

Where Does My Giving Go? May's Money Minute

*Have you wondered how your giving affects daily ministry here at Nativity?
Would you like to know how some of our budget line items relate to our mission?
Here's a part of how your giving is currently Making Christ Known!*

For May's Money Minute, let's look at the Property and Insurance line item. While this may not seem like the most glamorous of budget lines, it is vital to the ministry we do here at Nativity! Property and Insurance makes up about 15 percent of our yearly budget. It covers our utilities (lights, water, heat, air conditioning, electricity), our insurance, our worker's compensation, our janitorial services, and our lawn care. Each of these expenses helps keep our property safe, welcoming, and well-cared for. Our property is a huge investment, and it offers us a multitude of ministry opportunities. But, more than just keeping the lights on, your giving becomes ministry, in the many ways our space is used.

The most obvious use of our space is Sunday mornings. We Make Christ Known through worship and Faith Formation, coming together in the center of our building to hear God's word and share in God's supper. We invite visitors to join us, bringing the community into our congregation. On many Sunday evenings, we have Young Youth and Youth choir in the sanctuary, and Young Youth and Youth group spread across the building. We use the wonderfully spacious kitchen to feed all those hungry kids between meetings, where they fellowship with one another and the adult leaders.

Sunday is just the tip of the iceberg, however! During the school year, the building is full of the children of Nativity Preschool and Kindergarten. This fiscal year, NPK began covering their own worker's comp and janitorial services, and so our contributions to their program include maintenance, insurance, and utilities. This year, we have 120 children enrolled who love, learn, and live in Christ in this place. Through our Property and Insurance budget, we ensure that they learn and grow in a well maintained, safe environment. One of my personal favorite NPK ministries is Thursday morning Chapel, when the whole school gathers in the sanctuary for worship. This school year, they're learning about a different animal each week, and how that animal can teach them something about God. At Easter, they learned how the butterfly reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection!

Throughout the week, many other Nativity groups gather in our facilities. On Monday evenings, Nancy Seekamp leads the Wondering Women in Bible Study. Choirs (handbell, campfire, and Nativity) meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Bible Study meets regularly on Wednesday mornings to dive deep into the upcoming Sunday's Scripture. The Nativity Quilters meet downstairs each Wednesday to assemble the quilts they'll send across the world (the most recent shipment went to Angola!). The Prayer Shawl ministry meets to make beautiful gifts for those in need of prayer. Book Club and the Ladies of Nativity use this space for their meetings, where they share fellowship and faith. The Card Ministry gathers monthly to create greetings for members on the prayer list. Various committees, including Finance, Personnel, and Property,

use Nativity's buildings to host meetings that plan for the future of our ministry. Christ is made known through all of these ministries – just ask those who participate!

Nativity also hosts a number of outside groups, who use our space for a variety of purposes. English for Speakers of Other Languages meets on Monday nights, and in 2016, 20 students were welcomed in. We host a Girl Scout Troop on Tuesday nights, and on Wednesday evenings, AA meets in the modular. Once a month, Project Linus fills the fellowship hall with hundreds of blankets that will go to children in hospitals. Thursday nights see up to 38 Boy Scouts and their leaders using various spaces inside and outside our buildings to earn merit badges and learn life skills. The area Scouts also use our space for Eagle Board of Reviews, and we have hosted a number of Eagle Scout Projects over the years as well. These groups are graciously welcomed into a space where they can learn, grow, and serve.

It is truly astounding how many people are impacted by the Nativity Property and Insurance budget line. Through your giving, you are Making Christ Known in the hospitality we are able to show and the fellowship we are able to share. Our facilities enable countless people to experience God's love and do God's work in the world. Thank you for being a part of these ministries through your financial gifts!

Peace,
Pastor Rachel