judith Herron

Bookkeeper - Pat Paris

Food Pantry - Bill Van Til

Hospitality - Jianna Norris
Christine Thomas

Nursery Attendant - Lahoma Dillon

AV Techs - Jemma Norris Travis Nunez

Custodian - Lina Tian

Church Council

President

Jon Kochersberger

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

Office Hours 9:00am to 3:00pm

Pastor Chris: Sun, Wed-Sat

Parish Admin: Tues-Friday
541.388.0765

**Worship and Educational
Opportunities**

Sundays: Both services online
9:00 am - Informal Worship Service
11:00 am - Formal Worship Service
Weekly Zoom Classes

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
60850 BROSTERHOUS ROAD
BEND, OR 97702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2020