

From the Pastor

It All Began With Cain & Abel...

Most of us probably remember the basics of the story...two brothers each bring a portion of the fruits of their labor before God, and each one is hoping for God to pat him on the head and say, 'well done...'. And God said 'yes' to Abel's effort and had no regard for Cain's offering. It appears that God's lack of appreciation for Cain was due to Cain's lack of attention to detail. While Abel gave his best to God, Cain merely fulfilled his basic obligation. The end result was extreme anger and embarrassment from Cain, which culminated in the rash taking of his brother's life. This sad story initiates a continuing clash between Cain and God, for when he is asked by God about his brother's security Cain claims ignorance and replies with a cavalier question, "...Am I my brother's keeper?"

Now, maybe it didn't quite begin with these two brothers, as there is a previous falling-out between humanity and God orchestrated by the parents of these two boys. This falling-out is precipitated by another and seemingly innocuous question offered by a talking serpent to their mother. The serpent's question..."Did God say...you shall not eat from any tree in the garden?" Thus, inside these two encounters and these two 'questioning moments' lay all the ground work for everything to get broken.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" It would seem that the Biblical answer (God's answer) to this question would be 'yes'. Yet, in the world where *free market economics* has been granted almost divine status and insists that almost all human relations and endeavors are defined by the 'God given right to sell ourselves and our talents to the highest bidder...' and if you have nothing to sell in the marketplace, then it's probably your own fault. In such a world humans tend, by nature to be; greedy, exploitive, competitive and ruthless, and the natural human nature is to care only about themselves, and that no common interests exist except to protect the 'right' of the individual to make a major killing in the market place. Might makes right and wealth confers divine inspiration and proof of a heavenly given mandate. God helps those who help themselves...and it's a dog-eat-dog world...and when the going gets tough, the tough get going...and it's every man for himself. (Just a few well-worn aphorisms!)

In this world the *market* is omnipotent (possess all power), omniscient (has all knowledge) and is omnipresent (exists everywhere). Heretofore, only God had these attributes. One might think that religious leaders around the world would be uniformly motivated to be in the forefront of a determined opposition to such brokenness rather than just standing aside and only observing the tragedy of what one human brother is willing to do to another human brother. Yet, such is decidedly not the case. For the most part, religious organizations have often embraced, condoned and modeled *free market capitalism* and competition to build the body count for their own community. While the religious community of grace, mercy, hospitality, compassion, mission and sacrifice does still exist, it has become compromised by its living in a world where there is no tree from which it will refuse to eat.

Peace be with us always....Pastor D. Mohn

With this being said...I wish to focus upon our plans for the six weeks of Lenten Worship which will begin with our...

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP on February 22, 2012

Our Theme: *'LENT...How Easily Things Get Broken*

...time for recovery, renewal and reconciliation'!

(The focus will be on Biblical stories of brokenness...and recovery, renewal and reconciliation!)

(The community prayers each week will be shaped by our theme and the Biblical readings.)

Our Worship: Holden Evening Prayer at both 12:00 Noon & 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday...February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 & 28

Supper: Served each week in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45 PM

PASSION /PALM SUNDAY – April 1, 2012

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5, 2012

GOOD FRIDAY – April 6, 2012

THE RESURRECTION of OUR LORD (EASTER) – April 8, 2012

UPDATE: HN Church Council Meeting – 01/17/2012 (Unapproved)

Call to Order: Vice President Wendy Grimes @ 7:02pm **Devotions:** Dale Wilson

Secretary's Report: November 2011 minutes. Moved/Second/Rpt. Approved (No December Meeting)

Communications Received: Thank you: 'Dinner at Your Door' and 'Leisure Age' for 2011 Contributions

Treasurer's Report: Final 2011 numbers were better than plan. Columbarium account very positive. M/S/Rpt. Approved M/S/ Approved to contribute \$500 of our \$5,133 year end surplus to Mercy Seat LC and remaining surplus transferred to building reserves.

	Nov. Actual	Nov. Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Giving*	32,132	34,000	334,822	334,500
Operating Fund Income	38,097	40,152	444,442	445,252
Operating Fund Expenses	44,878	45,369	446,340	471,077
Deficit or Surplus**	(6781)	(5217)	(1898)	(25,825)
	Dec. Actual	Dec Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Giving*	43,445	45,500	378,267	380,000
Operating Fund Income	51,814	52,428	496,256	497,680
Operating Fund Expenses	44,782	46,487	491,122	517,564
Deficit or Surplus**	7032	5941	5134	(19884)

*Current Offering Only

**Operating Fund Income – Operating Fund Expense = (Deficit) or Surplus

OLD BUSINESS: Strategic Plan: Goal 2: Holy Nativity will support strong youth programming that is devoted to creating and caring for meaningful relationships for our youth in grades 7-12.

Request for fundraiser from congregation: Mary Warner trip to Liberia. Pastor David will seek Men's Group & WELCA assistance. Information/Request will be in the 'Tidings' and the Sunday bulletin. M/S/Approved

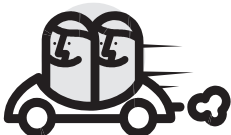
Date for Spring Congregational Meeting: M/S/Approved Sunday, May 20th 11:30am Pot-Luck 12:15pm Meeting

Youth Committee/Pastor Jason: Two fundraiser events - Luncheon & LIVE AUCTION February 26th. Holy Nativity formal/semi-formal dinner-dance (Details TBA). M/S/Approved

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Reports: **Pastor David:** Approximately 19 people going to Pine Ridge. Holy Nativity considered 'traveling-guest preachers' for Lent, but will decline. Four new member families to join on January 22nd. **Pastor Jason:** Mpls. Synod Assembly will elect a new bishop in February (HN Voting Members: Joe Gartner, Laurie Raske, Connie Toavs, Jon Peterson) Kim Cassidy & Pastor Jason will lead four training sessions on Envisioning Youth Ministry.

Ministry Team Reports: **PLF:** Information about Lent soup suppers, details at February ministry meeting. New Directory is in process. **Personnel:** By March 'Personnel Manual' to be updated. **Evangelism:** Team will be doing a better job at following up with new members. **WAM:** 'Wildfire Concert' February 26th. Three members attended a liturgy conference. **Education:** Forums planned through Easter, forum ideas to Kari Johnson. **Outreach:** Youth will serve at '60+ Brunch' on February 4th. Blood drive is coming. **Stewardship:** Planning for youth-stewardship forum. **Youth:** Wrestling fundraiser will be at Elim Lutheran, Robbinsdale. Need big ticket items-donations for 'Live Auction'. Conference Table moved to Fellowship Hall. **Property:** Thermostats programmed. Review City of New Hope regulations regarding signs. Discuss deck area. Upcoming lighting audit re: fluorescent bulbs. (Audit takes place 1/18/12 @ 10 am.) Discussion: re. lawn area on south edge of parking lot. Repair of Sanctuary wall re.:water damage. Project assigned and will be completed in January.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:14pm **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 21th, 7:00pm **Devotions:** Beth Demarest



The Outreach Ministry Team would like to develop a transportation plan for people who want to be a part of church but can't because of transportation issues. We decided that it is important to obtain a list of people who are willing to volunteer first. A list will be posted on the kiosk where you can place your name, address, which service you attend and when you could drive. We would ask that one or two Sundays a month be considered. Once we have the volunteers, we will then have the people who need rides call church in order for the liability issue to be covered. We will match those names with the volunteers who live in the area. **Please consider volunteering to help those who would like to be a part of Holy Nativity's church services. Thank you.**

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

The Outreach Ministry Committee is sponsoring our seventh annual drive for the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. The drive begins Sunday, February 19th and runs through Wednesday, February 29th. Please bring your donations on any of those days.

The Nursery was established in 1983 as the first crisis nursery in Minnesota and is still the *only residential* one. It works in partnership with parents in crisis and the community to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Of the 8,000 victims of abuse last year in Minnesota, most victims were under age six. The Nursery's free services are available 24 hours a day every day of the year for families with newborn through age six children. This past year they had to turn away more children than they were able to shelter, solely due to funding cuts. The children the Nursery has sheltered would fill the Target Center - TWICE!! The annual cost of living for a family of one adult plus two children is over \$45,035 and 84% of the Nursery families have an annual income of less than \$10,000. Over 97% of parents placing their children were female and 22% of families were homeless.

High needs are: (New Items Only Please)

Shoes - Wide Sizes 8, 9, 10, 11

Non-Latex Gloves - Adult sizes S, M, L
(Kirkland brand preferred)

Batteries - AA, AAA, and C

Printer Paper - Letter size

Gift Cards - Target, Costco, and Gas Cards



Also needed: (New Items Only Please)

Girls and Boys Clothing - Size 0 - 10/12

Boys Underwear - Sizes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Husky-Sized Clothing - Sizes 3 - 10/12

Diapers - Sizes 3 and 4

Pull-Ups - Size Extra Large



Monetary donations are always welcome. Checks can be made out to Holy Nativity with Crisis Nursery written on the memo line. Place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF CARING!

Feeling stressed? Stiff? Out of sorts? Yoga may be what you are looking for! Join the New Hope Women of Today Yoga event (taught by a certified instructor) on Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ages and abilities welcome. Bring a friend...water bottle...yoga mat (if you have). \$5 suggested donation. Snacks provided.



Thanks

"Dear Holy Nativity Family...Thank you for all of your love, caring, cards, memorials and prayers on our behalf during my mother's final weeks and her death. She was an amazing person who taught me so much—especially about savoring life and loving much. She has sailed to the other side now where, I am sure, the celebration continues."

~ ~ Joanne Eittreim and family

THANK YOU to Maxine Peterson for her many (not even she knows for sure how many!) years of service as Chair of the Altar Guild. Maxine has faithfully taken care of recruiting members, training and organizing, keeping all the supplies stocked, setting up all the holiday and special services, and adding that special touch we can easily take for granted.

WAMzy (Monthly whimsy about **W**orship, **A**rts and **M**usic at Holy Nativity!) By Nora Levenson

The Nativity Choir has an ongoing tradition of strong music participation. Barb Johnson is a 35-year choir member who didn't try choral singing until someone leaned over after worship and said, "You should join choir!" So, she took it as a chance to be part of the music! Barb shared with me memories of special choir performance tours in places like Michigan and Wisconsin. She regularly attends weekly rehearsals because good music has always been a part of her life.

The choir enjoys fun and fellowship while coming together as a cohesive, musical group. Anyone is welcome to join whether you read music or not. Singing along with experienced members and learning sweet, swinging hymns and large-scale cantatas with an experienced director will most certainly expand your musical ability. Having your spirit lifted at the same time (and treats!) is a bonus. There's always room for new voices!

Join us Wednesdays at 7:00pm!



Also, join us as we prepare for our annual
"Wildfire 6-Church Choral Festival"



at Holy Nativity on **Sunday, February 26th at 5:00pm!**
Rehearsals: Saturday mornings on **February 4th and 11th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, and February 25th 9:00am to noon!**

PRISM

PRISM—People Responding In Social Ministry
730 Florida Avenue South,
Golden Valley, MN 55426

A Brighter Future... One Family at a Time!

Where Folks Get a HAND UP, not a HAND OUT!

PRISM Food Shelf and so much more!! Check the **PRISM** website at www.prismmpls.org

PRISM'S MISSION: To walk alongside families (in New Hope, Crystal, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale and Plymouth—east of 494) providing support-based programs that encourage self-sufficiency.

PRISM THANKS YOU! Your continued contributions are always appreciated as the need to help our neighbors continues to grow. You truly continue to be **People Responding In Social Ministry!**

The **PRISM Food Market and Clothes Closet** serves over 500 families per month—more than double since 2006! Can YOU help? Holy Nativity's key items for **FEBRUARY** are **BA-BY WIPES** and **MACARONI AND CHEESE** or whatever's on sale. Our **December** collection brought in **84lbs** of CANNED FRUIT AND TOILET PAPER and **11lbs** of CLOTHING. **Thanks** for helping fill up our big PRISM box!

Monetary donations are always appreciated and PRISM can s-t-r-e-t-c-h the dollars thereby helping so many more people! PRISM envelopes are in the wall pockets in the narthex, or write a check made out to Holy Nativity with PRISM in the memo line and drop it in the Sunday collection plate. **THANKS FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Volunteer Front Desk Receptionists and thank-you callers in donor relations are needed. Other volunteer areas can always use support and recruits—give some time to those in need through PRISM in 2012. Snowbirds need replacement too! Contact Dianne Erickson, Volunteer Director at derickson@prismmpls.org / call 763-453-4207.



DONATE YOUR CAR TO PRISM or ENCOUR- AGE SOMEONE ELSE TO DONATE THEIR CAR!

Help a working family on their way to self-sufficiency and you will get the highest tax write-off for your donation. Contact Stevenson Morgan, Family Transportation Program at smorgan@prismmpls.org or at 763-529-1350.

SAVE THE DATE! **2nd Annual Empty Bowls** on Thursday, March 15th, 4:00-7:00pm at Sandburg Learning Center, Golden Valley. Proceeds support PRISM and NEAR. For more information check out the HN PRISM Board or go to www.emptybowlsrobbinsdale.org. Volunteers, handmade bowls, dollars, in-kind donations and attendees needed.



BOOK LOOK

Cleopatra's Daughter by Michelle Moran is a fast-paced, intriguing and beautifully written story about her two surviving children following the invasion of Egypt by Octavian and their journey to Rome. The book gives an authentic and fascinating picture of imperial Rome and the people and events of this most tumultuous period. It is also a coming-of-age story about Selene who must not suffer the same fate as her mother.

WELCOME

Mark, Amy, Rachel and Jacob Eggert

Chris and Teresa Pederson

Eric, Amy, Axel and Tia Randall

Kathy Smrekar

We're glad to have you as part of our Holy Nativity family!!

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE YOUTH FUND-
RAISING WRESTLING EVENT!**
**Saturday, March 3rd at Elim Lu-
theran in Robbinsdale at 7:00pm!**



Game DAY is Friday, February 17th!!



Come join your adult friends for an afternoon of socializing and fun! We start at noon with a potluck, so please bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert to share. Coffee is provided. At 1:00pm we start playing cards (bridge, 500), dominoes, cribbage, or bring your favorite board game. The activities usually end about 3:30pm.

We would love to have you join us for either the potluck or games or both! Questions? Please call Barb Johnson at 763-536-1413.

Volleyball Anyone???

What? Adult, co-ed, recreational
(no Olympic style)

When? Friday nights 7:00-9:00pm

Where? Sandburg Middle School, Gym B

Who? Any adult willing to play non-power volleyball—singles, couples, friends, neighbors

Format: New teams picked each night, play about 8-10 games, no need to play the full two hours.

Cost: About \$3.00/person/night

February Schedule: 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th

???: Call Bob Madsen 763-522-2942 or 612-219-71315



Wednesday Night Dinners for February

- 2/1: No Dinner (Wildfire Event)
- 2/8: Pizza
- 2/15: Sloppy Joes
- 2/22: ASH WEDNESDAY—Soup Supper
- 2/29: Lenten Soup Supper



Sunday Forums for February

- 2/5: No Forum—Please attend the Business Fair!
- 2/12: NOOMA Video
- 2/19: Christian Science (not Scientology!)
- 2/26: Living the Questions—Part 1

Youth Forums for February

- 2/5: "Learning Compassion: Why Indifference is the Enemy"
- 2/12: "It's Not About You"
- 2/19: "Ash Wednesday"
- 2/26: "What it takes to be a BFF"



Sunday School Notes:

All Sunday School kids will participate in leading worship on Sunday, February 26th at the 10:30am service! Classes will begin working on this on February 5th. Details will be sent home with the kids on February 5th. Please let your child's teacher know if your child will be able to participate.

Confirmation Notes:

Wildfire (Joint Church) Event:

This month's event will take place Wednesday, February 1st, from 6:30–7:45pm at St. James Lutheran Church (6700—46th Place, Crystal). We will have a presentation from Mary Simonsen Clark on Malaria Awareness. Please drop off and pick up kids at St. James.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten services begin on Wednesday, February 22nd. 9th grade students will meet with mentors on these evenings. We would like all students to attend the Wednesday evening services with their families (7:00pm). Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, April 11th. Students may turn in sermon notes for Lenten services and sign up for acolyting.

Junior High (Grades 6-9): Bowling @ New Hope Bowl



Sunday, February 19th meet at Holy Nativity at 11:30am for pizza, then enjoy an afternoon of bowling at New Hope Bowl! Cost is \$10/person (includes pizza, bowling shoes rental, and 2 games of bowling). Youth may wish to bring an extra \$1.25, just in case they bowl quickly! Return to Holy Nativity at 2:30pm. Sign up at the YouthBooth and turn in your money to Kim Cassidy by Wednesday, February 15th! Friends welcome!

ENVISIONING YOUTH MINISTRY, SESSION #2



Do you think the youth are an important part of our community? We need YOU to come to **Youth Ministry Adult Leader Training Sessions!** Throughout the spring, Pastor Jason and Kim Cassidy will be hosting a series of four sessions, aimed at purpose, goals, ownership, skills and abilities, and envisioning the future. **Saturday, February 25th** from 9:00am to noon will be the second session focusing on taking ownership and nurturing important skills for doing effective, relational ministry with youth. Participating in these conversations is a GREAT way to invest in our youth! Coffee & treats will be provided! Sign up at the Kiosk and see Pastor Jason or Kim Cassidy with questions.

Senior High: Worship Tour, Part 3 @ Mercy Seat



Sunday, February 12th meet at Holy Nativity at 4:30pm. We'll travel to Mercy Seat - a mission start that Holy Nativity supports! - to worship with them at 5:00pm., and return to Holy Nativity around 6:30pm. NO COST - but please sign up at the YouthBooth or contact Kim Cassidy by Sunday MORNING, February 12th. Also - families and adults are encouraged to attend as well. Let's show our continued support for Mercy Seat's ministry by worshipping together with them and see what God has been up to in their community! Adults & families interested can also please sign up at the YouthBooth under "Adult Leaders/Drivers" to coordinate transportation. **Check it out @ <http://www.nemercy.org/>**

On behalf of the youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans and Camp Wapo this summer — THANK YOU for your Red Envelope support! Your generosity raised \$3,113!



Youth Fundraiser: Live Auction & Luncheon Sunday, February 26th

Join us for a spirited afternoon of lunch and bidding to support the youth in their travels to New Orleans and Camp Wapo! Beginning with lunch at 11:30am., we will auction off a number of items to raise funds. Can't come to the auction to bid on items? No problem! Donate a week-long stay at your **timeshare** or **cabin/lakeshore property** this summer, a **lesson** or **service** in your favorite specialty (i.e. knitting, piano lessons, etc.), **quilts**, **woodcarvings**, **sports tickets** or any other special item! Please talk to Wendy Grimes if you would like to donate an item to the auction. Also, please consider donating one (or more) of the following food items to the luncheon: a 9x13 pan of lasagna, a bag of Caesar salad, or a pan of bars. A sign-up for food donations will be available on the kiosk.



***Please note:** We are still planning to have our annual Palm Sunday Silent Auction, so if you have smaller items, please consider donating those smaller items to the Silent Auction. Our aim with the Live Auction is to have big-ticket items.

AD PAGE

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FEBRUARY 2012

FEBRUARY MISSION OFFERING
 IS DESIGNATED TO
 CRISIS NURSERY

HOLY NATIVITY STAFF

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Pastor Jason Wahlstrom	(H) 763-767-3051 pastorjason@holynativity.net
Iver Hubert	Director of Music Ministry iver@holynativity.net
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Judy Alexander	Financial Coordinator judy@holynativity.net
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Brittany Ewald	Childcare Director (HNCCCC Office) 763-591-0681 holynativitycccc@gmail.com
Kim Cassidy	Youth Ministry Intern kcassidy001@luthersem.edu
General Message	office@holynativity.net

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 Celebrating 50+ Years!



Our thoughts and prayers continue for those in military service overseas: **Michael Ditty, Matt Eitrem, Lucas Gates, Lenny Arntson, William Meade, Sylvia Meade, Dessie Roll, Andrew Lerum, Mark Litynski, Jacob Pederson, Chris Weaver, David Taylor, Alex Bjorkstrand**

Please call the church office with updates, or to add a loved one serving in the military to this list.

BAPTISM CLASS

Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30pm

If you anticipate a baptism in the future and have not attended a previous class, please call the church office to schedule.



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral: 1/12 Phyllis Nelson



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Matt Nelson upon the death of his mother and Joanne Eitrem upon the death of her mother.

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted" ~ Matthew 5:4

Check out the **CONNECTIONS** Board !₈