



News for an Abundant Life in **CHRIST**

From the Pastor

Back to School



When our children were young, one of our favorite TV commercials was produced by the office supply company, Staples. It only ran in August. A couple of glum-faced children were trudging dourly behind their mother down the aisles of the store as she danced to the sound of Danny Kay's rendition of *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. As she dances, mom is tossing pencils, notebooks, and other school paraphernalia into the shopping cart, making the reason for the children's gloom evident.

The commercial was funny because we all remember the feeling we had as kids; the freedom of summer ending and the unwelcome structure and routine of school beginning.

Based on some comments I have heard from our congregation, I think that some of us are feeling that way right now; hasn't it been great to have one service with such a full church, where we feel unified as a congregation, at a time when we don't have to get up too early or feel like we are getting out of church with half the day gone?

I get it. Those are great things, and I have *thoroughly* enjoyed them too. But just as a childhood made up exclusively of summer vacation would not have equipped us very well for life, so our summer rhythm with its lack of time for Sunday School cannot equip us to live a robustly Christian life in the 21st Century; it has always been challenging to be an authentic disciple of Jesus, but the "prince of this world" (John 14:30, Eph 2:2, 2 Cor 4:4) has been working overtime to create a landscape seemingly tailor-made to hack us spiritually and increase the powers of sin and death in our lives.

We need defense against this attack. We need building up in Christ, and our school year pattern of worship wrapped around Christian education more effectively gives us that. As we all wait for the return of summer's schedule, let's throw ourselves into the routine of fall, looking forward to what the Lord will use it to do in our lives!

Pr. Brett

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Saint of the Month: Saint Hannah

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 Hannah on Wednesday, September 2nd. Hannah is in the book of 1 Samuel. She was married to Elkanah, but she had no children. Every year they would go to the temple at Shiloh and sacrifice to the Lord. Hannah desired a son, so, while at the temple, she had wept and prayed to God for a son. She promised that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate her son to Him. Hannah had conceived a son and named him Samuel - a prophet and judge of Israel - and dedicated him to the service of God at the temple in Shiloh, along with a sacrifice of thanksgiving for God's answered prayers.



By Melissa Misiti



As we read this, let us remember Psalm 37:5-7a, which states, "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."

What and Why?

**"I confess that I am
in bondage to sin..."**

When I was training to become a pastor, my dad, a lifelong Christian, asked me a question; "If God loves us and wants to forgive us, why are we always asking Him for mercy and confessing our sins to Him over and over again?"

It is a good question, but it misunderstands what the Bible means by God's forgiveness; God's

forgiveness is not really a change in God's attitude or perspective toward us. God's love is not conditioned by our repentance. It is eternal and the very reason He sent Jesus to die for humanity *while we were still sinners*. (Rom 5:8)

But our reception of God's forgiveness...? Ah, that's another story. Ever tell somebody that you forgive them for something they didn't feel sorry for? They either look at you like you're crazy or rage at you for your arrogance in assuming they *need* your forgiveness. You may be more willing to give forgiveness than they are to receive it, but your forgiveness offered without their reception of it does nothing to restore your relationship.

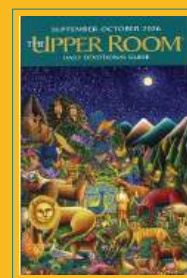
It is the same way with God's forgiveness given in Jesus Christ. God wishes to give it to all humanity but only those who trust—have faith in—Him will receive it. Because sin puts distance between us and the God who loves us, we who sin want that distance erased as quickly as possible... and certainly before we encounter God in worship! While the forgiveness of humanity's sins was won by God on the cross, that victory must be applied to each of us individually. Our confession and cries for mercy are the way we dispose ourselves to receive God's forgiveness, spiritually opening our hands to receive the gift He wants to bestow and be back in a right relationship with Him.



September Lessons

- September 6, 2026 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20
- September 13, 2026 ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- September 20, 2026 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16
- September 27, 2026 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10; Philippians 2:1-4, 5-18, Matthew 21:23-32

Upper Room



- Copies of the Sept - October Upper Room daily devotionals are available in the Narthex.

Church Family News

SUNDAY
Social
Hour
Hosts

September 6 Property Committee
September 13 Prayer Shawl & Spiritual Care
September 20 Church Council
September 27 Finance Committee



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!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Juan-Daniel Perez; Peggy Nagy; William Murphy; JoAnn VanHorn; Pearl Wambold; Renee Madea; Catherine DeBoeser; Angelica Newell; Skylar Skurjunis; Emma Burslem; Sandy Muschlitz; Michael Csencsits, Jr.; Ryan Ortutay; Barbara McMullen; Pamela Berlew; Kerry Livermore; Dennis Briody; Anita Trach; Madalin Hahn; Todd Wallace; DJ Drosnock; Carla Pinguelo; Trisha Norton; Declan Rowohl; Megan Abbott; John Struss; Priscilla Hahn; Amy Demyan; Scott Macdonald; Bridgette Hughes; Violet McCandless; Karl Petersen; Rachel Shoup; Lucas Schoeneberger, IV; Garry Bunting; Cooper Seibert; Michael Koehler; Adam Struss; Kelsi Yotter; Matthew Hahn; Tyler Yazujian; Judy Odenwelder; Michael McMullen; Dennis Diefenderfer; Victoria Knauss; Caleb Misiti; Molly Kryman; Ronald Madea; Luke Fisher; Kirsten McMullen; & Amanda Maenza!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Beth Ann & Kevin Taby; Raymond & Carly Scuder; Allen & Kay Tomko; Richard & RuthAnn Siegfried; Karl & Jennifer Petersen; James & JoAnn VanHorn; Fred & Elizabeth Bechtoldt; Randall & Constance Huth; Walter & Catherine Rupp; Tracey & Steward Silfies; Todd & LouAnn Wallace; Will & Shannon Godiska; Matthew & Nicole Diefenderfer; Jacob & Laura Sutton; Gene & Diane Dickison; Aaron & Sammantha Martin; George & Tamara Denger; Bruce & Karen Stem; AJ & Kami Arfanella; Mike & Roseann Mohn; Dennis & Virginia Soffera; Dave & Kimberly Altemose; and Christopher & Amanda Maenza!

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Blessing



The Christian Ed Committee and Pr. Brett invite all of our families with children returning to school this year to a Student and Family Blessing on September 20, 2026 at both services.

Students will be invited to come forward with their families, and bring with them a backpack, notebook, iPad, or wear an outfit they will take to school with them that will remind them of their faith while in school.

Our increasingly secular schools can be a challenging place for our young people to remember and live out their Christian identities. Bringing the blessing of Christ's church to them specifically as students is a great way strengthen and bless them in this regard.



Word Search

From Sola Publishing

Try this word search based on the words in the word bank, all from Psalm 19.

C	O	U	R	S	E	F	G	A	P	U	E	L	B	A	T	P	E	C	C	A	Z
G	P	L	V	E	N	O	D	N	O	P	I	A	C	L	E	A	N	D	R	V	K
S	S	G	O	L	D	Q	L	Y	U	R	N	W	B	A	L	D	L	K	H	R	W
P	I	C	B	W	D	O	Z	Q	R	E	N	C	H	A	M	B	E	R	A	E	F
E	G	I	J	R	I	P	K	E	S	V	R	E	T	S	A	M	R	I	O	H	C
E	H	I	A	X	S	J	N	N	M	E	L	R	S	W	F	E	S	X	U	T	P
C	T	E	T	S	M	S	O	D	L	R	T	W	D	X	Y	K	T	X	N	E	M
H	H	M	R	S	I	K	W	U	A	O	I	H	W	E	R	U	L	E	S	G	R
I	T	O	A	E	A	Y	L	R	S	F	F	C	S	M	T	J	S	U	U	O	M
G	R	U	N	L	L	O	E	I	P	D	A	V	I	D	H	T	L	Q	D	T	H
L	U	T	S	E	C	X	D	N	A	B	X	A	Z	E	N	Y	A	R	O	L	O
O	E	H	G	M	O	Y	G	G	R	D	B	O	A	Z	A	M	E	I	M	A	N
R	E	O	R	A	R	U	E	I	E	E	W	V	Y	O	J	O	V	G	I	H	E
Y	K	Y	E	L	P	C	D	S	I	R	E	T	E	E	W	S	E	H	N	G	Y
L	R	R	S	B	U	E	I	X	I	N	T	B	R	B	B	E	R	T	I	F	C
K	X	I	S	B	G	R	P	I	S	D	E	C	L	A	R	E	V	E	O	R	O
C	N	S	I	R	E	K	R	O	W	I	D	N	A	H	S	T	R	O	N	G	M
O	U	N	O	D	W	I	I	N	N	O	C	E	N	T	W	G	N	U	U	V	B
R	G	O	N	S	V	U	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	D	E	M	P	S	D	A	C
V	M	S	B	R	Q	A	W	V	V	O	I	C	E	R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R

Psalm
choirmaster
David
heavens
declare
glory

God
proclaims
handiwork
pours
speech
reveals

knowledge
voice
heard
bridegroom
chamber
strong

course
eyes
fear
clean
enduring
forever

rules
true
righteous
altogether
desired
gold

sweeter
honeycomb
dominion
blameless
innocent
transgression

mouth
meditation
acceptable
sight
rock
redeemer



Council Meeting Highlights

- We return to two services on 9/13: 8:00 & 10:30AM
- Rally Day on 9/13 at 9:15AM
- African Children's Choir 10/3-10/4
- Convocation: October 8-10. Consider signing up to help. Be a Blessing!

Church News

Back to Church Sunday 2026

Sunday, September 13

Return to two worship services:

8:00 & 10:30AM

Sunday School for All Ages

begins at 9:15AM



You're invited

Join us for a Sunday of worship, connection, and hope.

Sunday School for All Ages

Something for everyone!

Begins Sunday, September 13 | 9:15AM



Mommy & Me Class

Sunday School K-2

Sunday School 3-6

Confirmation Class

Highlighted Bible

Bethel Bible Series

Large Catechism

Rooms 3 & 4

Room 5

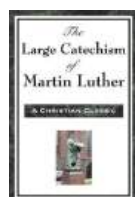
Room 6

Room 1A & 1B (Youth Room)

Room 2B

Room 7

Social Hall



Harvest Home September 20, 2026



Beginning in September, we'll be collecting canned/non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Bath Food Bank. You may place your food donations at the Food Bank box in the entry

way of the church. Place any monetary donations in a Designated Gift Envelope and mark it "Harvest Home - Bath Food Bank". The items will be placed around the altar on Sunday, September 20 and be blessed before being taken to the food bank. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Pet Blessing

Sunday, September 27, at 5:30pm

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 Sunday evening on October 5 to an outdoor service (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 inside to the social hall.



African Children's Choir Concert Saturday, October 3 | 7:00PM

Please save the date for this amazing event! The African Children's Choir will be visiting Holy Cross again from Saturday, October 3rd to Sunday October 4th. They'll perform Saturday evening and then join us for our 10:30 worship service and potluck on Sunday!

We Need Helpers and Hosts!

Helpers Needed : Saturday, October 3rd

- Unloading Bus - 4
- Sound Setup - 1
- Dinner Prep & Cleanup - 4
- Ushers to hand out bulletins - 2
- Sponsorship & Sales Tables - 5
- Donation Counters - 4
- Stage Tear-down after show - 4

Helpers Needed : Sunday, October 4th

- Potluck Donations - 20
- Lunch Prep & Cleanup - 4
- Loading Bus - 4

7 Host Families Needed

Boys:

- House #A: 2 boys plus 1 chaperone
- House #B: 3 boys and 1 chaperone
- House #C: 3 boys and 1 chaperone

Girls:

- House #D: 4 girls plus 1 chaperone
- House #E: 3 girls plus 1 chaperone
- House #F: 3 girls plus 1 chaperone

Bus Driver:

- House #G: 1 bus driver

**Kids stay in the same room & can sleep 2 in a full, 3 in a queen.
Must have separate room for others.**

AMR Convocation October 8-10, 2026

Convocation - Volunteers Needed

This year, Holy Cross has been chosen to host the annual theological conference, Women of the NALC gathering, and Convocation of the Atlantic Mission District. On October 8-10, our humble church building will be home to Lutherans from Boston to Virginia, gathering together to learn more about God's Word and how to better live the Christian life in the 21st century.

We are expecting 80-100 people to be attending. We need volunteers to help serve and to bake.

There will be sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall starting in early September.

Please consider signing up to help. It will give you an opportunity to connect with the larger NALC and also to get to know our congregation members better.

If you are interested and have any questions, please feel free to contact Cindy Bonney at cindybonney1055@gmail.com or 610-704-1266.

2026 AMR Lutheran Week Light

Registration is open for the 2026 AMR Lutheran Week Light & Convocation. You may register online by using this link:



<https://atlanticmissionregionnalc.regfox.com/2026-amr-lutheran-week-light>

or use the paper registration included in the newsletter or pick one up in the Social Hall.

Registration is required if you plan to attend an event that includes a meal.

The registration deadline for all events is September 24, 2026. It is important that you register before the deadline so that the appropriate materials can be available for you at the event. Our presenters and speakers will have information to hand out at the event.

Friday and Saturday's Convocation theme for this year is ***"Be Patient in Tribulation: Jesus is With Us!"*** Featuring: Matthew Kay, Director of Mission Expansion for Cru Church Movements from Cru; Pr. Tom Brashears, Director of Leadership Development for the NALC; and Gary & Laurie Pecuch from Faithwebbing, our featured Ministry Partner. The Rev. Carol Fryer, Northeastern Area Assistant to the Bishop will be the featured preacher at Saturday's Eucharist.

2026 AMR CONVOCATION SCHEDULE
Be Patient in Tribulation: JESUS IS WITH YOU!
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Nazareth, PA

Friday, October 9

8:15 – 9:00	Arrival and Registration for Convo and Light Breakfast – unload cars
9:00 – 9:30	Matins – in the Sanctuary Opening of Convocation (<i>Regional Dean – The Rev. Rodney Lilley</i>)
9:30 - 10:45	<i>Life to Life Evangelism – Evangelism Without Fear: You've Got This! Part 1</i> Presenter: Matthew Kay, Director of Mission Expansion for Cru Church Movements – a ministry of Campus Crusade
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:45	AMR Business Meeting
11:45 – 12:15	STUFF THE TRUCK
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch & Ministry Partner Displays (Fellowship Hall)
1:00 – 2:15	<i>Life to Life Evangelism - Evangelism Without Fear: You've Got This! Part 2</i> Presenter: Matthew Kay, Director of Mission Expansion for Cru Church Movements – a ministry of Campus Crusade
2:15 - 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:30	Workshop #1 (You will choose one) Option 1: RENEW – Pastor Tom Brashears will introduce you to the RENEW program and how to implement it within your congregation. OR Option 2: Faithwebbing – Gary & Laurie Pecuch will focus on starting intergenerational ministries in the local congregation.
3:30– 3:50	Break
3:50 – 4:50	Workshop #2 (You will choose one) Option 1: RENEW – See above OR Option 2: Faithwebbing – See above
4:50 – 5:00	Break
5:00 – 6:00	Supper (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 – 7:00	<i>Mission District Breakout Sessions (Locations will be announced at supper)</i>
7:00 – 8:00	Fellowship and Dessert Bar (Fellowship Hall)
8:00 – 8:30	Compline - Liturgist: The Rev. Brett Jenkins (Sanctuary)

Saturday, October 10

8:30 - 9:00	Gathering
9:00– 10:30	Liturgy of the Eucharist (Sanctuary) Liturgist: The Rev. Brett Jenkins Preacher: The Rev. Carol Fyer, Northeastern Area Assistant to the Bishop
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	Panel Discussion with Youth (Sanctuary)
12:00	Closing of Convocation followed by Lunch and Ministry Displays in Fellowship Hall.

NALC Disaster Response

Needs YOUR Help!

This year we will be collecting Kitchen Kits to be distributed through NALC Disaster Relief.

If you are able, please consider assembling a Kitchen Kit.

Bags will be distributed after Worship services in early September.

In addition, Bibles, quilts, and blankets will be collected.

At the Convocation, these items will be loaded on a truck (Stuff the Truck)
to be taken to a distribution storage center.

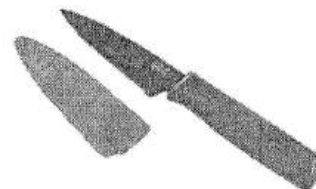
When a natural disaster occurs, the stored items can immediately be delivered to people in need.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED KITS BY OCTOBER 4, 2026.

Kitchen Kits

(one item of each listed below completes one kit)

- ☐ **One** journal-sized cookbook
- ☐ **One** dish towel
- ☐ **One** dish cloth
- ☐ **One** hot pad or oven mitt
- ☐ **One** spatula (pancake turner)
- ☐ **One** set of measuring cups
- ☐ **One** set of measuring spoons
- ☐ **One** storage container (2 C. size) with a lid
- ☐ **One** can opener
- ☐ **One** paring/steak knife WITH a sheath **or** a peeler
- ☐ ~~Two 13-gallon kitchen trash bags, one 30-gallon black trash bag & one 1-gallon food ziplock bag for inside the kit~~
- ☐ 2.5-gallon **ziplock bag**- to pack the kit into
- ☐ **One** pocket-sized devotional



Bibles

(We encourage you to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles)

- o new or used (highlighted & underlined text is acceptable)
- o child, teen or adult
- o Bible stories for children
- o Spanish, or any language
- o large print
- o prayer books

Quilts and Blankets

- o any size including baby
- o any fabric including religious, patriotic/military theme, seasonal

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

Monday, September 21, 2026
Harrisburg, PA
pafamily.org/march

Join us on the steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol for the sixth annual Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, September 21, 2026 and make your voice heard! This inspiring event brings together people from all walks of life to stand for the dignity of every human being, beginning in the womb. Be a voice for the voiceless – because every life has purpose!

Registration is not required but is encouraged.

Please RSVP at <https://marchforlife.quorum.us/campaign/2026PAMFL/>

- *Free breakfast beforehand for all who would like to participate!*
- *10:00AM Pre-Rally Praise & Worship*
- *11:00AM Rally*
- *12:00PM March*

Please pray for the Lutherans that gather and ask for the Lord's blessing on the work to make PA a state that promotes the life of all—both the unborn and the care of their mothers and fathers as well as the aged among us. Join us—your family, your church family—young, youth, adult, and old as we work together as Lutherans to uphold and witness the teachings of the Bible about the value and dignity of each and every human life created by God. Come and march with us on September 21.

In Christ,

Pr. Chris Seifferlein—Mount Calvary LCMS-Lititz



Feel Called to Help Those in Need?

After more than 16 years leading NALC Disaster Response, the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) announced that Mary Bates will retire as Disaster Response Coordinator effective October 31, 2026, concluding more than 16 years of faithful service with the NALC.

Have you ever wanted to help people?

Can you imagine knowing that you are helping those facing flood, fire, hurricane and other disasters?

Maybe God is calling you...

The Director of Disaster Response oversees all aspects of NALC Disaster Response, LLC, including disaster preparedness, emergency response, volunteer coordination, long-term recovery efforts, and the continued development of the ministry's regional response network. Working alongside congregations, volunteers, the Disaster Response Board of Directors, and the Office of the Bishop, the director helps equip the church to serve communities impacted by disasters with the love of Christ. A complete position description and application information are available at thenalc.org/drdirector.

Applications for the position are now open.

Questions regarding the transition or the Director of Disaster Response position may be directed to the Rev. Mark Werner at mwerner@thenalc.org.

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Church, we give thanks to Mary Bates for her years of faithful service, steadfast leadership, and heart for being a Christ-centered presence to those facing the unimaginable. We pray God's continued blessings upon Mary and her family as she begins this new chapter, and we are filled with gratitude for the foundation she has laid, confident that NALC Disaster Response will continue to bring the hope and love of Christ to communities in need for years to come.



News to Use

Sunday Life

Giving Service to the Lord

September 6, 2026 ~ 15th 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

Karl DeBoeser
 John Abbott
 Megan Abbott
 Kate Grube
 Andy Zaso
 Lynne Auger
 Anita Zaso
 Dillon Supers
 Property Committee
Richard & Ruth Ann Siegfried
Karl & Jennifer Petersen



September 13, 2026 ~ 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)
Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
 (Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host
Flowers Donated by:

8:00AM Service

Karl DeBoeser
 Vicky Gaugler
 Alice Sterner
 Catherine DeBoeser
 Cindy Denker
 Paul Grube
 Pam Berlew

10:30AM Service

Karl DeBoeser
 Annalisa Misiti
 Melissa Misiti
 Jamie Hahn
 Mathew Pinguelo
 Jamie Hahn
 Timothy Misiti

Prayer Shawl/Spiritual Care
Women of Abundance
Sponsorship Available



September 20, 2026 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)
Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
 (Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host
Flowers Donated by:

8:00AM Service

Ben Watson
 Randy Letterhouse
 Deb Letterhouse
 Barbara Lynn-Sarley
 Terry Ellis
 Lois Iasiello
 Barbara Lynn-Sarley

10:30AM Service

Ben Watson
 Tom Kneisly
 Jodi Kneisly
 Jodi Kneisly
 Molly Kryman
 Diane Dickison
 Adrian Esquivia

Church Council
Amanda Leindecker, Children & Grandchildren
Sponsorship Available



September 27, 2026 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Musician
Usher/Greeters (2)
Lay Reader
Tech Ministry
Communion Assistants
 (Intinction - 2 people)
Social Hour Host
Flowers Donated by:

8:00AM Service

Ben Watson
 DJ Drosnock
 Mary Ann Drosnock
 Mary Ann Drosnock
 Andy Zaso
 Paul Grube
 Eileen Rohn

10:30AM Service

Ben Watson
 Heidi Sweetser-Cohen
 Cindy Bonney
 Heidi Sweetser-Cohen
 Delilah Cohen
 Jesse Way
 Joyce Macdonald

Finance Committee
Sponsorship Available
Sponsorship Available



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 August 12, 2026

Nine members present.

Absent: AJ Arfanella, Tim Kryman

GUESTS: No guests present.

Review of Reports:

Secretary's Report - Renewal of Facility Use application from Girl Scout Troop 81134 has been received. Approved by Council. Renewal of Facility Use application from Girl Scout Troop 8162 has been received. Approved by Council. Girl Scout Troop 8162 leader, Amanda Peterson, has two girls in the troop looking to complete their service projects. She inquired if the church has any needs. Copy of email provided in the President's folder.

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

Pastor's Report - New Business Pastor has continued to work on the issues related to printing a church photo directory directly from our ChurchTrac software. At this time, there are unresolved issues, some of which require direction from church Council. Please refer to the attached sample printouts when appropriate. Website updates so far: Changes instituted so far largely do not affect the look of our website, only its navigability, especially for people exploring the possibility of making Holy Cross their church home. Landing pages have been added for menu options with a special focus on the way they populate on a mobile device since that is the way most people are surfing the web now. Please see the landing page for "Grow," which she has crafted in preparation for the annual kick-off to Sunday School. Menu options have been re-arranged to reflect a more logical layout of search options. The "Catechism and Bible Study" and "Sunday School" options have been combined into a single page to reflect our vision of Christian education being a normative part of lifelong Christian formation and discipleship. Anita Zaso has given an initial positive reaction to the changes. The original boilerplate homepage banner material has been replicated either below the banner (for scrolling on mobile devices) or to menu options so that the homepage banner may be re-purposed for ministry emphases and current activities. The church calendar has been reformatted so that it shows as a list of upcoming activities rather than a paper-style block calendar. A staff page has been added. We will need to get short bios and pictures of all staff including Deacon Michael, to populate it fully. **Old Business** 7 out of 11 confirmation end-of-year exams were turned in during the month of July. The senior high school service and retreat week went exceptionally well. In particular, the night where we invited the middle school aged confirmation students to stay in order to build friendships among the different peer groups went well. The goal is to retain at least

some of the confirmation aged kids as a foundation for senior high aged ministry moving forward.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery: 1 burial.

Christian Co-op: 68 students from 29 families. Approx. 15 adults during the school hours. 8/18 Picnic. 8/25 Orientation. 9/1 School begins. Students will continue to help with weeding, gardening, and leaf clean up.

Christian Education: Hard copy of minutes provided.

ERT: Hard copy of minutes provided. Coverage needed for Convocation. 4 hour shifts.

Prayer Team: Marianne Nichols is new Team Leader.

Property: Hard copy of minutes provided. Glass in library was replaced.

Women of Abundance: See hard copy of minutes.

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

Old Business: Church Directory: tabled for now. African Children's Choir is confirmed 10-3-2026. Christian Co-op requested facility use. September thru June. Total attendance is expected to be approximately 68 students, and 15 adults. Prayer Stations have a new location. Discussion resulted in a proposal to remove the candles. Leave the prayer stations in place. New copier lease is being investigated. We will stick with Fraser under a new contract costing less and allotting for more copies. T-shirt sales went well. Second order is currently being collected.

New Business: Convocation will take place October 8, 9, 10. Children's bulletins: we will provide an activity sheet corresponding to the service topic for younger children. Cost is \$80/yr.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

Financial Stewardship

Offerings received during the month of August
as of 8/28/2026 totaled **\$17,891.50**

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

Capital Campaign Update

As of August 28th, we have
received donations totaling

\$125,225.85

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!**

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:

8:00AM ~ Traditional Liturgy
10:30AM ~ 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

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Social Hour 9:15a Worship Service	31 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	1 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	2 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	3	4	5
6 Social Hour 9:15a Worship Service 9:15a Baptism	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	9 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	10	11	12 9a AMR Council Meeting
13 8a Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 2p VASA	14 6p Girl Scout Troop 8881	15 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	16 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	17	18 4p Rehearsal	19 Wedding Heiny/Omori
20 Harvest Home 8a Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	21	22 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	23 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	24	25	26 9:30a WOA Meeting
27 8a Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 5:30p Pet Blessing	28 6p Girl Scout Troop 8881	29 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	30 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	1	2	3 African Children's Choir 9a Wedding
4 African Children's Choir 8a Worship Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12p Potluck Sunday	5	6 11a Bible Study 12:15p Prayer Service 6:30p Bible Study	7 7p Boy Scouts 7p Prayer Service	8 Convocation	9	10

**Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC presents ‘Lutheran Week Light’
October 8-10, 2026
Paper Registration**

**Fill out form and mail with the registration fee to
Kathaleen Lilley, 1380 Twigg Ave., Lebanon, PA 17046 **by September 24, 2026.****

If you prefer to register online and skip the paper, use this link:

<https://atlanticmissionregionnalclregfox.com/2026-amr-lutheran-week-light>

Name _____

Address _____

Congregation _____

Email address _____ Phone number _____

Dietary Restrictions (if applicable) _____

Please select any or all the event you would like to attend:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ☐ Theological Conference - October 8, 2026 – In Person | \$30.00 |
| ☐ Theological Conference - October 8, 2026 – Virtual | \$15.00 |
| ☐ Women’s Conference - October 8, 2026 – In Person only | \$40.00 |
| ☐ AMR Convocation - October 9 & 10, 2026 – In Person | \$55.00 |
| ☐ AMR Convocation - October 9 & 10, 2026 – Virtual | \$25.00 |

Total Cost: _____

My TOTAL registration fee is enclosed. (Checks should be made payable to the Atlantic Mission Region)