

Abundant News

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

OCTOBER 2025

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In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials, Liberty

It is October, the month we celebrate the work of the Reformers, particularly the work of Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, Martin Bucer, Jacob Spener, and all those who worked so hard in 16th Century Germany to recenter the Church on the gospel—what God has done for us through Christ.

It is easy for us to forget that the work of reformation is ongoing. Because we as fallen sinners are always drifting away from God, our church practices drift and we are always needing to be centered again on the gospel. The reformers of the 16th Century were not the first reformers in Church history, and they will not be the last.

Many of our Evangelical brethren have of late been realizing that they need reforming; the good intentions of the Jesus movement celebrated in last year's *Jesus Revolution* movie led some of their worship and preaching practices to drift into being human-centered rather than Christ-centered, so they are reforming.

How do we need to reform? It is a good question for us to ponder, and we place before ourselves annually during this month when we celebrate what God did through others who asked the same question throughout Church history. ***The essentials of the Christian faith cannot change;*** Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. But we have liberty in the non-essentials to change to meet the missional need of our time and place. Through trial and error we have fruitfully changed our Sunday School program. This month marks a change in the format and delivery of our newsletter. We will never change willy-nilly, but with the help of Christ, we will change as needed to reach and sustain people to be His disciples. Amen

P. Bratt

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...



- ♦ Outdoor Pet Blessing Service—Sunday, October 5th, 2025 at 5:30pm
- ♦ Golden Age Sunday Luncheon—Sunday, October 12, after the 10:30am service
- ♦ Potluck Luncheon—Sunday, October 19, after the 10:30am service

See Council minutes on page 7

October Altar Flower Sponsorships

October 5

*Terry & Deb Johnson in Honor of Josh's 30th Birthday
Sponsorship Available*

October 12

*Barbara Lynn-Sarley in Memory of Chuck Sarley
Sponsorship Available*

October 19

Sponsorships Available

October 26

*Terry & Deb Johnson in honor of great nephew Hunter's 3rd Birthday
Andy & Anita Zaso in Honor of Our 29th Wedding Anniversary*

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!



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

Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 19th.

EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

Email your submissions to Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org

October Lessons

October 5, 2025

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 62:1-12

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:1-10

October 12, 2025

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-19a

Psalm 111:1-10

2 Timothy 2:1-13

Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-30

Psalm 121:1-8

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025

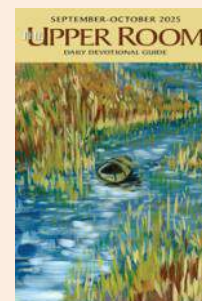
Reformation Sunday

Revelation 14:6-7

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



**Copies of the Sept. - Oct.
Upper Room daily devotional**



Family News



Pastor Brett Jenkins; Joshua Johnson; Kimberly Barr; Kiley Yotter; Corbin Bombico; Rebecca Grube; Benjamin Koehler; Barbara Losagio; Judy Petrick; Kathleen Unger; James Weller; Juliana Young; Debra Johnson; Suzanne Lewis; David Heinly; Heidi Sweetser-Cohen; Tammy Martin; Lydia Stein; Jodi Kneisly; Kevin Martin Jr.; Roxane Shook; Mark Young, Jr.; Dennis Soffera; Stephanie Yazujian; Logan Minnich; Paul Blosser; Carol Coxe; Diane Breinig; Emily Frack; Beth Taby; Sally Newell; Paige Grube; Samantha Riger; Frederick Grube; Luke Schoeneberger V; Matthew Die-fenderfer; Nicholas Grant; Darren Landro; Jennifer Landro; Raymond Scuderi; Alison Snyder; Andrea Fisher; Diane Short; JoAnn Altemose; Mariah Brearman; Jacqueline Markulics; Miranda Smith!



Scott & Pambi Longley; William Jr. & Barbara Romanishan; James & Rita Weller; Emily & Alex Bartleson; Nicole & Brennan Berry; Michael & Terry Koehler; Matthew & Miranda Smith; Tyler & Stephanie Yazujian; Greg & Lisa Amy; Gary & Carol Kratzer; Eric & Jaime Roth; Michael & Jennifer Cleffi; Becky Novotka- Benotto & Silvio Benotto; Warren & Eileen Rohn; Barry & Victoria Gaugler; Richard Jr. & Tina Huth; David & Diane Breinig; Paul Jr. & Kathy Grube; John & Stephanie Moll; Tim & Amy Vituszynski!



*Welcome to
God's Family!*

*Owen Richard Booser &
Olivia Nicole Jacob*

who were baptized on Sunday,
September 21st, 2025

&

Reid Allen Scuderi

who was baptized on Sunday,
September 28th, 2025

Congratulations!



Join us after services 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 OCTOBER are...

October 5 ~ Hospitality/Funeral Servers

October 12 ~ GOLDEN AGE SUNDAY

October 19 ~ Potluck Luncheon

October 26 ~ Altar Guild



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!***



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: Dr. Martin Luther

by Melissa Misiti

This month we are remembering Martin Luther and the Reformation on Friday the 31st. While Martin Luther was a monk in Germany, there was a preacher of the Roman Church, Johann Tetzel, who preached from Pope Leo's *Bull of Indulgence*, in 1517. This bull declared that people's sins would be forgiven when they confessed their sins and gave a donation for the building of St. Peter's Basilica. "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs," proclaimed Tetzel gleefully.

The Roman Church taught about purgatory, a sort of "waiting room" on the way to Heaven that Christians go to after death in order to be cleansed of their sins as through fire. Luther, once believed in this, but, through reading Scripture, he found out that we are saved by faith alone, and that only God can forgive our sins. He wanted the other people to know this and experience the same joy as he did. On October 31st he posted his 95 Theses, a list of Church teachings he wanted to debate on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. The Pope was enraged. Then in 1521, Luther was put on trial by the German Emperor, Charles, German princes, and representatives of the Pope. When Luther heard this, he said, "I commend my cause to God. He saved three from the fiery furnace, but if He will not save me, my head is worth nothing compared with Christ. This is no time to think about safety."

While Luther was in the great hall in Worms, he was asked to renounce what he wrote. He refused, saying that, unless the Scriptures prove him wrong, he would not renounce his beliefs. Since he would not recount it, they were angry and declared a death sentence on Luther. He escaped when his friends kidnapped him. He then translated the Bible into German so the people could read the Scriptures for themselves. After returning to Wittenberg, he preached, taught, and wrote books, pamphlets, hymns, and commentaries on most of the books of the Bible. His hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God became the unofficial "anthem" of the Evangelical churches, which eventually came to be called Lutheran. Finally, he went home to the Lord, aged sixty-two, from a sudden illness. Luther was a big influence on church history, and Protestant churches came from his teachings, including Lutheranism.



The Times, They Are a Changing....

***Beginning Sunday, October 19th,
Youth Group will be held from***

1-2:30pm

***Following a quick bite to eat, we will jump right into a
time of fellowship, faith development and fun for youth
ages 9th-12th grade.***

COME, JOIN IN... and BRING A FRIEND!



Church News



Wednesday, October 5, 2025 / 5:30pm

Outdoor Pet Blessing Service

Blessing is a long part of the Christian tradition; it is part of how Christians, who are being saved by God's grace, begin to exercise once again our primordial priesthood, extending God's blessing out to the creation that "waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:19)

Bring your pet on October 5th to the Wednesday evening service (which will be outdoors, weather permitting) and have them receive the blessing of Christ through the hands of His Church! In the event of rain, the service will be moved to the social hall.



GOLDEN AGE SUNDAY

This **October 12, 2025** we will honor our **members and guests aged 70+** and they will share a delicious luncheon prepared by Nathan Grube in the Social Hall after the 10:30am service.

October 5th is the last day to sign up!

2025 TURKEY DRIVE

October 5 - November 2

We are inviting YOU to help in this meaningful project by sponsoring Thanksgiving Turkeys for the Bath Area Food Bank.

Visit the table in the Narthex, fill out and place your monetary donation in a *Turkey Drive Envelope*. Write your name on YOUR turkey and hang it up in the Narthex. Or mail your donation to the church office, indicating it's for the Turkey Drive. Please **make checks** out to "*Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church*". Any amount is greatly appreciated! You will find the joy of knowing you have helped someone in our community who is in need!



Youth Helpers needed - sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 2nd, 2025

Share the names of your loved ones who have passed from this life to be with the Lord. You are invited to write their names on a special table cloth that will be available in the Sanctuary during the month of October. This cloth will then be used as the altar cover for the Communion table on All Saints' Sunday.

A sheet is also available in the Narthex to write the names of those who have passed away within the last year, whom you would like to be remembered. Their names will be read aloud during services on All Saints Sunday.

If you are unable to attend worship and would like a name written on the cloth or added to the list, please contact the Church Office.

Veterans Day Recognition



On **Sunday, November 9, 2025**, we will honor living members of our Congregation who are veterans of any branch of our military. **If you are a veteran, please provide your NAME, BRANCH OF SERVICE, RANK and any special recognition/awards you would like to share, to the church office, or complete a form available in the narthex, by October 19.** *IF YOU HAVE SUPPLIED THIS INFORMATION IN THE PAST, WE DO NOT NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, unless you would like to change that information.* **Names will be read aloud during services on November 9, and placed in the November Newsletter.**



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!



Let someone know you are thinking about them.

An updated list of members who would appreciate receiving a card is available in the Narthex, or you can contact the Church Office.



Come Join Us!

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

Morning Enrichment Time

Thursday's 10:00am-12:00pm

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!



A Prayer for Protection

Obviously, some scary things have been directed at people of faith in recent months. It is important for us to remember the sovereignty of God and pray for His protection during such times. So, when a colleague sent me the following prayer by 19th century Anglican Edward Meyrick Goulburn (1818-1897), I wanted to share it with our church family:



Keep, O Lord, we beseech Thee,
under the shadow of Thy wings,
ourselves, our relations and friends,
that we may obey Thy will,
and enjoy Thy Presence always.
Compass us about with Thy holy angels.
Shield us with the armor of Thy righteousness
upon the right and upon the left.
Deliver us from the snares of the evil one,
and grant us to pass this day,
and all the days of our life,
without stumbling and without offence;
for Thine it is, O Lord, to pity and to save,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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 September 10, 2025

Eight members present. Absent: AJ Arfanella, Lois Iasiello, Tim Kryman, Jerry Lewis

GUESTS: Pastor Brett Jenkins.

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Associated Fire Equipment appointment scheduled for September 29 at 9am to perform annual inspection of all fire extinguishers in the bldg. Kratzer Septic Service tank cleaning approved by council to be cleaned every other year. Next cleaning scheduled for October 2026. Girl Scout Troop 8816 will not renew use of our facility for their meetings. They are moving to Dryland UCC as it is closer to them. Girl Scout Troop 81134 requested use of our facility to hold their meetings on Monday evenings. Council approved Room 6.

Pastor's Report - The Christian Ed committee has opted to have me use the confirmation curriculum I have begun for my D.Min. project as the basis of our confirmation program. I will be working to convene a first evangelism committee over the next few months with a goal to create a standing committee to promote the congregation's ministries within the community, beginning with the Sunday School program. Evangelist Matthew Kay from Cru Church Movements and I will lead a 4 session workshop on sharing Jesus with our friends, family, and community members in Lent of 2026. 3 of these sessions will be during the Sunday School hour, taking the place of our regular adult offerings for those weeks. Several people were approached about being trained to help Michael and I lead worship from the altar and I hope to have them trained and begin to serve by Thanksgiving. I continue to explore alternatives to MS Publisher, whose support will be discontinued next year. Trying to find one that will allow our newsletter to be published in both paper and HTML formats to improve read-through rates. Also exploring options to improve our weekly email so it attracts more people to our ministries.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: See hard copy of minutes.

Fellowship Committee - See hard copy of report.

Hospitality/Funeral Servers - See hard copy of report.

Prayer Team: One request for August.

Property - Visit from fire companies: Bath, Bushkill and Klecknersville. The building was toured. See full copy of minutes for suggested upgrades. The insurance company requires cushion on basketball poles and to

paint the bottom of the parking lot light poles yellow.

Social Ministry - See hard copy of report.

Women of Abundance - See hard copy of report.

Old Business:

Linda Rissmiller has resigned from Church Council. Resignation accepted. CCCN requested an additional marker board. One was located in the garage. Pastor to review.

New Business:

CCCN costs to the church.

Ending Business/Correspondence:

Pet blessing/outdoor service set for October 5th, 2025 at 5:30pm. Golden Age Sunday Luncheon will be October 12, 2025. Potluck scheduled for October 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, October 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

Stewardship...

Offerings received during the month of
SEPTEMBER as of 9/30/2025 totaled **\$20,339.00**

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

Capital Campaign Update...



As of September 30th, we have
received donations totaling
\$113,034.45

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!

**The following items are
posted on the Bulletin Board
in the Narthex:**

- September 2025 Church Council Minutes
- August 2025 Treasurer's report.
- October 2025 Calendar.
- October 2025 Giving Service to the Lord Schedule.

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

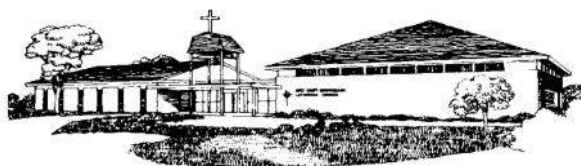
Church Secretary: Laura Longley
Secretary@holycrossnazareth.org

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
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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays with Holy Communion:

8:00 am Traditional Liturgy
10:30 am ~ Relaxed Worship
9:15-10:15am ~ Sunday School all ages

Tuesdays at 12:15pm
Lunchtime Prayer with Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
Prayer Service with Holy Communion