

Abundant News

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

AUGUST 2025

Inside this Issue

August Lessons ~ pg. 2
Altar Flower Sponsors ~ pg. 2
Family News ~ pg. 3
Harvesting Healthy
Habits ~ pg. 4
Pastor's Answers ~ pg. 4
Church News ~ pg. 5
Community News ~ pg. 7
Church Council ~ pg. 9
Contact Us ~ pg. 10



**Pastor will be away
Aug 3rd -12th
Contact the church
office with any
concerns.**



Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer

As I write this, we are in the middle of our 6th day in a row of 90+ degree temps with humidity that makes you stick to yourself and everything else you touch. This weather conjures up memories of my childhood, with the hot, slow breeze carrying the vague but clearly-identifiable smell of Queen Anne's Lace, chicory, and dry, browning grass—the smell of high summer—through my bedroom screen.

In my mind, this is what Pennsylvania summers always have been and always will be. Like the old song says, "lazy, hazy... and crazy." Crazy not in a hyperactive way (because nobody wants to move that fast!), but because nearly every evening also brought with it the possibility of a thunder storm, the kind I would watch in awe with my grandfather from the relative safety of a covered porch. Every storm was special in its own way, as we scanned the skies for the longest or brightest lightning strikes, but of course, what makes the memory of all those crazy moments truly special was sharing them consistently with my grandfather.

My grandfather has been absent the body but present with the Lord for over 24 years now. His wife, my maternal grandmother, has been so for 36. Yet, in a way, when this hot, humid weather rolls in, I feel their influence on me afresh, their charity, simplicity, and above all, faith.

This summer, as you enjoy the beauties of creation, the company of friends, and are restored by the season's recreation, make time to intentionally notice the presence of your Heavenly Father with you.. The gifts of His creation are wonderful in and of themselves, but to share them with He who gives them is what can make the time truly special.

P.R. Bratt

JULY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...



- ♦ African Children's Choir, September 19th, 2025. Host families needed.
- ♦ Outdoor Service, August 17th followed by a picnic.
- ♦ Return to two services, September 7, 2025.

See Council minutes on page 9

August Altar Flower Sponsorships

August 3

Maris Silfies in memory of Dennis Silfies
Sponsorship Available

August 10

Ruth Ann Siegfried in honor of Rich's Birthday
Julie Millheim, DJ, Mary Ann, Mary J, & Emily Drosnock
in honor of Bobby Drosnock's Birthday

August 17

2 Sponsorships Available

August 24

Eileen & Warren Rohn in honor of
Warren Rohn & Todd Knaus' Birthdays
Sponsorship Available

August 31

Gloria Longley, Arthur W. Edelman, Charmaine Bartholomew, &
Raymond Edelman in memory of Martha Edelman
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.



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/](https://holycrossnazarethchurch.org/messages-sermons/)

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

August Lessons

August 3, 2025

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-26

Psalms 100:1-5

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

August 10, 2025

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-16

Luke 12:22-34, 35-40

August 17, 2025

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:16-29

Psalms 119:81-88

Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3

Luke 12:49-53, 54-56

August 24, 2025

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66:18-23

Psalms 50:1-15

Hebrews 12:4-24 (25-29)

Luke 13:22-30

August 31, 2025

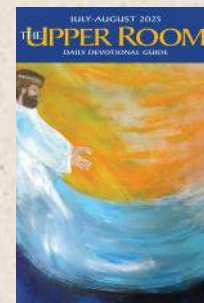
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:2-10

Psalms 131:1-3

Hebrews 13:1-17

Luke 14:1-14



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



Family News



Faith Newell; Barbara Smith; Donna Langston; Judy Iasiello; Denise Warner; Linda Sibbach; Lori Smith; Tama Minnich; Catherine Rupp; Robert Nichols; Dayna Ravitsky; Stephanie Strow; George Denger; Timothy Silfies; Tom Kneisly; Hope Newell; Robert Drosnock; Jenna Wernett; Raymond Cole; Richard Siegfried; Harold Kurz, Jr.; Dominick Thomas; Robert Ravitsky; Kevin Leindecker; Avalon Norton; Todd Grant; Eric Peterson; Jacob Skurjunis; Cordelia Bombico; Sarah Filchner; Julia Minnich; Hunter Diefenderfer; Pambi Longley; Mathew Pinguelo; Allison Moll; Manuel Pinguelo; Amy Vituszynski; Warren Rohn; Alexis Cole; Logan Grant; Terry Iasiello; Marilyn DalCin; Marianne Nichols; Leah Wisser; Jennifer Cleffi; Becky Novotka-Benotto; Samuel Vituszynski; Randall Letterhouse; Michael Craig; Lisa Jenkins!



Jeanette & Anthony Briody; Lori & Robert Ravitsky; Kim & Tim Kryman; Colleen & Keith Greene; Allison & Kyle Werner; John & Megan Abbott; Andrew & Tammy Margli; Kelly & Harold Kurz; Eric & Nicole Skurjunis; Linda & Rodney Rissmiller; Jodi & Tom Kneisly; Charmaine & Gerald Bartholomew!



PRAYER list

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!

SUNDAY Social Hour

Join us after the 9:15AM service to enjoy Christian friendship with your church family! Have 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 AUGUST are...

AUG 3 ~ Spiritual Growth
AUG 10 ~ Prayer Shawl & Spiritual Care
AUG 17 ~ Outdoor Service & Picnic
AUG 24 ~ Church Council
AUG 31 ~ Finance,



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!



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...

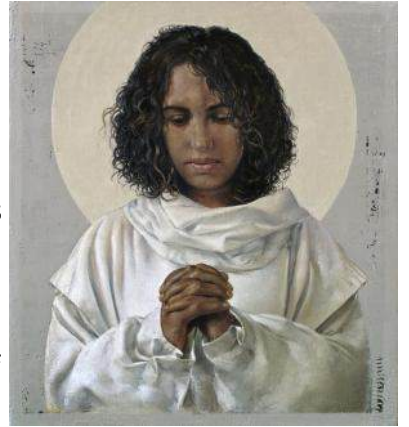
Usher Greeters ~ Lay Readers ~ Communion Assistants ~ Tech Ministry

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!

Harvesting Healthy Habits Hand-in-Hand

Person of the Month: Monica, mother of Augustine

As we move toward the fall, the Classical Christian Co-Op of Nazareth has decided that rather than focusing on a particular virtue, they are going to focus on the examples of great Christians of the past—people often referred to as “saints.” Not only are these people great exemplars of virtue, they are practical examples for us of how these virtues can help us live an active life of faith in Christ, a life that impacts the people and culture around us positively.



This month we are remembering Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. Featured in our July 27th sermon, Monica’s ministry was one of perseverance in prayer and patient love for her never-do-well son. “Throughout her life she sought the spiritual welfare of her children, especially that of her brilliant son, Augustine. Widowed at a young age, she devoted herself to her family, praying many years for Augustine’s conversion. When Augustine left North Africa to go to Italy, she followed him to Rome and then to Milan. There she had the joy of witnessing her son’s conversion to the Christian faith.”

Monica’s decades of devotion and prayer are a great example for us all as Christians. We are called to perseverance in love and sacrifice for the sake of those around us. Since Luther was an Augustinian monk, Monica’s quiet ministry continues to touch us, even to this day here at Holy Cross.

Pastor’s Answers

From our Sunday Sessions:

Why the New Music?



This summer we are all getting exposed to new music at worship; the 10:30 crew are experiencing the 8:00 Lutheran Book of Worship liturgical music, and the 8am crew are now getting exposed to the way the 10:30 service worships. But there is more new music than even this; the *Kyrie* (“Lord, have mercy”) and hymn of praise music are now different than either group has used before. Why?

The answer is that what we repeatedly pray and sing forms us more spiritually than any sermon, no matter how powerful, possibly could. The early Church even had a formula for this: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*, which loosely translates to “as you pray, so will you believe.” This is so true that even when Christians were being fed to lions and burned at the stake, they would engage in long debates with each other about what words to use in the worship services... they knew that if they said it repeatedly, people would eventually come to believe what they said, and they wanted the words to reflect the fullness of the faith.

While we have certainly been attentive to what we say at both services, the fact that the liturgy of our two services are so different meant that we were being formed a little differently depending on which service we were attending. The music we are now learning (and it will become second nature in very short order!) means that those who worship at the 10:30 service will be singing *the same words* as the early service in the parts of worship that are the same from week to week, but using music that fits better with more contemporary songs. The differing styles of our two worship services are designed to let people of different tastes worship at the service whose music is more to their liking while still being properly formed in “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 1:3) The new music we are learning right now will allow us as a congregation to do that even more effectively and faithfully.

Church News

Helpers & Host families needed!

The African Children's Choir will be coming again to Holy Cross on Friday, September 19th.

We are in need of people to help prepare for the performance and serve as ushers and helpers during the performance.

We also need people to host these wonderful children for the night of Friday, September 19th.



- ◆ Each host home should have at least two bedrooms available: one for the children and one for the chaperone to sleep separately.
- ◆ Please note that if a single male or female would like to chaperone, they must host children of the same sex .

Please contact Lisa Jenkins by phone 570-856-2382 or email drisadjenkins@gmail.com for more information or if you are interested in helping or hosting. Thank you!

Jack's Saga: for C.S. Lewis



Every other month, Pastor Brett writes an article for The Journal of St. Paul Lutheran Seminary. Go to the link below to view his submission for the latest issue. Be sure to check out the other articles in the current issue "Lutherans on C.S. Lewis".

https://issuu.com/stpaulsimul/docs/simul_the_journal_of_st_paul_luthe_8b3e35327e34b4



Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic

August 17 | 9:15AM

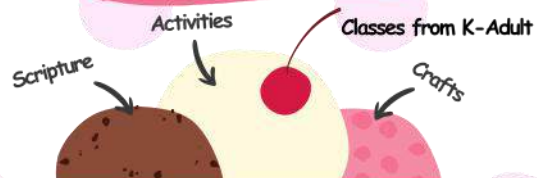


***Bring a camp chair and a dish to share!
Sign up in the Narthex.
Hamburgers & hot dogs will be provided.***

WE BUILD SUNDAES, SUNDAYS BUILD US

Classes begin on September 14th!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15AM - 10:15AM



Holy Cross Lutheran

Click on the QR code or call the church office to register!
(610) 759 - 7363



“Lord, Teach Us to Pray...”

“Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” The Apostles made this request of Jesus in Luke 11:1. It is weird for us to think of the Apostles not knowing how to pray, but all of us have to learn sometime... and while lots of people pray, the Holy Spirit has gifted the Church of Jesus Christ with a variety of beautiful and truly faithful ways of praying. Praise, petitionary, intercessory, liturgical, prophetic, listening, communal, spiritual warfare, praying the Scriptures, confession, tongues, agreement, contemplation... all these are ways Christians have engaged with God in prayer throughout time to the glory of God and to our own welfare.



“Pastor, I wish I knew how to pray better.” Variations of this state-



ment rank as one of the top two most frequent comments I have heard in my time as pastor here at Holy Cross. (More on the other next month!) Beginning in September, I will be hosting a workshop on prayer at a time that most suits those who wish to participate. This will be more than a class; we will learn about prayer, but also explore it together, demystifying the experience and helping each other along the way.

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office so we know who is interested and can begin to coordinate a time to offer the workshop.



Come Join Us!

The Classical Christian
Co-op of Nazareth is
hosting a NEW

Morning Enrichment Time

Thursday's 10-12
Starting September 4th

Come join us for this intergenerational time of being enriched by our wonderful Christian heritage!

We will be engaged in discussions and sharing around Scripture Study (Starting with Genesis), Hymn lyrics, Poetry, Music/Composers, Art, Handicrafts, storytelling and more.

**Individuals and families of all
ages are welcome to join us!**

For more information, contact
Lisa Misiti or Amanda Bombico
through the church office... or
just show up and join us!



Light of Christ SHOEBOXES

For our special appeal in

AUGUST

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

Specific list of items needed for older kids:

- ⇒ \$10 gift cards to restaurants or stores like Target, Walmart, Wendys, Five Below, Dollar Store, etc.
- ⇒ Hair accessories, makeup, nail polish
- ⇒ Items for boys ages 10+
- ⇒ Fidget toys, Lego, small Nerf balls, Rubik's cubes, slinkies, stickers, Play-Doh
- ⇒ Earbuds, small wireless speaker

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Community News



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5
5:00PM-8:00PM
155 FIREHOUSE LANE, NAZARETH
FREE EVENT

Agencies

Bushkill Twp. Police
Bushkill Twp. Fire
Bushkill Twp. Supervisors
Bushkill Twp. Public Works
Cetronia Ambulance
Pennsylvania State Police
Northampton County DA's Office
Northampton County Drug and Alcohol
Northampton County Crisis
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Food

Sho-Nuff Delights
DonutNV Easton-Bethlehem
RollzBowlz
Pie in a Cone
Mojo's Drive Thru
Aunt Wendy's Kiffles
Crooked Tree Chicken Ranch

Community Resources

Bushkill Township Hertiage Committee
Faith Family Fellowship Church
Aavidum
Pets in Need
Freedom First Rescue
Pink Heals Lehigh Valley Chapter
NAMI Lehigh Valley
State Rep. Ann Flood's Office
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Kenneth Butz Jr. PTA
Wolfpack Search and Recovery
Cub Scout Pack 44
House on the Rock Family Church
Jacobsburg Historical Society
Jacobsburg Enviornmental Center
El Shaddai Assembly of God
Congressman Ryan Mackenzie's Office
Equilibrium
First Responder Chaplain Corps

Businesses

Jennings Transportation
Clearie Chiropractic
Wilson Products
Dee and Curt Miller - Keller Williams
Philips Feed and Pet Supply
AT&T Mobility
Tia Regitz - Morganelli Properties
BEI Electrical

Demonstrations and More Fun

Live Music and Games
BTPD Officer Snyder and K-9 Sniper
BTPD Drone Unit
Touch-a-Truck Event
Face Painters - Nadia and Val
Bounce Houses - Jump Around Party
Photo-Booth
Horns and Hooves Mobile Mini Moos

PA March For Life 2025

September 22, 2025

Calling all Lutherans! Gather with pro-life Lutherans prior to the 2025 PA March for Life at The Hilton in Harrisburg, One N. 2nd St. to be encouraged and take a stand for the dignity of all lives from conception to natural death. **A full breakfast**, free of charge, will be served from 9:00am to 10:00am. Scott Licht of Lutherans for Life and Mary Ann Albertini, Advancement Director of A Woman's Concern Pregnancy and Parenting Resource Center will briefly address us before we walk together to the Capitol steps for the 11:00am Rally and 12:00pm Mile March.

For more information or to RSVP your interest, email pamarchforlife@lancasterlutheran.com or call/text Jeanie Zentz at 717-475-0271.

Visit marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania for event details and join us as we work together as Lutherans to uphold the teachings of the Bible about the value and dignity of each and every human life created by God.

Thou Canst Restore the Wasted Years

O God our Father,
 we who are children of time
 come to Thee who are above time.
For us the days that are past are past beyond recall
 and what we have written on life's page
 we may not erase.
But our past is still present to Thee
 and Thou canst undo
 what is beyond our power to change.
Thou canst restore the wasted years.
And we bring them to Thee—
 all the time past of our lives.
Take it unto Thy molding hands.
What was amiss, do Thou amend.
What was faulty do Thou fulfill.
We bless Thee for forgiveness but we ask for more,
 even that Thou shouldst annul the evil that we have done
 and accomplish the good in which we failed.
We thank Thee that Thou are ever open to our cry,
 that none can come to Thee too late,
 that the door of the Father's house is never closed
 to any child who would come home.
Father, we come bringing our marred lives for Thy remaking,
 our stained hands for Thy cleansing,
 our tired feet for Thy rest.
Our wearied hearts for Thy peace.....Amen.

Robert E. Speer 1867-1947
Monday of the Week of Pentecost III
For All The Saints Volume II

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 July 9, 2025

Nine members present. Absent: Linda Rissmiller, & Rich Siegfried.

GUESTS: Pastor Brett Jenkins.

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Girl Scout Troop 8881 has requested use of our facility as a new Daisy Troop on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from September to May. Approved by Council.

Treasurer's Report - Category Overview chart provided. General Operating Account Register, Summary of all accounts and Income Statement provided.

Pastor's Report - Pastor's vacation moved to 7/14-7/19. Pastor plans on meeting with staff monthly to go over upcoming events and goals in order to be a resource and provide corrections when necessary. Confirmation classes will begin in October and be held during the Sunday School hour. Attendance in the Tuesday Bible Study has nearly doubled with participants from CCCN. Youth mission trip to Bloomsburg has 15 students, three adult and one junior chaperones. Special thanks to WOA for providing a \$1000.00 gift to offset trip expenses. Gideons International is hosting a free supper for pastors and prospective participants and their spouses on August 23rd. Pastor Brett is unable to attend, but any interested members are invited to participate. Pastor is working on bringing in several ministries to enrich our Christian formation. More updates to come.

Committee Reports:

Emergency Planning - Fire drill went very well. Future planning is in place for the Monroe County Fire Training Center. Cost would be \$1200-\$1250. Date pending. Council approval pending.

Elders - Diane & Gene are stepping down as Elders. Tim and Lois have agreed to participate in a work group. By-laws to be revisited.

Property - Spandrel Glass for office windows is expected in the next two weeks. Install to be coordinated. The AC unit near the Sacristy is leaking. The attic in the garage cleaning process has started.

Social Ministry - June 12th went to Gracedale to visit NW1 wing. Brought small flags to celebrate flag day and the 4th of July. Next visit is July 10th and cookies will be brought for the women.

Spiritual Care Team - Team continues to make cards

and do home visits.

Women of Abundance - See hard copy of minutes.

Old Business:

Picture directory will begin in September. Will start with Council to test. Request for kneelers has been denied. There is not adequate space and the cost is prohibitive.

New Business:

Fire alarm horn was no loud enough during the drill. AJ to review with service company. Pastor also noted a data drop for the streaming computer is needed. Donation letters have been updated. Vocation of Marriage—Pastor preparing a plan to uplift married couples. Discussed the many keys to the building that are out and need to consolidate.

Ending Business/Correspondence:

African Children's Choir to perform on Friday, September 19, 2025. Host families and helpers needed. Outdoor service to be held on Sunday, August 17, followed by a picnic. Returning to two services on Sunday, September 7, 2025. Girl Scout Troop 8881 sent a Thank You and a donation to the church.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

The following items are posted in the Narthex:

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



Capital Campaign Update...

As of July 30th, we have received donations totaling **\$108,834.45** 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 July as of 7/30/2025 totaled **\$21,682.30**

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

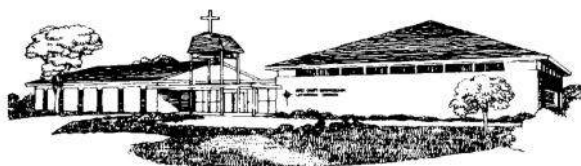
Church Secretary: Laura Longley
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org

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



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