

# Abundant News

*I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly ~ Jesus*

**MAY 2025**

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## Please Note:

Pastor Brett will be  
away from  
May 13th through  
May 22nd.



## Who Am I?

*Who am I? It is a question that every generation has struggled to answer. Am I a butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker? Am I a Christian, a Muslim, an Atheist? Am I "Mr." or "Mrs.," or am I to be forever single? Am I to be known as "Dad" or "Mom," or am I to remain childless?*

*The younger generation faces this question in ways no generation prior to the rise of the internet and more particularly social media on cell phones could ever imagine. As comedian Bill Maher noted a few years ago, "When my parents told me I could grow up to be anything, they didn't mean I could become a girl."*

*While it may seem incredible or even ridiculous to those of raised before the advent of the internet, the struggle for young people is real and palpable. I have had several of the youth to whom I ministered over the years—solid kids, whose faith was real—get sucked into subcultures that slowly convinced them they were someone entirely different than they once thought they were, encouraging them to abandon their faith and the Christ they had begun to know through it.*

*Even for those of us who are older, questions that would have been considered forever answered have been thrown open as issues as diverse as people beginning new careers in their 50's to divorcing after 35 years of marriage (as happened to a colleague recently) demonstrate. "Oh me! Oh life! of the questions of these recurring," lamented that herald of the modern world, Walt Whitman, in the mid-nineteenth century.*

*Strange as it may seem, the resurrection of Christ helps answer the question, "Who am I?" Join me through the months ahead as we explore this through Scripture and sermon.*

*P. Brett*

## APRIL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...



- ♦ A church photo directory is being created for all members. Feel free to email headshots to our church secretary at your convenience. More info to follow.
- ♦ The Graduation Ceremony of the Classical Christian Co-Op of Nazareth will be held on May 13 and will be live streamed.
- ♦ Bishop Selbo will be visiting Holy Cross on May 11th.

*See Council minutes on page 8*

## May Altar Flower Sponsorships

**May 4**

*John & Megan Abbott in honor of Children's birthdays  
Sponsorship Available*

**May 11**

*Karen Odenwelder in memory of Bobby Odenwelder  
Sponsorship Available*

**May 18**

*The Classical Christian Co-op of Nazareth*

**May 25**

*Sponsorships Available*

### Thank you to all our Altar Flower Sponsors!

Two sponsors are sought for each Sunday of the year at a cost of **\$25** per sponsorship. Please consider sponsoring Altar flowers in memory of someone, or in honor of a special occasion. See the binder in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office to sponsor fresh flowers. Payment can be submitted in a Designated Gift Envelope and checks can be made out to:  
*Holy Cross Lutheran Church.*

### Sponsors can pick up their flowers by the Monday after their sponsorship date.

Any flowers left after Monday will be used for sick & shut-in visits.



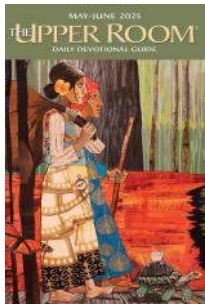
## May Lessons

**May 4, 2025**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 9:1-22*  
*Psalm 30:1-12*  
*Revelation 5:1-7, 8-14*  
*John 21:1-14, 15-19*

~  
**May 11, 2025**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 20:17-35*  
*Psalm 23:1-6*  
*Revelation 7:9-17*  
*John 10:22-30*

~  
**May 18, 2025**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 11:1-18*  
*Psalm 148:1-14*  
*Revelation 21:1-7*  
*John 16:12-22*

~  
**May 25, 2025**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts 16:6-15*  
*Psalm 67:1-7*  
*Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27*  
*John 16:23-33 & John 5:1-9*



The **Upper Room** daily devotional guide provides a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day. You can spend time with God and receive encouragement for your faith journey through meditations that have been written by readers from all around the world.

Each devotion includes a suggested Bible passage, a personal story relating the message of the scripture to daily life, a thought for the day, a prayer, and a prayer focus. Strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with God through this devotional magazine.

**Copies of the MAY/JUNE Upper Room are available in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office to have one mailed to you.**

### ADD GOD'S WORD TO YOUR DAY!



Holy Cross sermons are available as a podcast! Scan the box or go to this link:  
<https://holycrossnazarethchurch.org/messages-sermons/>

Share with a friend and introduce them to Jesus... and our life together at Holy Cross!



Would you like to place an article in the monthly newsletter? Highlight your ministry? Post a Thank You? Make an announcement?

**Deadline for the June Newsletter is May 15.**

**EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**  
You may email your submissions to [Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org](mailto:Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org)

# Family News

## MY BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Smith; Zander Grant; Phillip Odenwelder; Carlos Rios; Tracey Silfies; Jeanette Korpan; Andrew Bunting; Kathryn Hawk; Brad Livermore; Barbara Lynn-Sarley; Michael Langston; Lisa Piatt; Gregory Amy; Stefanie Keblish; Karen Stem; Danica Thomas; Luke Minnich; Christine Wisser; Adalyn Harris; Kida Szczepanski; Megan Minnich; Nicholas Keblish; Matthew Nolder; Louise Amy; Daniel George; Janine Grant; Cassandra Barbounis; JoAnn Sandt; Katelyn Hahn; Kyle Barnowski; Nick Keblish; Kloie Kneisly; Karter McMullen; Krista DeVaul; Griffin Kneisly; Ryan Rissmiller; Madison Cleffi; Shannon Taby; Paul Auger; Zachary Stein.



## WELCOME



### NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome the newest members of Holy Cross:

Kevin Martin, Sr.; Tammy Martin; Kevin Martin, Jr.; Karissa Martin; Kevin P. Martin III; Aaron Martin; Sammantha Martin; Cindy Berkowitz; Bob Berkowitz; & Philip Berkowitz



### Sunday MAY 11th

Join us for a Potluck Luncheon after the 10:30am service.

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy good food and fellowship with your church family.

Come and welcome our newest members and meet with Bishop Selbo!

## MY ANNIVERSARIES

David & Vinnetta Heinly; DJ & Mary Ann Drosnock; Thomas & Adrienne Barnowski; John & Barbara Struss; Ronald & Linda Sibbach; Amy & Thomas Riger; Ronald & Roxane Shook; Karen & Marc Szczepanski; Thomas & Coleen Johnson; Blaine & Pamela Snyder.



### Welcome to God's Family!

*Aaron Martin*

&

*Bradley Gold*

Baptized at Holy Cross on April 19th, 2025  
Congratulations!



We would like to publish the names of our **2025 high school and college graduates** in the June newsletter, and will recognize and pray for them during worship services on **Sunday, June 1**.

If someone in your family is graduating, please complete a form found in the Narthex, or contact the church office via phone or email and provide the information below **by May 18**.

#### Please provide:

- Graduate's name
- Parents' names
- School of graduation
- Honors/Degrees/Accomplishments
- Future plans



Copies of the printed *Prayer List* are available in the Narthex. Please keep all who are ill or hospitalized in your prayers and remember them with your cards or phone calls. Your caring is deeply appreciated!



# Pastor's Answers

***Ecumenical Moment:  
Divine Mercy Sunday***



This year, following the second Sunday of Easter (Holy Humor Sunday), a congregation member who had been raised Roman Catholic took the time to corner me in my office in order to tell me that this Sunday is known in that tradition as Divine Mercy Sunday, and that it was a really beautiful tradition I should look into. I told them that I would, and that maybe I would even feature it here, in our *Ecumenical Moment* series.

It turns out that while *officially* referring to the second Sunday in Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday only goes back to April 3, 2000, when Pope John Paul II officially gave it that title, the tradition of focusing on God's mercy in Jesus for the first eight days of the Easter season is much older. According to the official website:

Liturgically, the Easter Octave [first eight days of Easter] has always been centered on the theme of Divine Mercy and forgiveness. Divine Mercy Sunday, therefore, point us to the merciful love of God that lies behind the whole Paschal Mystery — the whole mystery of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ — made present for us in the Eucharist. ... the Octave Sunday is meant to be the day of "thanksgiving for the goodness God has shown to man in the whole Easter mystery."

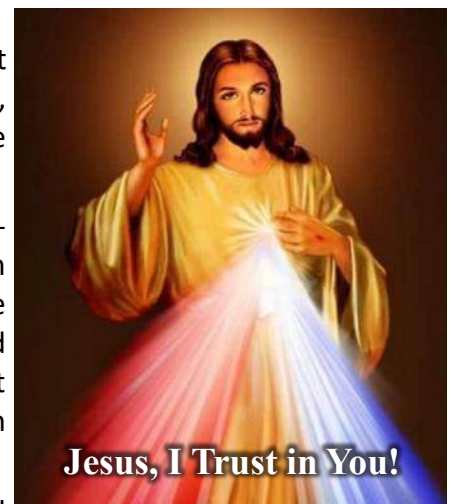
It officially got the title Divine Mercy Sunday because of the diaries of Maria Faustina Kowalska, which recount Faustina's interactions with Jesus in prayer. In one of these, Jesus says to her:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.

Since some of our own members have a similarly vivid and articulate prayer life, I thought this story would resonate with our congregation.

While Lutherans don't celebrate Faustina as a "special saint" (she is a saint in the same way we all are, through our relationship of faith with Christ), we certainly agree that "Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of [Christ's] mercy."

As I drive along 22, I frequently see the image to the right on billboards exhorting people to prayer. Obviously, the pale and red rays streaming from His heart represent the blood and water that flowed from his side when he was pierced by the spear on the cross, but I did not know anything beyond that. The reason they are changed into rays of light in the painting is that they represent the healing that flows to sinners who turn to Jesus with trust, which is why the words "Jesus, I trust in You!" usually accompany it.



I want to thank the member who shared this tradition with me; now when I see this image along the side of the road, it will remind me specifically of the *mercy* of Our Savior, and the second Sunday of Easter, in addition to the joy of humor, will remind me of the same.

All glory be to our risen and *merciful* Lord!

# Church News

## SUNDAY Social Hour

Spend some time after services to enjoy Christian friendship with your church family. Enjoy a drink and a treat, catch up with old friends, or make some new ones! Each week a different church committee, family, or group of members, hosts Social Hour.

### *Our Hosts for MAY are...*

**MAY 4** ~ Church Council  
**MAY 11** ~ NO Social Hour ~ Potluck Sunday  
**MAY 18** ~ The Classical Christian Co-op of Nazareth  
**MAY 25** ~ Finance, F.A.T. & Mutual Ministry



***We are looking for Social Hour Hosts!***  
***If YOU, your FAMILY or GROUP would like to host Social Hour,***  
***please contact the church office to schedule a date.***

## Light of Christ

### SHOEBOXES

For our special appeal in  
**MAY**

we are asking for donations for: **TEENAGERS!**

- **\$10 FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS**
- **EARBUDS/WIRELESS SPEAKERS**
- **SOAPS/LOTIONS**
- **JEWELRY**
- **JOURNALS/PENS**
- **WALLETS**
- **COSMETICS**

Items should be new or you can make a monetary donation to help fill these shoeboxes.



*Social Ministry* thanks all of you who brought in cookies, candy, treats, and sponsored Easter flowers for our homebound members of Holy Cross!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

Thinking about getting more involved at church, but don't know how? Looking for ways to serve our Lord, using your time and talents? Fortunately for you, there are many opportunities available at Holy Cross! Currently we are in need of the following during Sunday Services...

**Usher Greeters ~ Lay Readers ~ Communion Assistants ~ Tech Ministry**

There are so many other opportunities to serve, in any capacity. Please contact the church office and let us know YOUR special talent, and we will find an opportunity for your talent to shine!



# YARD SALE

BASKET RAFFLE & BAKE SALE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28**

**8AM-1PM Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Donations welcome ONE week before the sale.

Drop off items beginning Sunday, June 22 after services  
and during the following hours:

MTF: 9am-1pm

Thurs: 1-6pm

Last drop off day is Friday June 27, NO LATER THAN 3:00PM.

**NO CLOTHING OR LARGE FURNITURE ACCEPTED.**

*Donations are requested for the **Basket Raffle**.*

*If you are able to donate a basket and/or ask a local merchant for a  
basket or gift card, it would be appreciated.*

*You can create whatever basket you would like with new items.*

*If you are able to bake for the **Bake Sale**, it would be appreciated.  
There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Bake sale items can be  
delivered Friday or Saturday morning.*

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS ABOUT OUR EVENT!**





# Attention all **CAMPERS**

Pack your bags for an unforgettable week at VBS!

Join us at Camp Firelight where children will make new friends, have a blast with games, crafts, and hands-on activities. Each day we will dive into exciting Bible stories that remind us to trust God through every adventure

**Dates: July 7th-11th**

**Time: 6-8:30pm**

**Dinner will be promptly at 5:30 pm**

**Location: Covenant Church in Bath PA**

**2715 Mountain View Dr, Bath, PA 18014**

If you would like to register your child for VBS today, scan the qr code below to access our website for the registration form



**DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOUR CHILD TO GROW IN FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP**



# Church Council

**COMPLETE Church Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Attachments are filed in the church office with the originals.**

**\*The meeting minutes summarized here are pending Council approval at next month's meeting.\***

## Meeting HIGHLIGHTS for April 9, 2025

Nine members present. Absent: Linda Rissmiller and Rob Ingenito  
GUESTS: N/A

### Review of Reports:

**Secretary's Report** - Discussed the designation of a fee or suggested donation for a non-member off-site wedding. Decided to leave it to Pastor's discretion. New AED pads expire at the end of October. An order will be placed for new pads in September. The leaky sink in the women's restroom has been resolved.

**Treasurer's Report** - General Operating Register and bank statement provided. All members reviewed and had no questions or concerns at this time. Treasurer report approved.

**The Pastor's report** - Pastor listed his summer schedule. Will be away the following dates: May 13-22; June 9-13; July 3-5; July 28-Aug 2. We had 13 participants in our new member class. April 27th was the decided date to welcome them. May 11th, Bishop Selbo will be attending service. We will be having a potluck after the second service. Pastor would like a Hymn Sing in June with the other participating congregations. Proposed date is June 22nd. Our potential lay leaders for the mission trip have both determined that they cannot attend this year's regional mission trip, so we have decided to delay HCELC participation until next summer. It has also been discerned that this would give more time to raise awareness and possibly funding for those who would like to participate in the service aspect but cannot afford to spend the fees for food and travel. There were two adult baptisms for this year's Holy Week and were held at the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. Pastor reorganized the tabs in the app to populate faster and read more easily.

### Committee Reports:

**Christian Ed** - See hard copy of minutes.

**Property** - Nazareth Plate Glass was contacted and is scheduled to visit to review clouded glass and removal of AC units in office & library.

**Social Ministry** - Per email from Roseann Mohn: On March 13 they visited the NW1 residents of Gracedale and provided a treat. Next visit was scheduled for April 10 and they made an Easter craft to share with residents. They celebrated the monthly birthdays of the residents by giving them a small gift bag and singing to them. On April 12 the team packed cookie bags for our church shut-ins.

**Spiritual Care Team** - Barbara continues to send cards and visit with our home communion members.  
**Women of Abundance** - See hard copy of minutes.

### Old Business:

**Disaster Response:** Pastor still reviewing inclusion of NC. A team will be set up to assist in contacting inactive members. The picture directory will be started in September. The entrances around the building have been marked for Emergency Services and identification. An Emergency Exit plan is pending.

### New Business:

There will be a designated day for Spring Cleanup of the attic of the garage. Date to follow. This will be part of the Men's Fellowship.

### Ending Business:

A photo directory is being created for all members. Look for future direction and correspondence. Pictures will be due/taken in September. Feel free to email Headshots to Laura, church secretary, at your convenience.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m.**

### ***The following items are posted in the Narthex:***

- APRIL 2025 Church Council Minutes
- MARCH 2025 Treasurer's Report
- MAY 2025 Church Calendar
- GSTL for MAY



### **Capital Campaign Update...**

As of April 28th, we have received donations totaling **\$106,269.45** toward our goal of \$500,000.00.

Thank you for your generosity!

REMINDER: When making donations to the church, a **separate check is needed for the Capital Campaign, made out to: Holy Cross Lutheran Church.**

**Thank you!**

### ***Stewardship...***

Offerings received during the month of March totaled **\$23,170.60**

**Thank you for your generous support of Holy Cross!**



# Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC) is to respond to the Love of God shown most fully to us in the great gift of his Son Jesus Christ. We engage in five ministry areas – **WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARNING, SERVICE,** and **SUPPORT** – to boldly confess Christ as our Lord and Savior.

## Our Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Brett Jenkins, STS  
Pastor@holycrossnazareth.org  
Office Hours by appointment

**Deacon:** Michael Grube

**Director of Worship Arts:** Karl DeBoeser

**Traditional Music Worship Leader:** Ben Watson

**Sexton:** Kerry Livermore

**Treasurer:** Lois Iasiello

**Church Secretary:** Laura Longley  
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org

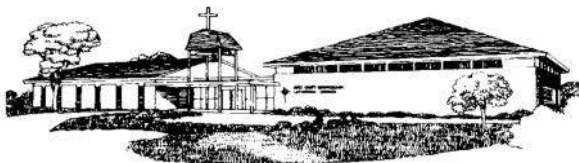
Office Hours: M/T/F ~ 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Th ~ 1-6 p.m.  
*OFFICE IS CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS*

## Our Church

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church  
696 Johnson Road  
Nazareth, PA 18064-8828

Phone ~ 610-759-7363  
Fax ~ 610-759-3431

Website ~ [holycrossnazarethchurch.org](http://holycrossnazarethchurch.org)



NALC website ~ [the.nalc.org](http://the.nalc.org)

## 2025 Church Council

A.J. Arfanella	717-903-0521
Lynne Auger	484-634-1347
Lois Iasiello	484-761-4589
Robert Ingenito	908-652-1828
Tom Kneisly	570-840-7481
Tim Kryman	908-727-3932
Gerald Lewis	610-657-3961
Manuel Pinguelo	610-818-7415
Linda Rissmiller	484-602-7762
Richard Siegfried	610-360-5949
Andrew Zaso	570-424-5651

## 2025 Congregational Officers

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President ~ Jerry Lewis  
Vice President ~ Andy Zaso  
Secretary ~ AJ Arfanella  
Treasurer ~ Lois Iasiello

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sundays with Holy Communion:

**8:00 am** ~ Traditional Liturgy  
**10:30 am** ~ Relaxed Worship  
**9:15-10:00am** Sunday School all ages  
(October to May)

**Tuesdays at 12:15pm**  
Lunchtime Prayer with Holy Communion

**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**  
Prayer Service with Holy Communion