

2023

PARISH PROFILE



Episcopal Church of the
Holy Nativity

828 W Cherry Lane • Meridian, ID 83642 • (208) 888-4342 • holynativitymeridian.org

Many Hands Make Light Work

From bales of hay in 1973 to the fine, cushioned pews Holy Nativity now has in its spacious sanctuary, the faithfulness of the people has been a constant. Through the years, the resounding theme at Holy Nativity is that we are a genuine, caring, and friendly congregation. This has been a main reason that congregants say they choose to stay and become involved in the parish. A healthy percentage of adult members are Lay Leaders, serve on the Vestry, maintain the buildings and grounds, or are involved in stewardship, fundraising, education, and mission programs. Opportunities are plentiful for the youth in our congregation to serve during Sunday Services or in our outreach programs. We are a faithful congregation, not afraid of hard work or hard times, banded together from our own life experiences, and truly a family, united as sons and daughters of God and followers of Jesus.



We seek a priest who will be a consistent pastoral and spiritual leader, who is an accomplished liturgist, and who will help us to further strengthen our ministries as we spread the good news of Christ in our community.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1972

First formal worship at Locust Grove Grange.

1974

Official dedication on Palm Sunday by Bishop Hanford King.

1980's-2000's

Meridian saw exponential growth.

2001

Father Mike Spillane appointed as full-time Priest.

2005

Purchased the Catholic Church building. Pentecost Sunday, 2005, the entire congregation, led by Bishop Bainbridge, processed from the old church to the new church for the consecration

2007

Rev. Alice Farquhar-Mayes returns as Interim Rector.

2009

Rev. Michael Canning becomes full-time Priest.

2011-2015

Rebuilding of congregation and reconstructing finances.

2016

Father Michael Case appointed as part-time Priest-in-Charge.

2022

Rev. Jennifer Anttonen becomes Interim Priest-in-Charge.

OUTREACH

Outreach ministries are very important to the members of Holy Nativity. In many ways, we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Meridian.



Be Our Guest Team

Be Our Guest

Bi-monthly, church members prepare a free meal for the hungry in our area called "Be Our Guest" meals. These delicious meals are carefully packaged and handed out by our committed team that continues with this greatly appreciated ministry – rain or shine.

Caring Closet Ministry

The Caring Closet ministry frequently operates in conjunction with the Be Our Guest event. Hygiene products such as shampoo, toothpaste, soap or deodorant are distributed each month to those who attend. Additionally, a bag with laundry detergent, dish soap and toilet paper is also handed out.



Knitting Circle Ladies

The Knitting Circle Ministry

This ministry meets once a month to share knitting patterns, ideas and make beautiful prayer shawls, and lap robes for hospice. They also make caps and scarves for the Mariners Ministry. The prayer shawls are available to anyone who is grieving, having surgery, needs healing or comfort of any kind.

Caring Connection Ministry

At Holy Nativity, we care for each other in a myriad of ways. A Pastoral Care Team (Caring Connection), started in early 2023. This dedicated team makes visitations to those in the hospital, nursing homes, or individuals who are homebound. They also assure we maintain open communications through check-in phone calls. Additionally, Thinking of You, Get Well or Loving Support postcards are sent out by this team to assure that parishioners stay connected and cared for.



Be Our Guest Christmas Packages
Each guest received a 50lb. bag of food and 80 bags were distributed.

Meridian Food Bank

Members of our congregation donate food, supplies and make financial contributions to the Meridian Food Bank. Several parishioners also volunteer their time to serve as volunteers on a weekly basis.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY SPACE

Tis the Season Holiday Bazaar



CROP Hunger Walk



Christmas Giving Tree



Vacation Bible School

In past summers, we have hosted VBS programs for area children. During the pandemic this event was postponed. However a dedicated member of our parish has stepped forward offering to organize this wonderful event. So we are planning on once again, offering Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2023.

Additional Outreach Ministries:

- 2-Cents-a-Meal Program
- Idaho CROP Walk
- Christmas Family Giving Tree
- Leaders of Scout groups
- Meridian Middle School - HOPE Food Pantry and needed clothing items
- Thanksgiving Food Box Program

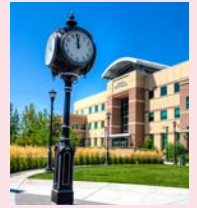


Community Space

In addition to true outreach programs, we also sponsor space for Girl Scout groups and several AA groups. In return, the Scout groups help with spring and autumn cleanups on our church property. Two other congregations use our Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Various other groups, such as the Boise Highlander Bagpipes, occupy rooms.

Additionally, each year in November, our Parish Hall is used by local crafters to host a Holiday Craft Bazaar which is a very well attended event.

ABOUT MERIDIAN



Meridian is a city located in Ada County Idaho. With a 2023 population of 139,422, it is the 2nd largest city in Idaho and the 194th largest city in the United States. Meridian is currently growing at a rate of 5.21% annually and its population has increased by 16.45% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 119,729 in 2020. Spanning over 34 miles, Meridian has a population density of 4,104 people per square mile.

The average household income in Meridian is \$89,857 with a poverty rate of 8.49%. The median rental costs in recent years comes to \$1,693 per month, and the median house value is \$545,000 (according to realtor.com). The median age in Meridian is 35.9 years, 34.3 years for males, and 37.2 years for females.

The people of Meridian enjoy a wide variety of retail choices, employment opportunities, seasonal activities, outdoor attractions, and a low crime rate. Even by Idaho's standards, the people are young, the families are large and the jobs are good.

Meridian is no longer the small dairy farming community it once was. Today, it's a charismatic and energetic city full of growth and opportunity. Due to Meridian's idyllic location, affordable cost of living, top-rated schools, and booming economy, it has been consistently recognized by national publications - such as Money magazine and USA Today - as one of the best cities to live in the United States. Recently named by USA Today as "The Best Place to Live in America", Meridian has been featured on dozens of national 'Top 10' and 'Top 100' lists. USA Today Best Places to Live Ranks Meridian #1.



Recreationists are busy year-round with many activities such as:

- Fishing
- Golfing
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- River rafting
- Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, tubing, and snowmobiling



Other area attractions include:

- Boise State Football and Basketball Games
- Boise Philharmonic Performances
- Idaho Shakespeare Festival
- Morrison Center for the Performing Arts
- Idaho Steelhead Ice Hockey
- Jaialdi Basque Festival

OUR PROPERTY

Buildings & Grounds

Sitting on a spacious 3.6 acres, Holy Nativity has:

- on-site parking for 170 vehicles
- a sanctuary that seats 395
- a small library
- four classrooms
- a nursery
- atrium
- a parish hall with a commercial kitchen
- 2,400 square foot Rectory with a garage.

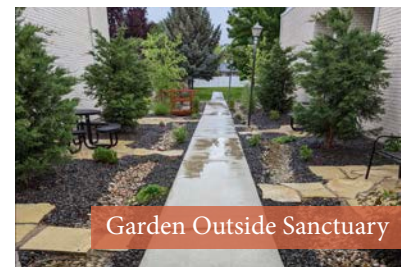
Located on a major traffic corridor for Meridian, directly across from the Middle School, we also open our parking lot for overflow parking for various events held during the school year.

Our Junior Warden along with other parishioners oversee the grounds and building maintenance. A local landscaper is hired to mow the lawns and we have also contracted with a company who clears snow from our parking areas in the winter if it is necessary.

The church office, which is located in our Rectory, is staffed by volunteers five days a week from 10am to 12 noon.



Holy Nativity Parish Hall



Garden Outside Sanctuary

PARISH LIFE

Fellowship, Fun, and Fundraising

As a congregation, we greatly enjoy getting together outside of church service times. This topic would not be complete without mentioning our fantastic Coffee Hour after each Sunday service where everyone enjoys a variety of delicious goodies over a cup of coffee while joining in enjoyable conversations.

There are multiple events that shape the life of our entire parish. Mid-summer, we gather at the annual Summer Picnic to visit, play games, and enjoy delicious food prepared by parishioners. During the year, we have several FUNdraising dinners - celebrating Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Valentine Bingo and Advent to name a few special occasions. In June of each year, we hold an annual Indoor Rummage Sale in the Parish Hall. The funds raised at such events are used to offset capital improvements or other needs in our parish.

Small groups gather frequently for a time of fellowship and fun. Monthly Fellowship Dinners are hosted in homes by different parishioners to enrich fellowship and to cultivate lasting friendships within our church community.

The Ladies Group meets on a monthly basis to enjoy a seasonal outing events.



Summer Picnic 2022



Summertime Fellowship



Paradise Point

Participation in Diocesan Life

Various opportunities abound for participation in Diocesan Life. One of the best places is at Paradise Point Summer Camp, which is located on beautiful Payette Lake in the mountain community of McCall, Idaho. Camps held there include women's, men's, family and youth camps.

Each year, Holy Nativity sends four delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention, and in November 2023 we will be hosting the convention at Holy Nativity. Parishioners also serve with the Idaho Episcopal Foundation.

LEADERSHIP



Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity
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holynativitymeridian.org

At the Church of the Holy Nativity we believe that one of our primary roles, if not the primary role, is to provide a place and an environment where those who come in our doors will find the means to experience an intimate and loving relationship with Almighty God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Bishop of Idaho **The Rt. Reverend Jos Tharakan**
Cannon to the Ordinary **The Rev. Emily Van Hise**
Interim Priest-in-Charge **The Rev. Jennifer Anttonen**
Priest-in-Residence **The Rev. Alice Farquhar-Mayes**

Vestry:

- Senior Warden, Mary Buchanan
- Junior Warden, Vance Wegner
- Vestry Clerk, Vance Wegner
- Finance, Mike Magette

- Jon Anson
- Richard Jones
- Sandra Koerner
- Karen Ryker
- Barbara Samperisi
- Cindy Wolfenbarger

Music Director **Heidi Roberts**
Treasurer **Sue Pahlas**
Ministry Schedule **Mary Buchanan**
Sunday School **Cindy Wolfenbarger**
Coffee Hour / Fellowship **Sandra Koerner**
Altar Flowers **Kay Grooms**
Altar Guild **Clare Barrett**
Food Bank **Richard Jones**
Newsletter Editor **Mary Buchanan**

Holy Nativity Church Office Volunteers:

- Monday — Sandra Koerner
- Tuesday — Linda Czarkowski
- Wednesday — Linda Burnz
- Thursday — Darlene Stattner
- Friday — Karen Ryker

Office hours: Monday - Friday 10AM to 12 noon | office@episcopalholynativity.org

OUR DESIRES, HOPES & ASPIRATIONS

WHAT WE HOPE FROM YOU:

- Be a humble, spiritual leader through words, action, prayer, teaching, compromise and God-centered guidance.
- Be able to laugh with us, challenge us in new ways yet care for our hearts.
- Be able to help us continue our faith journey in these polarized times.
- Give thought provoking sermons that relate our daily lives to scripture.
- Acknowledge the importance and benefits of inclusivity.
- Provide opportunities for participation that promotes a feeling of welcome and community.
- Engage in the local community so we are aware of the needs beyond our walls.
- Help us to address the challenges of the 21st century, eg. climate change, health crises, political divisiveness, etc.
- Love the people by being involved in church functions, making home and hospital visits and being present in times of need.
- Help us increase the population of young people. Include youth in the services, develop a youth ministry and help Holy Nativity remain relevant for all ages in the years to come.



WHAT WE PROMISE TO YOU

- We will be open, genuine and honest.
- We will care for and support you, your family and ministry.
- We will do everything we can to make your ministry successful.
- We will seek your guidance in spiritual matters.
- We will be present in worship and fellowship.
- We will forgive you when you err but invite you to change.
- We will financially contribute to pay you competitively.
- We will be mindful of your time for rest, renewal and prayer.
- We will provide the necessary help in worship, liturgy and administration.