



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

*Sunday, July 25, 2021  
9th Sunday after Pentecost*



**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, July 25, 2021**  
**9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

**The Liturgy** is from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

**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](http://www.nlcww.org).

**In-person attendance for last Sunday: 93**

**Our on-line attendance has remained steady at around 115 per Sunday.** Others worship with us by listening to the radio broadcast on Sunday evening.



## INTRODUCTION

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

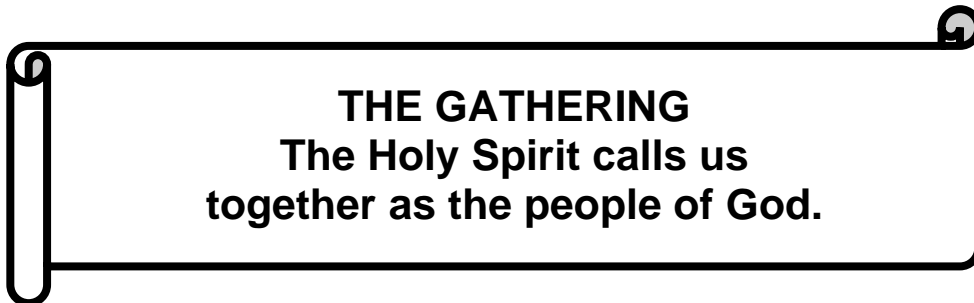
### CHIMES

*Indicates the start of worship.*

### PRELUDE

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

Eric Wyse/Dawn Rogers



*Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**Sing to the Lord, bless His name;**

Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

**Declare His glory among the nations,**

**His wonders among all peoples.**

For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;  
He is to be feared above all gods.  
**For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
But the Lord made the heavens.**

Honor and majesty are before Him;  
**Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.**

Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
Give to the Lord glory and strength.  
**Give to the Lord the glory due to His name;**

Bring an offering, and come into His courts.  
**Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Tremble before Him, all the earth. (Ps. 96:1-9)**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

669

*Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.*

# Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Rise Up, O Saints of God!". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

## 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.*

The Cantor sings the verses; the Congregation sings the refrain.

*Refrain* S 184

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide; that You center our lives in the water and the Word; that You nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



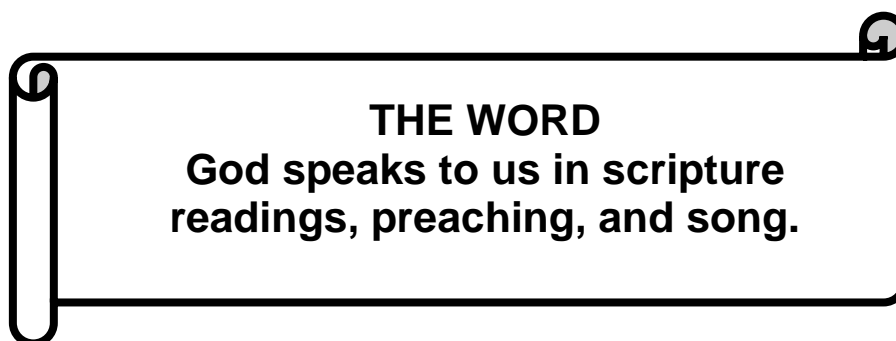
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## SPECIAL MUSIC

*The Servant Song*

Richard Gillard  
Soloist: June Heinecke

## A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

**16:1-13**

Reader: Susan Nordstrom

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said,



"Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

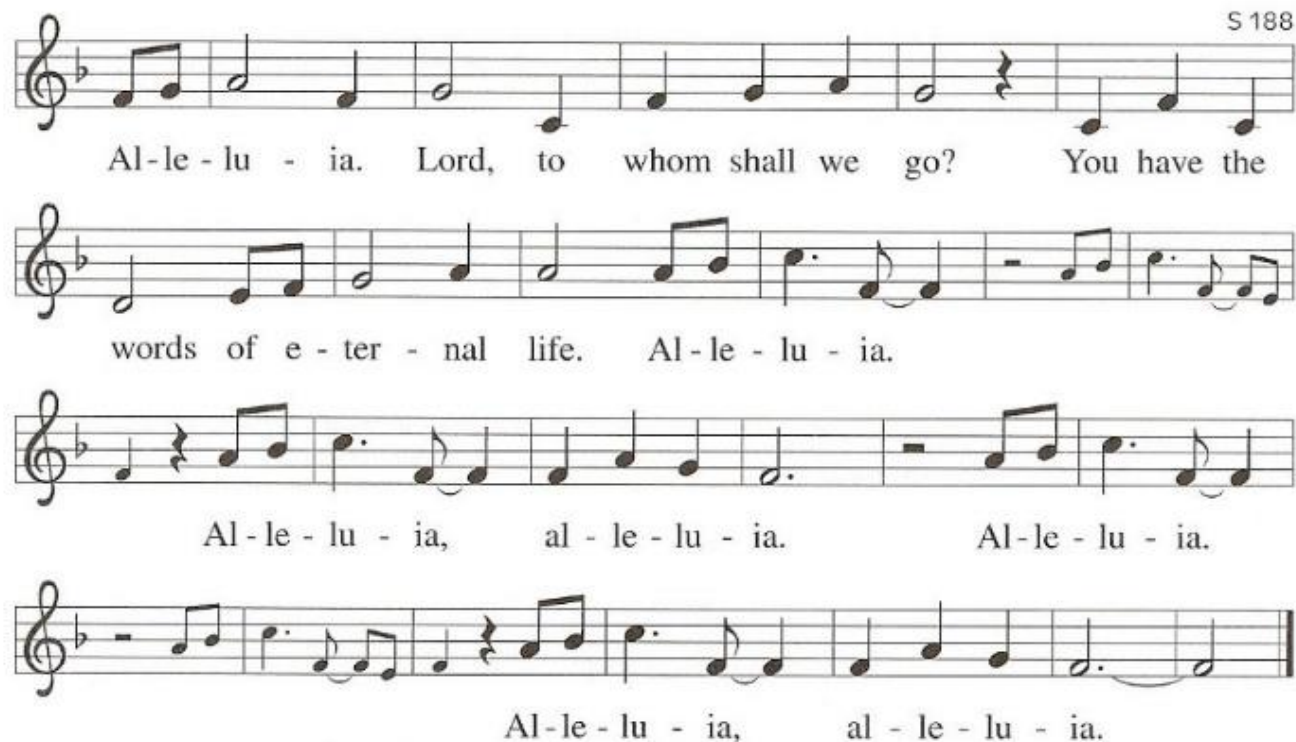
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**JOHN 6:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a

great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

*Those God Uses*

Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*A moment of silence for reflection.*

God, our Provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in You. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to You. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the Manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the Worker of miracles, there is always more

than enough. Through Jesus, † the Bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Here I Am, Lord

574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## **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.**

*Remain standing or sit as you desire.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

We lift these and all our prayers to You, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; 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**

*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.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Jesus, Bread of life, You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able, and hold the communion set in your hands.*

## **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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## REMEMBERING GOD'S ACTS OF GRACE

Blessed are You, O God of the universe.

**Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Praise to You for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to You for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

**Praise to You for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to You for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to You for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed  
one.**

Praise to You for the death and resurrection of Christ.

**Praise to You for your Spirit poured out on all nations.**

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.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
**Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.**

Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**



With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise You, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### *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.

*Please be seated.*

*Consume the elements now.*

*Observe a moment of silence.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As You have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**



### **THE SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES**

Ethan Chelf, Cullen Scott McDannold, Sean Patterson, Sarah Rosten, David Smith, Jason Spina and Morgan Vansalous

Before you were even formed, God knew you. While in your mother's womb, God chose you. At your birth, God's breath filled you with life. Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time.

*Graduate kneels.*

Let us pray together:

**God of our beginnings, we thank You for the gifts of our youth: their excitement, their wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged their local communities, and we have become a richer and more diverse global community because of them.**

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort them with the full knowledge of your divine presence. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.

**Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of fear and greed while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light.**

We ask this blessing upon them, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Make Me A Servant*

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today.

## 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. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Jesus Calls Us*

Franklin Ritter

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Psalms 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:24-35

**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, Tracey Baker, Mary Bannister, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Elliott Burger, Anne and David Carpenter, Jerry Conklin, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Denise Crawford, Judy Dietz, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Rich Geiser, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Lauriane Graham, Lillie May Graham, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, William and Charlotte Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, John Heinecke, Marge Henry, Kay Hill, Karen Hoffman, Barbara Hofving, Rev. Joan Holden, Beth Hollenberger, Lilo Horeis, Ruth Ann Hoy, Bob Johnson and family, Melody Kidd, Michael Koch, Rev. Dennis and Linda Koch, Alfred Korndoerfer, Carl and Asta Lundh, Elaine Malone, Maria Mesko, Rich Miller, Marianne Mock, Molonaro family, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Brian Oliver, David Oliver, Sheryl O'Conner, Mike Ruffner, Stephens family, Barbara Strohl, Dave Swank, Keli Tedesco, Carsyn Volpe, Ginger Wielk, Janet Wilkens, Alan Van Zee, Lauretta Z.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY**

Nic Baker, Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, 2nd Lt, USMC Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. 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.



*Flowers on the altar are given by:*

*Ursula Schramek*

In loving memory of her husband, Joe Schramek

*Barbara Cornell*

In loving memory of her mother, Barbara Fastook,  
Happy Birthday!

***ALTAR FLOWERS:*** *If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$25.00. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

# Worship Leaders

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**Presiding Minister**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Scripture Reader**  
**Cantor & Soloist**  
**Music Director**  
**Altar Guild**  
**AV Director**  
**Audio**  
**Cameras**  
**Graphics**  
**Video Production**  
**Gardener(s)**  
**Head counter this week**

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei  
Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson  
Susan Nordstrom  
June Heinecke  
Donna Olsen  
Suzanne Chelf & Cheryl Wolfe  
Art Alt  
Guy Peeters & Tim Noe  
Buddy Kristoferson & Tim Cotter  
Diane Alt & Ed Lewis  
Vicki Page  
Suzanne Chelf  
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**

6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Phone (352) 597-1456

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Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.