



Narberth Presbyterian Church

January 4, 2025

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

January 4, 2025

Prelude	<i>How Brightly Shines the Morning Star</i> Jinhee Shim, organist	<i>Buxtehude</i>
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Welcome & Announcements		Tim Roykouff
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Call to Worship	Hebrews 1:1-3a	Isabel Lally
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Hymn #187	<i>Jesus, Come! for We Invite You</i>	
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Opening Prayer		Rev. John Groth
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Scripture Reading	1 Samuel 3:3b-10	Katie Kennedy
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The Apostles' Creed

The Peace

Choir Presentation	Linda Pilacik, director, Jinhee Shim, piano
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*Hymn #171	<i>Hark ! the Herald Angels Sing (v1)</i>	
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*Hymn #162	<i>The First Noel, the Angel Did Say (v1)</i>	
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<i>All The Stars Shone Down</i> Children's Choir, Pam Fleming, violin	Lightfoot
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<i>O Little Bethlehemtown</i> Children's Choir and NPC choir	McDonald
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<i>Who Is This Child</i>	Gallina
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*Hymn #164	<i>Silent night! Holy Night! (v1)</i>	
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<i>Christmas Day in the Morning</i> Emil Pilacik, trumpet	Shackley
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*Congregation joins in

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. John Groth

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Bach

Jinhee Shim, organ

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Rev. John Groth

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 10:8-11

Message

Setting Up Your Trust Fund

Rev. John Groth

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Danielle Kauffman

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his death and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us people of hope.

You are holy, O God of majesty, blessed is Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Born as king in David's line, he lived with the lowly and cared for the least of your children.

From the grave you raised him to your right hand where he rules again from heaven.

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection.
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. Send us out as the body of Christ in the world.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup **Rev. John Groth**
Prayer after Communion

Hymn #146 *Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come* *Antioch*

Benediction **Rev. John Groth**

Postlude *In Thee is Gladness* *Bach*
Jinhee Shim, organist

Prayer Ministry **Linda DiLullo**

Rev. John W. Groth is married to Ranelle Petrucelli Groth. They have three children, Erin (Bryan), John (Meghan), and Shannon (Eric) and 3 grandchildren with another due in 9 days! John graduated from Ursinus College with a BS degree in Health and Physical Education. He has a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Princeton Seminary and joined ECO in 2015. John pastored churches in New Jersey and Delaware and served as Chaplain and Chairperson of the Religion Department and 3-sport coach at the Pennington Prep School. He was medically retired in 2009 after serving 21 years as an Air Force Chaplain. John is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Delaware in the Health Behavior and Nutrition Sciences Department teaching classes on Death and Dying, Personal Relationships, Resiliency, and the Art of Happiness. He serves part-time as a regional director for Priority One Foundation, a ministry to men and their families. Like he asks his students – please call him John.

An Update from Session to Our Church Family

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, the Session continues the process of hiring a transitional pastor to guide our church in the season ahead. Please plan to attend the Congregational (Annual) Meeting on Sunday, January 11th, immediately following worship, where we will also present the called Elders and Deacons for congregational vote.

Thank you for your prayers, presence, and faithful partnership as we look forward to all that God has in store in this bright new year.

With hope in Christ and love for you,
The Session of Narberth Presbyterian Church

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Missions: Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center, located in Drexel Hill and Norristown, offers counseling to those who have undergone an abortion, whether recently or long ago, and provides support to those who make the decision to place their child for adoption, or to parent their babies. Pray for those who provide the counseling that they will be both kind and competent in their interactions with those who seek their help. Pray also for the clients to be encouraged and drawn to the Lord as he comes to them through the ministry of Amnion staff and volunteers.

ELDER & DEACON NOMINEES

ELDERS:

Jim Hoffman While I grew up in a Christian home, going away to Messiah College and making friends who were living out their faith in a way I wasn't challenged me and sparked my faith. I've continued to grow and seek to trust Him in every part of my life. Lisa and I came to NPC in 2001, and we've been blessed to be a part of the church and serve in various ways ever since, while raising our sons here. I was not seeking to return to session after serving one term many years ago, but just over a year ago I discerned I needed to be open to serving if called. So, I'm moving forward in faith, with a focus on accountability and transparency within leadership, and to the congregation.

Clara Louie I am a beloved child of God, created through Jesus Christ. I am a sinner made alive with Christ and in Christ through his redemption work on the cross. I am God's masterpiece, created anew in Christ Jesus, so I can do the good things he planned for me to do. I have the constant companionship of the indwelling Holy Spirit, given to me as a comforter and advocate. From the first sense of a Creator God in Catholic school to the recognition of my sins and life's meaninglessness without Christ in college, from foundational discipleship in my first church to being called to seminary, from ministry burnout and to renewal in God's intimate love -- all has been God's grace! I am still weak, but his power is made perfect in weakness, and his grace is sufficient for me, as I yield to his continuous work of formation and re-formation in me. Right now, I am committed to walking with my church family at NPC, as we seek to cooperate with God's shaping and forming us as the body of Christ and to follow him faithfully through this pruning time that he may bear fruit in us and through us.

Ashley Reed I have attended Narberth Pres. For most of my life. I started serving in youth group with service trips to North Dakota. Since then, I have participated in choir and bell choir, I was a Deacon for 2 terms and am currently the church archivist. I am so honored to be nominated as Elder. This is the next chapter in how I will serve my church family. As I have grown up here, so has my desire to serve the Lord and his people.

Andrew Steenhoff I grew up in a Christian home and our family were active members of the Anglican church in South Africa. At the age of 14 years, I gave my life to Christ while attending a Christian rock concert. As a teenager I served as a youth group leader and lay minister in my home church as well as a Christian camp counsellor for Campus Crusade for Christ. Subsequently at medical school I led a men's Bible study group and co-led a campus Christian organization. I've also led home groups at various times over the last 30 years. Our family have been members of NPC for 10 years and our spiritual lives have been enriched by this Christian community. I aspire to be a servant leader with Jesus as my example (Matt 20:28) and look forward to serving the NPC body as an elder.

DEACONS:

Cheryl Gunter The Greek word “diakonos” is translated into “deacon,” or servant. The call of a deacon is thus for both the edification of the church and the edification of others on behalf of the church. The expectations for a deacon, however, are not only acts of service but also attitudes that reflect spiritual development – sincerity, self-examination, stewardship, and sacrifice, to name but a few. I am truly humbled by any opportunity to be the hands and heart of my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ in the world. I am particularly inspired by Matthew 25:35-40. While I am honored to serve in a specific role named in the Bible – deacon – my prayer is that I can share His grace and goodness with the world no matter what my role. I pray that He will use my efforts for His glory. Thanks be to God.

Gaby Lubchuk My maternal grandmother was a beautiful woman, and as much a woman of God as one could be without really having a relationship with the Lord. My family was Catholic, and she was the one who took me to mass every Sunday. I loved it when we went to masses that were said in Latin, and I "felt" the messages even though I didn't understand the words. I believe I have always "believed." When I was about 50, I took an altar call at an Assemblies of God church, heard for the first time about having a relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and have not turned back! My faith and relationship with the Lord have deepened, and my journey - with the love and patience of my Narberth church family - although bumpy, becomes more and more focused on the eternal life.

Shiang-Ju Steenhoff Unbeknownst to me, from age 7 when my family and I moved from Taiwan to apartheid South Africa, God protected and provided for me. In times of my greatest need, Jesus was there. This manifested as meeting inspiring, devout Christians at Catholic elementary school, then later, comfort and strength in the last 3 years of high school when my parents returned back to Taiwan at the end of their diplomatic term in South Africa. I was baptized and confirmed at 17. However, it was only 10 years later in Philly, while in the midst of recovery from a perforated appendix with complications, that I truly gave my life to Him. God continues to bless me daily with His love and grace. Over the past few years, I have felt a calling to be His hands and feet. I hope to serve Him and our church family in tangible ways as a deacon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NPC's Annual Meeting: Join us on January 11th directly following the worship service as we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. All are invited to participate, especially members. Childcare for children up to 5th grade is available.

Our meeting will include a time of memorial remembrance for members and loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant in the last year. We will also elect new Elders and Deacons, give an overview of our mission causes, ministries and discuss the budget for 2026.

Special Time of Prayer – Wednesday, January 7th – All are encouraged to join us in a time of prayer together on Wednesday, January 7th beginning at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We look forward to being together and boldly laying our requests before God. Linda DiLullo & Maria Kaminstein will be facilitating this time.

New Wednesday Evening Class: Regardless of our age and how long we have been a follower of Christ, we are on a lifelong journey of spiritual formation. But what does the terrain of that journey look like? Where are we going? Join Heather Gallagher and Clara Louie for a series of 6 sessions in reflection and communal learning on *The Critical Journey - Stages in the Life of Faith* on Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00pm starting on January 14th. The series will conclude with an optional Saturday retreat on February 28th. Contact Clara (claralouie@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign up, so they will know how many copies of the field guides to print. Class is open to both men and women.

Board Game Nights at NPC – Mark your calendar and get your “game” face on! Join us for fun, fellowship and board games on the 3rd Friday of each month. Bring a snack to share and your favorite board game. Children are welcome but must remain in the Parlor for games. Please reach out to Dee Knight (deedleskni9@gmail.com // 484-620-4157) with any questions. **Next Game Night: January 16th.**

Intergenerational Day of Service is January 17th – All ages are encouraged to attend our Intergenerational Day of Service with The Philadelphia Project on Saturday, January 17th from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch! Please reserve your spot with Danielle soon!

Ministry jobs available at NPC: The Session and Personnel Committee are pleased to announce that we have begun to actively recruit for 2 part-time ministry positions. We are looking for a **Youth Ministry Leader** to lead Sunday morning and Wednesday evening times with our youth as well as to coordinate the Youth Ministry Committee. Additionally, we are seeking a **Contemporary Music Coordinator** to lead our worship music and coordinate special music opportunities. If you or someone you know might be interested in either of these positions, please check the church website for job descriptions and/or reach out to Linda Behmke, Personnel Committee Chair.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN & YOUTH

Today is Family Worship – All children and youth (K – 12th) are encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion. Worship Bags will be provided for elementary-age children at both entrances of the sanctuary. The NPC Nursery is available for our youngest as usual in RM 107. Sunday School will resume next week for both children and youth!

Intergenerational Day of Service is January 17th – All ages are encouraged to attend our Intergenerational Day of Service with The Philadelphia Project on Saturday, January 17th from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch! Please reserve your spot with Danielle soon!

MLK Day of Service – We will be partnering with our NPC Preschool to bring a morning of service to our youngest. All children and parents are invited to NPC on Monday, January 19th beginning at 10:00am for a time of serving and learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. Please RSVP to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) by January 11th.

40 Day Challenge begins Sunday, January 11th – Children's Ministries is moving beyond the church walls! During this 6-week Sunday School series kids will grow closer to God and become better servants as they take on the 40-day challenge to: pray, read, serve, give, share, and praise!

Kids Praise and Middle School Youth Group will resume on Wednesday, January 14th from 7:00 – 8:00pm.

2025 CHURCH OFFICERS

THE SESSION

Deborah Watson – Moderator

Class of 2025

Linda Behmke

*Jack Comstock

*Jan Kennedy

Class of 2026

Diane Chen

*Brint Nicolai

Mark Wenger

Class of 2027

Susan Costantino

*Jim Hornung

Katie Kennedy

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2025

Karen Pappas

Ann Sattel

Rashmi Vyas

Class of 2026

Lorraine Hoffner

Rick Plummer

*Gerri Wismer

Class of 2027

Kevin Cope

Suzanne Morrison

*serving second term

2025 MISSIONARY CAUSES

Mission

Amnion Pregnancy Center
 Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc. – N. Ireland
 Chosen People Ministries– Paul Cruz
 Cornerstone Christian Academy
 CRU City – Brindleys (Unite Philly)
 CRU International–Leah Darwin
 Development Associates International
 Disciple Makers – Rebecca and Dan Hall
 ECO Church Planting and Global Missions Funds
 Esperanza Health Center
 Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Kasey Dougherty
 Global Horizons – Cephas Tushima
 Habitat for Humanity –N. Central Philadelphia
 House of His Creation
 InterAct Ministries – Dan & Bev Mayerle
 Interserve-USA – Jan Kennedy
 Kingdom Connect – Ben Duffy
 Neighborhood Crusades Inc.
 New Horizons/Amoenitas – Scott Todd
 Olney Christian School
 Presby's Inspired Life (Human Good)
 Rancho Del Rey
 REAP Granada-Scott Esposito
 Redeemed For A Cause Outreach – Sakinah Love
 Save a Life – Nadia Gordynsky
 Servant Partners – Dan & Denise Anderson
 The Antioch Partners – Haugens
 The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota (Standing Rock)
 The Philadelphia Project – Rev. Ray Garcia
 The Welcome Church – Schaunel Steinnagel
 United World Mission – Nick & Ginny Woodbury
 World Link – Jack Nelson
 Wycliffe Bible Translators – Al & Barb Shannon
 Young Life (Western Philadelphia Suburbs)

Ambassador

Alice Antonelli
 Danielle Kauffman
 Jennifer & Tim Roykouff
 Joyce Lewis
 Tom & Alyson Burnett
 Kathy McLean
 David Fraser
 Bob Moore

Open

Julie Fernandez
 Ashley Reed
 Scott Todd
 Linda Behmke
 JoAnne Kaplan
 Marilyn Reed
 Jesse Kennedy
 Ken & Sally Kapner
 Marilyn Reed
 Marilyn Reed
 Ann Sattel

Open

Open

Charlie Choi
 Sally Kapner
 Faithe Hornung
 Faithe Hornung

Open

Ashley Reed
 Dave Bellamy
 Jane Murray
 Rob & Sandi Wray
 Kim Ishmael

Open

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 4

8:15am Adult Sunday School, parlor

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

Intergenerational Choir Presentation

Guest Preacher: John Groth

Monday, January 5

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel

Tuesday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

12:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, January 7

Wednesday Night Programming will resume on

Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Thursday, January 8

Friday, January 9

10:00am – 12:00pm Ladie's Bible Study, Parlor

Saturday, January 10

9:00am Women's Breakfast, Parlor

Sunday, January 11

8:15am Adult Sunday School, Parlor

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream.

Congregational Meeting directly following the Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Guest Preacher: Ken Green

Each Week

Christian Preschool – 610-664-8890 x118

2, 3 & 5 Day Programs 9:00am to 12 noon & 12 noon to 3:00pm Extended Day Program, Sept.-May

AA meets 12:30pm, Monday–Saturday & Sunday at 4:30pm

Counseling: Dr. Janet Moore: cell: 484-686-6630 email: jlmpsych910@gmail.com

Narberth Presbyterian Church

205 Grayling Avenue

Post Office Box 414

Narberth, PA 19072

Office hours:

Mon-Thurs. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Friday 9:00 am - 3:00pm

Phone: 610-664-4880

Fax: 610-668-8225

E-mail: office@narberthpres.org

CCLI # License #387124

Church Staff

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Sharon Shallow, Nursery Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Matt Weed, Worship Tech. Coordinator

Tim Roykouff, Business Administrator

Sara Mahoney, Administrative Assistant

Hugh Barrie, Assistant Property Manager

Joyce B. Nicolai, Bookkeeper

Ruth Ellen Patterson, Financial Secretary

Isabel Lally, Pastoral Visitor

Virginia Davis, Director of Preschool

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian

Larry Lubchuk, Weekend Custodian



On the Web:

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