



First SUNDAY IN LENT

*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
We carry light and love to the world.*

Sunday, February 21, 2021



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from Setting 4, page 147, in the hymnal.

Information for the hearing impaired: Are you having difficulty hearing what is being said during our worship service? If so, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

Today's worship service will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9 and is available to VIEW anytime late afternoon today on the home page of our website www.nlcww.org.

Attendance for last Sunday: 66



INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

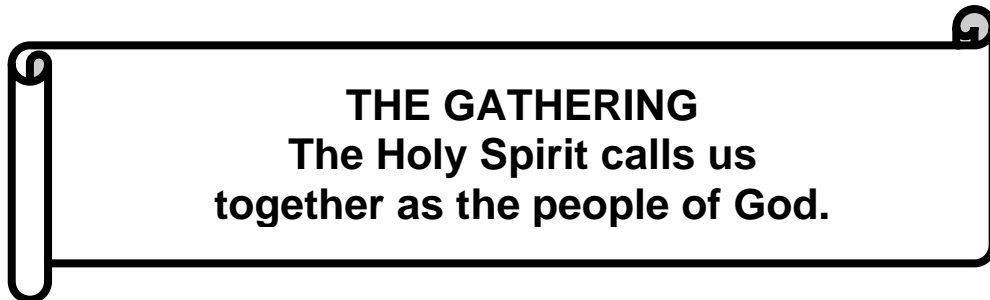
Indicates the start of worship

PRELUDE

Shout To The Lord

Hayes

Please stand as you are able.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Keeper of the covenant, the Source of steadfast love, our Rock and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the One who is full of compassion.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A moment of silence for self-reflection.

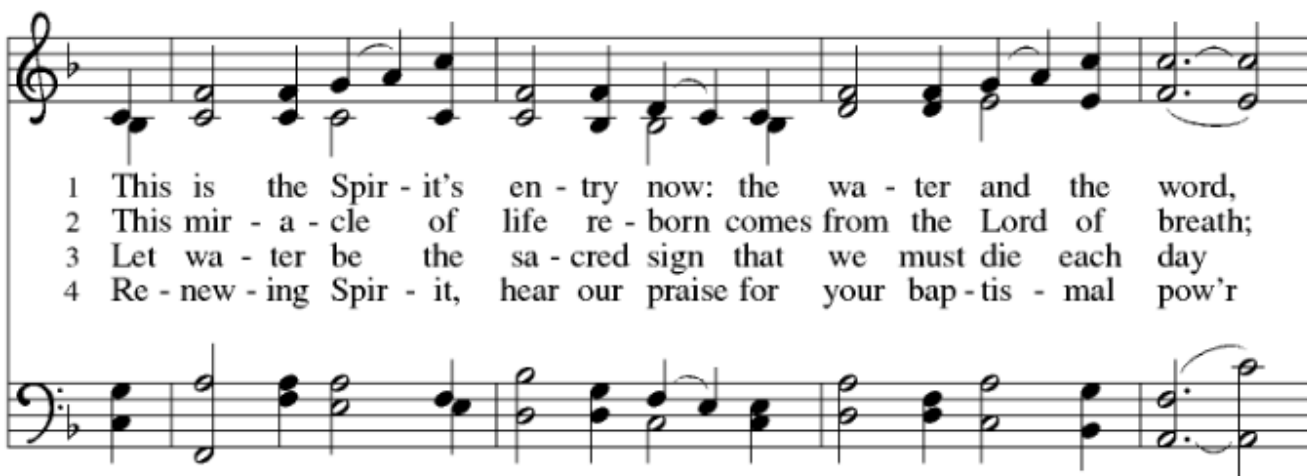
Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world You so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are **✝** forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

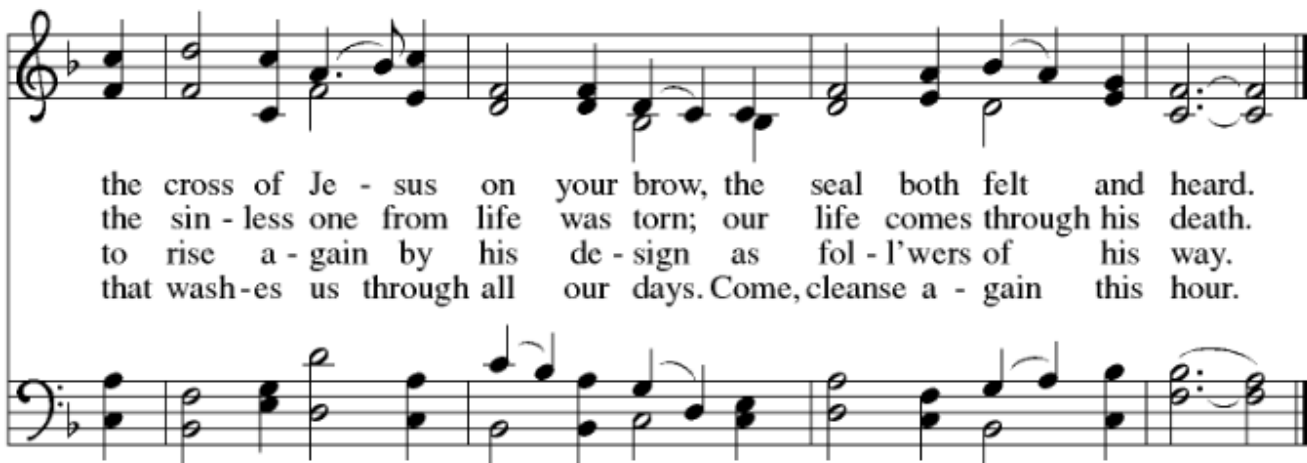
GATHERING HYMN

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

448



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie Eleison is a pre-Christian expression in Greek that means "Lord have mercy." When we ask for the mercy of God, we are asking for his nearness and for the necessary healing of our human brokenness.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. Kyrie, eleison.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair. Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Christe, eleison.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin. Christ, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Kyrie, eleison.
Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts! Christ, have mercy.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

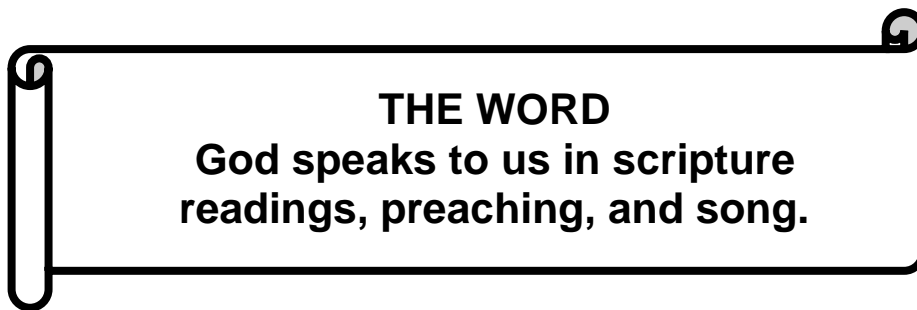
Glory be to God in heaven; **peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt You, we adore You, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before You; here on earth our songs we raise. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, You have come from heav'n above; on the cross You died to save us; now You reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand. Holy One we now acclaim You; Lord alone, to You we call; Holy One in faith we name You, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, **in the waters of the flood You saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation You protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.



SPECIAL MUSIC

See Them Come

Parks

Soloist: June Heinecke

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

9:8-17

Reader: Carlan Helgeson

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

3:18-22

Reader: Carlan Helgeson

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

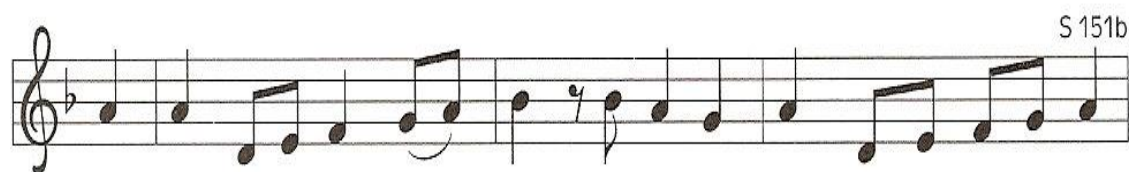
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

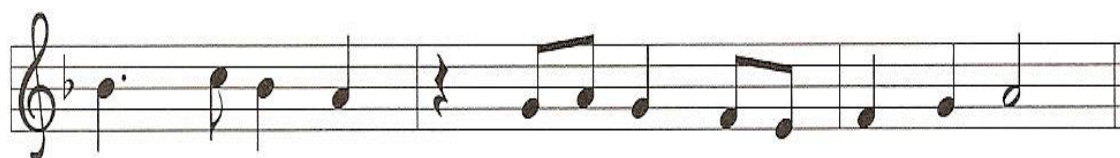
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lenten Refrain

Return to the Lord



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

613



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Stand or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.


After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to You, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.



THE MEAL
God feeds us with the
presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Please remain seated. You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate safely on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org> or on our Facebook page. Please pull your communion set out of the bag and hold both containers in your hands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Faithful God, **You walk beside us in desert places, and You meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and

the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Form II, page 108

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

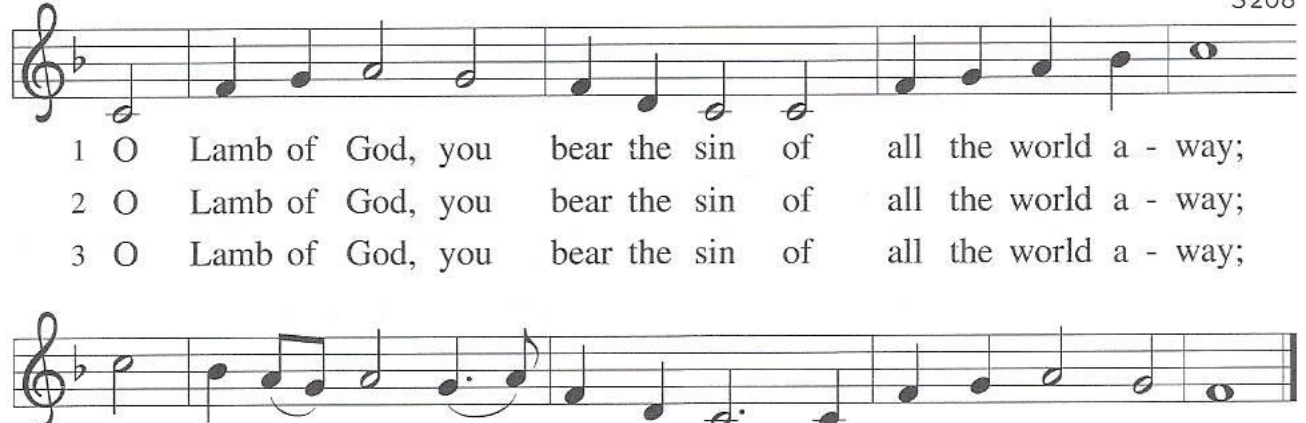
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

Lamb of God

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The body and blood of Christ given for you.

TABLE BLESSING

Consume the elements now. Toss the empty containers into the wastebasket.

Observe a moment of silence.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, You have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Bless Now, O God, The Journey

326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

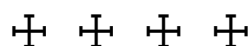
Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Epilogue

Ritter



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalms 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

PRAYERS: The list will be cleared every other week. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than two weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. *In case of emergency, contact the office at **352-597-1456** and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Peg Ahlquist, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Terri Breida, Elliott Burger, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Patti Cotter, Tim Cotter, Mike Davis, Susan Deeg, Norma Diedrich, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Austin Garrett, Cindy Garrett, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Donald

Haig, Irma Haig, William and Charlotte Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Richard and Nancy Heinecke, John Heinecke, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Lilo Horeis, April Horton, Bob Johnson and family, Janet and Mike Jones and family, Michael Koch, Alfred Korndoerfer, Jackie Luebee, Carl and Asta Lundh, Elaine Malone, Maria Mesko, Rich Miller, Marianne Mock, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Connor and family, Mike Ruffner, Nancy Salerno, Alice Seeholzer, Mary Joy Speicher, Margret Steffens, Keli Tedesco, Carsyn Volpe and family, Janet Wilkens, Laurretta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Carlos Bayron Jr., Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, 2nd Lt, USMC Robert M. Heinecke, Cpt. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Brett Johnson, Cpt. Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, William Robishaw, OS2 Jordan A. Torres, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Chad Waldorf.





BULLETIN DEDICATION

Janet and Mike Jones

In honor of Georgeann Scheidter's
90th birthday

ABSENCE OF FLOWERS. There are no flowers displayed in the church during Lent. If you would like to dedicate the bulletin to someone in place of flowers, the suggested donation is \$10.00. The bulletins would then be in honor or memory of that person. *Please call or stop by the office with your request, 352-597-1456.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister
**Assisting Minister &
Scripture Reader**
Music Director
Altar Guild

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson
Donna Olsen

Ruth Edwards, Gayle Howland,
and Ellee Simons

AV Director
Cameras
Graphics
Gardener(s)
Head counter this week

Art Alt
Buddy Kristoferson
Diane Alt & Ed Lewis
Doug Johnson
Barbara Crisanti

MISSION STATEMENT

**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.**

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, the Bible says, “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.