

Nativity Lutheran Church

# Senior Connections



Spring 2023

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

## Lenten Theme: Our Call Story

Martin Luther once said that our vocation is “...a calling, a vocation, a summons from God.” (Continued on Page 2)

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### Lenten Services at Nativity:

Nativity offers two midweek Lenten services every Wednesday, with March 29th being the last. The times are 11:45 am, with a luncheon to follow, and 6:30 pm with supper prior to the service.

*Lenten Theme: Our Call Story continued from page 1.*

Using that theme, Nativity has invited lay leaders to share how they were called to a particular vocation or ministry. These stories will be shared at the midweek Lenten services.

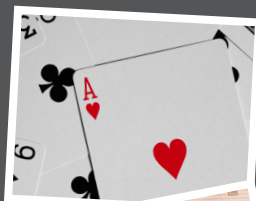
The discovery of calling or vocation is part of our entire life. People who are post-retirement age, have received numerous calls — calls to career, family, and volunteerism. I invite you, whatever your age, to reflect on your call story this



season of Lent. The following questions may encourage your reflection:

- List some ways you have served God in career, family, and volunteerism.
- Which of the above began as a desire early in your life?
- How did you sense God's presence or inspiration as you listened to your call?
- How has your vocation shaped who you are today?
- End your reflection with a prayer of gratitude for the ways you have served and continue to be of service.

## ON A HUMOROUS NOTE



A Sunday school teacher was telling her class about the Bible. She told them about the kings of the Old Testament and the queens as well. Then she told them there was a higher power and asked if anyone could tell her what it was. One student raised a hand and said, "Aces."



Last fall a pastor bought a snowblower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get this machine to start!" "That's because you have to curse at it to get it started, says the man." The pastor replies, "I'm a pastor. I can't swear! I don't even remember how." The owner replied, "You keep pulling that rope, and it'll come back to you."

Photo credit: Anshu Porkait and Mike Cox



### Nativity Welcomes Jeanne Cotter, New Director of Music

Jeanne has a fascinating call story. Most of us know Jeanne as Nativity's pianist. Now she is something more! Jeanne was raised in Austin, Minnesota, the second oldest of ten children. Her mother began giving piano lessons when each child reached the age of five. Her mother was the music leader at their Catholic church, and by the fourth grade, Jeanne was her weekly accompanist: "Mom put single melody lines in front of me and asked me to 'make up' an accompaniment. I had no idea what I was doing but quickly learned the art of improvisation. She was a tough teacher, but her total confidence in me has shaped the trajectory of my career."

Jeanne has been involved in liturgical music her entire

career. She has served in churches, composed, recorded and published music for worship, and created her own record label. She is a published author, singer-songwriter and storyteller. Much of Jeanne's vocation has been on

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the road performing concerts, presenting at conferences, teaching workshops, and leading both Christian as well as secular personal growth retreats.

When asked if she ever felt a call from God to her vocation, Jeanne replied, "At the heart of everything I do is the prayer I spoke when I was just seven years old. I remember sneaking into the church during recess at my Catholic school, sitting on the altar steps and asking God to 'please, please, please teach me how to love'. I believe love is the greatest calling and gift to share in ministry. If anyone at Nativity feels 'seen,' appreciated, loved by me, then I am living my call story! Making music together is the 'icing on the cake'."

When asked how she feels about being a part of Nativity, she replied that she has felt welcomed and is particularly moved by our statement that all are welcome no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. "I'm thankful," Jeanne says, "that Nativity is open to receiving the gifts I offer. I feel very blessed to be a part of this community."

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## In Memoriam

The following people have died since the last Senior Connections was published. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers.

Marilyn Eberlein	September 10
Dolly Sorenson	September 23
Shirley Opsal	October 7
Harriet Getter	October 10
Stanley Smith	October 15
Michael Boyce	November 5
Jean Lundeen	November 15
Gail Hart	November 16
Buzz Klassy	November 19
Beverly Huso	November 23
Jonathan Puerto-Taggart	November 23
Amanda Benolkin	November 24
Donna Nelson	December 17
Yvonne Quady	December 20
Eva Addison	January 2
Irene Durtsche	January 7
Jim Steinwand	January 22
Ken Johnson	January 31
Tom Flak	February 16

Photo credit: Damian Markutt



## Resources for Seniors

### Eastside Neighborhood Services Caregiver Support:

Caring for another with memory loss or chronic illness can be rewarding, but it is also stressful. You do not need to be alone. Eastside Community Services provides caregiver support as well as a weekly in-person respite program for caregivers and their loved ones. Contact Shay Mackay, Caregiver Well-Being Coordinator. 612-787-4076; SmackKay@esns.org.

Eastside Neighborhood Services also provides accessible transportation for medical appointments and shopping for people in the St. Anthony and NE. Minneapolis area. Information: 612-787-4012.

### NE Senior Services:

Provides transportation to appointments for people in the following communities: St. Anthony, New Brighton, Columbia Heights, and NE Minneapolis. Please phone a week ahead of time: 612-781-5096

**Other Resources:** A folder with Lutheran Social Services programs as well as local community services is located on the wall next to the Help Desk.

**If you would like paper copies of these resources mailed to you, contact Jan Frederickson at 651-454-5351. (Please leave a message.)**



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