

Newsletter

June 2021

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace!

I almost always begin my newsletter article with this ancient greeting, and I mean every word intentionally! In the Bible, "Grace" means two words, smashed together: *gift* and *blessing*. "Peace" means a combination of *enough* and *tranquility*. My experience of being a human and a pastor in the last four months tells me that we all need grace and we all need peace. I pray both for you, and offer them as my greeting.

Well, I have good news of great joy to share with you: **Your church council has decreed that all of you shall be invited to in-person worship at Nativity Lutheran Church, on the back lawn every Sunday in June at the time you are accustomed to attending church!** Please read that sentence a second time.

Who: You, dressed for the weather with your lawn chair.
What: Church, with music, singing, holy communion and your friends!
Where: Back lawn at Nativity Lutheran Church, outside in the fresh summer air!
When: Every Sunday in June at 9am and 11am.
Why: Because we can, and you've asked for it!
How: 9:00 and 11:00 church will be in person *and* live-streamed every Sunday in June!

Please come with an open heart and joy to be together again. Our property use policy for the Pandemic states that as a minimum, we must be in compliance with current OHA guidelines. As I write this newsletter, OHA guidelines allow us to be outside without face coverings as long as we are not crowding one another. Of course, you can wear a face covering at Nativity any time you wish! *By June 6, this might change, so stay tuned!*

Q & A:

Q1: Will services also continue to livestream?

A1: Yes. We will livestream our outdoor services, and plan to livestream indefinitely.

Q2: Are we ever moving back into the sanctuary?

A2: Yes, as soon as is feasible and safe. We finally have a contractor lined up to install improved ventilation throughout our building. Yes, we aim to be back in the building as soon as improved and acceptably quiet airflow is installed. Stay tuned for a date! And, if you are able to help, the price tag on this H.V.A.C building upgrade is steep; we would appreciate contributions to help fund this work. *Write your extra gift to Nativity Lutheran Church, with "HVAC" in the memo line.*

Q3 When can our groups use the building again?

A3: We are re-working our protocols, given the dramatic recent changes in OHA guidelines for in-person gatherings. Please contact the church office to schedule your small-group meeting. Face coverings are required in the building when Head Start is in session, as we share a building, and schools require everyone to wear face coverings. If your group meets in the evening or on the weekend and is comprised entirely of individuals who have completed their vaccinations, the building may be used by small groups without face coverings.

Generally, if your gathering is open to the public, masks will be required for everyone. If your gathering verifies 100% vaccination status, masks are optional.

Q4: I'm vaccinated, and I think all my friends are too! What's the delay?

A4: We recognize that more than half of Nativity is vaccinated. We also know that 1/3 of our church is too young to be vaccinated completely yet. We encourage you who are vaccinated to socialize abundantly with your fully vaccinated friends, and hold space in your hearts for those who haven't yet been given the gift of vaccination; for they are still at risk, and we don't want our children to suffer any unnecessary long term disability caused by our impatience.

Love waits.

So, this is good news! We will worship as a church, in the beauty of creation for the month of June.. Stay tuned for details about July!

I can't wait to see you again in person. We have learned over the winter, as we took church outside on the first Sunday each month, how to hold beautiful services outside. Come and see! And if you wish to stay home for church, we will see you on Facebook every week, as we have been for the last 16 months. See you soon!

-Pastor Chris

April-May Pastoral Acts

April 11 - Schuhr Funeral

April 24 - Clark Funeral

May 16 - Senecal Home Blessing

May 22 - Thomas Home Blessing

May 23 - Knudsen Funeral

May 29 - Graham Wedding

Altar Guild -Volunteer Opportunity

With the onset of in-person communion for the month of June we will need to re-up Altar Guild for both services. For now we need 4 volunteers for each Sunday . If you have never been part of our team please contact me! Training is available. We especially need younger members and children to help. Please contact Elaine Mikkeltorg and let me know of your interest be it new or continuing. My phone is 541-389-8544, text to 541-419-8544, [email mikkeltorg@bendbroadband.com](mailto:mikkeltorg@bendbroadband.com). Thank you, E
PS We "accept" men too.

Special Congregational Meeting

Come on June 6th at 10:15am for a brief but very important meeting of the congregation to elect our Call Committee to interview and select our new Associate Pastor!

The meeting will be held on the lawn at Nativity between the 9:00am and 11:00am services, with only one agenda item: we will elect a Call Committee, according to our Constitution. Please come. We need a *Quorum to proceed with the vote!*

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



June Birthdays

1st Ellie Meyers, Katy Aleshire
2nd Amy Fraley
3rd Kasey Beuschlein
4th Jon Kochersberger, Ivy Wright, Everett Wright
5th Guy Evans
6th Rosemarie Norris, Marcia Tucker, Cami Staskal
7th Adam Johnson
9th Kitri Falxa
10th Nole Kennedy
11th Robert Tadjiki
12th Barbara Bird, Ann Malkin
14th Dick Cahl, Carol Larkin
15th Gerry Sharp
16th LaVerne Anderson, Jon Simning, Pat Roden
17th Britta Olson
18th Jianna Norris, Gail Ervin, Bruce Sharp
19th Steve Mahl, Kevin Hormann
20th Dylan White
22nd Forrest Ingalls, Newt Kerney
23rd Ken Steiger, Pat Hall, Fisher Olin
24th Joni Olsen, Chris Brasier
26th Elizabeth Tausch
27th Laura Steiger, Jacob Clark
28th June Williams
29th Steve Benton
30th Jan Sandburg, Norman Wonzer

Children's Minister

Hi families,

I want to congratulate all of you who are graduating this year. From preschool to Kindergarten, from 5th grade to middle school, from middle school to high school, from high school, and those graduating college. You all are amazing and I pray that your path for the future is safe and bright.

Summer is upon us and I want to remind you of some dates to mark on your calendars. First, I'm excited to say that we are having outdoor church services for both 9am and 11am during the month of June. I am so excited to see you all in person!

Next, Family Camp at the Paulina Lake Group Camp will be held July 29-August 2. This is a wonderful spot to both tent and RV camp together as a church family. We are right on the shoreline with a large beach and access to kayaking, paddle boarding, boating, swimming with a large shallow area and more. We have a church service on Saturday night next to the lake that's so beautiful.

Lastly, we are hosting an in person Vacation Bible School program the week of August 9-13. "Discovery on Adventure Island" invites children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them. Children are empowered by exploring ways God shines great light in the world and by learning how they can also shine God's light by reflecting what they've learned. Of course we will have bible stories, crafts, games, songs, and snacks. I look forward to celebrating with the kids!

I pray you all have a fun and safe summer.

Peace,
Bonnie

Food Forest Update

Spring has been slowly fighting its way to Central Oregon. We have had some warm spells, then some cold spells, then some more warm spells, and back to cold. The plants have been slowly waking up and the blooms that we have observed to date bring promise of a "fruitful" summer. Jon and Carol have been working with others to slowly develop a path forward on sustainment and improvement of Nativity's beloved Food Forest. We have partnered with a new landscape contractor who will ensure that the irrigation system is functioning as desired. Volunteers have been helping with annual Food Forest cleaning and weeding along with some fence maintenance. Please continue to be patient as we determine what the food forest will look like into the future and work on reaching out with more engagement opportunities this summer!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, July 29, 2021 begins the 20th Nativity Camp Out at Newberry Group Camp along the shores of Paulina Lake. Come for the day or stay through Monday, August 2nd in the morning.

Enjoy the water (canoeing, kayaking, floating, sailing, fishing, swimming), the trails (mountain biking, hiking), the fellowship and sitting on the lake shore.

There will be a worship service at 3:30pm on Saturday, July 31 along the shores of Paulina Lake. There will be a display of photos from past camp outs... Were you there?

Registration **REQUIRED** and the cost is **FREE**.

The group camp is suitable for tents, trailers, motorhomes, etc.

All COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time will be followed.

If you have questions, call Selina Berg 541-350-4252.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, JULY 25TH. To register, contact Sue at the office, 541-388-0765.

Food Pantry



Food Pantry volunteers serve our community every Tuesday afternoon by providing boxes of food containing fresh produce, dairy, meat/eggs, bread and pantry staples to members of our community. Many thanks to Bill VanTil for his expertise in procuring all these items at minimal cost!

Bible Readings for June 2021

June 6, 2021

Genesis 3: 8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3: 20-35

June 13, 2021

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Psalms 92: 1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17

Mark 4: 26-34

June 20, 2021

Job 38: 1-11

Psalms 107: 1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41

June 27, 2021

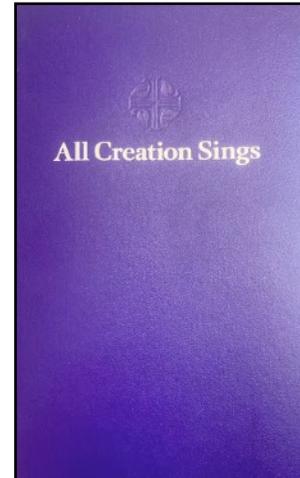
Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 30

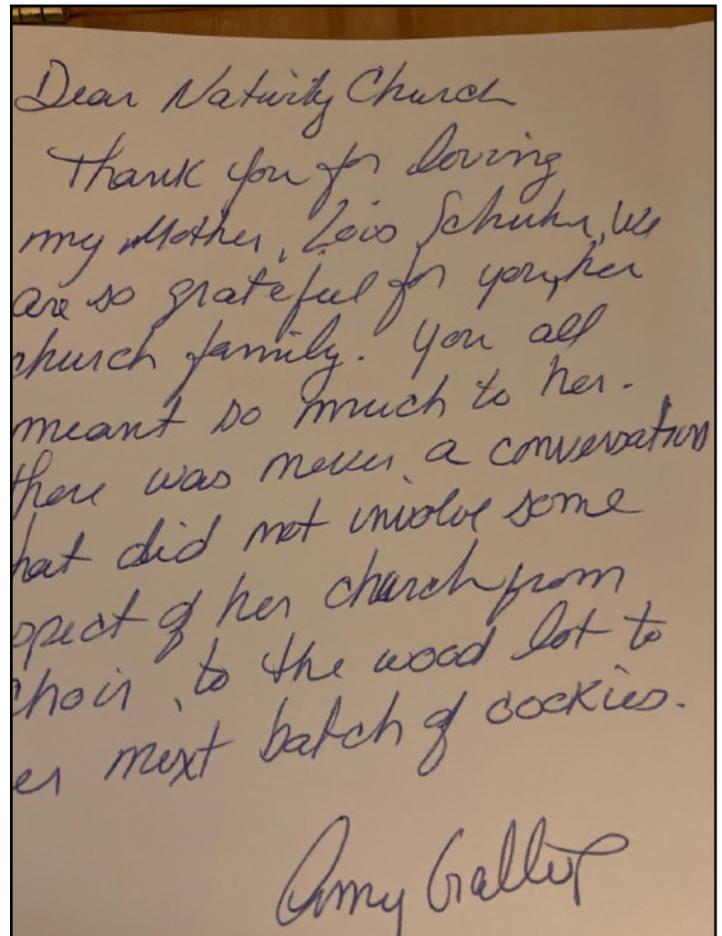
2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Mark 5: 21-43

All Creation Sings



Have you noticed some new hymns and liturgy this month? Nativity is beginning to use a beautiful worship resource called "All Creation Sings", published by Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) as an update to the ELW hymnal.



Nativity Staff

Pastor - Chris Kramer

Children's Ministries - Bonnie Norris

Choir Director - Anthony Graham

Accompanist - Judith Herron

AV Techs - Jemma Norris, Travis Nunez

Bookkeeper - Pat Paris

Custodian - Lina Tian

Food Forest - Jon Kochersberger

Food Pantry - Bill VanTil

Hospitality - Jianna Norris, Christine Thomas

Nursery attendant - Lahoma Dillon

Parish Administrator - Sue Peringer

Praise Band - Luke MacSween

Prayer Garden - Yvonne Johnson

Wood Bank - Richard Berg

Church Council President

Corky Senecal

For more information, please visit our website at

www.nativityinbend.com

Office Hours

9am to 3pm, Tuesday - Friday

Pastor Chris - Wednesday - Saturday, Sunday

Parish Admin - Tuesday - Friday

541-388-0765

office@nativityinbend.com

Sunday: Both services are online at FaceBookLive

9:00am - informal worship

11:00am - Formal Worship

Weekly Zoom Classes