



February 4 & 5, 2012

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.



Featuring:
 6:30pm - Justin Dittrich
 7:15pm - Laura Schmidt
 8pm - The Cradle Band

the **CRADLE**
 presents
LOVE
 & **HEART**
BREAK



Feb. 11
@ Nativity

Free coffee and light snacks

This Weekend:

Artist, Douglas Limon, Brings His Beadwork to Nativity

Mr. Limon's beautiful beaded hanging art, wonderfully done, with a small flaw in each piece, will be displayed beginning Feb. 1, in the fellowship hall. Meet the artist and share coffee and cookies on Feb. 26 from 10-11:30am. His



beadwork can be viewed Mondays-Thursdays, 8:30am-4:30pm, Fridays, 8:30am-3pm, Saturday nights, 5-6:30pm and Sundays, 8am-12pm.

The Cradle Worship Service
 10:30am this Sunday morning.

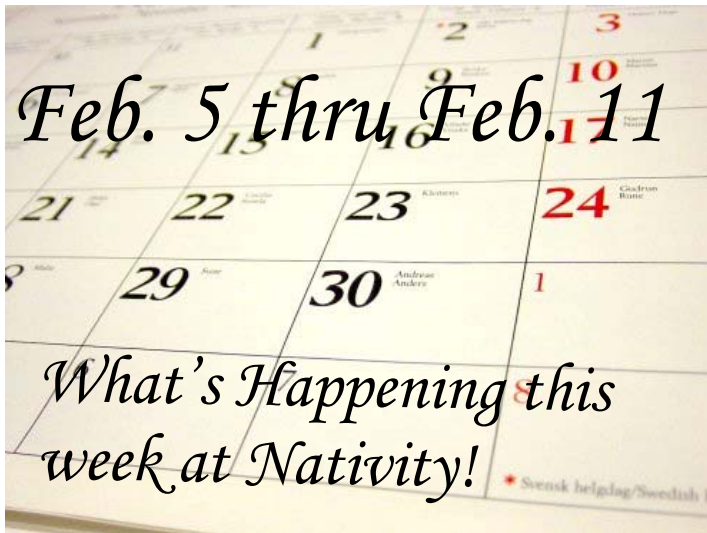
PopTops

Feb. 5 - "Grief, Gratitude & Grace"

Presenter: Ruth Halvorson

Ruth, co-founder of the ARC Retreat Center near Cambridge, shares the powerful story of her journey with her husband, Loren, as they dealt with his terminal illness.

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Sunday, Feb. 5

8am Communion Worship Service
 9 & 10:30am..... Worship Services
 10:30am The Cradle
 9 & 10:30am..... Nursery birth to 3
 9 & 10:30am..... Faith Formation
 9am
 PopTops
 10:30am Liturgy Class
 10:30am Single Women's Bible Study
 11:45am Club 56

Monday, Feb. 6

10:30am Kindermusik Our Time
 5pm Music Lessons
 6:30am Goals for the Souls
 7:15pm Adult Handbells

Tuesday, Feb. 7

6:30am Tues Breakfast Bible Study
 6:30pm Christos Board Meeting
 7:15pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 8

9:30am Wednesday AM Bible Study
 3:00pm Wood Wind Studio
 5:30pm Wednesday Night Meal

6pm Nativity Singers (Kind.-2nd gr.)
 6:15pm Voices of Women
 6:15pm Financial Peace U
 6:30pm Lutheran Yoga
 7pm Music Mix (3rd-6th gr.)
 7pm Confirmation (7-9 grade)
 7pm Growing Together
Wednesday, Feb. 8 (cont.)
 7pm Choir
 8:30pm Voices of Men

Thursday, February 9

9am Word to the Wise Bible Study
 6:30pm Dragonfly Board Meeting
 7pm Stephen Ministry
 7pm Global Folk
 8pm Instrumental Ensembles
 8pm Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, February 11

9am Scrapbookers for Nativity
 5:15pm Nursery birth-3
 5:30pm Worship Svc.
 5:30pm Faith Formation for Children
 6:30pm The Cradle Showcase



Only 31 Spots Left

Make your year of service begin with a trip to Feed My Starving Children, Thur., Feb. 9 at 8pm at the Coon Rapids packing site. To participate contact Dave Odde, od-dex002@umn.edu for more information or to sign up.



The Cradle Anniversary & Mission Party and Potluck

February 19, 11:30am-1:30pm
 The Cradle is turning one year old! Like many milestones, this one makes for a good ministry opportunity. We will celebrate and reflect worshiping together over the past year and also take a look forward to see what's in store in the future for this ministry. Sandwich fixings and drinks will be available, so please bring a side dish to share. RSVP's are preferred but not required. Check the yellow sheet if attending.

Wednesday Night Community Meals—Dinner is Served!

Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:15pm. Suggested donation: \$5/person

Menu Schedule:
 Feb. 8-Wild Rice Soup
 Feb. 15-Taco Buffet

Filling Our Substitute List

Nativity Child and Family Center (NCFC) is looking for certified or title 3 certified teachers that would like to be on our sub-list at the daycare center. Contact Cheryl at 612.781.1537 or cjchorek@nativitychurch.org

Men's Recreational Slow Pitch Softball team.

The games are on Wednesday nights in New Brighton from April to August. Players of all skill levels are invited to participate and there is a nominal fee. For more information, or to join the Nativity team, contact Brian Pearce, 651.303.6832.

Snow Tubing with 40U!

40U heads outdoors again for an all ages event. This time we will be snow tubing at Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area



in Maple Grove on Sunday, February 26th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. \$12/person covers the cost of tubing for two hours. Participants must be 4 years old or 36" tall. We will meet by the fireplace in the commons at 12:15pm. Contact Dan Doerr at 612-695-8453 or ddoerr@nativitychurch.org to RSVP.

Summer Programs are now being planned. Watch for the brochure to come out the end of February.

WORSHIP

Scripture this weekend is from

Mark 6:1-29

From enterthebible.org

Summary

The second cycle of stories about Jesus and his ministry concludes with an account of his rejection by the people of his hometown.

Analysis

Jesus returns to his own country to teach in the synagogue at Nazareth. The people question his wisdom and his mighty works because they know him to be the carpenter, the son of Mary, with brothers and sisters, and so they are offended at him. Jesus says, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house" (6:4). Unable to do deeds of power there, except healing a few sick people and curing them, Jesus is "amazed at their unbelief" (6:6).

What is Lent?

The season of Lent derives from the ancient Church's period of preparation for those who were to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. That preparation included instruction, fasting, repentance, prayers and special acts of devotion. Today, the entire Church uses this same period and some of those same practices to prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

The word Lent comes from the old English word *lencten* (meaning lengthen), and is a reference to the lengthening of days that occurs during this time of the year. For that reason, Lent is associated with Spring. As the earth sees a rebirth and renewal of the plants and flowers during this season, so Lent is a time for Christians to consider our rebirth in Baptism and engage in spiritual renewal as preparation for Easter.

To assist in that spiritual renewal, the Church the paraments and banners are darker in color. Crosses and crucifixes are covered with veils to emphasize how sin separates us from God. Everything turns inward until the victorious Resurrection when the colors brighten, the veils are removed, and the Alleluias and praises break forth in joyous celebration.

Lent is 40 days long, counting from Ash Wednesday (and minus the six Sundays, which are little celebrations of the resurrection). Those 40 days identify with Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness as he prepared for his ministry; with Moses' 40 days of fasting and prayer on Mt. Sinai as he waited to receive the Law from God; and with Elijah's 40 days of fasting and prayer on his way to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God.

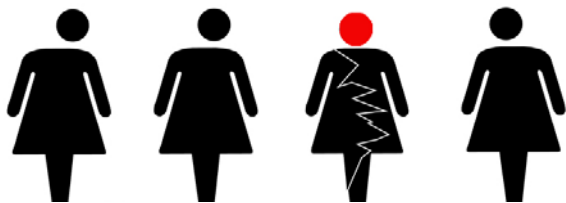


PROPS: Propelling you into your future

PROPS is a new program to help older adoles-

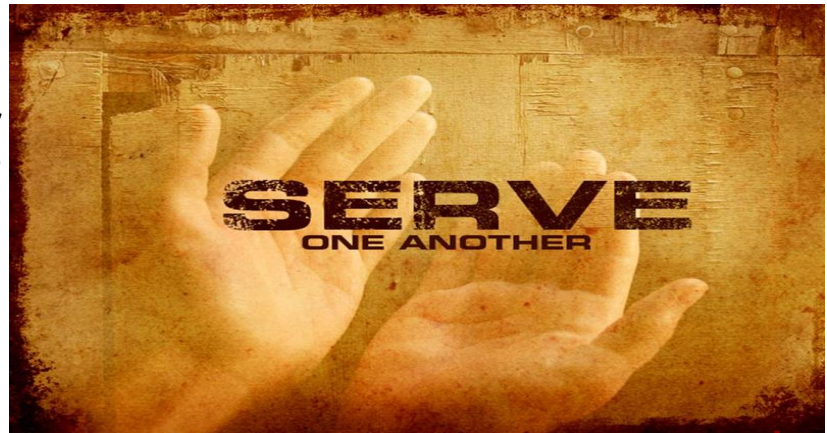
cence (15-25 years of age) develop key life skills and vocation. Through this program, they will discover their dependable strengths, receive financial management training, and job skills awareness (how to interview, writing applications for college, etc). Internships and projects to help them increase their post high school success will be provided.

Nativity will need many volunteers to help make this program work: The needs include people to act as employers to help the adolescence practice interviews, to create and evaluate college entrance or job applications, forms and essays, and to mentor them through their final projects. Please check the yellow sheet if you are interested.



Women In Action

February project: Women In Action invite you to attend our meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. We will meet at the church at 6:30pm and car pool to the *Alexander House For Battered Women*, in Blaine. We will play games with kids, make Valentine Day crafts, and bring a gift for the moms. Please contact Megan MacLeod at 612.239.5442 if you have any questions.



The Gathering

Use your cooking talents to prepare and serve a meal for 12-15 people with memory loss and their caregivers. You will be reimbursed for the cost. The following dates still need a cook: Thursday, March 1, April 6, May 3. Sign up on the yellow sheet.



Looking for a Woodworking Crew?

Nativity is looking for a team of woodworkers who will cut "Cross of Christ" centerpieces to be used for Lenten devotions at

Nativity. Sign up on the yellow sheet if you're interested or contact Pastor Dan, ddorner@nativitychurch.org.

PopTops

Sunday mornings - 9am—All Are Welcome!



Feb. 5 - "Grief, Gratitude & Grace"

Presenter: Ruth Halvorson

Ruth, co-founder of the ARC Retreat Center near Cambridge, shares the powerful story of her journey with her husband, Loren, as they dealt with his terminal illness.

Feb. 12 - "Faiths and Land Called Holy"

Presenter: Chuck Lutz

Back by popular request, Chuck, regional coordinator for "Churches for Middle East Peace" and a frequent visitor to the Holy Land, will update us on the Palestine/Israel conflict. He will focus on the reality of the fundamentalists of the three Abrahamic faiths. Again, he will speak to the role of American Christians and the United States in seeking a just peace. Chuck has co-authored a book on this theme.

Feb. 19 - "Nativity's Partnership with Lutheran Social Service"

Presenter: Richard Anderson

Richard, director of Church Relations for LSS, will celebrate our longtime and creative working relationship and will explore how we can continue and enrich our common ministry in Minnesota.

Feb. 26 - "Clean Air, Climate, and Health: Minnesota's Energy Future"

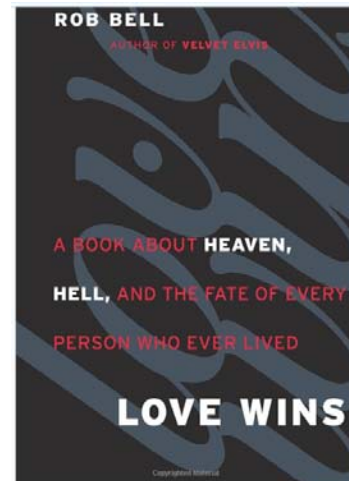
Presenter: J. Drake Hamilton - Science Policy Director - Fresh Energy.

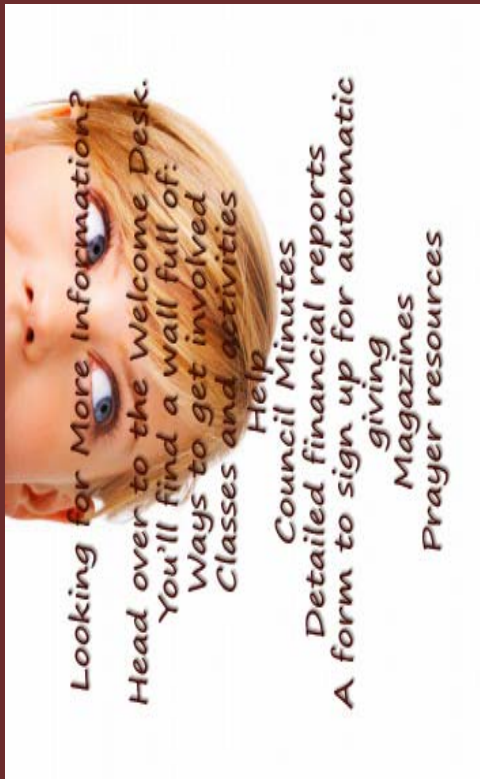
Fresh Energy is a public policy and advocacy

organization supporting development of energy solutions to climate change that will maximize opportunities for the Midwest. Ms. Hamilton has spoken around the country on energy issues before varied audiences, including the Environmental Protection Agency, corporations, public interest groups, and electric utilities and has been interviewed by multiple media outlets. She has frequently shared the speakers' platform with Arctic explorer Will Steger.

"LOVE WINS"

From Jan. 31 through March 20, the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Class will discuss Rob Bell's popular and controversial book, **Love Wins**. On the *New York Times* best seller list, this book by evangelical preacher Bell goes beyond our frequent focus on hell and heaven to engage us in a deeper understanding of God, Grace and the Good News. Conversation will be lively. We begin at 6:30am in the Commons Cafe and end with breakfast and out by 7:30am. Visit/join us or contact Duane Addison (763) 574-9822. Books are available in our bookstore.





You Can Make a Difference – Winter/ Spring 2012 Workshop

5 Monday Evenings – Feb. 27—March 26, 7-9 pm

“This is an amazing offering that Nativity provides for it’s people. It is helping me to better understand my life and how it impacts those around me.”

The above quote was from the fall group that included Dave Carlson, Pat Carlson, Jodi Dean, Gail Holmes, Shawn Leonard & Bill Solboe.

Join the fall group in discovering or rediscovering how God has created you and for what purpose at this time in your life.

You will:

- Understand your personality type
- Identify your gifts and talents
- Discover your passion (call to action)
- Define what is of value to you
- Learn a variety o prayer forms

At-home activities between sessions

Suggested donation for materials: \$20. Optional Myers Briggs Step II: \$38.

For questions or to register: Jan Frederickson, 612-781-2766 x1007

jfred@nativitychurch.org



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated at Nativity's Memorial Blood Center blood drive in January. We had 15 people who were able to donate. Our next blood drive will be March 19th. Sign up today and make a difference!



Gobbledybook Club

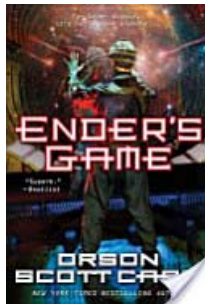
Sundays 5:30 - 6:30

Check it out! For readers grade 4 & older.

We read books and eat pizza!

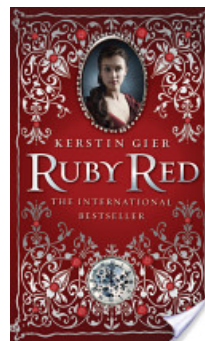
For our Feb. 26 meeting; ***Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card**

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses, and then training them to be child commanders in Battle School. Ender Wiggin, age 9, wins all the simulated battle "games." He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But can a 9-year-old save the planet?



For our March 25 meeting; ***Ruby Red* by Kerstin Gier**

Time travel is possible. People in Gwen's family have been doing it for centuries - not with a time machine, but with a gene. Gwen thinks she doesn't have the gene, but someone made a mistake and Gwen finds herself pulled out of class and bouncing through the past. Who can she trust in the present and in 18th-century London?



Gobbledybook Club communicates by email. Contact Tori Setterholm at tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org.

If you went to Nativity's annual meeting and thank you meal this year, you may already know that Nativity donated \$130,304 during 2011 to projects and organizations that you're passionate about. These organizations, and many others, respond back with thanks and stories of how giving touches lives. Thank you for your generosity!

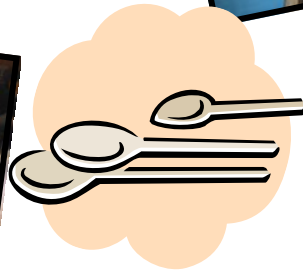
- **Northeast Dinner Bell, Meals on Wheels**-Helping to achieve a goal of no senior going hungry.
- **Metro Homeless Youth Program**-Helps to meet the needs of the homeless youth and make a difference in their lives.
- **American Cancer Society, Relay for Life**-Bringing people together to celebrate those battling cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.
- **The Dragonfly Project**-Sending messages of hope by mailing a dragonfly packet.
- **ELCA**-Making life-changing differences for people in need around the corner and around the world.
- **Luther Park**-Providing a Bible camp experience for those who come in search of a deeper relationship with Jesus and those who discover God for the 1st time.
- **The Salvation Army, NE Food Shelf**-Providing services to those who are in need.
- **Feed My Starving Children**-Answering the cry of starving children and giving hope to struggling communities around the world.
- **St. Anthony Police Dept.**-Law enforcement officers distribute child safety educational materials to a large number of children.
- **Luther Seminary**-Preparing future church leaders.

Club 56 Special Event & Chocolate Challenge

Club 56 families created Family Mission Statements and enjoyed a potluck lunch this past Sunday, Jan. 29th. We all voted for our favorites in the “Chocolate Challenge.” Students/ families brought in their favorite chocolate treats cut into small pieces, and we got to taste everything and then vote! Yum!



Wooden Spoon Winners from the Chocolate Challenge:
1st Place - Eric Palmer, 3rd Place - Sullivan Jahnke, and
2nd Place - Greta Delaune.



Our board of certified Chocolate Challenge
vote-counters: Espen Martinson, Eli Forsline,
Derek Hergenrader and Devon McCann.

Faith Formation Gr. 1 - 4 Valentines Service Project Feb. 4-5



Students in Grades 1 - 4 will make Valentines this weekend that will be mailed to people in the Nativity community who have had surgery or lost a loved one this past year, who are ill or in a nursing home/ homebound. We will be busy writing messages in about 100 Valentines, and decorating them with markers, crayons and stickers. Questions about this project? Contact Tori Setterholm tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org

pray ■

Below are the names of those we pray for today. If you have a prayer request, please list the request on the yellow welcome sheet, Nativity's Web Page or call 612-781-2766.

The following names were correct as of January 26th, 2012:

Prayers of Healing for:

Sheila Lewis, Tracy Lea, Jackie Carter, Frances & Earl Marriner Jr, Dean Kern, Pat Calistro, Ray Schmalke, Colin Winkler, Tammy Roy, Ellinor Porter, Jenna Privette, Marge Kilber, Tyler Johnson, Deb Gunnerson, Jack Jablonski, Nicole Nice, Richard Biessener, Sherri, Sam & Jean, Gary Sommervold, Jackie & Steve Carter, Earl Marriner Jr., Dean Kern, Richard Solboe, Karen Karschnik, Dale Skoog, Joyce Kelley, Peter May, Ian Campbell, Steve Burrill, Sandy Almlie, Gerry Parrott, Pat McKenzie, Lois Naegele, Joann Peterson, Max Lind, Merrie Beamen, Joel Baumgard, Abi Christopherson, Bob Moreland, Lucy & Keith Messer, Gladys Wychor.

Prayers of Comfort for Those Who Grieve:

For the family and friends of Connie Larson, Kathleen Bennek, Michael Collins, Pearl Horen, Lori Baker and for the family and friends of those who have died during the coming week in years past: Rita Belefonte, Ruth Chapman, Roger Charavel, Barbara Connelly, William Domres, Linda Erie, Duane Gibbons, Bruce Hemley, Agnes Hockert, Norma Hoff, Virgil Ingbretson, Alice Johnson, Robert Kaasa, Jack Kegel, Bill La Bissoniere, Ralph Peterson, Allan Reid, Matthew Virchetich, William Wilkerson.

Prayers of Safety and Guidance for Those who are Serving in the Military and Prayers of Reassurance for Their Families:

Sten Nabhi, Jarus Polk, Jeffrey Fielder, Jeramiah Johnson, Mitch Meyer, Joe Gagner, Kayci Brill, Eric Ingvaldsen, Steven Lilja, Leif Anderson, Paul Tomas Jr, Justin Lehman, Rick Nystel, Andrew Lee, Dan Kaus, Chris Mendoza, Amanda Berg, Jesse Gorzynski, Vanessa Devora, Chris Bates, Michael Freeberg, Athena & Toni Layne, Ron Leath, Nick Holten, Brian Hunter, Jeremy Jones, Zach Beckman, Carl John Quam, Jon Bunker, Carl Nordstrom, Eric Nordstrom, Jennifer Sorsoleil, Jan Stafford Dalton, Richard Clinton, Feliz Lopez, Craig Lindstrom, Devon Miller, Monica Mitchell, Jason Simon.

Prayers for Those Expecting the Arrival of a Child:

Kay & Kevin Jensen, Kristian & Penny Hass, Brian & Paige Buck, Matt & Kathy Dixon, Brian & Aimee (Sorenson) McFarland, , Joe & Rachel Warner, Elena & Christopher Jensen, Jim & Leesa Olander, Nick & Sara Thomlinson, Reid and Sarah Sorenson, Dustin and Marie Morache, Kathy & Bill Klemet, Bart & Debbie Pirino, Michelle & Cameron Winter.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Arrival of a Child:

Catherine Julia Goodwin, daughter of Michael & Megan Goodwin 1/20/12, Jack Grant born to Grant & Tina Wyffels 1/10/12, Davin King born to Carla & Paul Peterson 11/23/11, Owen James born to Corrie & Eric Waa 11/24/11, Stella born to Meg & Joe Merrick 11/28/11.

Prayers for Those Recently Baptized and Those to be Baptized:

Maren Grace daughter of Britta Brown & Dave Van Schyndel 12/31/11, Cole Michael son of Paul & Jenny Severson 1/14/12, Brynn Marie daughter of Tina & Joe Myers 1/22/12, **Avery Grace daughter of Dean & Jenny Pajerski 1/28/12, Davin King son of Carla & Paul Peterson 1/29/12**, Braden James son of Katie & Sean Barron 2/4/12, Rylan Chunsoo son of Doug & Mina Rakoski 2/11/12, Jack Grant son of Grant & Tina Wyffels 2/12/12, Sam & Grace children of Joe & Becca Williams 2/25/12, Phillip Thomas son of Jenny & Nolan Patrek TBA, Hunter Charles & Hayden Charles sons of Lucas & Krista Laakso TBA, Elias Jacob son of Jacob & Katie Gunderson TBA, Jack William son of William & Carissa Timmins TBA, Henry David son of Elizabeth & Ryan Rettke TBA., Joseph (Joe) Michael son of Kim & Mike Caputa TBA, Jacob Douglas son of Cory & Sarah Starkweather TBA, Harper Marie daughter of Chris & Charlene Antolak TBA.

Prayers for Those Recently Married:

Darlene Higgins & Dennis Olsen 12/30/11, Nora Kidd & Matt Wandzel 12/17/11.

Prayers for Those Who Will Be Married:

Shannon Kephart & Trevor Hoff 2/25/12, Rachel Biessener & Mitch Granholm 4/27/12, Tim Hoge & Shannon Kraemer 5/5/12, Aaron Horsager & Abigail Brown 5/13/12, Brian Roach & Anna Johnson 5/19/12, Vanessa Devora & Jesse Gorzynski 6/2/12, Kelly Wischnewski & Jacob Lemm 6/29/12, James Verlautz & Kate Billison 8/4/12, Kelly Gunderson & Craig Rush 8/4/12, Elizabeth Seefeldt & Mark Kimble 9/2/12, Brad Reasoner & Megan Low 9/29/11, Kevin Jensen Jr & Rachel Waldhoff 10/5/12, Stephanie Verlautz & Craig Mascetti 10/6/12, Joel Baumgard & Denise Chalupnik 10/20/12, Alex Schmitt & Michael DeGayner 11/10/12, Catherine Timm & Dan Semelhack 11/10/12, Andrew Peterson & Miranda Barron TBA, Tracy Christenson & Michael Forsberg TBA.

Flowers:

Given by Harriet Gibbons & Family in memory of Duane Gibbons.

Please Note: We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. If a correction is needed or you would like a name removed or added please inform the church office at 612-781-2766.



Nativity Staff:

Glenn Seefeldt - pastor - gseefeldt@nativitychurch.org
Dan Doerrer - pastor - ddoerrer@nativitychurch.org
Justin Dittrich - pastor - jditttrich@nativitychurch.org
John Almlie - senior ministries pastor
Sharon Damsgard - administrative asst. - sdamsgard@nativitychurch.org
Jodi Dean - administrative asst. - jdean@nativitychurch.org
Marilyn Eberlein - adult faith formation
Vicki Elliott - business administrator - velliott@nativitychurch.org
Jan Frederickson - shared ministry - jfred@nativitychurch.org
Michael Garrett - custodian/maintenance
Sally Hockert, Pat Shun & Darla Frantz - wedding coordinators
Sara Jahn - children's preschool ministry & nursery coordinator - sjahn@nativitychurch.org
David Livingston - adult music/director of music ministry - drivingston@nativitychurch.org
Bob Moreland - custodian
Freda Myhrwold - worship leader
Bob Parrott - sound/video - bobparrott@nativitychurch.org
Karla Reiland - children's music and adult hand bells - kreiland@nativitychurch.org
Tori Setterholm - children's ministry - grades 1-6 - tsetterholm@nativitychurch.org
Gregory Theisen - pianist/associate director of music ministry
Becky Thorvig - communications - bthorvig@nativitychurch.org
Nativity Child & Family Center (612.781.1537)

Cheryl Jechorek, Director - cjechorek@nativitychurch.org

Phone: 612.781.2766

Website: www.nativitychurch.org

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Nativity Council:

Donna Steinwand - President - donnasteinwand@comcast.net
Karen Weiberg - Vice President - karenknit10@yahoo.com
Dave Osteraas - Secretary - d_osteraas@q.com
Tom Grahek - Treasurer - tgrahek@hotmail.com
Kent Horsager - Member at Large - kent@wingriver.com
Bill Bergeron - Member at Large - wbergeron73@gmail.com
Gail Bergsven - Member at Large - ggantz1@aol.com
Brian Buck - Member at Large - bbuckuw@yahoo.com
Dale Moss - Member at Large - dalemoss007@gmail.com
Teresa Walbon - Member at Large - twalbon@hotmail.com

Deadline for articles for Weekend Newsletter are due Thursday mornings (10 days prior to the weekend the article will appear). They should be submitted in electronic format, how you want them to appear and email to bthorvig@nativitychurch.org. We reserve the right to edit the article if it does not fit the layout. If you have questions contact the church office.