

### From the Pastor



#### Listening for the Voice of the Lord

This month, we gather as a congregation in our annual meeting. Looking back over 2025, we have a great deal for which to give thanks to the Lord! Lots of new members in our church family,

the growth in our music ministries, productive service to render for the Lord to our neighbors both within our community and abroad, and chances to support and encourage other ministries within our mission region. We will receive reports, look to the year ahead, and adopt a budget. But there is one thing we will not do...

We will NOT be merely making decisions about how to move forward. We will be listening for the will of the Lord to guide us. His voice does not always manifest itself with the directness of revelation... indeed, in the Creeds, we affirm that the voice of the Holy Spirit is most clearly heard in the corporate discernment of the gathered body of Christ. The primary ministries of the Holy Spirit are "the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." 1 Corinthians 2:16 avers, "we have the mind of Christ." Paul's shift to the plural "we" at this point is intentional and in keeping with the theology of chapter 12 ahead, where the Spirit's gifts are given for the good of the whole Church and can only be fully received by the corporate Body of Christ.

So, in preparation for our upcoming meeting, I am calling upon us all to pray regularly and earnestly in the time leading up to the meeting. That way, when we come together, we will be attuned to the Spirit's promptings. What ministries are we called expand? What new ministries might we be called to assay? What ministries may have run their course, and we should consider discontinuing them to leave room for others?

Please pray for the Lord's leading...

I will be doing the same.

*Pr. Brett*

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# Saint of the Month: Saint Basil the Great

Like St. Paul, Lutherans refer to all those in Christ as "saints," and we look to the great ones as role models in the faith.

This month we are remembering Saint Basil the Great on Friday, the 2nd. He was born in A.D. 329 to St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia, in Caesarea, Cappadocia, Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), and was one of ten children. He studied in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) and Athens, Greece, and was classmates with Gregory Nazianzus and future Emperor Julian the Apostate. After his education, he taught rhetoric in Caesarea, and then began his pursuit of religion. St. Basil visited the monasteries in Palestine, Syria, and Egypt, eventually finding a hermitage in Pontus (modern day southern Black Sea area), on the Iris River. He was ordained later in Caesarea in A.D. 363, becoming archbishop in A.D. 370, and finally died on January 1st, A.D. 379. St. Basil accomplished many things in his lifetime, among them was speaking out against Arianism, which resulted in him being persecuted by Emperor Valens, he helped with the Nicene Creed's victory and the condemnation of Arianism in the Council of Constantinople. He wrote many writings, including *On the Holy Spirit*, and much more.

By Melissa Misiti



As we read this, let us remember 2 Timothy 3:12-17, which states. **"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."**



Have you stopped in the church library lately?

There are books on...

- Addictions
- Apologetics
- Bible Helps
- Church History & Leadership
- Children's books
- Christian Fiction
- Devotionals
- Discipleship
- Family Life & Transitions
- Food
- Grief Recovery
- Lutheranism
- Small Group Curricula
- Spirituality
- Youth Ministry & Communication
- Faith & Family Movies

Come, check it out... and check out a book that will feed your soul!

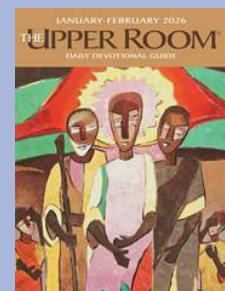


Visit the Book Nook! It is a cozy nook that we hope all ages will enjoy and make use of!

## January Lessons

- January 4, 2026 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas  
*1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52*
- January 6, 2026 ~ Epiphany of Our Lord  
*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-11, 12-15; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12*
- January 11, 2026 ~ Baptism of Our Lord  
*Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29:1-11; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17*
- January 18, 2026 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
*Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a*
- January 25, 2026 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
*Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25*

## Upper Room



- Copies of the January - February Upper Room daily devotional are available in the Narthex.

# Church Family News

## SUNDAY Social Hour Hosts

- January 4** Choir/Worship Arts
- January 11** Potluck Sunday
- January 18** Women of Abundance
- January 25** Hospitality/Funeral Servers



**We are always 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!

**Many thanks for hosting!**

## JANUARY Birthdays

Beverly Wisser, Clare Seibert, Jacob Auger, Jessica Bunting, Eileen Rohn, Doris Young, Michael Cleffi, Keegan McMullen, Randall Huth, Nathan Greene, Joseph Mazzie, Jr., Patrice Beck, Jean Cole, Thomas Barnowski, Ronald Shook, Chad Harris, Billy Misiti, Paul Daniel Grube, Jr., Kaitlyn Barnowski, Gerald Lewis, Madison Schoun, Morgan Amy, Scarlett Cohen, Ruth Ann Siegfried, Joyce MacDonald, Linda Sheriff, Elizabeth Bechtoldt, Mary Ann Drosnock, Morgan Grube, Adrian Esquivia, Jessica Hendricks, Damon Withstandley, Gabriella Benotto, Leonard Filchner, Alexander Newell, Nathan Grube, Nicole Skurjunis, Kelly Briody, Timothy Kryman, Maverick Weiseman, Mark Losagio, Katherine Grube, Caitlin Cleffi, & Mackenzie Cleffi!

## Anniversaries

Deacon Michael & Kate Grube!

**Happy Anniversary!**



Through the Congregation's generosity, 50 Blessing Boxes were delivered to the food bank of the Kenneth N. Butz, Jr. Elementary School (Bushkill Township) to be distributed to the families of students in need.

In addition, the gift cards (and cash) from the Giving Tree (\$1,155.00) were delivered to Plesion (formerly LV Foster Care) to be distributed through Northampton County Office of Children and Youth to help families who are in need of food, formula, diapers, clothes, or a Christmas gift.

Thank you so much for your generosity in helping these local families in need.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank You to all who donated cookies and treats, sponsored poinsettias, bulletins, and candles, and donated gift cards and blessing boxes this holiday season! Your overwhelming generosity is greatly appreciated!



Thank You to Diane Breinig for the lovely Christmas ornaments and Thank you to the Misiti family for the cards given to our shut-in members!



## Council Meeting Highlights

- New Member forms available in the Narthex
- Pictorial directory - pictures will be taken or collected starting in January
- Mommy & Me class will begin in January
- Congregational meeting on 1/25/26

## **At Long Last... The Pictorial Directory Is On Its Way!**

Every Sunday in January, a station will be set up in the prayer chapel to take both individual and family photos for our new directory. Simply queue up in hallway leading to the prayer chapel after either service, update your personal information via app or the provided paperwork, get your pictures taken, and bingo, you are ready to be listed in the directory!

To keep any one Sunday from getting unmanageable, families have been assigned a Sunday alphabetically:

<b>Abbott - Diefenderfer</b>	<b>January 4</b>
<b>Drosnock - Kratzer</b>	<b>January 11</b>
<b>Kryman - Rios</b>	<b>January 18</b>
<b>Rissmiller - Zaso</b>	<b>January 25</b>

If your assigned weekend is inconvenient for you, no worries! You have two options. First, for the less tech-savvy, just call the church office and let them know what weekend you will be in, or email new member Steve Bauman, who is heading up this project at **[cgcaptsteve20@gmail.com](mailto:cgcaptsteve20@gmail.com)**.

Second, if you like working from your smart phone, iPad, or home computer, you have an even more convenient option! Just download our new improved app and create a login. From there, you can update your address, phone numbers, and other information, as well as upload your favorite picture of yourself and your family. You will also get access to our online directory (which you can access while at church or during a Bible study when you can't remember somebody's name!) and determine what of your own information appears to fellow congregation members in the same. You will also have instant access to our church calendar, digital prayer request form, online giving, Communion registration, and lots more!

Even if you have downloaded our app in that past, you will want to delete your old installation and setup a new one; our provider updated the entirely just a little before Thanksgiving, and you will need the latest version to get all the

 features. You can install the app by scanning the QR code to the right, searching for "Church Connect" in your favorite app store, or linking to it from our website homepage banner. If prompted, our church's identification code is **4KRZE9**. You will know you have the correct version when you see the logo to the left.

**This is an entirely in-house project this time, so there will be no high-pressure salesman encouraging members to buy a photo package, so don't hesitate or delay participating! We look forward to seeing you!**



# Church News

## SERVE Ministry Opportunities

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, there are many opportunities available at Holy Cross! Currently we are in need of the following during Sunday Services...

### Ushers/Greeters ~ Lay Readers ~ Communion Assistants ~ Tech Ministry

There are 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!

### Light of Christ Shoeboxes

The Light of Christ Shoeboxes campaign begins again this month.

For January we'll be collecting: SMALL TOYS

- Rubik's cubes, slinkies, play-doh, fidget toys, small art kits or activity sets, miniature mazes, puzzles, super balls, small building blocks or construction sets, etc.

Any questions, please contact Lisa Jenkins.



### Contribution Statements

The church will provide copies of your 2025 annual contribution statements **BY REQUEST ONLY**. If you would like a 2025 annual contribution statement, please sign up in the Social Hall or contact the church office. Statements will be available by the end of January. Please note if you would like your statement printed for pick up, mailed, or emailed to you.



### Annual Congregational Meeting

The Holy Cross Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, after the 10:30am service.



#### Proposed Agenda for the 2026 Holy Cross Annual Meeting

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Election of secretary for meeting

Pastor's Report

President/Vice President's Report

Committee/Ministry Team Reports

New Business

Regular Business

Election of Council members for 2026

Election of Congregationally-Elected Elder

Elect delegates for the AMR convocation in  
October 2026

Proposal and Adoption of 2026 Budget

### Inclement Weather

When the Nazareth school district is cancelled or dismisses early, evening events at the church are cancelled. The decision to cancel other services and events will be made as soon as possible. We encourage you to use the following sources, *in this order*, as they would be the most efficient ways for you to be alerted:



- 1st—**The Internet:** our church website ([www.holycrossnazareth.org](http://www.holycrossnazareth.org)), Facebook (we encourage you to contact someone who has these access if you do not), and the WFMZ website
- 2nd—WFMZ & WAEB radio stations, and channel 69 news
- 3rd—Our church answering machine.



# News to Use

# Sunday Life

## Giving Service to the Lord

### January 4, 2026

**Musician**  
**Usher/Greeters (2)**

**Lay Reader**  
**Tech Ministry**  
**Communion Assistants**  
**(Around the Altar - 3 people)**

**Social Hour Host**  
**Flowers Donated by**

### 8am Service

Ben  
John Abbott  
Megan Abbott  
Catherine DeBoeser  
Andy Zaso  
Lynne Auger  
Anita Zaso

### 10:30am Service

**Second Sunday after Christmas**  
Ben  
Madelin Kocher  
Tom Kocher  
Jesse Way  
Alyssa Young  
Jerry Lewis  
Timothy Misiti  
Jesse Way



### January 11, 2026

**Musician**  
**Usher/Greeters (2)**

**Lay Reader**  
**Tech Ministry**  
**Communion Assistants**  
**(Intinction - 2 people)**  
**Social Hour Host**  
**Flowers Donated by**

### Baptism of Our Lord ~ First Sunday after Epiphany

Vicky Gaugler  
Alice Sternier  
Eileen Rohn  
Jennifer Vandegrift  
Eileen Rohn  
Pam Berlew

Diane Dickison  
Gene Dickison  
Jamie Hahn  
Molly Kryman  
Jamie Hahn  
Rich Siegfried



### January 18, 2026

**Musician**  
**Usher/Greeters (2)**

**Lay Reader**  
**Tech Ministry**  
**Communion Assistants**  
**(Intinction - 2 people)**  
**Social Hour Host**  
**Flowers Donated by**

### Second Sunday after Epiphany

Randy Letterhouse  
Deb Letterhouse  
Barbara Lynn-Sarley  
Cindy Denker  
Lois Iasiello  
Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Roseann Mohn  
Michael Mohn  
Kate Grube  
Annalisa Misiti  
Timothy Misiti  
Jerry Lewis



### December 28, 2025

**Musician**  
**Usher/Greeters (2)**

**Lay Reader**  
**Tech Ministry**  
**Communion Assistants**  
**(Intinction - 2 people)**  
**Social Hour Host**  
**Flowers Donated by**

### Third Sunday after Epiphany

DJ Drosnock  
Mary Ann Drosnock  
Mary Ann Drosnock  
Mary J. Drosnock  
Colleen Greene  
Paul Grube

Heidi Sweetser-Cohen  
Cindy Bonney  
Heidi Sweetser-Cohen  
Delilah Cohen  
Violet McCandless  
Joyce MacDonald



### Thank You to All Who Serve!

**To our 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.*



# Church Council Minutes

**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 December 11, 2025

Six members present.

Absent: AJ Arfanella, Rob Ingenito, Tom Kneisly, & Tim Kryman

GUESTS: Pastor Jenkins

### Review of Reports:

**Secretary's Report** - All ministries/committee leaders will need to turn in a year-end report by December 23, 2025 to allow enough time to prepare packets for the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. Kistler O'Brien annual fire alarm inspection was done on December 11 and went well. Church office will be closed from December 24, 2025 - January 2, 2026.

**Treasurer's Report** - Category Overview provided, income Statement Provided, General Operating Report provided, Detail Report provided.

**Pastor's Report** - ESG visited to get our new PC interacting correctly with our soundboard. They have also recommended a video distribution unit for our nursery, library, and social hall. We continue to have difficulties with our Sunday feed. These difficulties seem to be within our building, so I recommend cutting off all guest logins on Sunday to preserve bandwidth for our outgoing signal. The new bulletin format was launched 11/30, attempting to preserve as much of the original information but in a more economic design that gives full attention to our announcements. 5 youth were confirmed on 11/23. One of their confirmation projects and four of their personal statements of faith will be available at the meeting for Council perusal. I have slightly reworked the membership handbook for the sake of branding and communications consistency within the life of the congregation. The new member orientation process will be pioneered by Jerry Lewis, Dr. Michael, and myself on 12/7 with new member welcome on 12/14 to coincide with the Christmas tree decoration and potluck luncheon. New member, Steve Bauman, has agreed to help us with the creation of a pictorial directory through Churchtrac. He is recommending that we develop a team of volunteers to man a picture station throughout the month of January. At that station, family and individual portraits could be taken as well as gaps in our church records filled in. We could use the congregational meeting as an opportunity

to remind people to get their photos taken if they have not. Distribution of directories would be part of our Lenten kick-off.

### Committee Reports:

**Christian Education:** See hard copy of minutes.

**Emergency Planning:** See hard copy of report. After considerable discussion, a motion was made to table action items.

**Finance Committee:** Proposed Spending Plan was presented.

**Social Ministry:** See hard copy of report.

**Women of Abundance** - See hard copy of minutes.

**Old Business:** We have two potential candidates for Church Council and we have three potential candidates for Elders. Spending Proposal for 2026 has been accepted. Gathering photos for the church member pictorial will begin in January.

### New Business:

Church security: Outdoor solar system and floodlight with camera for corners of building totaling approx. \$2000. Motion approved. Tech equipment: Laptop donated by Rich. Motion to purchase splitter/extender approved. Wi-fi upgrade completed by Andy Z.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

### Financial Stewardship

Offerings received during the month of DECEMBER as of 12/29/2025 totaled **\$24,441.50**

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

### **Capital Campaign Update**

As of December 29th, we have received donations totaling

**\$116,834.45**

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!**

# 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 ~ [holycrossnazareth.org](http://holycrossnazareth.org)



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

## 2026 Church Council

A.J. Arfanella	717-903-0521
Lynne Auger	484-634-1347
Lois Iasiello	484-761-4589
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

## 2026 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