

The Rock

From Which We Were Cut

September 26, 2021 ✨ WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

Isaiah 51:1-3 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Genesis 17:15-17 THE MESSAGE

God continued speaking to Abraham, “And Sarai your wife: Don’t call her Sarai any longer; call her Sarah. I’ll bless her—yes! I’ll give you a son by her! Oh, how I’ll bless her! Nations will come from her; kings of nations will come from her.” Abraham fell flat on his face. And then he laughed, thinking, “Can a hundred-year-old man father a son? And can Sarah, at ninety years, have a baby?”



The way we were,
once upon a long time ago



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From the
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Why Has The
Baptismal Font
Moved?



From the
Pastor

Why Has The Baptismal Font Moved?

If you are awake when you come into the sanctuary you will notice several things. Number one, you'll notice that the old metal bowl in the baptismal font has been replaced with a hand thrown piece of pottery that has been made to match the colors of the sanctuary. This is a part of our sanctuary redesign project. A new base that has been designed by the same person who is designing paraments for the interior of the sanctuary—that base will be built within the next few months. The second thing you'll

Because of Baptism, we are Christians. Never does our status before God depend on how we feel, having the right experience, being free of doubts, what we accomplish, or our success and our position. We are Christians because God surprised us. Coming in water, God washed us and grafted us into Christ. Our identity for all the days of our life is set! We are children of God, priests of the King, disciples of Christ, a servant people, a holy nation, the communion of saints, the followers of the Way,

Nativity Lutheran Church
newsletter, February 1992

Nativity

January 1995 volume 5, number 1



What does God have in store for us in 1995?

This is the kind of question that inevitably accompanies the arrival of a new year. It is a question we like to ask, because the new year suggests to us a future bright with possibilities, a future redolent with the sweet scent of hope.

As a church, we have witnessed God's powerful presence among us. We came to the banks of the Jordan River, wondering if we could go that direction with God, and we watched as he parted the waters and gently guided us in his path. We experienced what it was like to peer across the expanse of an uncertain future, and to say with the psalmist: "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands. . ." (Psalm 31:14-15a)

We encountered God in unmistakable and awesome ways during the last year, not least of all as we saw Pastor Tom called to a new ministry in Tustin, California, and as we sought to honor God through the process of calling a new pastor. In both instances, the Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains unity among

God's faithful people, kept us centered on the only thing that ultimately counts: Jesus Christ.

Focused on our Savior rather than on ourselves, we were able to see clearly how God was among us, working to bring us into a new future. As God challenged us to see our future in God-sized dimensions, instead of panic, there was peace; in the place of chaos, there was calm; and rather than fear, there was faith.

Which is why, though so much of what God has in store for us personally and corporately is not yet known, we are excited at the prospect of a new year with our Savior.

As a congregation, we are sensing that God desires to significantly impact Gilbert through us. An outsider might scoff at such a statement — after all, what business does an obscure little Lutheran church have believing that extraordinary, God-sized things will happen among its people? Our response is simple: we have already seen God's activity among us, and we know it is the insignificant vessel that God most likes to shape for kingdom purposes.

So, with that as our conviction, what does God have in store for Nativity Lutheran Church in 1995? I am not a diviner of futures, but I can share that as I have spent time in the Word and in prayer, God has laid upon my heart aspects of our congregational life that he would like to touch and transform:

Prayer. *I believe that experiencing God fully and knowing what God wants to do through us will depend in large measure upon us becoming a people of prayer. Christians in our country are obsessed with church growth, but I sense that the most amazing and lasting growth will come only as we learn to be a people who daily practice the presence of God by cultivating an intimate prayer life with Him.*

Leadership. *I believe that we will be most effective as a church when our spiritual leadership takes the form of what is outlined for the church in the New Testament. Specifically, this means enhancing our church life through the creation of a Board of Elders, whose focus would be the spiritual shepherding of the body. There will be a proposal at the annual meeting*

(continued on page 2)

■ Join in the Celebrations	2
■ What does God have for us in 1995 continued	
■ Sunday Servants	3
■ Calendar	
■ Who ya gonna call	4

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Nativity Lutheran to Wonderful Mercy Church

What Changed Everything? Prayer.

It's prayer that transformed us, changed what was in the air, and created hunger for the Person and work of Holy Spirit

Cut & Hewn

Cut is *hāsēb*, “a verb meaning to cut, to strike, to hew, to quarry. It is used of cutting out cisterns to hold water.”

Hewn is *nāqar*, “used in a figurative sense of digging wells which served for the deliverance and help of God’s people.”

[adapted from The Complete Word Study Dictionary]



“What you folks have done here is, you’ve dug a very deep well. God supplies the groundwater of his Holy Spirit, the living water, but he doesn’t dig wells.”

[Dave Housholder, February 4, 2018]

Isaiah 51:3

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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$10 + 1 = 11$ so $7 + 4 = 11$.

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ + 1 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 4 \\ \hline 11 \end{array}$$



Video player controls including a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 02:31 / 03:09.



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