



Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

MAY 2025 Newsletter

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May 11, 2025

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

Hello Holy Nativity Family,

It is my great pleasure to write to you through this article after a meaningful Lenten season and a blessed Easter celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful, joyful, and spirit filled. What a gift it was to see our sanctuary full of life and light, and to feel the hope of resurrection pulsing through our worship and fellowship!

As we move into the month of May, I'd like to share a short story that reminds us of what it means to continue living in the experience of the Resurrected Christ.

A Sunday School teacher once asked her class, "Where is Jesus now?" One child raised his hand confidently and said, "He's still hiding behind the big stone." Another chimed in, "No! He came out—but he went back to heaven." Then a very quiet child whispered, "Jesus is still walking around... just in a different way now." That simple statement stayed with me: *"Jesus is still walking around... just in a different way."*

Isn't that what the Easter season is really about? We don't just celebrate an event from the past, we live into it. In the upcoming Sundays, we'll continue to meditate on the disciples' encounters with the Risen Christ. Each story is a reminder that resurrection is not a one-day celebration, but a way of life. The same Jesus who broke bread in Emmaus and showed His wounds to Thomas continues to meet us, in our doubts, in our ordinary moments, and in our community life.

Speaking of community, I am especially looking forward to working closely with our newly organized **R.I.S.E. group**—which stands for **Reflect, Inspire, Serve, Encourage**. This group of energetic middle-aged members will be having their official kick-off this month, and I can't wait to see how God will use their gifts to strengthen our fellowship and outreach. As we journey together through this Easter season and into the joys of spring, may the Risen Christ walk beside you, filling your homes and hearts with peace, purpose, and a sense of God's presence in every step.

May God bless all the families of Holy Nativity with love, health, and hope, both now and always.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal, Priest-in-Charge



**Join us for a Potluck Cinco de Mayo style!
on Sunday, May 4, 2025**

Let's get together for a fiesta
immediately after the Sunday service!
We'll have a fun raffle for the adults
and a Pinata for the kids.

Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

Proceeds from the raffle will go towards the bathroom floor refurbishing project.



April 2nd - Wishing Father Shibu a very Happy Birthday



New R.I.S.E. Group

**Join
Us!**

We'll have lots of
fun activities!

Questions?

Contact Adrian Lane 909-900-9935
or Chris Mayer 208-250-5013

Holy Nativity is starting a new group targeting adults 25-55ish years old. The aim of the R.I.S.E. group is to build a cohesive band of individuals who gather together in a supportive environment to provide for deeper spiritual growth, strong relationships, and more personalized connections — while also focusing on outreach and worthwhile service efforts . . .
. . . not to mention having lots of fun!

Please sign-up to be a part of this great new group or simply contact the church office, Father Shibu or Mary Buchanan to add your name to the list.

First event TBD will be planned for May 18th or 25th

Side note: Although we say the group is for ages 25–55ish, it's flexible.



RISE

Reflect Inspire Serve Encourage

Pentecost Sunday

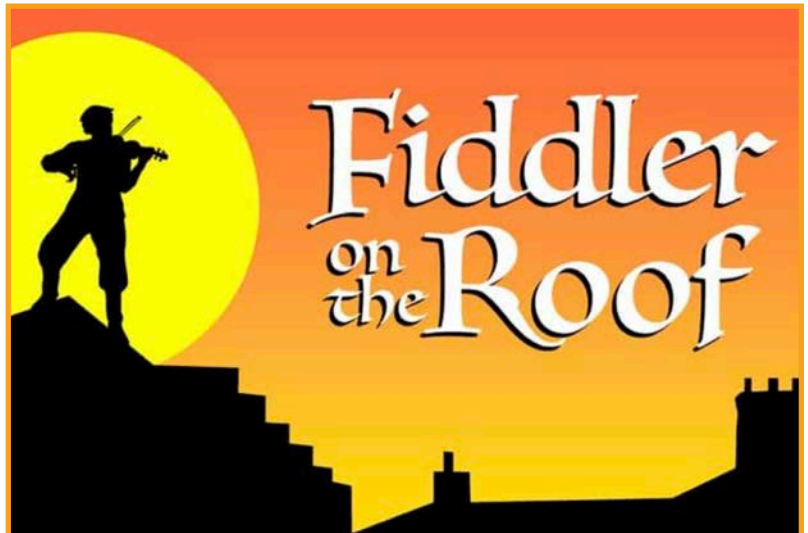


Remember to Wear Red
for Pentecost

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH



Just before the service, children will
gather in the Sunday School room and
prepare to join in the procession.



LADIES TIME OUT

Boise Music Week is proud to present

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Saturday, May 10 • 2PM

Sue Pahlas has reserved 10 tickets, but
she can obtain more for this wonderful production
if more ladies wish to participate.

A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall
Meet at the church at 1PM

Questions? **contact Sue Pahlas 208-891-3258**



Holy Nativity Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, July 19th • 8am to 2pm

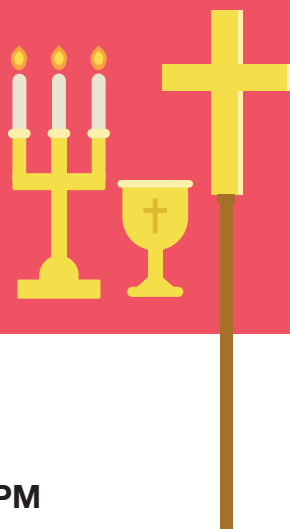
SAVE THE DATE!

There will be more information to
come. Start setting aside those
items you'd like to donate. We
will start accepting donations
beginning Monday July 5th.

Stay tuned and mark your
calendar for this annual event.

Acolyte Training

Tuesday, June 10th



Acolyte Training

Tuesday, June 10 • 10AM - 12PM

Any girls, boys or adults interested in this ministry are invited to attend.

Basic requirements: regular attendance at church and tall/strong enough to carry the cross as it is fairly heavy.

Lector Training • Tues., June 10 • 1PM - 2PM

Any adults or teens interested in the ministry of being a Lector are invited to attend this training (*about 30 minutes, depending on how many attend*).

Basic requirements: regular attendance at church and the ability to read aloud in front of a group of people – clearly accurately, loudly, and slowly.

Depending upon how many people attend each training, times may be extended, or another meeting scheduled, as each training will include practice sessions.

Please RSVP:

If you are planning to attend (or have questions), please email or call Fr. Shibu or Mary Buchanan so that they can have enough handouts prepared. If you are interested but can't attend on May 24th, please call or email so that we can consider other training sessions at a later date.

Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal
(754) 303-3312
priest@episcopalholynativity.org

Mary Buchanan
(208) 371-0590
mkbdesigninc@gmail.com

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.

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.*

Spring Yard Clean-up Saturday, April 12th

We had a good turnout for this project and felt that we accomplished quite a lot thanks to our hard working crew that included the Girl Scouts.



We unfortunately didn't get pictures of the entire work team. Those who helped included: Father Shibu, Amritha, Athmika, Anvidh, Phil Street, Clay Lisle, Vance and Marsha Wegner, Matt Wheeler, Ken Ilg, Joel and Betsy Howard, Mary Ann Grant, Darwin and Mary Buchanan and the Girl Scouts group. They did a wonderful job and we sincerely appreciated their help.



A group of our dedicated ladies got together on April 12th and made palm leaf crosses that were handed out to parishioners.

Left to Right: Sandra Long, Clare Barrett, Amritha and Athmika Reginold, Tammie Bradley and taking the photo, Linda Burnz who also helped.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE + APRIL 20, 2025



If you are impressed with these wonderful photos, please thank Marc Fox, Sr., our talented photographer.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE + APRIL 20, 2025



If you are impressed with these wonderful photos, please thank Marc Fox, Sr., our talented photographer.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE + APRIL 20, 2025



Peace Be With You . . . And Also With You



If you are impressed with these wonderful photos, please thank Marc Fox, Sr., our talented photographer.

April
Treasurer's
Report



Operating Reserve Fund	13,594.71
Be Our Guest	5,384.84
Caring Closet	2,162.83
Children's Ministry	555.08
2 Cents-a-Meal	3,534.79
Building Fund	54,084.69
Memorial Fund	8,375.84
Paradise Point	4,190.50
Kitchen Improvements	8,808.56
Kitchen Improvements: New Dishwasher	1,146.76
Youth Ministry	3,481.15
Altar Guild Donation	1,986.58
Music	95.00
Sound System	3,081.72
Discretionary Fund	3,839.60
Full Time Priest Fund	67,678.06
Thanksgiving Baskets	160.00
Bazaar	1,995.99
Nampa and Meridian Irrigation	200.00
Christmas Families	661.56
Convention Donation	2,719.77
Poinsettias	219.22
Anglican Church of Kenya	606.00
Meridian Food Bank	150.00
Hospitality	5.00
Total	189,273.25

May Birthdays



Ally Henninger	5/1
Nathan Burnz	5/5
Rosemary Anderson	5/8
Kay Grooms	5/13
Wrenn Vondemfange.	5/13
Paul Horn	5/15
Peter Reeves.	5/15
Paula Nappi	5/17
Hope Hastriter	5/21
Rick Peterson	5/21
Amritha Reginold.	5/23
Samantha John.	5/25
McKenzie Votaw	5/27
Tom John	5/29

May Anniversaries



Barney and Liz Carlson	5/1
Daniel and Ivette Vigano	5/10
Tom and Alice Farquhar-Mayes	5/16
Carl and Judy Pierce.	5/17
Jeff and Amy Spurlock	5/17
Al and Sally Crothers	5/30

Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

Vestry Meeting • April 16, 2025



Minutes of the March Vestry Meeting were approved by e-mail.

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

Finance Chair • Mike Magette: Mike Magette presented the financials for the month of March. Total income was \$9,000.00 over budget. Mike reminded us that the mortgage needs refinancing by the first of January 2026. We currently have a very low interest rate and need to be paying extra each month. We will not be fortunate enough to get another low interest rate this time and Mike suggested that we make the effort to pay down the mortgage (\$106,000.00 as of March) during the rest of the year. If all goes well, we may be able to pay off the mortgage before we need to refinance at a higher rate.

Priest's Report • Fr. Shibu:

New Members: Fr. Shibu informed the Vestry that we have had 14 new families join us. He wants to recognize these families during the Easter Service.

R.I.S.E. Group: The logo for the newly formed "middle age group" will be presented.

Vacation Time: Fr. Shibu has planned a short vacation for May 26th thru May 31st. And plans to take another vacation sometime in the summer.

Senior Warden Report • Mary Buchanan:

Orthodox Church: Mary reported that the Orthodox Church will be using our church one Saturday a month. Their first service will be April 26th. They

will also use the Parish Hall for their Coffee Hour. They will pay us \$100.00 per service.

Cinco de Mayo Potluck: The Vestry agreed that we should continue with our Cinco de Mayo Potluck. It was decided that we would hold this function after church on the 4th of May.

Choir Privacy Screen Reinstalled: The privacy screen that had been removed from the choir area some time back is being stored in the Parish Hall. Mary requests that this be re-installed, so it is not damaged. It will cost \$250.00 to install as drilling into the concrete will be necessary. Vestry agreed to have this done.

2025 Yard Sale: The Yard Sale will be held on June 28th. Lorraine Bowring will head up this effort.

Spring Music Festival: Robin Horn asked if we could hold a Spring Music Festival as a fundraiser. The Vestry discussed this at length, proposing several ideas about inviting area musicians and school groups to perform. As time is short, the vestry felt it would be best to wait until next year.

Junior Warden Report • Phil Street:

Spring Yard Clean-up: Phil said that the spring clean-up went very well as lots of Girl Scouts and parishioners participated. The vegetation on the west side of the parking lot was worked on but will have to be addressed at a later date as a significant amount of trimming still needs to be done. After discussion, it was decided to obtain a bid from our landscaping company for that type of project.



Our special thanks to everyone who donated candy for the eggs. During our meeting we were able to fill loads of eggs for Easter.

Bathroom Floor Project: The work on the floors in the bathrooms in the church will begin on April 23rd. These rooms will not be able to be used until the epoxy cures. After these rooms are opened then the work on the Parish Hall bathrooms will begin. The ladies' room in the Parish Hall will have a new vanity installed also. Once the floors are refinished, painting will be done.

Phil also noted that Vance Wegner is assisting with this project and is helping to coordinate specific services with the plumber.

IEF Representative • Jon Anson:

Jon provided material from IEF concerning an educational program they sponsor about End-of-Life issues, preparing wills, funeral plans and coping with grief and loss. Linda Czarkowski agreed to help Jon put these workshops together possibly for the Fall.

Easter Eggs Galore!!!

While the meeting was going on, the Vestry was busy filling plastic Easter Eggs. Volunteers are needed to hide the eggs before church on Easter Sunday.

Meeting adjourned: There being no further business and with all of the Easter Eggs filled, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with the Lord's Prayer recited by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen

Karen Ryker, Vestry Clerk



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

Mike Magette

Treasurer

Sue Pahlas

Pledge Secretary

Bob Burnz

Church Musician:

Heidi Roberts

Office Manager:

Cindy Wolfenbarger

Fellowship:

Sandra Koerner

Sunday School:

Robin Horn

Altar Guild:

Clare Barrett

Middle School Outreach:

Holly Vondemfange

Meridian Food Bank:

Craig Vondemfange

Ministry Schedule

Mary Buchanan

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Cindy Wolfenbarger

Women's Group:

Sue Pahlas

Worship:

Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal

Website:

Mary Buchanan