

2026-2027



Nativity
Lutheran Church

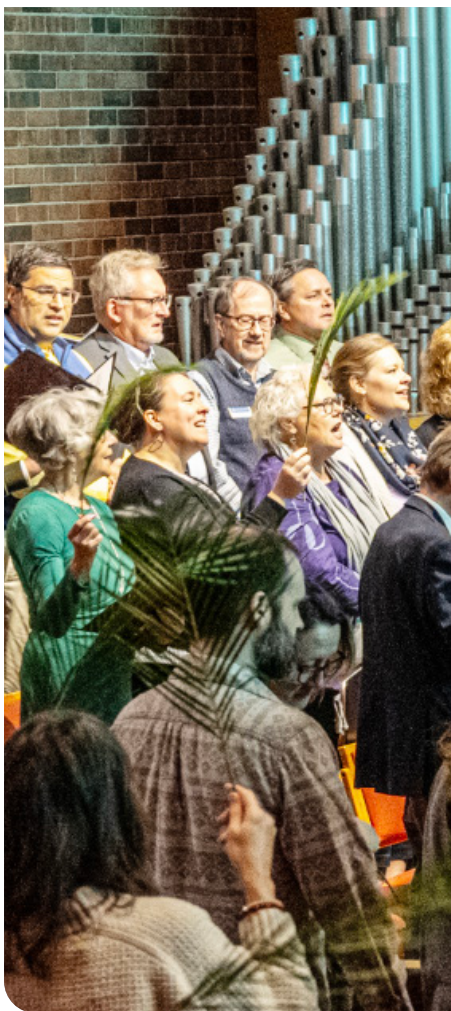
Nativity Program Guide



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Nativity Comes Together as a Faith Community.

Members, guests, and visitors come to Nativity to hear the Word of God and to experience community, fellowship, and inspiration. We appreciate more than ever the opportunity to worship together.



WEEKEND WORSHIP

In-Person Worship

Saturday Evenings | 5:30 pm

A casual, come-as-you-are worship with a variety of music.

Sunday Mornings | 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday services blend together a variety of music and worship styles. The participation of children in worship is encouraged. Worship includes a “Time with Children,” after which children are invited to attend faith formation.

Online Worship

Online worship is livestreamed during all worship times. Services are archived on our website.



LIVESTREAM
[nativitychurch.org/
live-stream](https://nativitychurch.org/live-stream)



SERMON ARCHIVE
[nativitychurch.org/
worship/sermons](https://nativitychurch.org/worship/sermons)



Celebrating Hospitality

We come together as a community in worship and fellowship. More than ever, we value the simple but profound gifts of sharing meals and enjoying hospitality.

Music Ministry

Nativity has a rich and long-standing tradition of excellence in our Music Ministry. We're grateful to our Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children's Choirs, as well as to our worship singers and instrumentalists for sharing their gifts and dedication with our community.

Joining our voices together with spirit-filled song is a great way to share trust and faith with each other. I believe this enriches the worship experience Nativity provides.

Lee Gilbertson, Instrumentalist

Community Dinner

September-May we come together to share a hot meal and meaningful fellowship with our neighbors in the greater community. All are welcome to join us. Meals include a side, salad, veggies/fruit, drinks, and dessert. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available.

Thank you (+ the team) so much for all the time and energy in the service of feeding all of us week after week. It's a great time to see others and a break from planning meals at home!

Cheryl Gustafson, Member

Nativity Grows in Lifelong Faith.

At Nativity we recognize the spiritual invitations of learning and inquiry, and we support one another in lifelong faith formation. We grow spiritually as we connect, challenge, and care for one another.

ADULTS

Adult Faith Formation

At Nativity, we draw closer to God through community connection and spiritual enrichment. During the year, Nativity's Bible study and book groups explore scriptural readings, questions about living a faith-filled life, and social justice topics. Individual support for the different seasons of our faith journeys is available with one-on-one spiritual coaching sessions with the congregation's spiritual directors.

“Our growth in faith does not end at Confirmation. We continue to reflect, explore, and question well into our adult years. Nativity Church offers many ways for people of all ages, infant through elderhood, to grow in their faith.” — A Nativity Member





Grounded & Growing Series

9:15-10:15 am | 2nd & 4th Sundays

Our Grounded & Growing sessions return this fall! This biweekly adult faith formation opportunity is aimed at building connections to ourselves, to one another, and to something greater. If you've been feeling that nudge to dig a little deeper spiritually, come and be curious with us!

Wednesday Bible Study

10:00-11:30 am | Nativity & Zoom

This adult Bible study involves discussing the scriptures and applying them to contemporary life as well as sharing personal stories and examining questions of faith. In person and via Zoom..

Contact:

Pat Hendricks at bppat127@gmail.com

You Can Make a Difference

Tuesdays | October 13 - November 17

1:00-3:30 pm or 6:00-8:30 pm

Thursdays | February 11 - March 18

1:00-3:30 pm or 6:00-8:30 pm

Do you need time to reflect and set priorities for what's important to you? Want to learn more about your God-given gifts and how you might use them in new or bigger ways? Looking to connect the pieces of your life and live more of what you value? If you answered yes to any of these, the YCMD series is for you!

Choose from the afternoon or evening class. Suggested donation of \$35 includes a deep-dive workbook, an interpretive report, and other supportive materials. Scholarships are available.

Contact: Jan Frederickson at 612-799-5654 or pfrederi@msn.com



Adult Faith Formation Continued

Saturday at Nine Book Group

9:00-10:00 am | Zoom

A study of contemporary books on topics that challenge and inform our lives as Christians. The group is a forum for growing deeper in one's faith through hearing others' stories. Join us for social conversation at 8:30 am. Book discussion begins at 9:00 am.

Contact and Zoom Link:

John MacLeod at mnadvrider@gmail.com

Social Justice Book Group

Tuesdays | 9:30-10:30 am | Zoom

Book topics cover social justice issues and spiritual inquiry.

Contact and Zoom Link:

Paula Biessener at paulabgolfer@icloud.com



Stamping Stars

9:00-11:00 am | 3rd Saturdays | Rm 218

The ministry of Stamping Stars includes 30+ people who offer their creativity, encouragement, and/or service gifts to make cards of many kinds to support the Nativity community—including birthday cards (everyone 80+ receives a card), Christmas cards (over 300 and counting), as well as “thank you,” “thinking of you,” sympathy, and “praying for you” cards.

Contact: Janet Poire at 612-834-6789

Prayer Shawl Group

6:30-8:00 pm | Last Tuesdays | Commons

The Prayer Shawl group makes baby blankets for Nativity baptisms and prayer shawls for those going through difficult life events. In addition, they make lap blankets, scarves, and mittens. Yarn and patterns are provided, and the group can teach anyone to knit or crochet! All are welcome to join.

Contact: Marcy Sorensen at 612- 327-9266



MORE INFORMATION
nativitychurch.org/learn-and-grow/adult-ministries/



Pastoral Care & Vital Aging Ministry

Nativity Church has a thriving Vital Aging Ministry that encourages and affirms our community's elders ages 60-100+. We connect through Bible studies, pastoral care, intergenerational events, and service opportunities.

Nativity offers Visitation Ministry as well as printed monthly sermon packets, worship CDs/DVDs, Christmas cards, and other at-home resources to support the spiritual care of all in our congregation.

Staff and "Caring Visitors" connect with Nativity's homebound members on the phone or in person and provide communion. The Nativity's Prayer Shawl Ministry knits prayer shawls and prays over each person they're given to.

"Gray hair is described as a crown of splendor won by living a good, righteous life."

— Proverbs 16:31

Celebrating the Journey

October 7 & March 3 | 11:45 am-1:00 pm

Celebrate the journey of Vital Aging with our bi-annual Elder Worship & Luncheon events! We welcome everyone 60 and above—as well as family and friends—to join us for inspiring worship with a hymn sing, communion, and lunch afterwards. The event is free, and reservations are not required.

Lutheran Social Service Circle

12:30-2:00 pm | 3rd Thursdays | Commons

(except summers and December)

Nativity's LSS Circle provides service that brings hope, changes lives, and builds community.

Recent projects include: blankets and bean bags for Camp Noah, snack packs for LSS Afterschool Kids, meal kits for safe houses/teen homeless shelters, and monetary gifts to Women of the ELCA and Camp Knutson.

Contact:

Sue Sorenson at suesorenson@yahoo.com

NATIVITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

God's Work. Our Hands.

- 9 Adult Choir Rehearsal
Fall Musikgarten *Wednesday*
Grade 10 Confirmation Class
- 12 Fall Musikgarten *Saturday*
- 12-13 . . . God's Work. Our Hands.
- 13 Kindergarten Milestone
Blessing of the Backpacks
- 14 Adult Bell Choir
- 16 Youth Campfires
Children's Choir
Fall Community Meals
- 20 Fall Faith Formation
- 27 3 y/o Bible Milestone
Grounded & Growing Series

OCTOBER

Global Ministry

- 3 Blessing of the Animals
- 4 Youth Watch Party
- 7 Elder Worship Event
- 10 FMSC Food Packing Event
- 10-11 . . . Joining Weekend
- 11 Ted Bowman Talk *Nativity-MHC*
- 11 Grade 3 Bible Milestone
- 13 You Can Make A Difference
- 14 No Confirmation / Campfire *MEA*
- 24 Trunk or Treat Community Event
Reformation Weekend
- 21 10th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal
- 25 Grade 10 Affirmation of Baptism
- 31 All Saints' Weekend

NOVEMBER

Homelessness & Housing

- 1 All Saints' Weekend
Youth Watch Party
- 4 Grade 7-9 Confirmation
High School SALT
- 9 Grade 7 Bible Milestone
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 28-29 . . . Beginning of Advent

DECEMBER

Advent & Christmas

- 5-6 Election of Council & Budget Meeting
After All Worship Hours
- 6 4 y/o Nativity Set Making Milestone
Youth Watch Party
- 12-13 . . . Children's Musical
- 16 Youth Christmas Party
- 20 Faith Formation Christmas Party
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:00 pm
- 27 No Faith Formation

JANUARY

Honoring MLK's Legacy

- 3 No Faith Formation
- 6 Winter Community Meals
- 10 Youth Watch Party
- 16-17 . . . MLK Weekend
- 18 MLK Day
- 23-24 . . . RIC Weekend
- 30-31 . . . Camp Weekend

Dates indicate the first session of ongoing programming or an event.

2026-2027



FEBRUARY

Racial Equity & Justice (REJM)

- 7 Youth Watch Party
- 10 Ash Wednesday Worship
11:45 am | 7:00 pm
- 11 You Can Make A Difference
- 13 Annual Meeting Dinner
- 13-14 . . . Ash Wednesday Theme
Weekend Worship
- 17 Youth Family Meal Fundraiser

MARCH

Food and Hunger

- 3 Lenten Elder Worship &
Lunch 11:45 am
Youth Service Project Night
- 7 Discover Communion Class
Youth Watch Party
- 20-21 . . . Palm Sunday Weekend
Pancake Breakfast
Flower Sale Begins
- 25 Maundy Thursday Worship
11:45 am | 7:00 pm
First Communion
- 26 Good Friday Worship
11:45 am | 7:00 pm
- 27-28 . . . Easter Weekend Worship
- 28 Easter Family Festival

APRIL

Environment & Sustainability

- 4 Youth Service Project Night
Youth Watch Party
- 22 Earth Day
- 24-25 . . . Children's Musical
- 28 Youth End-of-the-Year Party

MAY

Mental Health & Wellness

- 2 Youth Watch Party
- 8 Youth Plant & Flower Sale Pick-Up
- 15-16 . . . Pentecost Weekend
- 22-23 . . . Graduate Weekend

JUNE

Pride

- 13 Summer Faith Formation
- 14-18 . . . Summer Stretch
- 20-25 . . . Luther Park Summer Camp
- 26-27 . . . Pride Weekend
- 27 ELCA Youth Gathering in Mpls

JULY

Community Bridging

- TBD Middle School Trip

AUGUST

Community Bridging

- TBD VillageFest Parade
- 2-6 Kids Create
- 13-15 . . . Luther Park Family Camp



MORE INFORMATION
nativitychurch.org/
ntv-events/

Nativity Supports Children and Families.

Sunday Programming

Nativity's Kid Zone

Sundays in the Commons

The Kid Zone is a place for toddlers and kids to play while supervised by their parents. Worship Activity Bags and Coloring Clip Boards are also available to bring into worship.

Children's Faith Formation

Age 0 - Grade 4 | Sundays 9:00 & 10:30 am

Children start worship with their families. After Time with Children, teachers lead children to class for lessons, activities, and Bible stories that parallel worship teachings.

Club 56

Grade 5-6 | Sundays 9:00 & 10:30 am

Starting worship with their families, Club 56 youth leave after Time with Children to gather in Room 213 for videos, conversations, activities, and creative studies from the life of Jesus.

CHILDREN

Faith Formation Milestones

Backpack Blessing

Kindergarten | September

Kindergartners are invited to bring their backpacks to worship to be prayed over.

Bibles

Age 3, Grade 3 & Grade 7 | Sept. & Oct.

As part of Nativity's baptismal promise, we place God's Words in children's hands at key developmental times in their lives.

Nativity Set Making Milestone

Age 4 | December

Families and their 4-year-olds participate in this beloved tradition to celebrate our namesake by assembling Nativity sets.

Discover Communion

Suggested Age is Grade 5 | Early Spring

Families are invited to three Sunday afternoon classes that explore how Jesus changed the Passover meal at the Last Supper into the Christian Sacrament of Holy Communion.



Other Programming

Summer Faith Formation

Age 0 - Grade 6 | Sundays | 9:00 & 10:30 am

All ages learning format with outdoor time. In summer, all ages meet in a single class.

Kids Create Day Camp

Elementary | August 2-6

Kids are invited to develop curiosity and respect for different religious and cultural traditions through visual art, music & drama.

Musikgarten

Ages 0-4 | Wednesday & Saturday Mornings

Music supports the social, physical, emotional, and intellectual development of children. This class brings the joy of music to young children and their parent/caregiver.

Children's Music Ministry

Grades 1-2 | Wednesdays | 6:30-7:15 pm

Grades 3-6 | Wednesdays | 7:00-8:00 pm

The Nativity Children's Choirs prepare music for worship—including two musicals.

Luther Park Camp in Danbury, WI

- **Elementary Camp | June 20-25**

Kids are invited to Luther Park Camp to grow closer to God in nature, make friends, and enjoy indoor and outdoor activities.

- **The Family Camp | August 13-15**

Families are invited for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun. Enjoy freshly prepared meals, activities, and campfire worship.

Nativity offers year-round activities for children and youth, including Sunday faith formation classes, music groups, summer programs, service & learning trips, confirmation, and more.



Faith Formation

Confirmation

Grade 7-10 | Wednesdays

Confirmation is a Rite within the Lutheran church. Baptized youth participate in learning, discernment, and growth in their faith as well as various service & enrichment opportunities.

SALT

Student Action Leadership Team

Grade 10-12 | Wednesdays

Participants learn about their unique talents and spiritual gifts. They also learn how to use leadership skills at Nativity and in the greater community.

Youth Music Ministry

Grade 7-12 | Seasonal Opportunities

Singers and instrumentalists of all levels are welcome to create music for worship while having fun and making friends! Be a part of Nativity's youth choir, small ensembles, hand bells, and/or drama activities.

Graduation Recognition

High School Seniors | TBD

At the end of the school year, graduating high school seniors are honored with a blessing in worship, a gift from the congregation, and special treats in the Commons.

REGISTRATION

NativityChurch.org



**FAITH
FORMATION**



**HIGH SCHOOL
PROGRAMS/SALT**

YOUTH



Summer Programming

Summer Stretch

Middle School | June 14-18

Youth 6th to 9th grade do fun service and learning projects along with social activities and local day trips.

Service & Learning Trips

Middle School | July TBD, 2027

High School | *July TBD, 2028

Youth are invited to take a week-long trip to work alongside communities & organizations. During the summer of 2027, high schoolers will take part in the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Luther Park Camp in Danbury, WI

Grades 6-12 | June 20-25

Kids are invited to attend Luther Park Camp in Danbury, WI, to grow closer to God in nature, make friends, and enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

ELCA Youth Gathering

High School | *June 28-July 2, 2027

High school youth are invited to attend a national gathering that includes service, worship, and learning. The 2027 Gathering will be in Minneapolis!

**ELCA Youth Gathering is every 3 years.*



CONFIRMATION



**MUSIC
PROGRAMS**

CONTACT

Renee Hoffman *she/her/hers*

Director of Children's Faith Formation

612-781-2766 ext. 1018

renee@nativitychurch.org

Nativity Serves the World.

At Nativity, we believe our personal journeys of faith are challenged and strengthened by responding to the world's needs and by committing ourselves to making a positive impact in the world.

Our Outreach Vision

At Nativity, we strive to live into our call to love God and our neighbors courageously, utilizing our God-given gifts and passions to make a positive impact in the lives of those around us. This call to public ministry includes meeting the basic needs of all people through food and housing initiatives, supporting mental health and overall well-being, tending to creation through environmental action, and pursuing larger social justice concerns through advocacy and allyship. Whatever arena the Spirit is calling you into, whatever compassion areas God has placed on your heart, Nativity seeks to provide opportunities for service, learning, and engagement.

Angela LaMoore she/her/hers
Senior Pastor

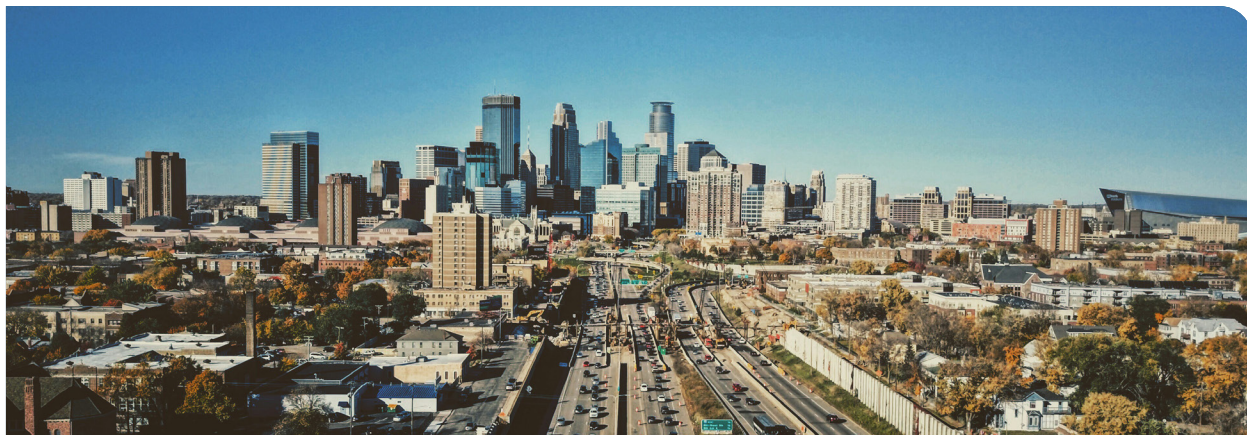
Racial Equity & Justice Ministry (REJM)

We work to realize a vision of racial equity and justice for all God's children. We listen, educate, and advocate to recognize and eliminate racism in this church, our community, and the world. We offer opportunities to learn through engaging speakers, thought-provoking books and movies, and collaborative communication inside and outside the church. Nativity is a participant in the Intercultural Developmental Inventory to measure our collective understanding and appreciation of diversity as an organization.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in February

Food & Hunger

We work to recognize and respond to the reality that many people are unable to acquire sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. We work to increase awareness of hunger and food insecurity



in our community. We offer dedicated volunteer opportunities, donation drives, and advocacy experiences that live out our mission of food security for all.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in March

Environment & Sustainability

We work to recognize and respond to the need for a responsible relationship with our environment. We promote local initiatives and actions to care for the natural world. And we work together to make our community footprint more sustainable. All of these efforts honor our Biblical call to be good stewards of creation.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in April

Mental Health & Wellness

We work to amplify existing community-based mental health and wellness resources, support, and educational opportunities. We also work to reduce the stigma around

mental health and wellness by encouraging faith communities to collectively address these foundational aspects of life and belonging.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in May

Pride

We work to live into our commitment as a Reconciling in Christ congregation to welcoming and affirming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We support Pride-themed worship, music, and preaching that lift up the ongoing work of inclusion, belonging, and advocacy for all of our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ. We also offer educational experiences, Rainbow Connections peer support group, and partnership opportunities to advance our mission of full welcome, inclusion, and affirmation.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in June

Outreach Continued

Global Ministries

We respond to the reality that people in our global community are facing life challenges and that we can collectively alleviate some of the human suffering in the world. Our Global Ministry priorities focus on health care, sustainable development, and literacy. Nativity missionaries serve people in the global community and seek to address their most pressing concerns.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in October

Homelessness & Housing

We have a heart for those experiencing homelessness and respond to the reality that many people are unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, and adequate housing. We also work to increase awareness of issues around homelessness and affordable housing as well as provide opportunities for Nativity members to get involved through service, advocacy, and education opportunities.

Year Round Work | Ministry Spotlight in November

Bridging Events



Trunk or Treat



**Redeemer
Block Party**



**VillageFest
Parade & Booth**

Cover Art: Evan Hoffman | Photos: Steve Campbell, Jason Anderson, Nativity Staff, Upsplash, and Shutterstock



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www.nativitychurch.org



We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
ReconcilingWorks.org