



From the Pastor

Ordinary Time



Last month I reflected on the way we are all gifted by God for different ministries around the Church. Now that our “month of mission” is over, the children of VBS have received the stories of God’s Word, those facing homelessness have been served, we have learned better how to answer Our Lord’s call to share the gospel with all people, and our teens have deepened their discipleship through both study and service, it is time for us to recreate.

We often speak of recreation, but rarely use the verb form of that noun, *recreate*. When we do, it is easier to see where the word came from; our leisure should do more than entertain us. Our leisure activities should be things God can use to *re-create* us, make us anew.

This is the ordinary work God does in our lives while we live as Christians. Sure we all love a good mountaintop experience, but life is lived in the valley, the ordinary workaday world where God continues our sanctification in the course of our ordinary lives.

The season of Pentecost (which we will be in until Christ the King Sunday at the end of November) is referred to as “ordinary time” because in Latin *ordinalis* means “numbered,” and there are so many Sundays in the season of Pentecost... sometimes as many as 28!

Still, as the announcement board in our narthex says, what time with Jesus is *really* ordinary? Living an average life with Jesus is far better than living an extraordinary life without Him, for after all, “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36) I find that my time at the beach, with family and friends, or in a solitary walk through Jacobsburg Park is immeasurably enriched by knowing that through Jesus, God is with me, re-creating me so that my experience of life may be richer and His name glorified through my life.

I pray that this last leg of summer gives you time for some true re-creation with our amazing Lord!

P. Brett

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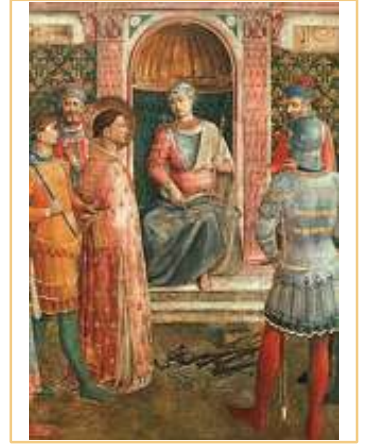
Saint of the Month: St. Lawrence

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. Lawrence on Monday, August 10th. He was probably born in Huesca, Spain, and he was one of seven deacons under Pope Sixtus II. At the time, Valerian was emperor of Rome, and had issued an edict for all Christian clergy to be arrested and killed, including St. Lawrence. Emperor Valerian offered a deal to Lawrence; if Lawrence showed him the treasures of the church, his life would be spared. Lawrence asked for three days to gather them. Three days later, he presented the poor, the widowed, and the sick—God's treasures—which infuriated the emperor. Emperor Valerian ordered Lawrence to be publicly burned over an open fire. While facing his fiery fate, St. Lawrence had said, "Flip me over, I'm done on this side." Tradition says that this caused a conversion to Christianity in Rome.



By Melissa Misiti



As we read this, let us remember Matthew 16:24-25, which states, 'Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."'

What and Why?

Assisting Ministers

While traveling in May, the congregation got to see our Council president step up to the role of assisting minister in our Sunday worship. This month and in the weeks ahead, you will get to see more people stepping up to that role.

You may never have noticed it, but in our green Lutheran Book of Worship, worship leadership is divided into parts marked "P" and "A." These stand for "presiding" and "assisting" minister. The role of the assistant minister is not really to help the pastor, who should be trained to lead an entire worship service on their own, but rather, to help the congregation know when and what to say so that our actions may be coordinated as the body of Christ, glorifying God through our unity.



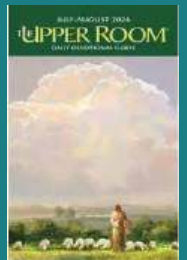
Having many people trained as assisting ministers strengthens a congregation's life. Not only can these people help the congregation in a time of emergency pastoral vacancy, they frequently become more comfortable leading prayer and even spontaneous worship outside of regular worship.

Already, we have no fewer than three people who have expressed an interest in becoming part of our germinal assisting minister ministry. Please encourage those who are serving and consider serving yourself!

August Lessons

- August 2, 2026 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26; Romans 9:1-13, Matthew 14:13-21
- August 9, 2026 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Job 38:4-18; Psalm 18:1-16; Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33
- August 16, 2026 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67:1-7; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Matthew 15:21-28
- August 23, 2026 ~ 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138:1-7; Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20
- August 30, 2026 ~ 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-12; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Upper Room



- Copies of the July - August Upper Room daily devotionals are available in the Narthex.

Church Family News

SUNDAY
Social
Hour
Hosts

August 2 Hospitality/Funeral Servers
August 9 Altar Guild
August 16 Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic
August 23 Emergency Response Team
August 30 Deacon Michael's Bible Study



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!

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Faith Newell; Barbara Smith; Donna Langston; Judy Iasiello; Denise Warner; Jennifer Petersen; Linda Sibbach; Lori Smith; Tama Minnich; Catherine Rupp; Robert Nichols; Stephanie Perez; Dayna Ravitsky; Georgia Denger; Timothy Silfies; Tom Kneisly; Hope Newell; Robert Drosnock; Jenna Wernett; Raymond Cole; Rich Siegfried; Harold Kurz, Jr.; Dominick Thomas; Robert Ravitsky; Joseph Zaso; Kevin Leindecker; Avalon Norton; Todd Grant; William Hughes, Jr.; Eric Peterson; William Hughes, III; Sarah Filchner; Julia Minnich; Hunter Diefenderfer; Mathew Pinguelo; 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; Randy Letterhouse; Michael Craig; & Lisa Jenkins!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Anniversary

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



In memory of Kay Wunderly, who passed away on Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 and in memory of Queenie Kratzer, who passed away on July 27, 2026. May they rest in peace in the comfort of our Lord's loving arms.

Word Search

From Sola Publishing



Complete the word search, using the bold words in the text of "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" (Nicolaus Ludwig, Graf von Zinzendorf (1739), translated by John Wesley) as a word bank.



1. **Jesus**, thy **blood** and **righteousness**,
My **beauty** are, my **glorious** dress;
Midst flaming **worlds**, in these arrayed,
With **joy** shall I lift up my **head**.

2. The **holy**, **meek**, unspotted **Lamb**,
Who from the Father's **bosom** came,
Who **died** for me, e'en me t' **atone**,
Now for my **Lord** and **God** I own.

3. Lord, I **believe** thy **precious** blood,
Which at the **mercy** seat of God,
Forever doth for **sinner**s plead,
For me, e'en for my **soul** was shed.

4. When from the **dust** of **death** I **rise**
To claim my **mansion** in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my **plea**,
Jesus hath **lived**, hath died for me.



Council Meeting Highlights

- Outdoor Service & Picnic - August 16, 2026
- Two Worship Services restart on September 13, 2026
- Sunday School begins Sunday, September 13, 2026 - Rally Day

Church News

Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is now a well-established ministry here at Holy Cross. Many new people have joined our church, and may be unaware of this important ministry. This article is to serve as an introduction. **The ERT exists to train our people to effectively respond to emergency situations not only at Holy Cross but also in our personal lives outside the church.**

How you respond is certainly not the same as how you react in an emergency. On the surface the meaning of the words “respond” and “react” may appear similar but they can be significantly different. Several years ago while still tax-paying members of the workforce we found a great explanation for this difference. It came from Zig Ziglar, a well-known business consultant, who provided an analogy similar to the following:

Let's say you have to visit the Emergency Room with your 9 year old daughter (or granddaughter) for a serious medical issue. The ER staff performs a group of tests and administers some medications to her. It certainly isn't a good thing if the doctor tells you that your child is reacting to the meds is it? Wouldn't it be much better if the doctor informed you that your child is responding to the medication!

For us, this example provides a clear understanding of the real difference between reacting and responding. Responding to a medical emergency (like the one we had last Easter Sunday and at other worship services throughout the years) is the most likely scenario most of us will ever experience. There may be other situations, for instance fire or severe weather, and these can happen anywhere- at home, on the highway, while on vacation, or here at Holy Cross. As a member of the ERT, you will learn the appropriate response in an emergency instead of simply reacting and causing more harm than good.

The ERT always needs additional members from our church family. Many who serve on the team are church officers and members who are already stretched beyond their limits with other church and personal responsibilities.

If you feel that God may be calling you to be part of our team, please contact us using the information below.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

In Christ,

Bob Beckowski

ERT Co-Coordinator

bbeckowski1@gmail.com

610.837.0384 (mobile)



The next ERT meeting is Saturday, August 8 from 10:00am-12:00pm in Room 1 (Youth Room)

Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic

Sunday, August 16th
9:15AM

See the Church Picnic sign-up sheet in the Social Hall
and let us know of a dessert or side you'd like to share.



Sunday School

September 13th

From toddlers to adults!

There is something for everyone!

Sign up using the QR code below:





News to Use

Sunday Life

Giving Service to the Lord

Summer Schedule

August 2, 2026 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)

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

Social Hour Host

Flowers Donated by:

9:15am Service

Ben Watson
Eileen Rohn
Paul Grube
Adrian Esquivia
Jamie Hahn
John Abbott
Adrian Esquivia
Pam Berlew
Hospitality / Funeral Servers
Women of Abundance
Sponsorship Available



August 9, 2026 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)

Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
(Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host

Flowers Donated by:

9:15am Service

Karl DeBoeser
Vicky Gaugler
Alice Sterner
Barbara Lynn-Sarley
Andy Zaso
Barbara Lynn-Sarley
Paul Grube
Altar Guild
Julie Millheim & The Drosnock Family
Colleen & Keith Greene



August 16, 2026 ~ Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)

Lay Reader
Flowers Donated by

9:15am Service

Karl DeBoeser
Gene Dickison
Diane Dickison
Diane Dickison
Renee' Madea



August 23, 2026 ~ 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)

Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
(Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host

Flowers Donated by:

9:15am Service

Ben Watson
Randy Letterhouse
Deb Letterhouse
Colleen Greene
Andy Zaso
Anita Zaso
Colleen Greene
Emergency Response Team
Eileen & Warren Rohn
Sponsorship Available



August 30, 2026 ~ 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)

Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
(Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host

Flowers Donated by:

9:15am Service

Karl DeBoeser
DJ Drosnock
Mary Ann Drosnock
Jesse Way
Emily Drosnock
Jesse Way
Joyce Macdonald
Deacon Michael's Bible Study
Gloria Longley, Charmaine Bartholomew,
Arthur Edelman & Raymond Edelman



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 July 8, 2026

Ten members present.

Absent: Tom Kneisly

GUESTS: Pastor Brett Jenkins

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Facility Use Request submitted by Heather Stofanak of the "Backtrackers" 4H Club, for use of a room to hold their bi-monthly meetings every other Friday evening from 6:30-9pm between the months of October 2026 - June 2027. Approved. Rental of Church Property request from Jodi Kneisly for the use of 8 tables and 60 chairs for pick up on July 17, 2026 to be returned on July 19, 2026. Approved. Renewal Facility Use Application from Girl Scout Troop 8881 under leader Peggy Stoudt. Approved. Christian Co-op requested facility use. September thru June. Total attendance is expected to be approximately 85 students. Held by Council.

Treasurer's Report - Category overview provided, month by month. General income was positive this month.

Pastor's Report - New Business: Bringing her lens as a communications major, my daughter is seeking permission of Council to make some upgrades to our communications strategies and technology, which include: Dedicated tab for events, unified "branding" across our communication tools, addition of explicitly theological material to website, website changes/updates, formation of a communication & media team. Approved. Responses to the survey are back, and we are working on a time to hold a pastor class integrating theology, church history, spirituality, and Christian morality regarding modern issues-basically, church life that builds on the foundation of the Bible. My responsibilities as Dean have been heavy during the month; four of the nine congregations in our region are in pastoral transition, which places more responsibilities than usual with me. Pastor did not take his vacation days in July because of his son's internship. He would like to take in August, TBD. Old Business: Confirmation Students have begun turning in their year end exams. They will be presented to the Council for accountability. 1. Currently seven students signed up for the high school service and retreat week. We will be volunteering at Pocono Area Transitional Housing and serving around the Church.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No meeting in June.

Fellowship: See hard copy of minutes.

Hospitality/Funeral Servers: On June 5, 2026 a funeral luncheon was held for church member Joseph Mazzie. Our wonderful volunteers assisted the 75 guests throughout the luncheon. Much appreciation to all of the committee volunteers.

Property: Hard copy of minutes provided. Council approved the new glass at the Library. Kevin and Tim offer assistance with the new Inspection Protocol.

Social Ministry: On June 18, 2026 committee volunteers went for our monthly visitation to Gracedale with homemade blueberry muffins for each resident. We've come to learn that the residents really appreciate the food "treats" we bring! We are scheduled to visit on July 18, 2026.

Spiritual Care Team: The team is trying to fulfill their duties as usual. We need more people to serve on this team.

Women of Abundance: See hard copy of minutes.

Other Committee Reports: VBS- See hard copy of minutes.

Old Business: Church Directory: Pastor met with Steve and is reviewing several proofs for review. The pastor will make a recommendation. **5-13-25** Pastor has a proof of the directory. Review of the draft identified some additional work is still required. **6-10-2026** Carry. **7-8-26** Carry. African Children's Choir is confirmed 10-3-2026. Holy Cross T-Shirts: Design was approved WOA is going to buy a few T-Shirts for display prior to ordering. T-shirts have been ordered. Additional counters are needed. Lynne A. Has volunteered.

New Business: Prayer Stations have a new location. Discussion resulted in a proposal to remove the candles. Leave the prayer stations in place. Agreed to replace the candles with a symbolic item. Pastor to research and order needed materials. Convocation will take place October 8-10. Council to provide a meal for VBS on Wednesday July 22nd. Council that can help should be there before 5:00. All members volunteered for some items for a picnic dinner. Jerry reminded Council to wear their name badges. WOA yard sale total was \$3,712.00. New copier lease is being investigated. We received pricing from one company and we're waiting for a second price. Under review.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Stewardship

Offerings received during the month of July as of 7/30/2026 totaled **\$16,371.90**

Thank you for your generous support of Holy Cross!

Capital Campaign Update

As of July 27th, we have received donations totaling

\$121,737.85

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!**

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

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

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service	27 Sunday School Sign up 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	28 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	29	30	31	
2 day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	
9 day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service VASA	10	11 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	12 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	13	14	10a ERT Meeting
16 day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service VASA	17	18 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	19 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	20	21	
23 day School Sign up rch Picnic ial Hour 5a Outdoor Worship Service	24 CCCN Picnic 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	25 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	26	27	28	9:30a WOA Meeting
30 day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service	31	1 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	2 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	3	4	
day School Sign up ial Hour 5a Worship Service		12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service			