

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

9 August 2026

Welcome! This morning, the Rev. Chris Humphrey presides and preaches. Our musician is Sal Page.

Save the date: Our annual parish picnic takes place on Friday, August 21, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Boyne City Marina Pavillion, 207 North Lake Street. There's plenty of parking. Sign up to bring a dish to share. The church will provide baked chicken; we need numbers to know how much to order. *Please sign up today if you can.* Water also provided—or bring your own beverage.

Spotlight on Hymnody: "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord" (Hymn 637) was described by the editor of *The Hymnal Companion* of 1940 as "a hymn which has been a favorite for over a century and half, and it still lacks its own distinctive tune, having been sung to different tunes in each edition of the hymnal." It is actually paired with two different tunes in our hymnal, this one (LYONS) and FOUNDATION (#636). There are two omitted stanzas in this hymnal, one of which is this:

In every condition, in sickness, in health,
in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
as thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be!

Who Knew? "I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is the best policy." —George Washington, a famous Episcopalian, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, and first President of the United States.

Did you know that Nativity has been invited to participate in something called the Small Church Cohort? This is a free program of the School of Theology at the University of the South, in Sewanee, Tennessee. Beginning this month, the 12-week program supports congregations in diagnosing and strengthening their vitality in context. We may learn something helpful about ourselves and maybe even find ways to help assure our long-term sustainability as a congregation. Jim Costello has agreed to serve as our lay participant, along with our Priest-in-Charge.

More on the reverse side ➔

We now have three candidates for our first diocesan bishop! More candidates may yet be nominated by petition, and the bishop will be elected at our next diocesan convention, October 23 & 24. Our candidates are:



• The Rev. Canon Terri Lynne Bays, currently Missioner to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Northern Indiana, *at left*,

• The Rev. Zachary Nyein, Senior Associate Rector and Pastor of Imagine Worship, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, *right*, and



• The Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Evansville, Indiana, *shown below*.



You can find out more at greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search, including the resume and a brief video of each candidate.

In the meanwhile, let's all pray: Almighty God, giver of every good gift and source of all wisdom, look with favor upon your Church in the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes as we seek the bishop you are calling to shepherd and to lead us: Grant to your people faith to discern, courage to choose, and unity to follow in the way of your Son; that guided by your Holy Spirit, all of our prayers may rise up to you, and we may continue to proclaim the Gospel and serve the world in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, *Priest-in-Charge*