



Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



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**The Episcopal Church
of the Holy Nativity**
828 W. Cherry Lane
Meridian, Idaho 83642-1619
(208) 888-4342
Sunday Services 10:00am



Monthly Message from Father Shibu, Priest-in-Charge

Come, Immanuel

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.’” — Luke 2:10

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, these words from the Gospel of Luke resonate with particular urgency in today’s world. “Do not be afraid” is more than a comforting assurance; it is an invitation to place our trust in the promise of Immanuel, God with us. In a time marked by uncertainty, conflict, and anxiety, we are called to welcome the Christ Child into our homes, hearts, and minds, allowing His presence to dispel fear and bring peace. Embracing Immanuel means choosing faith over fear and hope over despair.

Christmas is a time of joy, celebration, and togetherness. We delight in cakes, cookies, beautifully lit homes, Christmas trees, and cherished moments with family and friends. These traditions reflect the joy and peace that Christ brings into our lives. However, this season also invites us to share that joy and peace with the world around us. It is an opportunity to extend the love of Christ to those in need and to reflect His light in our community.

Here at Holy Nativity, we embody this spirit of giving in meaningful ways. Through our Christmas outreach programs, the distribution of Thanksgiving food boxes, (serving over 40 people this year) our Youth Group’s Christmas Carol visit to the Senior Living Facility on December 15, and the ongoing Be Our Guest Food Pantry program, we are living out the Gospel message. I am deeply grateful to all our parishioners who participate in these ministries. Your contributions make a tangible difference, equipping others and standing in solidarity with the poor and needy.

As we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, let us remember that welcoming Immanuel into our lives transforms not only our own hearts but also the world around us. May this season be one of joy, generosity, and peace as we share the Good News of great joy with all people.

Peace, Joy & Blessings+

Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal



Join us for our
**Christmas Eve
Services**

We hope you'll plan on joining us for one or both of the Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, December 24th:

- ★ 7pm Children's Christmas Pageant
- ★ 10pm Traditional Christmas Eve Mass

If your child or grandchild would like to take part in the Children's Christmas Pageant, please contact Mary Kay Martin (208) 731-3373 | marykaymartin73@gmail.com. There will be a rehearsal on December 22nd right after the morning worship service.

Poinsettias for Christmas

As is the custom, Holy Nativity will have beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary for our Christmas services. If you would like to order a Poinsettia in memory of someone, as a celebration or as an acknowledgement, please add your name to the list in the Parish Hall. **Suggested donation amount is \$10.00**

Please list "poinsettia" on the memo line of your check or on the outside of an envelope if placing cash in offering plate.



ADVENT SOUP POTLUCK

Bring a soup, side dish or dessert
Sunday, December 1st

We're having the Annual Advent Potluck. All are welcome to join in the feast and celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. There will be a special Advent Craft project for the youth and a fun raffle for the adults.



THE GIVING TREE

CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTREACH



WHAT and WHY?

Each year at Christmastime, our parish reaches out to share Christ's love with a local family in need. We work closely with the counseling staff at Meridian Elementary School to identify one or more families who need some assistance during the holiday season. This year, the Counselor has recommended one family whom we will have the opportunity to bless. There is a mother, two young children, grandfather and two uncles.

HOW and WHEN?

This year, we will have two options for gifts:

1. Tags representing items for each family member are hanging on the Giving Tree set up in our Narthex. If you would like to shop for one of these items, please select a tag from the Giving Tree, find that Tag number listed on the sheet next to the Giving Tree, and fill in your name & telephone number. Please return the wrapped gift with the tag loosely taped to the gift by Sunday, December 18. If you purchase a gift card, please give it directly to Mary Buchanan or Carrie Magette for safekeeping until December 15. *(Please remember it is ok if not every tag is selected from the tree.)*
2. If you're not physically able to shop or simply don't have the time but would still like to help, please consider making a monetary donation to Holy Nativity. Please write "**Christmas Family**" on the memo line of your check or on the outside of an offering envelope (found in the pews). Funds received by **December 15th** will then be used to purchase items from the unselected tags on the Giving Tree or from a list of other clothing suggestions that were made.

The gifts will be delivered to the Meridian Elementary School counseling staff before the last day of school on December 23, and they will coordinate a time to give the gifts to the families.



OTHER DETAILS:

There is a special fund at Holy Nativity called "**The 2 Cents a Meal Fund.**" This fund was started by Deacon Paula Egbert, who served Holy Nativity from the late 1980s-2011 as our first Deacon. The purpose of this outreach fund is to help buy food during the holidays for area families in need. Throughout the year, parishioners can participate by placing a jar on their dining room table, or kitchen counter, where they can put two cents in the jar each time they sit down for a meal. Jars are regularly emptied into a large **Campbell's Soup can** in the Narthex. What a great way to thank God for the blessings He bestows on us and in turn bless someone else! We will use this fund to purchase "grocery only" gift cards to WinCo to assist both families.

We may need some additional help wrapping and sorting gifts and would appreciate your help. Please let us know if you would be able to lend a hand.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Carrie Magette at (208) 880-7391 (cell) or
Holly Vondemfange (408) 310-2456**



W.I.N.G.S. Teen Youth Group December Events

Saturday, December 14th
11:00 a.m. • Church Sanctuary



All Teens are Encouraged to Participate

There will be a special TEEN choir practice to rehearse Christmas Carols that we will sing on Sunday at Meridian Meadows Assisted Living. It will be lots of fun, and we will get to ring our bells! There will be some of our adult choir members there to help us out. Michelle Sutherland will be our pianist, and Carl Pierce will assist on the guitar.

Sunday, December 15th
We will leave after coffee hour



Returning at approximately 1:00-1:30 p.m.

All Teens are Encouraged to Participate
Wear RED or something Christmassy!

We will travel to Meridian Meadows Assisted Living at 2584 East Magic View Drive, Meridian, to sing Christmas Carols and hand out pocket hearts to the live-in senior residents. We estimate this event will last about two hours. Transportation will be determined based on participation.



Holiday Bazaar SUCCESS!

Our very special thanks to **Gladys Clymens and Sandra Koerner** who worked so hard to make our “Tis The Season” Holiday Bazaar a wonderful success. We made a record **\$1,460.00** which will be donated to the church sound system / internet update. We also wish to acknowledge **Larissa Blount, Sue Pahlas and Marian Hendrix** who worked so hard to organize and prepare the wonderful food that was served. They had a terrific crew of hard working kitchen helpers, loads of delicious pies and cookies that were donated and **Donna Lofton** busily running the cash register each day. We are truly blessed and so very grateful for all they did. They collected **\$1,487** that was donated to the Sound System update. Additionally, the Holy Nativity Table earned **\$1,061** that was donated to our Be Our Guest Outreach fund and then our Youth Group sold glass hearts (donated by Darlene Stattner) totaling **\$488!!**

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make our Holiday Bazaar the wonderful success that it was. Thank you one and all.



Thanksgiving Food Box Project

Holy Nativity parishioners are so very generous. On November 20th, a check was sent to the Saint Vincent dePaul Thanksgiving Box Program for **\$3,355.00**. Our combined contribution will help to feed those less fortunate than ourselves and make their holiday a true blessing. In fact, to be specific, our contribution alone will feed **40 families!**

**Thank you to all who generously contributed
to this wonderful effort.**

Let's Go To The Movie!

Ladies Time Out

WICKED



TUESDAY, DEC. 3 • 2:30 p.m.

At the **Majestic** Theater in Meridian off Overland Road where we'll sit in comfy, heated lounge seats

Meet in the theatre lobby at 2PM • Cost is \$5.50

Questions? Contact Sue Pahlas (208) 891-3258

2025 Stewardship



The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all who submitted their pledge card for 2025. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Knowing the total pledged helps the Vestry to plan financially for the coming year and complete a finalized budget that can be closely monitored in 2025.

If you were unable to get your pledge card submitted in time for the blessing on Christ the King Sunday, don't worry, we will always gratefully accept pledge cards at any time and adjust the budget accordingly.

We wish to thank the Stewardship Committee for their hard work in pulling together a fun campaign and especially acknowledge **Angelo Samperisi** for his cleverly designed skits that were so entertaining, yet carried a meaningful message.

Richard Jones, Committee Chair

Janice Avera

Nancy Hellstrom

Ken Reglin

Angelo Samperisi

Linda Shearman



Christmas Brunch



Saturday, December 14 • 10AM



LADIES TIME OUT FOR DECEMBER

We're having a Christmas Brunch & Gift Exchange

- Saturday, December 14th beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- Bring a **gift** for the gift exchange (suggested amount is \$10.00)
- Sign-up to **bring a dish** to share (sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall). In order to not have loads of leftovers, please sign up to bring either a breakfast casserole, sweet bread or fruit. Drinks will be provided.

Also please bring some suggestions for future activities

Questions? Contact Sue Pahlas (208) 891-3258



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bishop of Idaho:

The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal

Senior Warden

Mary Buchanan

Junior Warden

Phil Street

Finance Chairman

Jerrold Horn

Sexton

Richard Jones

Treasurer

Sue Pahlas

Pledge Secretary

Bob Burnz

Church Musician:

Heidi Roberts

Office Manager:

Cindy Wolfenbarger

Fellowship:

Sandra Koerner

Ministry Schedule:

Mary Buchanan

Sunday School:

Robin Horn

Altar Guild:

Clare Barrett

Middle School Outreach:

Holly Vondemfange

Meridian Food Bank:

Craig Vondemfange

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Cindy Wolfenbarger

Women's Group:

Sue Pahlas

Worship:

Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal

Website:

Mary Buchanan

Candidates for Holy Nativity Vestry • 2025

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity will elect two new Vestry members, three new Diocesan Convention Delegates, and one Convention Alternate at the Annual Meeting scheduled for **January 12, 2025**. New Vestry members will serve a three-year term beginning February 1, 2025.



Linda Czarkowski

I have been a member of Holy Nativity for about three years. During that time, I have been attending church regularly and am involved in the following ministries.

- Volunteer in the Church office
- Be Our Guest Meal Ministry
- Pastoral Care Ministry
- Discernment Committee for Christian Hungate
- BOG Table at the Holiday Bazaar
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prayer Request Ministry

I am currently in the third year of the EFM program. I was voted to be a delegate to the 2024 Diocese of Idaho Convention in Pocatello.

I spent many years in administration responsible for accounting, human resources, benefits, insurance etc., and feel that my organizational and personnel skills will be an asset to Holy Nativity.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Czarkowski

Ken Reglin

I have been married to my wife Nancy for over 58 years. We have two children and three grandchildren.

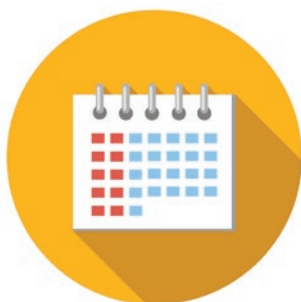
Nancy and I have been members at Holy Nativity for almost two years where I currently serve as a Lector. We were members of King of Glory Lutheran Church prior to Holy Nativity. I served on the Church Council (Vestry) at King of Glory and served as Council President three different times. I was also on the Property Committee.

I have been a Rotarian for over 35 years and a member of the Meridian Rotary Club. I also was a District Governor for Rotary International.

I managed reinforcing steel fabrication shops in the Boise area for over 40 years from Branch Manager to President and I am currently working out of my home doing estimates for rebar fabricators.

I feel I have effective organizational skills that would be an asset to Holy Nativity and would be happy to serve on the Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Reglin

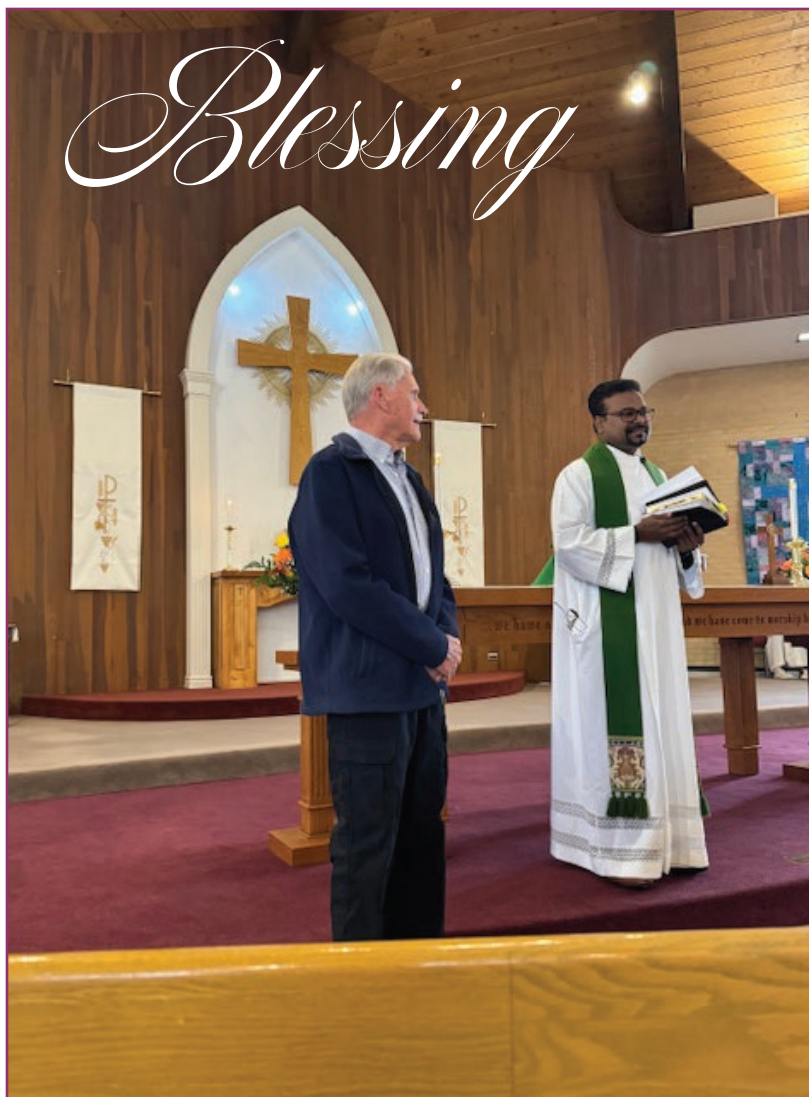


Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, January 12, 2025

HOLY NATIVITY ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Reminder: If you are the lead person for a specific Ministry, please be sure to get your update to **Mary Buchanan by January 1st** so it can be included in the Annual Meeting Report. Thank you so much for your assistance with this request.

Our Beautiful New Cross and Altar Backdrop



On Sunday, November 10th, our newly completed altar backdrop with cross and halo effect were on full display.

In the past few years, we've made updates with new kitchen appliances, updated the All Saints Room, revamped the Teen Youth Room, the Church Office, the Rectory and installed a new HVAC system — but very little has been done to enhance our worship space. The vision was simply to add some thoughtful upgrades to make our sanctuary an even more welcoming and inspiring environment for our congregation. By carefully considering and implementing these types of thoughtful improvements, we have the opportunity to breathe new life into our sanctuary. This project was paid for **in full** by contributions from parishioners. The beautiful new cross was built by John Bieda (*pictured above*), who donated his time, materials and woodworking expertise at no charge to us — for which we are truly grateful. We are so blessed and hope that this enhancement may imbue the sanctuary with a greater sense of sacredness for all who come here to worship together. As we prayed on Sunday:

“Accept and bless all that has been done, and grant that in these earthly things we may behold the order and beauty of things heavenly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”



OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Reserve Fund	11,762.71
Be Our Guest	6,414.85
Caring Closet	2,162.83
Children's Ministry	645.08
2 Cents-a-Meal	2,273.87
Building Fund	58,475.47
Memorial Fund	6,825.84
Paradise Point	4,602.77
Kitchen Improvements	8,808.56
New Dishwasher	1,146.76
Youth Ministry	2,904.97
Altar Guild Donation	1,470.73
Music	95.00
Landscaping	1,050.00
Sound System	12,950.00
Discretionary Fund	5,024.60
Full Time Priest Fund	89,638.19
Thanksgiving Baskets	2,020.00
Nampa and Meridian Irrigation	200.00
Christmas Families	0.00
Capital Campaign HVAC System	(138.00)
Tis The Season Holiday Bazaar	2,776.55
Balance	\$221,120.55

December Birthdays



Rosanna Garza-Rosenberg	12/1
Tom Mayes	12/4
Heather McVay	12/4
LaVonne Ilg	12/5
Matt Wheeler	12/5
Chris Benson	12/6
Carolyn Winters	12/7
Bob Burnz	12/9
Jackie Dwight	12/11
Ellie McMillan	12/14
Clare Barrett	12/16
Greg Dwight	12/16
Janet Willoughby	12/16
Nancy Ross	12/18
Josh Sterbis	12/18
Anvidh Reginold	12/22
Mary Alice Sanders	12/22
Sandra Koerner	12/25
Holly Vondemfange	12/25
Larissa Blount	12/29



December Anniversaries

Orve and Marian Hendrix	12/14
Clay and Sondra Lisle	12/19

Fall Yard Clean-up

We had 31 people (*parishioners, Girl Scouts and Teen Youth Group*) on hand to help with our Fall Yard Clean-up. We are **so appreciative of everyone's help** with this effort. We were able to get a lot done.



Lots of Girl Scouts!

Teen Youth Group Outreach Project Glass Hearts

The W.I.N.G.S. Teen Youth Group, along with the help of Darlene Stattner and Tammie Bradley, made **glass hearts on Saturday, Nov. 16th** with a very special purpose. They will be taking them to an Assisted Living Facility here in Meridian on **December 15th** and giving the hand-made hearts to residents there as Christmas gifts.

Not only that, but they will also be singing Christmas Carols. **What a heartwarming Outreach effort** for our youth, as they share in the love and wonder of this special time of year through music. **We are so proud of our youth!**



VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 2024

All Saints Room | 7PM



The minutes of the October meeting were approved by e-mail.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Mary read the Prayer for Vestries.

Financials:

Mary distributed the current Treasurer's Report and advised Vestry members to contact Jerrod if they had questions. There was no further discussion at this time as Jerrod was not present.

Fr. Shibu:

Fr. Shibu has noted that we have several member families (13+) in the age group of 35 to 55. He would like to organize a group for fellowship and activities with this group who have potential to do great things for the church. He suggested that we decide on a name for this new group, like WINGS for the Youth Group. The Vestry suggested that they be allowed to choose their own name.

Baptism • December 22nd: Father Laddie has requested a time for baptism for his grandson and daughter. December 22 was chosen. There may be additional people interested in baptism at that time.

Church Lights: Fr. Shibu has been aware of the lights of the church and parish hall, including bathrooms, being left on during his nightly rounds to check the doors. One solution is to put a sensor switch in each bathroom. These turn on and off with motion or lack of motion/or timer. These are not expensive and quite easy to install. Jon will take care of this project. The groups using our facility will be reminded to check that lights are off when they leave.

Pew Prayer Cards: New pew cards will be printed up that will include prayers for Travelers, Illness and Injury, Birthday, Anniversary and then the Eucharistic visitor prayer.

Security Cameras: Jerrod Horn has purchased 3 Security Cameras to be installed, two indoors and one for the parking lot.

Senior Warden:

Pew Contribution Cards: Mary Buchanan reported that she has ordered a supply of contribution envelopes that will be put in the pews. There is a place for the donor's name and any special designations such as Thanksgiving Food Box or Christmas Family Outreach. Several people have asked if we had these available.

Vestry positions: Two persons have expressed an interest in running for the Vestry. Ken Reglin and Linda Czarkowski.

Internet and Audio System Update: A parishioner approached Mary about the cost of upgrading our Internet connection and upgrading audio-visual equipment. It was determined at a prior Vestry meeting that it was too expensive at this time. A check was written to cover the potential cost. Mary indicated that a grant from IEF may be available next year if we have a shortfall. Matt Wheeler has done a lot of research on this so Mary has turned this project over to him. The contract with FatBeam Internet has been signed.

Meridian Food Bank Representative: Richard Jones, our representative to the Meridian Food Bank will not be able to continue in this position. Craig Vondemfange has agreed to take over this position.

Altar Flower Fund: Mary suggested that we allow \$30-\$35 a week to purchase flowers for the back altar. This would be about \$1560 a year. The Vestry voted in favor of adding this to the budget.

Vestry Christmas Party: The Vestry Christmas Party will be held on December 18th. More details to be determined.

No Parking Signs: Jon Anson: Jon had been tasked with getting "No Parking" signs to deter unwanted use of our parking lots. The City of Meridian only has regulations on where the signs can be placed. The Vestry reviewed the types of signs Jon had selected and we chose one. We need three (3) signs. Jon has extra metal posts that can be used for installation. The Vestry chose one sign format and voted to the purchase of them.

Open House: Mary reminded us of the Bishop's House Open House on the 12th of December.

Junior Warden:

Carpet Shampooing: Phil Street has spoken with our cleaning company about shampooing the carpeting in the church. They gave a bid of \$200 to do the Narthex, altar area, Sacristy and church traffic areas and hallway in the Sunday School wing. The Vestry felt that this was not a reasonable price for the amount of work to be done. We agreed that a payment of \$400 would be more appropriate.

Parish Hall Ceiling: The ceiling in the Parish Hall needs repairing. One company Phil contacted declined to bid the job. Phil is meeting with another company on Friday. The Vestry agreed that any fee under \$500 would not need Vestry approval.

Gutter Cleaning: The gutter on the east side of the church building is full of leaves and needs to be cleaned to avoid any more building damage. Phil will contact Boise Gutter to get this done.

Bathroom Floor Drains: The floor drains in the restrooms need to have water added from time to time so sewer odor does not come up into the rooms.

Fall Yard Clean-up: The Fall clean-up went well with lots of Girl Scout in attendance. Thanks to Jon Anson for once again allowing the use of his large trailer. He even got the transfer site to forgo the cost of dumping.

Yard Lights: The tall yard lights in front of the Rectory are not working. The lighting company will be contacted for repairs.

Fellowship • Sandra Koerner:

Holiday Bazaar: The Bazaar went well, and the kitchen made \$940. This will be added to the fund to upgrade the internet in the church buildings.

New Cross: John, the man who made our new cross at no cost has been given a gift card in appreciation.

Advent Potluck: The Advent Potluck will feature soup, plus an activity for the children and a fun raffle for the adults.

Stewardship • Richard Jones:

The last he heard, ten days ago, the pledges were at \$120,000. This is short of what is needed but there is still some time remaining.

Outreach • Barbara Samperisi:

Christmas Baskets: Be Our Guest group is planning on putting 50 to 60 gift baskets together this year. Jon Anson once again is donating potatoes and onions. A list of donation suggestions was given to the congregation last Sunday. She also noted that the Be Our Guest volunteers are eagerly awaiting Michelle's return from England.

Announcements: Fr. Shibu request that announcements be made about the Be Our Guest outreach and the Thursday evening Bible Study. There are only 5 people attending on Thursday evening.

Meeting adjourned: 8:24pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Ryker
Vestry Clerk

