

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

NATIVITY LUTHERN CHURCH



Church Council

President - Geoff Hampe

Vice President - Dave Braband

Secretary - Cindy Braatz

Treasurer - Ann Star

Education - Kadee Templeton

Evangelism - Matthew Templeton

Fellowship - Kathy Peters

Property - Dan Behringer

Social Ministry - Lauren Langele

Stewardship - Ann Starr

Worship - Minister Larry Smith



NATIVITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nativity Lutheran Church welcomes all seeking a place of worship, service, and fellowship in Brandon, Mississippi. This Christian faith church was founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ and fosters a spiritual community through Word and Sacrament.



495 Crossgates Blvd,
Brandon, MS 39042
United States

A Letter From The Pastor

By: Larry Smith

Walking Together into a New Season

There is something about the arrival of fall that reminds us how quickly the seasons of life pass. Summer is giving way to cooler mornings and shorter days, and soon another year will begin drawing to a close.

The Church has its seasons, too. During October, we continue our journey through the long green season after Pentecost. Soon we will celebrate Reformation and All Saints, followed in November by Christ the King Sunday. Then the blue of Advent will appear, the Advent wreath will return, and together we will begin another Liturgical Church Year.

This year, that movement from one season to another feels especially meaningful to me.

On August 12, I was given the privilege and responsibility of beginning a new season of ministry here at Nativity as your Synod Authorized Minister. I am grateful for the confidence placed in me and especially grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation that has been my church home for so many years.

My history with Nativity did not begin on August 12. I have worshiped with you, served with you, taught Sunday School, served on committees and councils, participated in worship leadership, and twice had the privilege of serving as Council President.

Through the years, we have celebrated together, prayed together, worked together, and sometimes grieved together.

You are not simply a congregation I have been asked to serve. You are my church family.

That makes this new responsibility both a great joy and something I approach with humility. My own journey toward ministry has reminded me that God's call does not always come when or how we expect it. Looking back, I can see places where God was working long before I understood where God might be leading me.

Perhaps that is one reason this season after Pentecost seems particularly appropriate. Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit is still at work - in the Church, in our congregation, in our community, and in each of us. The green of this season represents growth, and Christian growth continues throughout our lives.

God is not finished with us, and I believe God is not finished with Nativity.

We have a history to treasure and a future to embrace. There are people around us who need to hear the Gospel. There are people who are lonely and need Christian community. There are people carrying grief, fear, disappointment, and burdens that others may never see. There are children and young people who need to know they are loved by God and have a place in Christ's Church.

And there may be someone who walks through our doors wondering whether the grace we proclaim could possibly be meant for them.

Our answer must always be: Yes.

The grace of God is for you. The forgiveness of Christ is for you. The love of Christ is for you.

That is the Gospel I hope we will continue proclaiming together at Nativity.

As your SAM, I do not see ministry as something that happens only from the pulpit on Sunday morning. Ministry happens when we visit someone who is lonely, call someone we have not seen, teach a child about Jesus, pray beside someone who is hurting, welcome a stranger, forgive one another, and care for our neighbors.

That ministry belongs to all of us.

My role is to walk with you in that ministry - to preach and teach God's Word, help lead our worship, provide pastoral care, pray with you, listen to you, and help us keep Jesus Christ at the center of our life together.

I will not always get everything right. None of us will. There may be times when we see things differently and need to listen more carefully to one another. There will certainly be times when we need to extend grace to one another. That, too, is part of being the Church.

We do not gather because we are perfect. We gather because Christ is present. We gather because we need God's Word, God's forgiveness, and one another.

As we move through October and look toward Advent, perhaps these remaining weeks of Pentecost give us an opportunity to ask one important question:

Where is the Holy Spirit leading us now?

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you during this season in the life of Nativity. I ask for your prayers, and please know that you are in mine.

Whatever the next season brings, we enter it together trusting the same promise that has sustained the Church through every generation:

Jesus Christ is crucified.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ is with us.

And because Christ is with us, we can walk forward together in faith, hope, and love.

May God bless you, your families, and Nativity Lutheran Church as together we enter this new season.

In Christ,

Minister Larry L. Smith, SAM

Nativity Lutheran Church

October Calendar of Events



*October 4 - 9:30 AM Youth Sunday School,
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion,
Potluck Lunch*



Potluck - Sunday October 4th
Bring a dish to share. Come hungry, ready to relax and dig in with friends following the church service.

*October 11 -9:30 AM Youth Sunday School,
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion,
Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
(Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex)*

*October 13 -10:00 AM Ladies Coffee &
Devotional*

*October 18 -9:30 AM Youth Sunday School,
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion*

*October 25 -9:30 AM Youth Sunday School
10:30 AM Service with Holy Communion,
Food Pantry Donations Due, 4:00 PM
Trunk or Treat*

October 25th 4-6pm
3rd Annual Trunk or Treat
Nativity Lutheran Parking Lot
Please contact Matthew Templeton if you are willing to help or want more information.
mtt6392@gmail.com or by phone
601-955-3910



A Little Something Exciting!

Good News! 🎉

Next time you're walking into church, be sure to take a look at the deck! The old, rotten boards have been replaced, checking another important safety item off the list.

We are also so grateful for the work being done in the parking lot. These improvements will make walking in and out of church much safer and easier for everyone.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make these improvements possible! We are thankful to see our church building and grounds getting the care they need.

Nativity is adding a little Fall Flair by participating in a Brandon Main Street Event by creating a group of scarecrows to represent what we are. Since we are known for our Live Nativity, we have designed a Nativity Scarecrow scene.

The scarecrow display is up just in time for the first official weekend of Fall and will be displayed through Oct. 31st!



PRAYER LIST

LaMoyne, Dave, Tommy, Barb, Dorothy, Joe, Chuck & Tracy, Arnie & Linda, Anthony, Bobby, James



BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Templeton 10/02

Russell Peters Jr 10/02

Sandy Bettiga 10/05

Rick Kirby 10/13

Barbara Barnes 10/17

Jan Behringer 10/19

Sue Caldwell 10/24

Savannah Stevens 10/26

*Come
Join
us!*



Nativity's Burrow's Abounding Grace Bible Study There will be a ladies coffee, fellowship and devotional in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 10 AM. attend.



ANNIVERSARIES

Mitch & Dorothy Leavell
10/07

Bart & Sandy Bettiga 10/21



The South Central Community Action Agency's Food Pantry has a continuing need for non-perishable food pantry items. The Agency fills numerous requests each week for emergency food needs for families.

Please pick up a list from the table in the narthex and think of these folks when you do your weekly shopping.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 11

After Worship Service • Fellowship Hall

A FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY & WORLD MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

Join your Nativity family and friends as we pack 100 gift-filled shoeboxes to send to children in need around the world—along with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

100 SHOEBOXES • ONE BIG MISSION

Operation Christmas Child is a Samaritan's Purse project. Since 1993, more than 244 million children in more than 175 countries and territories have received shoebox gifts.

This project brings the joy of a special gift—often a child's first ever—while offering a tangible expression of God's love and an opportunity to learn about the Gospel.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Pizza will be served before the packing party!
- All shoebox supplies will be provided.
- Young and old are welcome—there will be something for everyone!
- Come lend a hand, enjoy fellowship, and learn more about this world mission project.

PLEASE SIGN UP!

Please sign up on the list in the Narthex so we can plan for food.
Questions? Contact Ruth Burgess
601-573-5215 • ruthburgess@comcast.net

Pack a box. Share God's love. Make a difference!

NLC October, 2026 Volunteer List- 10:30 Service

	Coffee	Greeters	Ushers	Lectors	Comm. Asst.	Nursey	Counters	Alter Care
Oct 4th	Kathy Peters	Joe Hunt	Bart and Sandy Bettiga	Rick Kirby	Rick Kirby	Lynn Templeton	Bart Bettiga and Sandy Bettiga	Miranda Loper
Oct 11th	Ellie Halverson	Cindy Braatz	Dave Braband and Kathy Peters	Joe Hunt	Joe Hunt	Kerri Hampe	Kathy Peters and Barbra Barnes	Miranda Loper
Oct 18th	Kathy Peters	Michele Hampe	Tommy Templeton and Keith Anderson	Ruth Burgess	Dave Braband	Lauren Langele	Cindy Braatz and Sue Caldwell	Miranda Loper
Oct 25th	Ruth Burgess	Jim and Pat Moulds	Tony Caldwell and Rick Kirby	Bart Bettiga	Sandy Bettiga	Pamela Kirby	Kathy Peters and Lauren Langle	Miranda Loper