



Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

APRIL 2025 Newsletter

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SEDER SUPPER

Thursday, April 17 • 5:30 p.m.



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

"I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."

— *Philippians 3:1*

My Beloved Holy Nativity Family,

As we enter the month of April, our hearts and minds turn toward the most sacred time of the Christian calendar — Holy Week and Easter. Every Lenten season serves as a powerful reminder that there is no resurrection without the cross, no crown without suffering. Jesus' journey to Calvary was filled with pain, yet it led to the ultimate victory over death. I encourage each of you to walk this journey with Christ, embracing both the sorrow of His passion and the joy of His resurrection. Let us prepare our hearts through prayer, reflection, and participation in the sacred services of Holy Week, so that we may fully experience the triumph of Easter morning.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the men of our parish who came together to cook and serve on Shrove Tuesday. Seeing the joy, fellowship, and love shared in the kitchen was truly wonderful. Your efforts in preparing pancakes and working behind the scenes to make the event special did not go unnoticed. It was a beautiful expression of our church family coming together in the spirit of service and celebration.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the incredible work of our W.I.N.G.S Teen Youth Group, who recently took on a new outreach project to support children in the Idaho Foster Care Program. Their dedication to providing needed items for children in difficult circumstances is truly inspiring. A special thank you to Judy Pierce for organizing this meaningful effort. We are so proud of our teens for embodying Christ's love through action.

As we journey toward Easter, I pray that each of you may experience the deep and abiding joy of Christ's resurrection. May this Holy Week be a time of renewal for your faith and may the hope of Easter fill your hearts with peace and love. Wishing you all a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter in advance!

Blessings to you all,

Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal

Priest-in-Charge • Episcopal Church of Holy Nativity

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday | 10:00 AM

we will gather in the Parish Hall where there will be the blessing of the palms and then we will process into the sanctuary

Thursday, April 17

Seder Soup Supper | 5:30 PM

in the Parish Hall

Maundy Thursday | 7:00 PM

in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 18

Stations of the Cross | 12 Noon

in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20

Easter Eucharist | 10:00 AM

in the Sanctuary



Join us for
Seder Supper

Thursday, April 17

at 5:30 PM

**Sign-up sheets
are in the Parish Hall**

Maundy Thursday Service

beginning at 7:00PM
immediately after the
Seder Supper



CELEBRATING EASTER • WONDERFUL TRADITIONS



EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in remembrance of someone, in celebration of something special, or simply to add to the beauty of our sanctuary, then please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Suggested donation is \$10.00



EASTER EGG HUNT & Little Candies

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children immediately following the Easter service. If you would be willing **help provide different little candies** for the Easter Eggs, that would be great. A basket will be in the Parish Hall for these donations. There will also be an opportunity to help hide the eggs on Easter morning.



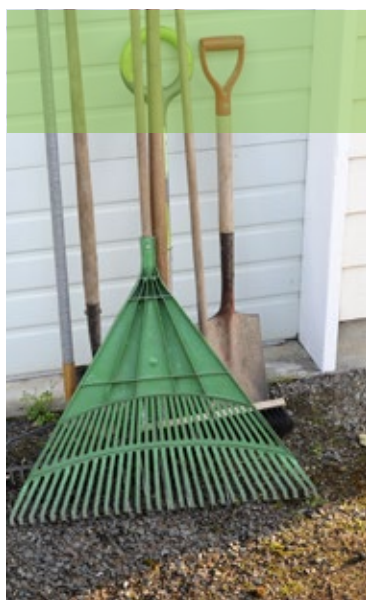
COFFEE HOUR GOODIES • Please help

We anticipate a larger than usual attendance on Easter Sunday. This is more than one Coffee Hour team can handle. So we're asking all members of the Coffee Hour Team to please help by bringing an item for Coffee Hour that day. Your assistance in making our visitors feel welcome will be greatly appreciated.



FLOWERING THE CROSS

As is our tradition, the children of the congregation will be flowering the cross on Easter Sunday. If you have flowers in your yard that you could contribute or if you would be willing to purchase flowers to help fill our cross, it would be greatly appreciated. This is always a wonderful part of our Easter morning service tradition.

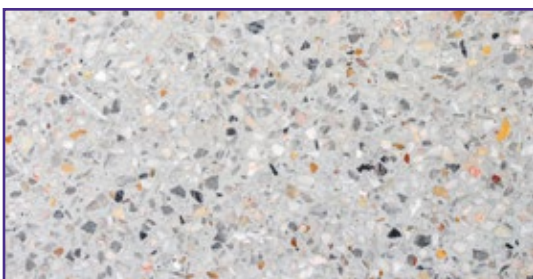
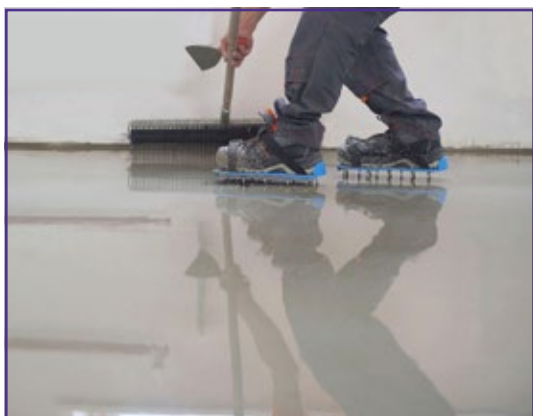


SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 12th • 10AM to 12 Noon

We hope you will be able to come down and help us out with this quick project. The Girl Scouts will be there to lend a hand. So if we can get parishioners as well, it won't take us long at all. Please help if you can.

... and did we mention
we'll provide coffee & donuts?!?



Finished floors will have a speckled appearance similar to this image.

BATHROOM FLOOR REFINISHING

Beautiful Shiny Epoxy Floors & Fresh Paint

At the Annual Meeting, and on numerous other occasions, it was asked if we could do something to refurbish all of the bathrooms. The answer was "yes". Of course we need to watch expenses, so there will be a Capital Campaign to help cover costs.

The total cost for the bathroom floors project is \$6,442.00

We will receive \$1,500 from the ISU Summer Reading Program that will go towards this expense as well as \$430 from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, leaving **\$4,512 to be raised**.

The bathroom walls will also receive a fresh coat of paint — that portion of the project will be completed by parishioners. We believe that once these things are done, the bathrooms will look much, much nicer and the floors will be far easier to maintain.

If you would be willing to donate to this project, we would be very appreciative. Checks can be placed in the offering plate with the indication of Bathroom Refinishing written in the memo. If donating cash, please write on the outside of the envelope so it is credited to the proper fund in your name. We thank you for your consideration.

We will be very grateful for your assistance.

Holy Nativity W.I.N.G.S.
Teen Youth Group

OUTREACH PROJECT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN



The Holy Nativity W.I.N.G.S. Teen Youth Group recently took on a new outreach project to provide much needed items for children, ages 0-17 who are placed in the Idaho Foster Care Program.

“Foster & Heart” a non-profit organization whose mission it is to *“ignite the hearts of our community to foster and meet the needs of children in foster care”* held a fundraiser where organizations or businesses were asked to donate to this cause. They provide vital care and stability for these children who are encountering a very difficult situation in their young lives.



The teens were anxious to get behind this effort and do their part to provide assistance. So using **Idaho Episcopal Foundation Grant Funds**, the kids went shopping for these essential items. The items, purchased with grant funds, will help to hopefully lift the spirits of these foster children, knowing that someone cares about them and not only provided these items, but is praying for their wellbeing.

We're so proud of our teens and are so thankful for their caring hearts. We also wish to acknowledge **Judy Pierce** who organized this effort, took the kids shopping and then delivered the items on Saturday, March 15th - **the morning after having a Teen Overnighter!!**





W.I.N.G.S.

TEEN YOUTH GROUP GOES TO THE MOVIE “THE LAST SUPPER”



Judy and Carl Pierce took the W.I.N.G.S. Teen Youth Group to see the movie **“The Last Supper”**. The kids had a great time together and felt the movie was very impactful.

We thank Judy and Carl for their continued dedication to the wonderful youth of our church.





Ladies Time Out • Idaho City Hot Springs

Friday, April 4th • 10:30 a.m. • \$25.00

Come enjoy a hot spring soak; relax and rejuvenate!

We will carpool from church meeting at 9:30 AM.

Eat lunch in the yurt if you like.

To reserve a spot or for any questions text **Sue Pahlas** at 208-891-3258.

A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall



M.M.S. Outreach Project

Our very special thanks to all who helped provide the items requested by the Meridian Middle School. With the prevalence of cold and flu, these items are greatly appreciated. We also wish to thank Holly Vondemfange who connected with the schools to offer our assistance and then followed through by delivering the donated items to them on our behalf.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Our very special thanks to Jon Anson who organized the dinner as well as all the men who came to help with cooking, serving and cleaning up. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.





Paradise Point 2025 CAMP DATES

Work Camps (All Ages)

May 23-25 • Opening Camp

October 10-13 • Closing Camp

Adult Camps (Ages 18+)

August 15-18 • Women's Camp

September 12-14 • Adult Camp

September 26-28 • Way of the Spirit Pilgrimage

Family Camps (All Ages)

August 8-10 • Fat Goose Family Camp

August 29-September 1 • Labor Day Family Camp

Youth/ Teen Camps (Ages 5-17)

June 16-21 • Teen Camp 1 (Ages 13-17)

June 23-28 • Youth Camp 1 (Ages 7-12)

June 30-July 5 • Youth Camp 2 (Ages 7-12)

July 7-12 • Teen Camp 2 (Ages 13-17)

July 14-19 • Youth Camp 3 (Ages 7-12)

July 21-26 • Youth Camp 4 (Ages 7-12)

July 31-August 3 • Beginner's Camp (Ages 5-8 plus 1 adult)

Leadership Development Camps (Ages 13-17)

June 23-28 • Leader In Training Session 1 (Ages 13-14)

June 23-July 5 • Junior Staff Session 1 (Ages 15-17)

June 30-July 5 • Leader In Training Session 2 (Ages 13-14)

July 14-26 • Staff In Training (Ages 14-17)

July 14-28 • Junior Staff Session 2 (Ages 15-17)



Holy Nativity has scholarships to assist with camp fee expenses. Application forms are in the Parish Hall. Contact Mary Buchanan if you have any questions:

(208) 371-0590 • mkbdesigninc@gmail.com



SCAN THE QR CODE
or visit the website to
book your spot:
www.paradisepoint.org



MARCH TREASURER’S REPORT

Operating Reserve Fund	13,344.71
Be Our Guest	5,134.84
Caring Closet	2,162.83
Children’s Ministry	555.08
2 Cents-a-Meal	3,458.11
Building Fund	66,056.88
Memorial Fund	8,375.84
Paradise Point	4,081.20
Kitchen Improvements	8,808.56
Kitchen Improvements: New Dishwasher	1,146.76
Youth Ministry	3,695.11
Altar Guild Donation	1,661.58
Music	95.00
Landscaping	(500.00)
Sound System	3,081.72
Discretionary Fund	3,739.60
Full Time Priest Fund	67,678.06
Thanksgiving Baskets	160.00
Nampa and Meridian Irrigation	200.00
Christmas Families	661.56
Convention Donation	2,719.77
Poinsettias	124.22
Anglican Church of Kenya	600.00



APRIL Birthdays

Jennifer Erickson	4/1
Fr. Shibu Pananchikkal	4/2
Harrison Galbreath	4/4
Elijah Garza	4/7
Owen Fischer	4/9
Christian Hungate	4/9
Stephanie Wheeler	4/12
Jon Anson	4/17
Joel Howard	4/18
Michelle Sutherland	4/18
Clay Lisle	4/19
Rob Burnz	4/24
Laycee Loveland	4/24
Karen Ryker	4/26
Anne Lane	4/28
Jonathan Mullin	4/28
Dennis Wolfenbarger	4/28
Andrea Tlucek	4/29

April Anniversaries



Mike and Rosanna Rosenberg	4/24
Richard and Lorraine Bowring	4/30
Jerry and Donna Lofton	4/30

Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

Vestry Meeting • March 19, 2025



Minutes of the February meeting were approved by e-mail.

Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:00pm with Mary reading the Prayer for Vestries.

Finance Chair • Jerrod Horn:

Jerrod Horn announced that he is stepping down from the Financial Chair position, explaining that with work demands and a young family to raise, he does not feel he has the available time necessary to devote to this position. Mike Magette has agreed to take over this position for the remainder of the year and to assist with obtaining a new loan for the church property – which is quite involved.

Jerrod reported that pledge income was 133% over budget projections thru February. We need to keep in mind that income fluctuates throughout the year, but we are in good financial shape. Total bank balances are \$299,731.00. The Mortgage balance thru February is \$105,840.00. We need to refinance the mortgage loan by the first of next year. Two banks are a possibility, and they will be contacted by Mike, who has handled refinancing in the past. Our bookkeeping software will be switched back to Quickbooks Laptop from Quickbooks On-line which better suits our needs.

Priest's Report • Fr. Shibu:

Middle-Age Group Starting Soon: Fr. Shibu and Mary met with Adrian Lane and Chris Mayer, and they have agreed to lead the “middle age group”. An announcement will be made on Easter. The vestry did approve a name for this group, but decided to let them choose the name they prefer. Fr. Shibu informed us that he also intends to have a “senior group” formed in the future.

Senior Warden • Mary Buchanan:

Romanian Orthodox Worship Space Request:

Mary shared a letter we received from Fr. Florin Iftode, a parish priest for St. Anne Orthodox Church in Pomona, California. There is interest in this area for a Romanian Orthodox Parish. They need a place to worship on a Saturday, once a month from 9:00am to 1:00pm. They would like to use the Parish Hall also. They would provide all items for their coffee time. The Vestry agreed that this would be workable. Mary will follow up with Fr. Iftode and draw up a contract for building use.

The Boise Rescue Mission is wanting to do a **Hygiene Drive** to benefit the Rescue Mission. They will supply a barrel for the congregation to put their donations. A time will be set to not interfere with our Middle School campaign.

ISU Summer Reading Program: The church has been contacted by Idaho State University Summer Reading Program. They need an area large enough to accommodate 32 persons. The Parish Hall seems to be a good fit for their needs. The proposed schedule is: Saturdays (5/31 to 6/28) 8:30am to 3:45pm and Tuesdays (6/3 to 7/1) 8:30am to 2:15pm. They will provide additional liability insurance. Mary quoted a price of \$150 per day, amounting to \$1,500.00. The Vestry voted to approve this request. A contract will be sent to the University.

Spring Yard Clean-up Slated: The annual Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th. This is agreeable to the Girl Scouts who always come to help.

Large Sunday School Room Project: The closets in the Sunday School room are overflowing with craft items and the room itself has become a dumping ground for extra furniture pieces (bookshelves, tables, etc.) The closets need to be cleaned out and organized and all the extra materials donated or disposed of. The extra pieces of furniture that are not needed will be donated as well. Once the Sunday School Teachers complete their work, we will need to have some help to haul away extra supplies and furniture pieces that are no longer needed.

Junior Warden • Phil Street:

Janitor Service: Phil and Mary have met with our current janitorial service to outline the short falls of the service. They apologized for this and pledge to do better.

Outside Security Cameras will be installed on Friday at 9:00am. The solar panels will be added. While he is here, the hired handyman will also put a cover over the fluorescent light in the Youth Room.

Bathroom Refurbishing: After numerous requests from parishioners to refurbish our bathrooms, Phil will met with several contractors to obtain bids for such a project. Roe Paint, a local company with lots of experience in Epoxy coating provided a bid that was very competitively priced to refurbish the floors of all 4 bathrooms. The Vestry agreed to proceed, but this will be a Capital Campaign to help cover the costs.

Outreach • Linda Czarkowski:

Linda reported that, once more, the Be Our Guest ministry has come in on budget. \$308.00 was raised during the last Bingo event and a donation of \$500.00 has been received.

Fellowship • Linda Czarkowski:

Sandra has begun putting out smaller plates at coffee hour. This is being done to ensure that there is enough food available for everyone. People can

always go back for seconds after everyone has had a chance to have something to eat.

Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business to come before the Vestry, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm with all reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen

Karen Ryker, Vestry Clerk





LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bishop of Idaho: The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan	Sunday School: Robin Horn
Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal	Altar Guild: Clare Barrett
Senior Warden Mary Buchanan	Middle School Outreach: Holly Vondemfange
Junior Warden Phil Street	Meridian Food Bank: Craig Vondemfange
Finance Chairman Mike Magette	Ministry Schedule Mary Buchanan
Treasurer Sue Pahlas	Prayer Shawl Ministry: Cindy Wolfenbarger
Pledge Secretary Bob Burnz	Women’s Group: Sue Pahlas
Church Musician: Heidi Roberts	Worship: Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal
Office Manager: Cindy Wolfenbarger	Website: Mary Buchanan
Fellowship: Sandra Koerner	