

News for an Abundant Life in **CHRIST**

From the Pastor
Our Risen Good Shepherd



As I write this, we are approaching the fourth Sunday in Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday. One of my few memories of church before coming to faith at age 25 is my grandfather's great love for Good Shepherd Sunday. I was too young to remember much of what he said, but when he took me to church one Sunday (just me; my brothers stayed home, which made it extra-special), as we waited for the service to begin, he pointed up from the dark oak pews to a stained glass window of Jesus carrying a lamb across his shoulders. From memory, he told me the parable of the lost sheep and explained to me that Jesus was the Good Shepherd, who would come looking for that one stray no matter the danger to Himself. Then, also from memory, he recited Psalm 23.

The look of contentment and hope that filled his face as he intoned the closing lines of that Psalm, "and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever," made an impression on me that is still with me today. While he told me the parable, his eyes were fixed intently upon me, making sure that I understood its import for me personally, but as he recited the Psalm, his eyes drifted up toward that stained glass window and remained fixed there, on the image of his Savior. While it may be a trick of the elapse of more than four decades, in my memory it also seems like his face was transfigured by the morning sun shining through those colored panes, the soft glow of a far-off heaven reflected dimly on his wrinkled cheeks and shining eyes.

I conducted my grandfather's funeral liturgy in 2004... His faith has now become sight, his wrinkles smoothed, his eyes shining with the unmitigated glory of our risen Good Shepherd. As middle age crests and new pains both physical and emotional afflict, I am forever grateful for the hope he shared with me that morning, the hope that even I, poor wandering sinner that I am, may be carried home on the Good Shepherd's shoulders.

Christ is risen... He is risen, indeed!

Pr. Britt

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Saint of the Month: St. Sophia & Her Three Daughters

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 St. Sophia and her three daughters Pisti (Faith), Elpida (Hope), and Agape (Love) on Friday, May 15th. Sophia, whose name means wisdom, named her daughters after the three theological virtues, training them up to be devoted to Christ. Soon after their birth, Sophia was widowed. St. Sophia and her three daughters lived during the reign of Emperor Hadrian, who was against the spread of the Christian faith. The four of them were summoned to the emperor because of their belief in God. They were questioned by the emperor of their faith, among other things, Sophia truthfully answered him. After this, Sophia told her children to not turn from God, but to be willing to die for Him, knowing it will bring them to Him, and if they did, she would be very proud of them.



By Melissa Misiti



Sophia and her daughters were sent to Palladia, where the emperor told them if they turned from God and worshiped Artemis, he would adopt them, giving them status and riches. One by one he asked Faith, age twelve, Hope, age ten, and Love, age nine, to worship Artemis. Each of them refused. Emperor Hadrian had them stripped, beaten, thrown in the fire, and beheaded, trying to make them turn from God, failing each time, making them martyrs. They knew that their death would bring them to communion with God and were not afraid, but sang as they were tortured. After their deaths, St. Sophia stayed by their tombs and prayed for three days, until she died there and was buried with them.

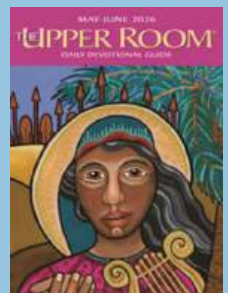
As we read this, let us remember Romans 8:31-37, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

May Lessons

- May 3, 2026 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146:1-10; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 10, 2026 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 14, 2026 ~ Ascension Sunday
Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:1-9; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
- May 17, 2026 ~ 7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:12-26; Psalm 68:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- May 24, 2026 ~ Pentecost Sunday
Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 25:1-15; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39
- May 31, 2026 ~ Holy Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8:1-9; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matthew 28:16-20

Upper Room



- Copies of the May - June Upper Room daily devotionals are available in the Narthex.

Church Family News

SUNDAY Social Hour Hosts

- May 3 Women of Abundance
- May 10 Hospitality/Funeral Servers
- May 17 Altar Guild
- May 24 Deacon Michael's Tuesday Class
- May 31 POTLUCK SUNDAY



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!

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



David & Vinetta Heinly; Karissa & Kevin Martin Jr.; DJ & MaryAnn Drosnock; Thomas & Adrienne Barnowski; Barbara & John Struss; Ronald & Linda Sibbach; George & Kathryn Mathews; Ronald & Roxane Shook; Thomas & Amy Riger; Karen & Marc Szczepanski; Thomas & Coleen Johnson; Chase & Emily Clapp; Blaine & Pamela Snyder!

Congratulations on your Baptism!
Cooper Anthony Utzat
 &
Greyson Joseph Utzat
 were baptized at Holy Cross on Saturday, April 11, 2026
Welcome to God's Family!

A note to the congregation of Holy Cross:

Madelin and I want to express our gratitude to our gracious Lord for being with us, keeping His healing hands upon me and guiding us through my recent heart surgery. From the laying on of hands to all the prayers sent up on my behalf and the many cards of encouragement and healing, we are truly blessed to belong to this Holy Cross family. Thanks be to God! ~Tom Kocher

Church Family News



We would like to publish the names of our **2026 high school and college graduates** in the June edition of our Crosswords newsletter and will recognize and pray for them during worship services on **Sunday, May 31**.

If someone in your family is graduating, please **complete a form** found in the Social Hall at the Sign-Up Station or contact the church office by phone or email and provide the information below **by May 17**.

Information to Provide:

Graduate's Name

Parent's Names

School

Honors/Degrees/Accomplishments

Future Plans



Card Shower

Celebrating
Pastor Carl R. Adams

65th Anniversary of his
Ordination on May 28th

If you would like to
send a card to
celebrate, mail it to:

Carl R. Adams
c/o Michael Adams
141 S. 3rd Street
Hamburg, PA 19526



Council Meeting Highlights

- Yard Sale June 27, 2026
- VBS
- Christmas in June - Gracedale

YARD SALE

BASKET RAFFLE & BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

8AM-1PM Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Donations welcome **ONE** week before the sale.

Drop off items beginning Sunday, June 21 after services
and during regular church office hours:

MON & TUES: 9am-1pm

THURS: 1-6pm

Last drop off day is Friday June 26, 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!



Church News

VBS Organizational Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026 6:00 pm

For anyone who would like to help plan and run VBS.
(It's not too late to sign up!)

Items to be discussed:

1. Assigning volunteers
2. Planning of curriculum
3. Formulating lists of needed supplies
4. Discussing schedules and registration procedures
5. Decorations
6. Advertising



July 20-24, 2026
6-8 pm

People are needed to help with: Advertising, Craft preparation, Set-up, Registration, Storytelling, Music, Crafts, Games, Guides (to take children to stations), Computer Tech, Nurse/First Aid, Nursery Attendant, Dinner preparation and serving

Please continue to pray for Vacation Bible School, for all staff members and helpers, and for the children. Pray that the people whom God is calling to participate in VBS will enthusiastically say "Yes, I choose..." to follow Him!



Holy Cross Baseball Night

Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs VS. Syracuse Mets



Friday, June 26, 2026 ~ 6:45PM

at Coca-Cola Park in the First Commonwealth Credit Union Picnic Patio

We still have 4 tickets left!
\$30.00 per ticket

Payment is now due.

Use a Designated Gift Envelope marked "Iron Pigs Tickets."
Be sure to include your **Name** and the **# of tickets** you're paying for.

Please see David or Diane Breinig with any questions.





HOLY CROSS FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2026



MAY
15/
FRIDAY

COMMUNITY CONNECT: FUN! CAMPING & KNOEBELS

The September 11-13 camping at Lake Glory & Knoebels trip registration and deposits are due on Friday, May 15.

Register: tinyurl.com/HCFCamping

Informational Slideshow:

tinyurl.com/HCFCampingDetails



MAY
16/
SATURDAY

COMMUNITY CONNECT: SERVE HELP THY NEIGHBOR YARD CLEANUP

Join us as we take our love for Christ beyond our walls and into the community! 9AM-Noon.

Sign-up: tinyurl.com/HCFYardCleanup or complete the form in the Social Hall.



MAY
29/
FRIDAY

COMMUNITY CONNECT: FELLOWSHIP GAME NIGHT: LAWN GAMES

A high energy night of lawn games, good vibes, big laughs, and real connection! Cornhole, Jumbo Jenga, Connect Four, and more! Bring a friend! Open to the community.

Sign-up: tinyurl.com/HCFLawnGames



MAY
31/
SUNDAY

MONTHLY POTLUCK

Join us Sunday, May 31 after the 10:30AM service for fellowship and our monthly Potluck Luncheon in the Social Hall. Bring a dish to share!

Sign-up: tinyurl.com/HCFPotluck

**QUESTIONS? OR
NEED MORE INFO?**

Contact: Amy Riger
973-479-8532

holycrossnazarethfellowship@gmail.com

News to Use

Sunday Life



Giving Service to the Lord



May 3, 2026 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Service

10:30am Service

Musician

Ben

Ben

Usher/Greeters (2)

John Abbott

Heidi Sweetser-Cohen

Megan Abbot

Cindy Bonney

Lay Reader

Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Heidi Sweetser-Cohen

Tech Ministry

Cindy Denker

Delilah Cohen

Communion Assistants

Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Adrian Esquivia

(Intinction - 2 people)

Pam Berlew

Jerry Lewis

Rich Siegfried

Social Hour Host

Women of Abundance

Flowers Donated by

Andy & Anita Zaso

Sponsorship Available



May 10, 2026 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00am Service

10:30am Service

Musician

Karl

Karl

Usher/Greeters (2)

Vicky Gaugler

Annalisa Misiti

Alice Sterner

Melissa Misiti

Lay Reader

Colleen Greene

Diane Dickison

Tech Ministry

Jennifer Vandegrift

Mathew Pinguelo

Communion Assistants

Colleen Greene

Diane Dickison

(Around the Altar - 3 people)

John Abbott

Timothy Misiti

Social Hour Host

Hospitality/Funeral Servers

Flowers Donated by

Karen Odenwelder

Rich & Ruth Ann Siegfried



May 17, 2026 ~ Ascension Sunday

8:00am Service

10:30am Service

Musician

Ben

Ben

Usher/Greeters (2)

Randy Letterhouse

Tom Kneisly

Deb Letterhouse

Jodi Kneisly

Lay Reader

Fred Bechtoldt

Jodi Kneisly

Tech Ministry

Andy Zaso

Jamie Hahn

Communion Assistants

Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Adrian Esquivia

(Intinction - 2 people)

Anita Zaso

Jerry Lewis

Social Hour Host

Altar Guild

Flowers Donated by

John & Megan Abbott

Sponsorship Available



May 24, 2026 ~ Pentecost Sunday

8:00am Service

10:30am Service

Musician

Karl

Karl

Usher/Greeters (2)

Eileen Rohn

Karen Odenwelder

Warren Rohn

Cindy Bonney

Lay Reader

Catherine DeBoeser

Jesse Way

Tech Ministry

Cindy Denker

Alyssa Young

Communion Assistants

Lois Iasiello

Jesse Way

(Intinction - 2 people)

Paul Grube

Rich Siegfried

Social Hour Host

Deacon Michael's Tuesday Class

Flowers Donated by

Renee & Ron Madea

Sponsorship Available



May 31, 2026 ~ Holy Trinity Sunday

8:00am Service

10:30am Service

Musician

Karl

Karl

Usher/Greeters (2)

Colleen Greene

Roseann Mohn

Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Mike Mohn

Lay Reader

Colleen Greene

Kate Grube

Tech Ministry

Andy Zaso

Annalisa Misiti

Communion Assistants

Anita Zaso

Violet McCandless

(Intinction - 2 people)

Barbara Lynn-Sarley

Joyce Macdonald

Social Hour Host

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Flowers Donated by

Cindy Denker

Sponsorship Available

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 April 8, 2026

Ten members present.

Absent: Tim Kryman

GUESTS: Pastor Jenkins

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Social Hour Host list to be reviewed and updated by Council. New AED pads are needed as current pads are expired. Ordered one set of new pads per Council President.

Treasurer's Report - Category Overview provided, month by month. Some explanation given by Lois about why general online giving is different between Category Overview and Income Statement. Lois explained that the amounts take longer to go into the Income Statement, so the numbers are not the same.

Pastor's Report - Lenten suppers, Holy Week, and Easter services were well-attended and seemed to be well-responded to. There was a good, cooperative spirit to the execution and participation in all these complex services. The final session of Matt Kay's workshop on Life-to-Life Evangelism will be scheduled for an evening in May. I found the presentation of Rabbi Mark Shulman a bit disappointing; he did not present on the topic we had discussed and some of his information was in error. Still, it stirred up conversations. The March 25 Jews for Jesus workshop was well-received and they are looking forward to future participation with our congregation, suggesting some other non-Lenten presentations. The new arrangement of the Narthex furnishings by Andy Zaso and myself without the involvement of more ministry leaders was a procedural mistake for which I apologize; a more involved process would have allowed more people to register opinions and consequently have more ownership of the final result. Despite that, I hope that a few weeks with the current setup will give us some concrete data to evaluate to help make our space serve our mission more effectively. The first organizational/training meeting of the congregational elders will be held April 30, 2026. During 2025 Pastor took his full allotment of 24 days' vacation but only took 2 out of 4 Sundays allotted. Proposed 2026 Vacation Days are: 4/26/26, 5/22-5/29 for trip to Japan, and 6/8/26-6/14/26. Approved. The Society of the Holy Trinity has been

forced to move its General Chapter Retreat from September to June because of a need to change host locations. General Chapter will take place from June 16-18. The pastor will be taking this time as continuing education.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: See hard copy of minutes.

ERT: Executive Board to review procedures based on events from Easter Sunday & 911 protocol.

Prayer Team: Two requests for the month of March.

Social Ministry: See hard copy of report.

Spiritual Care Team: "Team members continue to send thinking of you cards, sympathy cards, and birthday cards. Barbara continues to do Home Communion.

Women of Abundance: See hard copy of minutes.

Other Committee Reports: Tom Kneisly reported the Co-op graduation will be May 7 and the first day of the '26-'27 school year will be Sept. 1, 2026.

Old Business: Church Directory- Pastor met with Steve and is reviewing proofs. Security cameras are installed and operational. African Children's Choir is confirmed for 10/3/26. ChurchTrac update/website for 2026 to be done by Pastor. Potential upgrade due to number of users.

New Business: Burkholder repaired a faulty condenser on the split system in the Sanctuary. Parts were under warranty. Cost was \$1,304.00. Costs were still significantly less if we had paid for the yearly maintenance agreement.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Stewardship

Offerings received during the month of April as of 4/28/2026 totaled **\$21,859.50**

Thank you for your generous support of Holy Cross!



Capital Campaign Update

As of April 27th, we have received donations totaling

\$119,174.55

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



NALC website ~ the nalc.org

2026 Church Council

AJ 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
Kevin Martin	570-236-5202
Manuel Pinguelo	610-818-7415
Thomas Riger	201-841-9146
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

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Social Hour 8a Worship Service 10:30a Worship Service 2:30p Girl Scout Troop 8162	27 6p Girl Scouts Troop 8881	28 8:30a CCCN 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study 7p Facility Use	29 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	30 8:30a CCCN	1	2
3 Confirmation Class Social Hour 8a Worship Service 10:30a Worship Service 6p GS Troop 81134	4 10a Social Ministry Meeting	5 8:30a CCCN 6:30p Bible Study	6 6p CCCN Meeting 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	7 8:30a CCCN	8 4p CCCN	9 10a ERT Meeting
10 Confirmation Class Social Hour 8a Worship Service 10:30a Worship Service	11 6p Girl Scouts Troop 8881	12 8:30a CCCN 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study 7p Facility Use	13 7p Boy Scouts 7p CHURCH COUNCIL 7p Prayer Service	14 8:30a CCCN 6p VBS Organizational Meeting	15 9a HCF Community Connect Ser	16
17 Confirmation Class Social Hour 8a Worship Service 10:30a Worship Service 2p VASA 2:30p Girl Scout Troop 8162 6p GS Troop 81134	18 6p Girl Scouts Troop 8881	19 8:30a CCCN 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	20 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	21 8:30a CCCN 6p Christian Ed Meeting	22 9:30a WOA Meeting	23
24 Social Hour 8a Worship Service 10:30a Worship Service	25	26 8:30a CCCN 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study 7p Facility Use	27 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	28 8:30a CCCN	29 6p HCF Community Connect: Fed	30
31 Portluck Sunday 2:30p Girl Scout Troop 8162	1	2 8:30a CCCN 12:15p Prayer Service	3 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	4	5	6