

Abundant News

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

JULY 2025

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My Country 'Tis of Thee

As we approach Independence Day, I am reminded that many theologians—especially in this time when there is so much more awareness of what is going on all over the world—get nervous about patriotism, seeing love of country as somehow a rival to love of humanity in general or worse, love of God.

But orthodox Christian theology assures us that the loves of this life—family, friends, country, and even our hobbies or passions—are God's gift to us. They are the way we learn to love. God teaches us how to love by giving us very concrete people, places, and things to love.

Therefore, it is super-important for us to learn to love those people, places and things precisely because **they are God's gift to us**. Moreover, we must learn to love them as God loves them, not exclusively, but along with all the other beautiful, wonderful things God has created. Does the fact that I love the rolling hills of central Pennsylvania, where I was raised, make me despise or neglect the stark beauty of the extinct volcano Arthur's Seat that I got to see last year on vacation or the hidden richness of the Waimea Valley I saw this year? Of course not! In the same we learning to love our country and its people helps us understand how others love theirs and gives us a start on learning to love them too.

Of course, all of these are things we cannot ultimately hold on to, so it is also important for us to move on from loving the gifts God gives us to the God who gives them. Ultimately, we must learn to love God **more** than even the most precious person in our life, for when the time comes for us to lose the loves of this life, only the God who gives them remains for us to love... and to be loved by.

So, happy birthday to this "land that I love!" ...and Lord, teach me to love You, who gave me this land, even more. Amen *Ph. Britt*



JUNE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...



- ◆ Picture Directory work will begin this fall.
- ◆ The African Children's Choir concert is right around the corner, September 19th.
- ◆ An outdoor service is scheduled for August 17th at 9:15am.

See Council minutes on page 7

July Altar Flower Sponsorships

July 6

*Julie Millheim, DJ, Mary Ann, Bobby, Mary J, & Emily
in memory of Robert I. Millheim
Sponsorship Available*

July 13

*Andy & Anita Zaso in honor of Nicholas & Aaron's birthdays
Sponsorship Available*

July 20

*Gloria, Sheri, Scott, & Steven Longley in memory of William Longley
Gloria Longley, Arthur Edelman, Charmaine Bartholomew,
& Raymond Edelman in memory of Arthur Edelman*

July 27

*Sponsorship Available
Sponsorship 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.



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

Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 15.

EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

You may email your submissions to
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org



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!



July Lessons

July 6, 2025

4th Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-7

Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

Luke 10:1-20

July 13, 2025

5th Sunday of Pentecost

Leviticus [18:1-5] 19:9-18

Psalm 41

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 20, 2025

6th Sunday of Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a [10b-14]

Psalm 27:1-14

Colossians 1:21-29

Luke 10:38-42

July 27, 2025

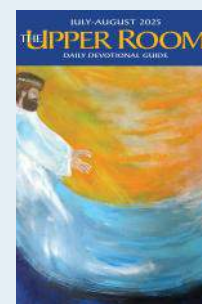
7th Sunday of Pentecost

Genesis 18:[17-19] 20-33

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Luke 11:1-13



Copies of the **JULY—AUGUST** Upper Room daily devotional are available in the Narthex, or contact the Church Office

Family News

SUNDAY Social Hour

Spend some time after the 9:15AM service 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.

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!***



Our Hosts for JULY are...

JULY 6 ~ Emergency Response Team
JULY 13 ~ POTLUCK SUNDAY
JULY 20 ~ Altar Guild
JULY 27 ~ Deacon Michael's Tuesday
Evening Bible Study

★ **JULY** ★
BIRTHDAYS Charmaine Bartholomew;
Jacqueline Fernsler; Scott
Wunderly; Vinnetta Heinly; Patri-
cia Burslem; Ronald Short; Tammy Jackson;
John Moll; Richard Michael; Aida Rios; Patricia
Miller; Amy Riger; Rachel Sutton; Sandra Mi-
chael; Byron Burger; Justus Aaron
Grube; Beatrice Klipple; James
VanHorn; Donald Burslem; Char-
lene Klipple; Anita Zaso; Natasha
Silfies; William Metzgar; Susan
Kindred; Nicole Diefenderfer; Tim
Vituszynski; Katherine Harris; Brendon Wisser;
Kameron McMullen; Janae Sinclair; David
Vandegrift; Sandra DeAngelo; LouAnn Wal-
lace; Robert Sandt; Barbara Kratzer; Denise
Nolder; Alice Bittenbender; Pamela Snyder;
Delilah Cohen; Danielle Brearman; Harper Die-
fenderfer; Gloria Mazzie; Andy Zaso; Kami
Arfanella; Lynne Auger; Gavin Roth; William
Perez; Michelle Verdi; Addison Kneisly; Peyton
Strow; Patricia Sandt; Amanda Bombico; Ben-
jamin Wisser; Keith Berlew; Rebecca Hahn!



★ **JULY** ★
ANNIVERSARIES Lisa & Bill Misiti; Adam &
Morgan Grube; Terry & Julie
DeGroot; Peter & Jeanette
Korpan; Michael & Kirsten McMullen; Todd &
Janine Grant; Nathan & Margie Grube; How-
ard & Susan Kindred; Joe & Gloria Mazzie;
Chad & Katherine Harris.



Join us at Camp Firelight!



Dates: July 7th-11th

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

Dinner will be promptly at 5:30pm

Location: Covenant Church, Bath PA
2715 Mountain View Dr.

There is still time to register!

Scan the QR code:



See you there!

Harvesting Healthy Habits *Hand-in-Hand*

Virtue of the Month: LEADERSHIP

Jesus is the only perfect leader, but we can still strive to be good leaders. We should follow God and not lean on our own understanding. Jesus is a warrior King, but also a suffering servant. To lead is to serve those who you are leading, like Jesus humbly becomes the servant. A good leader is wise, but still listens to those around them, just and fair, but also compassionate and merciful. A good leader leads by example, taking responsibility for both failures and successes.



“When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.” - John 13:12-17

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” - John Quincy Adams.

Pastor's Answers

From our Sunday Sessions:
Trespasses or Sins?



On Sunday, June 15th, our after-church question and answer sessions produced a question that I have heard several times since becoming the pastor here; “Why did we switch from “sins” to “trespasses” when we say the Lord’s Prayer? Deacon Michael gave a great answer related to the boundaries surrounding the sanctuary in the Old Testament. I want to add to that here for everyone who didn’t attend that discussion.

The version of the Lord’s Prayer we say together in worship is from Matthew 6:9-13. The practice of using this version in English-speaking services goes back to at least the same time as when the King James Bible was being translated. In that version of the Bible, the word Jesus uses in the original language—*opheleima*—is accurately translated as “debts,” because it is the same word Paul uses in Roman 4:4 when he says, ““Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as something *owed*”—a debt. When my good Methodist KJV-reading grandfather taught me the Lord’s Prayer, I learned it as “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” Later English translators thought that “trespasses” more accurately translated the idea of “debts” than “sins,” so that became the more common English rendering of the prayer.

The other place Our Lord teaches a variation of the Lord’s Prayer is found in Luke 11:2-4. There Jesus actually uses the Greek word for sin, *hamartia*. While the green hymnal’s use of the word “sins” in the Lord’s Prayer blends the two Biblical references, it does not reflect the actual words of either Gospel, and so is not technically Scriptural. The reason it was probably chosen is that the editorial committee of the green hymnal was really interested in “updating” worship language to be more modern... that’s why the words to the Christmas songs are so different from the ones you know from the more traditional ones sung on the radio!

You can certainly use either version of the prayer, but our choice to use “trespasses” in worship is a reflection of our commitment as a congregation to remain as firmly rooted in Scripture as possible.

Church News

Light of Christ

SHOEBOXES

For our special appeal in

JULY

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

- **PLAYING CARDS**
- **CARD GAMES**
(Uno, Skip-Bo, Phase 10)
- **TRAVEL GAMES**
- **SLIDE PUZZLES**
- **SMALL PUZZLES**

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Sunday JULY 13th
after the 9:15am service.
Bring your favorite dish to share
and enjoy good food and fellow-
ship with your church family.

July is Youth Ministry Month

If it seems like the pastor is away a lot this month, it because there is a lot of youth ministry going on this month! Please keep our youth (and pastor!) in your prayers as the following ministries go on:

- **July 7-11** Vacation Bible School
- **July 7-11** BYLD: Building Youth As Leaders Who Are Disciples of Christ; NALC leadership training
- **July 20-26** Senior High Mission Trip

Forming our youth for lifelong discipleship is a critical part of the Church's mission in every generation, and we are blessed to have some great youth around here who are earnestly pursuing God. Please keep them in regular prayer throughout this month!



Pastor on vacation
July 3-5,
July 14-19
Contact the church
office with any
concerns.



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!



UPDATE– Holy Cross Emergency Response Team

Have you noticed the appearance of red lanyards worn by certain attendees at church functions and services recently? These lanyards are used to identify the dedicated members of our congregation who have been training to respond to any emergency situation they may encounter.

Several “behind-the-scenes” initiatives have been completed by the ERT since the start of 2025. However, one of our most visible was the live congregational fire evacuation on Sunday, June 29th. A second live drill will be conducted on Sunday, September 28th when we will test our response to a shelter-in-place scenario, such as a chemical spill or severe weather threat. Exercises such as these are beneficial in measuring the capabilities of our team members and to remind the congregation of their responsibilities during an actual emergency. *Your understanding and cooperation during these drills is greatly appreciated.*

Future plans for the team include:

- Completion of an updated written Emergency Action Plan to be presented to church council for approval before the end of summer;
- A site visit to Holy Cross from local fire companies to practice their response to a fire emergency. This exercise will be held on a Monday evening in September with the actual date and time to be announced. The ERT will be in attendance to observe. Interested church members will also be invited to attend;
- In cooperation with other Lehigh Valley houses of worship, active shooter response training is being planned for a date this fall. Holy Cross ERT members will be included in this critical session;
- Later in the year ERT members will attend the Emergency Training Center for hands-on training in the use of fire extinguishers and experience in an actual smoke-filled environment.

The team meets quarterly to train for emergencies. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 2nd, 10:00am—noon. New members are always welcome.

Chairman– Tom Barnowski (484) 221-2160
ERT Coordinators Bob & Debbie Beckowski (610) 837-0384

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 June 11, 2025

Nine members present. Absent: Linda Rissmiller, Tim Kryman, Lois Iasiello, Lynne Auger, & Rob Ingenito
GUESTS: N/A

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Noted church office will be closed Monday, June 16 through Thursday, June 19 due to approved vacation.

Treasurer's Report - Category Overview chart provided. General Operating Account Register and Income Statement provided.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Lawn and weeding service discussed and finalized procedural intent in regards to planted or potted flowers on a plot.

Emergency Planning - See hard copy of report.

Fellowship Committee - June 27th Game Night conflicts with Yard Sale. New date pending. July 13th pot-luck luncheon is scheduled. See hard copy of report.

Personnel Committee - Currently working on a schedule to start performance reviews and evaluations.

Property - Council approved the cost to replace two fogged panes of glass at the front entrance and to replace two spandrel pieces of glass so the old window AC units can be removed. Material ordered from Nazareth Plate Glass. Delivery and install pending delivery of materials. The damage to the men's bathroom was repaired by the Boy Scouts. Wall needs to be painted. Scouts have asked for location of paint and confirmation of color.

Women of Abundance - See hard copy of minutes.

Old Business:

Picture directory will begin in September. Date still to be determined for Men's Fellowship cleanup day of the garage attic.

New Business:

Giving has slowed. A list of needs will be established so the congregation can see where the money being raised will be utilized. A request for kneelers was made. Issue is tabled for now, but is under consideration. An outdoor service will be held on August 17th at 9:15am. The Classical Christian Co-op of Nazareth requested facility use for a book club/meetups. Council

president spoke with the Co-op and received a schedule. Council voted via email and approved facility use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.

The following items are posted in the Narthex:

- JUNE 2025 Church Council Minutes
- MAY 2025 Treasurer's Report
- JULY 2025 Church Calendar
- GSTL for JULY



As of June 26th, we have received donations totaling **\$106,989.45** 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 June as of 6/26/2025 totaled **\$13,634.00**

Thank you for your generous support of Holy Cross!

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!**

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

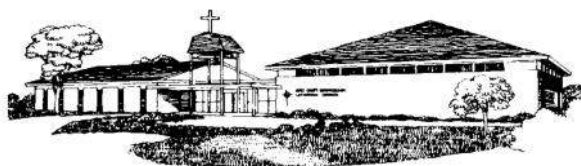
Church Secretary: Laura Longley
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org

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



NALC website ~ 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

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays with Holy Communion:

9:15 am ~ Relaxed Worship

Tuesdays at 12:15pm

Lunchtime Prayer with Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Prayer Service with Holy Communion