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**January Birthdays**

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| --- | --- |
| Matt Warsin | 5th |
| Tim Unger | 13th |
| Don Ruppel | 21st |
| Kylie Thiel | 21st |
| Isabella Ehinger | 27th |
| Patrick Thiel | 28th |
| Jacob LaBelle | 28th |
| Nancy Couture | 29th |



Come join us for **Bingo** and **Potluck** the seond and forth Tuesday every month at **11:00** **a.m.**. Everyone is welome! Enjoy the fun and fellowship.

**THE GATHERING**

Come to The Gathering! This is held every Friday night from 6:00-8:00 pm. It is a time of fellowship, prayer, sharing, and singing. All are welcome!

I don’t always go the extra mile, but when I do, it’s because I missed my exit.

**COOKBOOK**

The Nativity Lutheran Cookbook is available for a suggested donation of just $8.00. If you haven’t purchased your copy, there are still some available.

**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS**

What Can You Do?

Pray – Be Patient – Take a Break - Get Help – Push Through a Little More - Seek the Savior – Look to the Future - Embrace the Moment – Recognize Weakness – Search the Scriptures – Strengthen Faith – Seek Answers – Accept Unanswered Questions – Reach Out to Others in Pain – Take Care of Physical Needs – Accept Unique Circumstances – Endure – Connect with Loved Ones – Share Experiences – Be open to Change – Grieve Loss – Notice Tender Mercies

The more discipline you have, the less will-power you will need.

**Fun Fact:** There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

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**From the Pastor’s Desk** cont.)

**Pentecost** is set fifty days after Easter celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. The Sundays after Pentecost make up the second half of the church year. This part of the church year focuses on the

growth of the church.

Any New Year is a good time to make resolutions. One great opportunity for Christians is that we don’t have to wait for a new year to begin. Each day, remembering our baptism, we celebrate the promises of

a new life in Christ Jesus. May God grant all of you a very blessed New Year- one fully blessed day at a time!

**Bible Study Opportunity -** *A Longer Look at the Lessons*

A new Bible Study will begin at Nativity on Sunday, January 5th at 8:45am. Each Sunday morning, between now and Ash Wednesday, we will study the lessons assigned for each Sunday.

 The study will be Sunday mornings from 8:45 – 9:30am in the sanctuary. You can bring your Bible, but know the yellow lesson sheets will be provided. All are invited, members and guests! We will conclude March 2nd.

The Lessons for January

January 5 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas 1 Kings 3:4–15, Ephesians 1:3–14,

 Luke 2:40–52

January 12 - The Baptism of Our Lord

 Isaiah 43:1–7, Romans 6:1–11,

 Luke 3:15–22

January 19 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 62:1–5, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

January 26 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10, 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a , Luke 4:16–30

**PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor’s office hours are normally Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Any necessary changes will be announced.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tina’s office hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, starting in January.

**NEED TO PRAY?**

There is a prayer group available immediately after service to pray with and for you. Please talk to the Pastor.

**GIVE TO NATIVITY**

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial?  If so, you have an opportunity to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Nativity Ev. Lutheran Church.  This is different from the Action Team projects.  Please follow the steps below.  Every dollar helps us in the proclamation of the Christmas Gospel, every day of the year.

1. Visit: Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. Scroll down and select the "Get Started" button in the "How Do I Direct My Designated Choice Dollars" box.
3. Log in & enter your user ID & password (click on "register" if you have not registered).
4. Find the # of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen.
5. Find Nativity Lutheran Church, St. Charles in the catalog.
6. Click on "Direct Now" to direct.

When you’re at the age where it’s considered rude to pull out a bottle of ibuprofen if you don’t have enough for everyone.

Fun Fact: Your apple can be up to a year old. They are only harvested once a year. August to November.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Creation Life Study Guides. Scientifically researched, Bible-based study guides designed to help you achieve optimal health. Each of the eight lessons covers one area of health: Choices, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. Begin the New Year discovering practical ways to live healthier, be happier, feel stronger, and experience the abundant life by requesting your FREE set of study guides. Call or text us at 989-372-1113 or email abundantlifehealthteam@gmail.com or send a message at [www.facebook.com/abundantlifehealthteam](http://www.facebook.com/abundantlifehealthteam).

In January, our Abundant Life Health Team will begin a fun and interactive community study class going through these eight health lessons. A meal will also be provided. If you are interested in possible coming to one of these study classes, let us know when you request the lessons. We will then contact you about possible dates/times.

Fun Fact: “Brad’s Drink” invented by small town pharmacist Caleb D. Bradham was first served in 1893. It was later renamed Pepsi Cola.

**THE ARMOR OF GOD**

Prayer Thoughts from Ephesians 6:10-20

Lord, I put on the whole armor of God that may be clothed with Christ.

I put on the helmet of salvation and let my mind be conformed to Christ, that Your perfect will be done in me.

I put my helmet over y eyes to see through the eyes of Jesus.

I pull it down over my ears to hear and obey God’s voice.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness over my heart. Thank You, Jesus, for Your righteousness, for I have none of my own.

I put on the shoes of the Gospel of peace that I may go and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

I take up the shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the enemies of God. Lord Jesus, You are my Shield and High Tower, and to You alone do I run.

I take up the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, which keenly discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Thank You, Lord, for placing a cloak of glory around me. Cover me and my household with Your precious blood. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit in me. Erect a shield around me and let no evil befall me, in the Name of the Father, Son, and Hold Spirit. Amen.****

**From the Pastor’s Desk**

Happy New Year

The New Year is a traditional time for making certain life changing commitments. It gives you a fresh marker against which you can measure your progress. As Christians, we have a number of “new year’s” to celebrate. When it comes to “THE” New Year, we traditionally look to January 1. Unless we are talking about “the tax year”; and we look to April, or property taxes (Winter:

December 1-February 15) or the Church Year, which began on December 1.

Of all the “new year’s”; I think we understand the 12 month year beginning January 1st the best. The Fiscal Year perhaps second best, and the Church Year and all its holidays the least.

Here are some interesting tidbits from the Church Year you can use to plan your devotions, test your pastor, and amaze your friends.

**Adven**t means: “coming”; and is always four weeks long, encompassing the four Sundays preceding Christmas. The Sundays after Christmas depend on the number of Sundays falling between Christmas and Epiphany. The liturgical color is now blue, representing “hope” and “expectation.”

**Epiphany** means; “show”; or “reveal,”; is always January 6. It is referred to as “The Gentile Christmas” because of the visit of the Magi. The season celebrates Christ revealing Himself as true God. The number of Sundays after Epiphany is dependent on the date of Easter.

**Easter** is the Church’s greatest festival day. It was the first annually celebrated festival. When to celebrate it caused great controversy in the early church. The Council of Nicaea (325 ad.) decided that: “Easter will be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox, or

one week later if the full moon falls on Sunday.” This clears everything up doesn’t it? Well, at least it explains why Easter falls on a different day each year. In 2025 it comes about as late as it can, on April 20.

From the date of Easter Sunday, Lent is set. This begins with Ash Wednesday, forty days before Easter (if you don’t count Sundays).

**Lent** is a penitential time of reflection on Christ’s sacrificial death. It culminates in Holy Week the and the Triduum, the three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

  (Cont.)

Nativity Lutheran Church

St. Charles, MI

Monthly Newsletter – January 2025

**Pastor** – Kevin Jones

**Contact info.:**

625 W. Clinton St.

St. Charles, MI 48655

****Secy. – Tina Schmidt

Office: 989-865-9964

Hours: Wed. & Thurs.

 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Email: nativitylutheran625@gmail.com

Website:

<https://nativity-stcharles.org>

or simply

Nativity-StCharles.org

Facebook: Nativity

 Church Saint

 Charles MI

**Worship:**

Sundays 10:00 am

**The Market**

989-277-8082

Mon. & Wed.

 9 am – 12 pm

Thurs. 4 – 7 pm

Sat. 8 – 11 am