

JUNE 2011



NATIVITY NOTES

**Lutheran Church
of the Nativity
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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Summer is a special season. During this time, many of us are on a more relaxing schedule. With beautiful sunny days, we gather up the family for trips to various parts of the country for family reunions, weddings, and other fun and exciting places. Vacations give us the opportunity to see our extended families and other parts of our beautiful country. Leisure days during the summer give us a respite from our hectic lifestyles.

As we enjoy the beautiful summer that our loving and gracious heavenly Father provides each year, I want us to place this Bible verse in you minds:

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right

hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

This verse goes very well with our vision verse for this year:

Show us your way, O Lord, teach us your paths: guide us in your truth and teach us" (Psalm 25:4-5a).

God has given us summers so we can enjoy the beauty of his creation; however, we are never to lose focus on who and whose we are. Whether we are gardening, swimming, biking, walking, or cutting the grass, we are reminded that God is still in control of our lives and when we ask Him, He will guide us in all of our activities.

As wonderful as the summer season is, it can be a distraction to fixing our eyes on Jesus and cause us to take our eyes and thoughts away from him. Rather than

focusing on Jesus, we can let our activities interfere with our spiritual growth and nourishment. With God's strength, we can enjoy our summers and still keep our focus on him.

As we fix our eyes on Jesus this summer, please remember your church family in your prayers, especially for those who may be traveling. Please also continue to be faithful in your worship attendance, either here at home or wherever you find yourselves during summer vacations. I find it is a wonderful experience to visit other churches when away from home. Many of you share with me experiences you have had when you go back to a former church you once attended and you've shared the experiences you have had when worshiping at a new place for you. You have shared bulletins and showed me newsletters. You've highlighted what you liked and even made a suggestion or two for a ministry or practice that might work well for us.

As you go about your travels, please remember your church home as well. I encourage you to bring in or send on your weekly offerings so that the Word of God might be proclaimed year round.

May God grant that all of us will find ourselves refreshed and renewed during these summer days and months. May he give us a sake and enjoyable summer as we *"fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith."*

God Loves You and So Do I!
Pastor Dena

MINUTES EXCERPTS

Excerpts from the May Council Meeting:

1. A "Reserve for Benevolence" fund has been created. Benevolence is paid quarterly, but on a monthly basis was included in Current Funds making it appear that Nativity had more money available to spend on expenses than what was actually available.
2. Council passed a motion to present to the Congregation a resolution to stay with the ELCA and join Lutheran CORE.

Excerpts from the May Congregational Meeting:

1. Over the last three years, cash on hand has shrunk by approximately \$20,000. A Creative Fundraising Team will be created to investigate opportunities such as renting out a one room office, renting out Haffly Hall as reception hall, and/or church sharing. Contact Pastor, Ken Lade, or Judy Willis regarding suggestions or wanting to be on the team.
2. The Nomination Committee nominated Judy Willis to serve on Council. The Youth Group nominated Amelia Eskildsen to serve on Council. Pat LaClair was nominated to serve on Council from the floor. Candidates were approved by acclamation.
3. A motion was passed to **not** adopt gender neutral references to the Holy Trinity [Father, Son, Holy Spirit].

Mark Boyer
Council Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6/8** - Daytimers
 - Mid-Week Dinner & Worship
- 6/8** - Men's Breakfast
 - Thrivent Presentation on Identity Theft
- 6/12** - Assembling MUST Lunches
- 6/16** - Finance Committee
 - Q&A with Rev. Justin Kollmeyer
- 6/18** - Game Night
- 6/21-25** – VBS
- 6/26** – VBS Presentation
 - Special Called Congregational Meeting

BIRTHDAYS



Robert Goodlin	06/01
Joyce McGourk	06/01
Dereka Parrilla	06/01
Amelia Eskildsen	06/06
Russell Aldred	06/09
Sally Poag	06/11
Jon Hughes	06/15
Bob Kroner	06/15
Hayden Grainger	06/16
Hyacinth Carpenter	06/17
Christina Palm	06/18
Thomas Boyer	06/20
Betty Greenwood	06/24
Liza Childers	06/26
Elizabeth Fuller	06/28
Julie Honea	06/29

WORSHIP & MUSIC



-Vacation Bible School!-

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **June 21-24**: 6:00-8:30 pm, and **June 25**: 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, with a presentation on Sunday, June 26th during the service. Come to learn, have fun, and worship Jesus!

-Summer Hymn Request-

It's time once more for summer hymn requests! Sharpen your pencil, pull out the hymnals, scan carefully your memory banks and send us your favorite hymns list for us to sing during June, July and August. With Easter so late in the year, we have a late start so *do it now!* Request slips will be in the May 1 bulletin. Please remember to include the source for your request - LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship), WOV (With One Voice) or other (be specific as to what the 'other' is). And let us know who is making the request, in case of questions (for instance, there is more than one hymn tune available; which is your preference). Thanks for your ideas.

Judy White

SOCIAL MINISTRY



-MUST Ministries Summer Lunches-

Nativity will again be participating in MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program for children in need. We will be assembling **100** lunches after church on the following Sundays:

- **June 12th**
- **June 26th**
- **July 17th**
- **July 31st**

The menu will be a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an apple (or other fruit item), a bag of chips and a juice box. Donations of chips, juice boxes and loaves of bread would be greatly appreciated. Please see the poster in the fellowship building for needed items.

Please join us on lunch assembly days!

Heather Boyer

-C.A.M.P.-

Anyone wishing to bring in donations is always appreciated. C.A.M.P can use just about any canned food, items of pasta or any dry foods that we can bring. C.A.M.P also needs grocery bags and clothes items. However, with cash donations, C.A.M.P can buy these items cheaper than us buying them. God Bless You and Thanks So Much!

Carl McGourk

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's group will meet the second Saturday of the following month, **July 9th.**

-For the Dads-



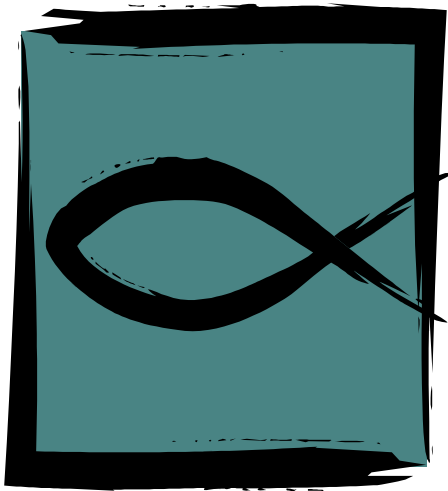
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

YOUTH MATTERS

NATIVITY LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP OUR PRESENT+OUR HOPE+OUR FUTURE

-Where are they now?-

A Youth Group Reunion is June 27th at 5:30pm! All former and current Youth Group members are being invited. We are looking for members from 1996 to present, in particular. If anyone knows contact information for members who belonged to Youth Groups before 1996, please forward this information to the church office. If Youth members from 1996 would forward their current mailing address, to Hyacinth at hyacinthmc@gmail.com.



National Youth Gathering

July of 2012 will be the next National Youth Gathering. We have several youth that would like to travel back to New Orleans for the Gathering. If you ask any of those who went in 2009: Shanae, Amelia, Tevanni, Dereka, and Logan about their experience they will tell you that they came away with some great experiences. At the end of that trip they all indicated that they would do it again! Well, they have the chance to do it again, but they need your help and support. Throughout the next several months they will be hosting a variety of fundraisers. The first two events will be a car wash and a spaghetti dinner. Please mark your calendars with these dates and information and plan on participating and helping our youth.

Sunday, June 12: Car Wash (after the worship service)

Wednesday, July 13: Spaghetti Dinner for the Wednesday night program (following the dinner will be a worship service)

There will be more activities and the information will be announced at a later time.

Thanks for your support!

Nativity Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dena Lane

Organist/Pianist: Rebecca Sale

Director of Children's Music: Amelia Eskildsen

Custodian: Elizabeth Eskildsen

Newsletter Editor: Becca Childers

Director of Music: Judy White

Director of Handbell Music: Judy Willis

Sunday School Superintendent: OPEN

Office Administrator: Deidre Eskildsen

Youth Enablers: Tina Palm and Josh Lade

Director of Chancel Choir: Jackie Pope

Webmaster: Judy Willis

Council President: Ken Lade; Co-Treasurers: Hyacinth Carpenter & Heather Boyer; Financial Secretary: Marie Leiding; Secretary: Mark Boyer

Council Members: Ken Lade, Andy Doyle, Richard Welch, Amelia Eskildsen, Liza Childers, Basil Dundee, Carl McGourk, Warren Kriss

**Check out our church website which is continually updated:
www.nativity-ga.com**

NATIVITY'S VISION VERSE

***Psalm 25:4-5a: "Show us your way, O Lord, teach us your paths;
guide us in your truth and teach us."***