



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

*Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent*



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

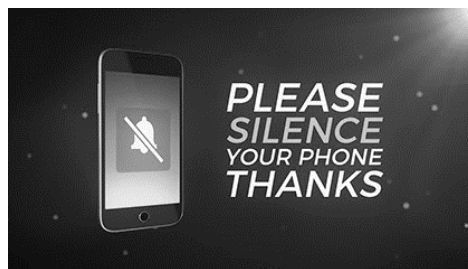
The Liturgy is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Are you hearing impaired? If you are having difficulty hearing are worship service, 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.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 121

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.



SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

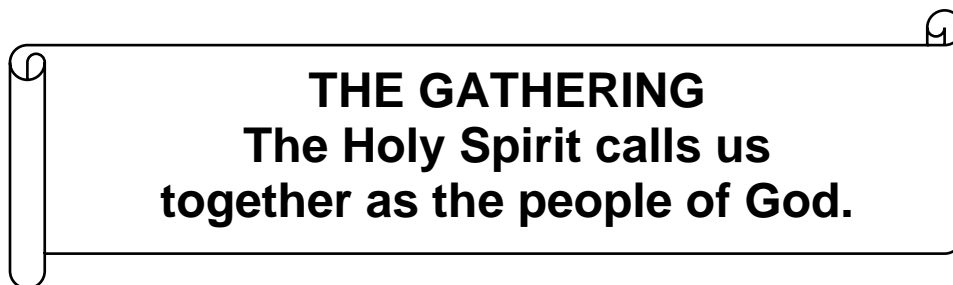
CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship.

PRELUDE

Silent Night in Gotham

Weeki Wachee Winds
Gruber/arr. Giroux



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:68-75

Blessed are You, Lord, the God of Israel, You have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, You promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath You swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship You without fear, holy and righteous before You, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

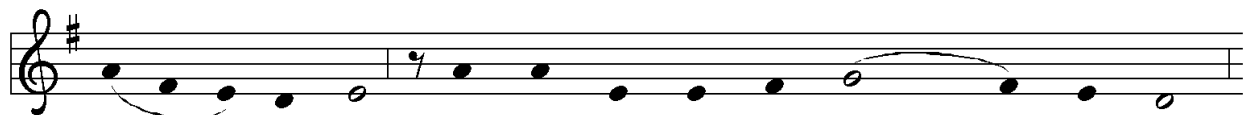
GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

257
 vv. 1-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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.**

ADVENT PRAYER

We praise You, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Second Candle – The Candle of Peace

When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us, he brings us peace, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
240, vv. 1 & 2

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

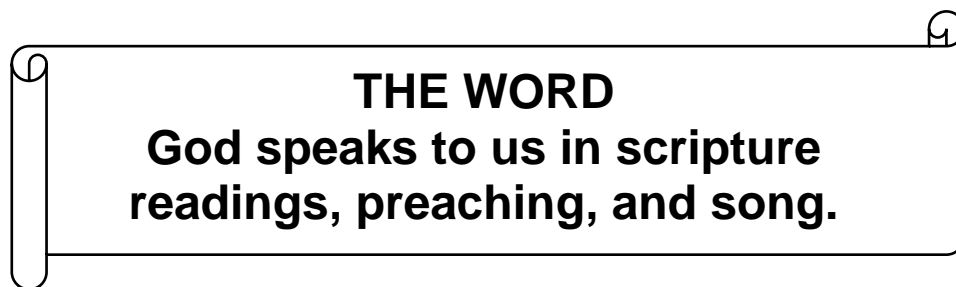
Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

*Jesus, Jesus,
Rest Your Head*

*Weeki Wachee Winds
arr. Tim Wallace*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK
OF THE PROPHET BARUCH**

5:1-9

Reader: Ellee Simons

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. ² Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; ³ for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. ⁴ For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." ⁵ Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. ⁶ For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. ⁷ For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. ⁸ The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. ⁹ For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths

straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

A moment of silence for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Feast of Love

487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

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

God of new life, You come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **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 on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page.

Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet You in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

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

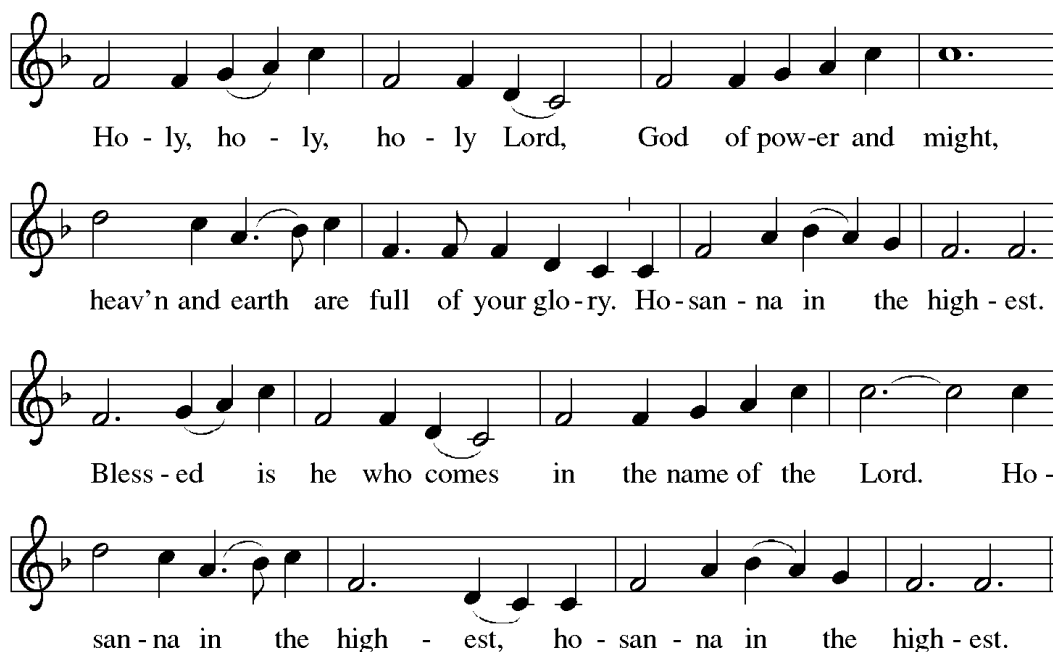
DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 One, the Beginning and the End, the Giver of Life:

Blessed are You for the birth of creation.

Blessed are You in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are You for your promise to your people.

Blessed are You in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are You for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are You for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Lamb of God



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.

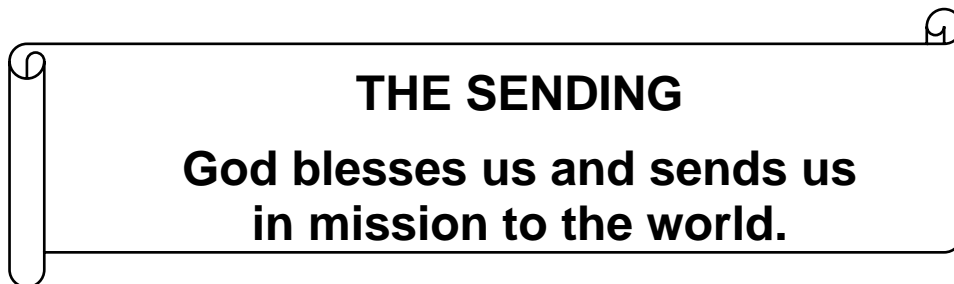
TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Most High God, **You have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our Host and our Guest. Amen.**



BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

SENDING

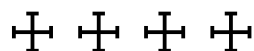
People of Nativity, what is our mission?

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God!



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

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

Tracey Baker, Mary Bannister, Christopher Barnes, Larry Barnes, Claudette Belliveau, Cache Blevins, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Scott Brom, Iris Brunner, Elliott Burger, Anne and David Carpenter, Joyce Colombo, Jerry Conklin, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Denise Crawford,

Kenji Lewis Crawford, Kat Crawford, Daniel Davis, Judy Dietz, Bill Fasulo, Irene Froehlich, Geiser family, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Willie Mae Graham, Laurie Ane Graham, David and Sally Green, Nena & Bill Gulbrandsen, Sally Gulbrandsen, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Trish Hambaugh, William Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, John Heinecke, Marge Henry, Kay Hill, Karen Hoffman, Barbara Hofving, Rev. Joan Holden, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Alfred Korndorfer, Buddy Kristoferson, Carl Lundh, Joanne Manos, Elaine Malone, Rich Miller, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Oliver family, Sheryl O'Conner, Jack Page, Margret Raeder, Mike Ruffner, Beury Simons, Linda Silva, Karen Simons, Jim Simons, Mary Smith, Snow family, Marge Spina, Kathy St. Jacques, Barbara Strohl, Dave Swank, Carolyn Torres, Paul, Umbaugh, Jeanette Vandermark, Sylvia Vega, Carsyn Volpe, Kassi Warner, Kay Weiland, West family, Ginger Wielk, Janet Wilkens, Christopher Younger, Laoretta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, 2nd Lt, USMC Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, 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, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Chad Waldorf.



Flowers on the altar are given by:

June Heinecke

In loving memory of Bob and John

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

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Michelle Mehan-Conklin, ELCA Deacon
Scripture Reader	Ellee Simons
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Bell Choir Directors	Janet & Todd Holly
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf & Pat Squires
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Guy Peeters & Tim Noe
Cameras	Buddy Kristoferson & Tim Cotter
Graphics	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Gardener(s)	Doug Johnson
Head counter this week	Ernie Horeis

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, 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

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, Website: nlcww.org

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: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.



Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.



Martin Luther King Jr.