

Senior Connections



Fall 2023

www.nativitychurch.org   

Autumn In My Heart

*A fallen leaf
Trampled,
Laced with brokenness
Beautiful*

*God looks down
Sees fallen humanity,
Broken
And beautiful*

*Love spills from the
Creator
God reaches down,
Collecting up each
precious broken thing*

*With tenderness
No life would be
discarded*

*But transformed
Into an image
Beautiful*

By Bonnie Morris (Continued on Page 2)

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New Member, Evenelle Hamlin, Celebrates 100 Years of Life

Evie turns 100 years of age on October 19. Nativity will celebrate with Evie and her family on October 29, at the 10:30 am worship service.

Evenelle (Evie) is the oldest person to join Nativity Church. On September 7, staff members Joanne Griffin and Jan Frederickson met with her at her independent living apartment. They presented Evie with a certificate and a plant to thank her for her decision to put down roots and grow in her faith at Nativity. Joanne remarked, "Evie exemplifies that it's never too late to join and to grow in your relationship with God."

Evie was born in Hendricks, Minnesota. She was a stenographer at the Minneapolis Courthouse and worked in the Finance Department at the Veteran's Administration. She and her late husband, Bob, celebrated 50 years of marriage in 1997. She was very active in the Girl Scout movement for 60 years as a leader and an organizer of many events and projects. Because of her efforts, she received the Girl Scout Thanks Badge. "I enjoyed helping the girls grow."

Evie is a lifelong Lutheran, and she reads her Bible and listens to Christian programming to nurture her faith. Evie's prayer is of thanksgiving for her family and for the safety of our country and the world. Welcome to Nativity, Evenelle. We are fortunate to have you in our faith community!

“Who can hold an autumn leaf in their hand...
and wonder at the creator of it all?”
Wendy Moore

Autumn In My Heart *continued*

Many describe autumn as their favorite season. Because I was born in autumn, autumn is in my blood, my heart, and my soul. And now I have reached the autumn of my life.

I have always loved leaves in autumn. Over the years, I've stooped down and picked up a selection of leaves to press, always looking for the perfect size, shape and color. Until one year, approaching my mailbox, I spotted a tattered leaf. It appeared to have been run over until all that remained was a leaf-shaped bit of lace on a stem. Something in its damage and brokenness spoke to my heart. I picked it up, cradled it gently in my hand, and brought it home. It became a symbol for much of my life. I wrote a poem about it, and I mounted and framed the leaf and my poem in an artistic rendering.

It hangs on my wall still, reminding me of the beauty in brokenness, the beauty we too often miss but that God sees.

Don't you suppose that God loves a broken leaf as much as a whole? (Maybe even more because of its fragility.) It was like the broken people who Jesus healed, the broken lives he touched. God sees what is broken in us, blesses us, picks us up, creates a poem of our lives, and cradles us in God's loving hand. The Creator made each of us. Stop to look at the beauty, and wonder at the Creator of it all!

By Bonnie Morris, Nativity Member





Celebrate the Journey:

Elder Worship and Lunch

On Wednesday, October 11, Nativity honored its esteemed elders with a special worship service, hymn singing, and luncheon. A professional organist provided the accompaniment, and communion was served. During the luncheon, laughter permeated the Commons area as people reconnected with friends. One person said, “This is like a family reunion.”

Pastor Glenn Seefeldt offered the sermon, and he talked about his grandmother who lived to be 99 years of age. Grandma Norma often asked her grandson, “Why am I still here? What purpose am I serving?” Pr. Glenn answered this question at Grandma Norma’s 98th birthday gathering: “You are still here, Grandma, because you have built your house upon the rock of Jesus, and others need to see what that means. You matter—your wisdom and your faith. It does not matter that you are not

as agile and that thoughts take a little longer to process. You are a witness.”

Pastor Glenn continued his sermon with words to the elders of Nativity: “You may not realize it, but you are an example—teaching people about aging. I know that aging is not always pretty, waking up with a new ache or not being able to do something you once did, but your life matters. You are teaching others what it is like to be old. You have lived long enough and experienced enough to have credibility. You have built your house upon the rock of Jesus Christ.”

TO VIEW THE SERVICE ONLINE, GO TO:
[youtube.com/@NativityLutheranChurch/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@NativityLutheranChurch/streams)

TO REQUEST A COPY OF THE SERMON, CONTACT:
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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.

Steve Reid	February 18
Iris Johnson	March 8
Joe Nesser	March 9
Sharon Wyberg	March 19
John Rosenberg	April 9
Bonnie Mitcheltree	May 5
Virginia Peters	May 13
Judy Korblick	May 13
Laurence Anderson	June 15
Curtis Carlson	June 15
Jonie Toto	June 19
Eugene Anderson	July 1
Betty Bordwell	July 17
Marge Firle	July 23
Mike Vye	August 10
Rick Merrill	September 2
Anitra Lewko	September 19
Kim Davidson	October 4



ON A HUMOROUS NOTE

Now that I've become a senior citizen, everything has started to click for me. My knees. My back, my neck.



I just ordered a life alert bracelet, so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.

I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and now I'm the proud owner of aisle seven.

