



December 2017

The Communicator

Monthly Magazine

Your future is as bright as your faith!

What is in the future for Nativity Lutheran Church?

Art Alt and Al Wright - in cooperation with the communication team, are exploring options to brighten our future by the use of video presentations in our sanctuary to enhance our worship experience.

This is a long-range project and requires thorough investigation and planning in order to find the best system to meet our needs. Some of the capabilities of a future large screen system would include pre-service music and/or religious videos, and during services viewing of hymn lyrics, Bible readings, special activities such as baptism and children's time.

Art Alt has developed an excellent basic system that we are currently using to record events and services. These services are available for viewing on the website (nlcww.org), YouTube and Facebook. Additionally, the audio of Sunday services are broadcast on radio station **102.9 each Sunday evening at 6:00 PM**. The system developed by Art allows for expansion and upgrading to interface with future equipment.

We are working together to consider all aspects of our future needs, including appropriate equipment to meet these needs and of course cost! Art and Al are exploring various types of projection/screen systems and the communication team is working alongside to assure that our

computer software is compatible with the system selected. If you have technical background in audio/visual systems and would like to assist Art and Al in investigation and planning for this move into the future, please let them know.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Ashley Hoy

We continue to focus on our teens and children as we express our commitment to personal attention and love to each of our young parishioners. Ashley Hoy is a senior this year and is looking toward college with the goal of



entering the field of radiology.

God led Ashley Hoy to the youth group while she was still in confirmation class. She had the opportunity to work with the teen group, helping with several events and projects and was hooked!

Ashley feels she serves God through the youth group by raising money for outreach and helping spread the word of God through example and hard work.

The experience of working with the VBS team over the past couple of summers has been a significant experience for Ashley. She said that working with little kids and watching their joy and excitement all week is something that she loves to do.

Ashley reaches out to the congregation to express the biggest need of the youth group when she says – “Our biggest, immediate need is a new leader. We are sad to lose Mr. John’s guidance but know we will always have his support. Hopefully, with the new leadership, we will be able to



PASTOR’S



Community life is a place where we practice our faith, a place of comfort and camaraderie, a place where we share spiritual

food, uplifting worship and discover new skills. It is also a place where we live out the joy of having been found by the Lord and rejoice with others who have also found out how much God loves them. Community is the place where we are helped to mature and grow into Christ-centricity.

It requires much vulnerability and humility. It calls for self-examination, forgiveness of self, asking others for forgiveness and forgiving others. It requires a determined willingness to pursue justice and work toward reconciliation.

We are not alone in this struggle. The Spirit of Jesus assists those who are open and willing. Individuals and whole communities are constantly in a renewal process.

Sometimes faith is seeing the shared experience, the opportunity to learn from one another and to encourage each other. When the next conflict arrives, ask yourself how you may best apply your trust in Jesus



SPIRITUAL LIFE

Intercessory Prayer Chain

At Nativity we understand that caring for members is the responsibility of the whole body of Christ. As Christians, we are called by our baptism to exercise this responsibility by offering prayers for whomever, wherever and for whatever the circumstance.

Prayer requests are received by the Pastor or church secretary. They in turn contact the prayer chain coordinator. The coordinator is provided the name of the person and the reason for prayer. This information is kept confidential. The chain currently consists of 16 members that receive and pass the request to fellow chain members.

Each member of the chain receives a handbook to guide them in the

process, which includes relevant prayers. For example:

+ O Lord, visit and restore your servant (name) for whom we offer our prayers. Look upon them in your mercy, give comfort and sure confidence in you; defend them from danger and harm; and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through your

son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The handbook also provides Biblical readings for the chain member's preparation and the type of prayer needed for the recipient.

Being a member of the Prayer Chain Ministry is very important. They address the needs, wants and concerns of our fellow church members, their family and friends.





COMMUNITY LIFE

MEN'S GROUP

In today's world of secularism, it's not easy to proclaim you're a man of Christ. When you read the words in Matthew 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

What does that mean for Christian men in today's world?

It means that at the end of your life, you **will not** be measured by whether you have accumulated a lot of money or by how high you have climbed up the corporate ladder. **You will** be measured by whether you have faithfully used what God has entrusted you with to further His kingdom. By your verbal witness, through your example, your giving, your good works or your service—there will be people in heaven because you did not live for yourself, but for Jesus Christ and His kingdom. This is how Jesus' wanted his followers to bring (catching) people to Him.

This is not an easy task. Strength and resolve are required. The Men's Group is a source of that strength

and support to maintain that resolve. Camaraderie is a word to describe mutual trust and friendship. The trust and friendship of the Men's Group provide that support to the members.

The Men's Group meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30AM in a private room at the Perkins Restaurant in Spring Hill. There are no dues but everyone buys their own breakfast. The meeting begins with a prayer offered by the Pastor or Deacon. There are occasional guest speakers such as law enforcement, fire department, Oak Hill Hospital, private crime protection, emergency management

and medical insurance representatives.



Wives of the group are invited to the December meeting, where they receive gifts handmade by Darlene Christensen, door prizes and Christmas goodies.



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OUTREACH

MISSION ENDOWMENT

The Mission Endowment committee is responsible for administering two funds; the Nativity and Trompeter funds. All bequest, gifts, annuities, insurance policies and trusts gifted to Nativity Lutheran Church not established as standalone fund are housed in a single Nativity Endowment Fund. Disbursements from that account take place when the balance reaches a predetermined amount..

The Trompeter Endowment Fund was created and exists solely for the purpose of supplementing worthwhile ministries of the church. It cannot be used to reduce the responsibilities of the Church membership to provide adequate financial support for the ongoing programs of the Church. Only the interest income from the fund, are available for disbursement.

Every year the committee reviews the criteria for establishing priorities. They vote on the priorities that will be used in evaluating requests.

For several years the following priorities have been adopted:

1. **Food, Water and Shelter** –

Requests dealing with basic human needs are given first consideration.



Recipients have been the Nativity Food Pantry, People Helping People and the Backpack Program.

2. Human Trauma – Medical needs are the focus of this category. Groups helped have been Crescent of Hernando (doctors providing medical and dental care at no charge), Light House (school for the blind) and Southeastern Guide Dogs.

3. Education – This category includes tuition for the seminary, materials for evangelism and outreach. Two current members of our congregation have been assisted with tuition grants.

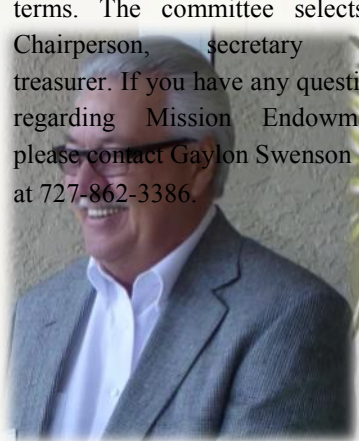
4. Enrichment – The most difficult to define. Perhaps the

example of funding a portion of the cost to send our youth to the ELCA National Youth Gathering reveals the true intent.

The Trompeter funds available for granting requests last year were around \$65,000. About 95% of the requests made receive only a portion of the funds requested.

Applications are available from the church secretary and must be submitted to the committee between October 1st and December 31st of each year to assure consideration.

The five members on the Mission Endowment Committee are elected by the congregation at the annual meeting and serve a 3-year term. They can serve two consecutive terms. The committee selects a Chairperson, secretary and treasurer. If you have any questions regarding Mission Endowment, please contact Gaylon Swenson at 727-862-3386.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NEW MEMBER CLASS

New Member classes are held twice a year, in the spring and fall. Class is held on a Saturday from 10AM to 2:30PM. Lunch is provided by the Hospitality Team. The classes are conducted by Pastor Mattei, assisted by Deacon Clyde Rosten.

Class begins with each of the new members sharing “some” of their “Life Story”. They review their Time and Talents and their Energy and Passion forms. Then rounding off the FUN forms is the completion of the Parish Record form. Do you ever wonder if the Lord appreciates our effort to **create** paper work? If only we could be more like Our Lord and already know it all!

The best part is what comes next, Lutheran Theology. The questions are:

- Why do we need a theology?
- What is grace?
- How do Lutherans read and interpret the Word of God?
- Defining Sacramental Life and The Holy Trinity
- What do we mean by “vocation”?
- What is mission? Why and how is the Church involved?
- What are the Law and Gospel? Saints and Sinners? The Two Kingdoms?
- Taking a spiritual gifts inventory

- A review of our church structure and ministries

As you can see, it is both informative and

very comprehensive. It is a great start for the new fellowship of believers.

Most of us have experienced what it’s like to be “new”, so reach out. Introduce yourself, invite a new member to join you at coffee hour or to experience your favorite ministry gathering. We all know if someone invites us we are much more comfortable - and more likely to participate.



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4 AREAS OF MINISTRY

To accomplish our mission, we organize our ministry teams into four areas.

Spiritual Life

Jack Page
Ruth Ann Hoy

**Columbarium
& Pavers**

Mercy Ministry

*Grief Support**

Communion
& Visitation

Prayer Chain

Stewardship

Worship & Music

Acolytes & Crucifers

Altar Guild

Assisting Ministers

Audio-Video

Bulletin Folders

Choir

*Drama & Puppets**

Greeters

Nativity Ringers

Nursery

Pew Maintenance

Readers

Ushers

Outreach

June Kristoferson

**Backpack Ministry
Communication
Team**

*Evangelism Team**

Food Pantry

*Inter-Denominational
& Inter-Faith*

*Ecumenical Team**

Fund Raisers *

Membership Team

Mission & Outreach

Mission Endowment

Thrivent

Christian Education

Janet Jones

Adult Forum

Archives

Baptism Preparation

**Children's Sunday
School**

**Confirmation Class
Library**

New Members Class

VBS

Wedding Preparation

Community Life

Clyde Rosten

Book Club

Coffee Hour

Fellowship

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Counters

Data Entry

Gardens

Golf

Hospitality

Lay Leadership

Men's Group

Memorial

Mutual Ministry

*Parish Nurse**

Property & Safety

Women of Nativity

Cards R Us

Crafty Ladies

Days for Girls

Friendship Circle

Mary Joy Circle

Sarah Circle

Youth Ministry

*Luther League**

**Youth Advisory
Committee**

***All Ministry and Council
meetings welcome anyone
who wishes to attend***



** Under Consideration*



Judy Dietz, Historian

Do you know what's behind the walls of our sanctuary? Well, if you were here when the sanctuary we now worship in was built, you might.

But the rest of us would be surprised. On September 30th and October 1st of 2001 the congregation was invited to write on the foundation walls of the sanctuary while it was under construction. Yes, I said write on the walls. So, what did they write? They wrote their favorite Bible verses and Hymns, they made dedications, dated and signed their names.

Who knew?

If you would like to participate in recording the history of NLC, please contact Judy.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Did you know?



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God's Blessings to all our sisters and brothers of
Nativity Lutheran Church.

The
Communication Team

