

# Nativity Lutheran Church Weekend Newsletter

February 20 & 21, 2010



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612.781.2766  
www.nativitychurch.org

*Nativity's Mission Statement: Nativity is a hospitable congregation sent by Jesus Christ to be disciples who will make a difference by bringing God's love, hope, joy and peace to the world.*

Ken Gruhlke, Nativity's head custodian since June, 1993, died unexpectedly on Sunday February 14, 2010. His funeral will be Saturday Feb. 20, 2010 at 11 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Rush City, MN with visitation at First Lutheran Church in Rush City, MN on Friday, February 19, 4-8 PM and one hour before the service. Please send cards to Nativity and we will get them to Cathy.

**A service of remembrance will be held at Nativity Lutheran Church on February 28 at 3:00 p.m.**

Our prayers surround Ken's spouse Cathy and his children, Jeff and John and his step-children, Ben and Blake.

Jesus speaking to his good friend Martha proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (Jn 11:25-26)

The Nativity Community takes comfort in the promises of Jesus, knowing that one day we will see Ken again in heaven. Until that time we will miss him and we will remember him with thanksgiving.

Pastor Glenn Seefeldt

## Today's Scripture Reading Luke 4:1-13

### Tested in the Wilderness

In this text Jesus here settles issues as good rabbis did, by appeal to scripture. But this text also shows that Jesus does not just use scripture to accommodate contemporary views of its authority; he uses it as his authority and the final word on ethics even when dealing with a supracultural adversary. (It should go without saying that the original writer and readers would have viewed the



devil as a literal, personal being; some modern readers' figurative treatment of the devil as a generic symbol of evil reads into the text something entirely foreign to it.) The two texts from Deuteronomy (16, 8:3) cited (4:4, 12) were commands given to Israel when Israel was tested in the wilderness. Unlike Adam, another "son" of God who sinned (3:38), Jesus overcomes the tests.

**Next Weekend's Scripture  
Luke 13:31-35**

## Lent 2010 Begins

The word "Lent" means wellspring, a symbol of renewal. Like a cup of cold water that quenches a thirst, Lent is a time in the church year that quenches our spiritual thirst. It is a time to allow God's Grace to replenish our spirits.

### **Lenten Worship Services: Wednesdays, Feb 24, March 3,10,17 & 24**

#### **11:45 a.m. Lenten Worship**

A 30 minute service of traditional hymns, and prayer.

#### **7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship**

Lucernarium, an ancient service of light and darkness, using calming chant and quieting prayer will sooth the senses and quiet the mind.

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## **Easter 2010**

### **You Are Invited To The Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ Bring a Friend To Share In The Hope and Joy**

**Saturday, April 3-5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 4-8, 9 & 10:30 a.m.**

All Easter Services will come alive with the brass quintet *North Shore Brass* led by the premier trumpet of Pam Humphrey. During the 9 & 10:30 services the same service will take place in two locations, the main worship area upstairs and in the fellowship hall downstairs. The 9 & 10:30 services will conclude with a mass choir singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus where people in the pews are invited to join the choir. All services will include Holy Communion.

### **Lenten Meals**

On Wednesdays during Lent Nativity will be serving meals:  
After 11:45am service: soup, bread, fruit, dessert and beverage for \$3 per person

There will no longer be 5:30 p.m. meals unless someone would like to take it on as a ministry.

### **The Lenten Story: Jesus' Journey Toward Jerusalem**

All four Gospels contain the story of Jesus' Journey Toward Jerusalem, giving special details of the Last Supper, trial and crucifixion. The gospels of Luke and John will be studied during Lent:

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. began February 7, Fellowship Hall  
The Gospel of John

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. began February 18 - Room 218  
The Gospel of Luke

Remember the season of Lent by walking with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem.

**Weekly Creation Care Calendar from the Environmental Stewardship Team**

Each week during Lent, Nativity’s Environmental Stewardship Team is providing a weekly calendar based on “Tread Lightly for Lent,” a stewardship calendar from the Presbyterian Church USA. This Lenten Calendar urges us to take our spiritual discipline of prayer and meditation of Lent a step further: to reduce those practices that damage the earth, while learning about earth care issues and taking action that will honor Christ’s teachings about caring for creation.

Sun, Feb 21	Mon, Feb 22	T, Feb 23	W, Feb 24	Th, Feb 25	F, Feb 26	Sa, Feb 27
Ask your church to order <b>Eco-Palms</b> for Palm Sunday. Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable way and workers are paid a fair wage. Learn more at <a href="http://www.pcusa.org/palms">www.pcusa.org/palms</a>	Learn more about <b>eco-justice: assuring justice for creation &amp; all humans that live in it</b> at <a href="http://nccecojustice.org">http://nccecojustice.org</a> Share what you have learned	Avoid buying anything with <b>extra packaging</b> on your next trip to the grocery store.	End “phantom” loads: use a <b>power-strip</b> to turn off electronics that use energy even when they are off, like TVs, DVD players, and computers	Place a plastic bottle full of water in your toilet tank to <b>reduce the amount of water used when you flush.</b>	Carry a <b>non-disposable shopping bag</b> with you to avoid using plastic bags	<b>Skip meat once this week.</b> 2500 gallons of water are needed for growing and processing 1 lb of edible meat.

**Thank you...**

The Lutheran Social Service Auxiliary would like to thank Nativity members for the many household cleaning items that were donated to the Donation Room at the Center for Changing Lives. Clients are always in need of additional supplies.

A special thank you to the Day of Caring group for the nine quilts they donated. There is a special need at this time of year.

LSSA Auxiliary Board

**Adult GAMENIGHT Replay!**

We have an inexpensive way to have fun with positive people. Join our “last Sunday of the Month” group as we laugh playing Catch Phrase or any variety of games you would like to play and share. Share a favorite snack and Let the Good Times Begin! Ages 21-100! Sundays, Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 24, 6:00-8:00pm. If you have questions contact Kirsten at [kirstene.fisher@yahoo.com](mailto:kirstene.fisher@yahoo.com).

**How Can I Continue on My  
“Journey of Discipleship”?**

**Step-Up Introduction to Nativity  
Lutheran Church**

Spend an hour of your time learning what Nativity is all about and the opportunities Nativity has for you and your family.

Next Sessions:

Saturday, March 13—4:15-5:15pm

Sunday, March 14—10:30-11:30am

Sunday, April 11—10:30-11:30am

Sunday, May 9—10:30-11:30am

**Come to one or all sessions. Everyone is welcome.**

**“Transform” Session**

Practical hands-on event to discover the six habits of faith and personalize them for your

**“YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE” GRADUATES  
COMMISSIONED MISSIONARIES  
GET-TOGETHER**

SATURDAY, MARCH 20  
9 AM-LUNCH—Cost: \$10

Panel presentation  
Small groups  
Individual time

Lunch

1-3 PM - OPTIONAL  
Goal setting

Fellowship Hall

To register: Jan Frederickson, 612-781-2766 x1007  
jfred@nativitychurch.org

or

Yellow Weekend Opportunity Sheet

own life.

Saturday, April 10, 9 am-12 pm

**“Affirm” Session**

Discover your spiritual gifts and passions.

Saturday, April 17, 9 am-11 pm

**“Reach Out” Session**

Define your core values, discuss what a mission is and write a mission statement.

Offered as needed.

For more information contact: Jan  
Frederickson, 612-781-2766 x1007,  
jfred@nativitychurch.org

**Nativity Cares**

Next meeting - April 23 at  
7 pm, Fellowship Hall

Dorothy Rossling will be speaking about the microfinance program, her church, Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, began a few years ago in Minneapolis. They did initial fund-raising, and work with a partner in distributing their loans. The loans are primarily to the immigrant community, a group of people who find it difficult to obtain credit. Her discussion, which will include time for questions, personal stories and the history of their progress. We will also loan some money through KIVA. Please invite a friend and find out what we do.

**PopTops**

An Intergenerational Forum that meets at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

February 21 - **“FOOTSTEPS, A Journey in Faith”** ( DVD and discussion)

12 metro area religious leaders of Jewish, Islam and Christian faiths travel together to the Middle East to learn more about their own faith and religious tradition, and to understand each other's faith and strengthen the bonds between them. Does life ever go the way we expect?

February 28 - **“Celebration of Life” Funerals**

Presenter: Pastor John Almlie

With different choices for funerals these days are you prepared to make the arrangements for your own or a loved one’s final resting place? What do you do when a child dies

unexpectedly, who do you turn to for help? Pastor John Almlie will speak on the funeral arrangements which the minister helps you with, and Pam Jacobsen, a prearrangement consultant, will speak on what arrangements the funeral home helps you with.

March 7 - **“The Creator and Creation”** a lesson from **“And God Saw That It Was Good”** a Christian education course accompanying the PBS series **“The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.”** The session will include viewing an excerpt from the series, and discussion of how the national parks protect special places in God’s creation, and how protection of such places is significant to our relationship with God.

Next Get Together: May 6, 6:30 in Room 218  
**Welcoming the Stranger Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate** by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Hwang (Books are available at a reduced price in the Nativity Book store)

**LEAFs—Life Enrichment Adult Forums**

Feed your spirit, mind and body at LEAFs. You’ll meet and hear authors, poets, musicians, Bible scholars, health experts and more.

- Mondays, April 12 & 26 and May 10 & 24— 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Includes coffee break and lunch)
- Locations: April 12 & 26 at Nativity; May 10 & 24 at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.
- \$38 for the series or \$12 per session (advance registration) \$40 for the series or \$14 per session (at the door)

For further information or registration contact: Eva Addison at 612-781-2766 or St. Philip’s Lutheran Church at 763-571-1500.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of learning, sharing, and fellowship as well as knitting and crocheting. We have patterns and yarns that are donated so if you don’t have supplies, we can get you started. We meet in the Commons area. Our next gatherings are scheduled for: February 25, March 25 & April 22.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB**

Next Get Together: May 6, 6:30 in Room 218  
**Welcoming the Stranger Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate** by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Hwang (Books are available at a reduced price in the Nativity Book store)

**Expanded Choir Opportunities**

The Seasons of Lent and Easter bring many reasons to sing. From the prayerful reflections of Lent to the joy-filled Alleluias of Easter, the soul sings its songs to God.

**All are invited to sing.**

**Maundy Thursday Service: April 1st, 7:00 p.m.— “Agape” by Marty Haugen**

**Easter Weekend: April 3 & 4**

**Saturday, 5:30 p.m. & Sunday, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

**Rehearsals—Wednesdays after Lent services (8:00 p.m.) March 10, 17, 24 & 31**

## Gobbledybook Club: "We Chomp Through Books!"

For Readers in Grades 4 and up

Next meeting: Sunday, March 7, 5:45 - 6:45 pm.

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Plus

Movie Fieldtrip

To see "The Lightning Thief" at Rosedale AMC

Saturday, February 27, afternoon

Email Tori Setterholm for more details about the time of the movie. Parents can drop students off or come see the movie with us! [tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org](mailto:tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org)



The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

Questions to think about: What is the force of good in this book? How does Percy decide what's the right thing to do?

### **Beginning Families of Faith**

**March 21, 2010, 10:30 a.m. in Room 218**

The Beginning Families of Faith class gives parents an opportunity to make connections with other parents, hear some details about the baptismal service and to learn together about sharing and "passing on faith" to our children. Parents who will be having a baby baptized in the future OR whose child was recently born, along with grandparents and godparents are welcome to attend the class.

Contact Pastor Glenn Seefeldt 612-781-2766 ext. 1009 or [gseefeldt@nativitychurch.org](mailto:gseefeldt@nativitychurch.org) if you'd like to schedule a baptism.

**What's Happening At Nativity (February 21 through February 27, 2010)**

**Sunday, February 21**

8, 9, & 10:30am

Communion Worship Service

9 & 10:30am

Nursery birth-3 years of age

9 & 10:30am

Faith Formation for Children ages 3 years through 4th grade.

9:00am PopTops

10:15am You Can Make A Difference

10:30am Single Women's Bible Study

11:30am Club 56 Noon

12:00pm Preschool Kdgr. Faith Formation

4:30pm Club 56 Night

**Monday, February 22**

4:30pm ARTS

6:00pm Smart Start in 2010

6:30pm Mission Trip Meeting

7:00pm Nativity Council Meeting

7:15pm Adult Bells

**Tuesday, February 23**

6:30am Tuesday AM Breakfast Class

6:45pm Stephen Ministry Training Class

7:00pm Nativity Cares Microfinance

**Wednesday, February 24**

9:30am Wednesday AM Bible Study

10:00am Morning Playgroup

11:45am Lenten Worship Service

12:15pm Lenten Luncheon

1:30pm Staff Meeting

6:00pm Nativity Singers

6:30pm 7-9 Grade Confirmation

7:00pm Music Mix

7:00pm Lenten Worship Service

8:00pm Nativity Choir

**Thursday, February 25**

10:00am Nativity Play Group

9:00am Day of Caring Quilt Making

4:00pm Cursive Friends

6:30pm Love and Logic Class

7:00pm Global Folk

**Friday, February 26**

7:45am Bulletin Stuffers

**Saturday, February 27**

8:30am Stephen Ministry Training Workshop/Retreat

4:00pm Worship Music Rehearsal

5:15pm Nursery Birth-3 Years of Age

5:30pm Faith Formation for Children ages 3 years through 4th Grade

5:30pm Communion Worship Service

**Music for the Weekend:**

**February 27 & 28** "Building Bridges" music of connectedness. The Voices of Men will be singing.

**March 6 & 7** The Nativity choir will be joined by "ClariNetwork", who will play chorale settings by J.S. Bach.

Thank you to all that gave Nativity Church a memorial gift in memory of **Robert Gehrke**. Bob passed into eternal life on December 31, 2009. His funeral was held at Nativity Lutheran Church on January 6, 2010.

Gifts in memory of Bob went to the memorial fund at Nativity. They will be used per the wishes of the family.

Memorial and endowment gifts are accepted at any time in memory of someone or in honor of a special day. Please contact Vicki Elliott at [velliott@nativitychurch.org](mailto:velliott@nativitychurch.org) or by calling the office at 612.781.2766.

**Nativity Staff:**

Glenn Seefeldt - pastor - gseefeldt@nativitychurch.org  
John Almlie - senior ministries pastor  
Eva Addison - parish nurse - evaddison@nativitychurch.org  
Kristen Brechler - interim youth pastor - kbrechler@nativitychurch.org  
Sharon Damsgard - administrative assistant - sdamsgard@nativitychurch.org  
Jodi Dean - administrative assistant - jdean@nativitychurch.org  
Justin Dittrich - Seminarian - jdittrich@nativitychurch.org  
Marilyn Eberlein - adult faith formation  
Vicki Elliott - business administrator - velliott@nativitychurch.org  
Shelbie Ewing, April Martinez - nursery coordinators - nursery@nativitychurch.org  
Jan Frederickson - shared ministry - jfred@nativitychurch.org  
Sally Hockert, Pat Shun & Darla Frantz - wedding coordinators  
David Livingston - adult music - drlivingston@nativitychurch.org  
Robert Moreland - custodian  
Freda Myhrwold - worship leader  
Bob Parrott - sound/video - bobparrott@nativitychurch.org  
Karla Reiland - children's music and adult handbells - kreiland@nativitychurch.org  
Sara Schmidt - children's preschool ministry - sschmidt@nativitychurch.org  
Tori Setterholm - children's ministry - tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org  
Gregory Theisen - pianist  
Becky Thorvig - communications - bthorvig@nativitychurch.org  
Nativity Child and Family Center (612.781.1537) - Cheryl Jechorek, Director -  
cjechorek@nativitychurch.org

Phone: 612.781.2766

Website: [www.nativitychurch.org](http://www.nativitychurch.org)

**Nativity Council:**

Kent Horsager - President - kent@wingriver.com  
Greg Brooker - Vice President - gregval@visi.com  
Donna Steinwand - Secretary - donnasteinwand@comcast.net  
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Karen Weiberg - Member at Large - karenknit10@yahoo.com

**Deadline for articles for Weekend Newsletter are due Thursday mornings (10 days prior to the weekend the article will appear.) If you have questions contact Becky at ext. 1003.**