

# Nativity

April 2024

Siblings in Christ –

Happy Easter!

Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed!  
Christ is Risen – And we shall arise!

After the shock and joy of the Resurrection, it takes some time to plot our way forward. This month we hear stories (From the book of Acts) of the disciples figuring out how to be church. Since Jesus rose, now what? Well.. Come and see. And if the grave didn't stick, what else doesn't? Again.. Come and see!

Each year life changes for us. Each year as we age, we hear and experience the divine story of God's love with new ears. Many of us have recently seen our loved ones pass into God's eternal care. Or we've seen life changes that feel tragically irreversible. We have grieved, we have faced loss, we have been disappointed by reality we did not anticipate. We have ached and wept.

So too with the fledgling church. I think this is where Easter lives in big ways for us. As we suffer loss, we connect with Peter, James, John, Mary and the others. And as God stubbornly insisted on life beyond their imaginations, so too with us.

What lives in spite of your loss? What dances even as you are too tired?  
Jesus does.

Christ is Risen, and we shall arise!  
Faith holds on to and believes God's resurrection.. from within our clouds of sorrow and doubt.

That's why it's faith. Both at once.  
Happy Easter!

-Pastor Chris

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Make your Easter Sunday richer.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:15 pm**

**Good Friday, March 29 at 6:15 pm**

### **Easter Sunday, March 31**

**6:15 am Sunrise Service in the Prayer Garden**

**9:00 am Traditional Easter Service**

**10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt**

**11:00 am Traditional Easter Service**

We are excited to announce that we are going big this year for both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Easter services. We will have the brass band, several beautiful soloists, organ, and the Nativity Choir.

### **Monthly Financial Update**

The purpose of this report is to highlight the church's significant financial activity for the month and YTD.

#### **For the month ending 2/29/2024**

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>General Giving</b>	30,036	29,298	(738)
<b>Year to Date</b>	57,519	58,596	(1077)

This is a reminder that budgeted General Giving from our congregation is the amount required to meet the budgeted expenses.



### **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**

We will be holding our annual Wood Bank Volunteer Luncheon at 11:30 am on Saturday, March 30th to say thank you to all who help us. Put that on your calendar! We are inviting the Prayer Garden and Food Forest folks too! Thank you to all of you who assist us. It takes a lot of hands to keep people warm!

### **Volunteer During Worship**

We need your help! We have been scrambling each Sunday to find volunteers to help with worship. There are many ways to help. We need assisting ministers who read the prayers during church and assist with communion. We also need readers. We send out the weekly readings so that the readers know what to expect on Sunday. We need Communion Assistants to help distribute the wine. We also need Greeters and Ushers to say hello and welcome before service and to help pass the offering plate during service. We are happy to train you for any of these positions. You can click on the following link to access the sign-up sheet to sign up for any of these positions at any of the services for the next month or so. Please contact Bonnie in the office if you have questions or are interested.

### **Sacred Stories**

Sacred Stories is an intentional opportunity to share how God has been present in your life.

One can listen to others stories of God's presence in their lives or share your own. We know God is with us at all times, and the sharing of Sacred Stories reminds us of this fact. Those attending these times together have become aware that as we share our stories, our consciousness of God's manifestation in our lives has become more pronounced.

The listening is as important as the sharing. We invite you to join us on April 14th at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please let Marci know if you plan to attend. However, if it works for you to just show up, that is fine!

The Saints Alive Team

### **2024 Flower Chart**

The 2024 flower chart is up in the Fellowship hallway. Please sign-up to provide flowers for a Sunday's worship service. You can also add who or what they are honoring and Bonnie will add that to the before service announcements and here in the "This Week" announcements.



## **Saints Alive**

Thank you to Stephen for his presentation at our March event! It was enjoyed by all. On Thursday, April 4th, at 11:30 am, Newt and Julie Kerney will be sharing with us about their volunteer work (after their retirement) in Lithuania, Bali, San Miguel Allende with international churches and the building of a secondary school in Tanzania. And much more! This presentation will shed a light into cultures that are different from ours.

As usual, we will be breaking bread together in the form of Cuban Sandwiches, Apple Salad and Dessert. Lunch is \$5 as you are able.

**Please RSVP by Monday, April 1st.** Invite your friends to come and enjoy a time of fellowship and education. We look forward to seeing you.

Peggy, Carol, and Marci  
(Nancy, Jerry and Roberta will be out of town)

## **Children's Ministry**

Change of date: Holy Communion class will be held on Saturday April 13th at 4 pm. If you wish to participate and haven't been in touch with Renee yet, please email her at [childrensministry@nativityinbend.com](mailto:childrensministry@nativityinbend.com) by April 6th so we have supplies for you. (\$10 donation for supplies appreciated). Children will get to make bread and juice that will be used for communion on April 14th. Pastor Chris will teach the session and they will also receive a coloring booklet that describes Jesus' ministry and his gift to us.

We look forward to seeing you at Holy Week events and Easter!

Join us for the Easter Egg hunt between services at 10:15 am on Sunday, March 31st!!



## **To everyone with birthdays in April!**

### **Stewardship**

We humans, the most intelligent of God's creation, are called to be stewards of the gifts that earth gives to us. Crystal clear, cold water is the most sacred of those gifts sustaining every living thing. An insect is born in the clean waters of the Deschutes, a rainbow trout eats that insect, an osprey eats the fish. The deer, elk, cougar and bear nightly drink from the Deschutes. We divert water from the Deschutes to irrigate crops that feed other humans. We rely on snow melt to fill our aquifer from which Bend pumps and Nativity irrigates our food forest. Faithful stewards at Nativity chose years ago to tear out a half-acre lawn and use the gift of water by dripping it around food-bearing trees and plants to conserve yet create incredible food for many. Let's ask ourselves, what more can I do to alter current practices to steward, conserve and treat God's greatest gift of water as sacred?

### **Game Day in April**

Our monthly game day will take place on Thursday, April 25th from 12:00-4:00 pm. Come for some of the time or all of it.

## **Troop 18 Adventures**

Troop 18 has had a very good March! First, we volunteered at the Bachelor Butte Snow Dog Derby at Wanoga Snow Park where we got to help racers prepare their sleds for the sled dog race. We had our last day of Merit Badge College, where almost everyone who participated finished or made significant progress in the merit badges they chose. After that, we participated in a crossover ceremony for the Arrow of Light Cub Scouts from Pack 18 who are joining Troop 18. Troop 18 meets at Nativity Lutheran from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Mondays.

Sincerely,  
Owen, the Troop 18 Historian

## **Nativity Wood Bank**

We have received grant monies for the last two years which have allowed us to purchase additional splitters, safety gear and all of the essentials that make our program work. We now have 4 Eastonmade splitters that allow us to split wood much more efficiently. When we just have these four splitters running, we can split about 7 cords of wood on a Saturday morning. We also have an additional conveyor belt which saves effort in piling the wood to dry.

Our wood distribution is beginning to wind down as the weather gets warmer. We plan to continue to distribute wood through Saturday, April 13th. We will continue to provide wood to clients on an emergency basis after that date as the need arises.

This coming Saturday, March 30th we will celebrate our volunteers with an appreciation lunch. We invite all volunteers to this lunch beginning at 11:30am!



## **Building and Grounds**

Thank you to Bill Rodgers who is overseeing the Kitchen, Narthex, & Sanctuary repairs due to water damage this winter. Our contractor Ian Knemeyer is doing an excellent job in making the repairs too!

Our annual church cleanup is coming up on Saturday, May 4th from 8:30 am-12:00 pm. That will be followed by a lunch as well. The cleanup includes washing windows, cleaning the kitchen, picking up trash on the church grounds, raking all grounds and sweeping areas where it needs to be done. If you can't participate that day, there are plenty of tasks that can be done before May 4th. We really need your help. There is always so much to do! Please refer to our online church cleanup document to sign up for an area of your choice.

John Harro  
Building Property and Maintenance

## **The Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry will start having the food pantry jar at the front of the church on the first Sunday of each month. We are experiencing, on average, 50 to 55 families each week needing food. As you are all aware, food costs have gone up considerably. We are hopeful to continue helping these families out each week.

**Do you have empty egg cartons (1 doz. large)** that you recycle or discard each month? If so, can we ask you to save those for us? We are now buying our eggs in bulk, however, we have to put those eggs in cartons. Currently we are purchasing the cartons. It would be a big savings to repurpose your used egg cartons.

Thank you,  
The Food Pantry Committee

## Central Oregon Mastersingers head to the Vatican

Central Oregon Mastersingers has been invited to sing in St. Peter's Basilica at The Vatican! In this once in a lifetime experience, they'll sing music of Palestrina, Victoria, Monteverdi, and more at The Vatican on June 30, 2024. In order to facilitate this amazing trip, they're asking for support from our community.

Their goal is to raise \$15,000. Will you help?

[Click on this link to make a donation.](#)

They are holding two concerts in April to hear what they will be singing at the Vatican in Rome. April 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Nativity Lutheran Church and April 21, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Sunriver Christian Fellowship.

## Google Reviews

We here at Nativity would like to increase Nativity's web presence. One way to do that is to add a review of Nativity on Google. **This month we ask members whose last name begins with D and Q write a review in March.**

What this does is not only provides true testimonies of our vibrant and wonderful congregation, but it also boosts our search rankings. You can also administer this Google listing and add updated photos of our ministry. Play around a little bit and see what you find out. Let Dave Nissen or the office know if you have any questions. Thanks in advance!

## 9:00 am Altar Guild

Here is the Altar Guild schedule for April for the 9:00 am service. Please remember that if you are unable to come on the day you are assigned, please call another Altar Guild member to switch or contact Pat Paris. Thank you for your continued service.

April 7- Pat P. & Elaine M.

April 14 - Kathy P. & Nancy M.

April 21 - Sue J. & Annie R.

April 28 - Pat P. & Nancy C.



## April Taize Service

The April Taize service is April 4th at Shalom Bayit, east of Bend, instead of at Trinity Episcopal. This service honors our partnership with the local Jewish community, who helped support Taize services in Central Oregon from the very beginning.

The Taize Choir of Central Oregon invites you to participate in an hour of meditative non-denominational Taize music and silence at our monthly ecumenical service, 7pm, Thursday, April 4th, at Shalom Bayit, east of Bend at 21555 Modoc Road. The theme for this service is 'Praying for the Planet'.

For more information call 541-815-5574, email [taizebend@gmail.com](mailto:taizebend@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071919285548>

## Click on the arrow inside the picture to view Bishop Eaton's Easter Message



## 11:00 am Altar Guild

Here is the Altar Guild schedule for April for the 11:00 am service. Please remember that if you are unable to come on the day you are assigned, please call another Altar Guild member to switch or contact Christine Thomas. Thank you for your continued service.

April 7 - Stephanie S.

April 14 - Sylvia M.

April 21 - Kathy N.

April 28 - Barbara W.

## April Bible Readings

### April 7

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### April 14

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

### April 28

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

Please visit our website at:

[www.nativityinbend.com](http://www.nativityinbend.com)

### Office Hours

Pastor Chris Kramer - Wednesday - Saturday,  
Sunday

Parish Administrator 9:00 am - 3:00 pm,  
Tuesday - Friday

**541-388-0765**

[office@nativityinbend.com](mailto:office@nativityinbend.com)

Sunday worship services are in-person indoors  
& online at [FacebookLive](https://www.facebook.com/nativityinbend).

9:00 am Contemporary Service

9:15 am Children's Church

11:00 am Traditional Service

# EASTER Musical Celebration

**Vocal Quartet**

Audrey Clark Charlene Chi  
Brett Bizik Christian Clark

**Nativity Lutheran Choir**

Stephen Marshall  
Choir Director & Organist

**The 27th Street Brass Quintet**

Angelina Anello-Dennee  
Music Director & Soloist

**Clyde Thompson**  
Composer & Director

**CELEBRATION TIMES**  
**MARCH 31 2024 9:00AM AND 11:00AM**  
**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**60850 BROSTERHOUS ROAD BEND**  
[nativityinbend.com](http://nativityinbend.com)

# Sounds Italian

April 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm at Nativity Lutheran Church  
April 21, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Sunriver Christian Fellowship  
June 30, 2024 at The Vatican in Rome!

CONCERTS ARE FREE – DONATIONS APPRECIATED



*Central Oregon*   
**MASTERSINGERS**

*Join us as we prepare for a performance tour to Rome!*

Featuring Palestrina's sublime *Missa Brevis*,  
along with pieces by Victoria, Monteverdi, Dett, Hogan, and more!

**For more information: [centraloregonmastersingers.org](http://centraloregonmastersingers.org)**