



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

*Sunday, March 24, 2024  
Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday*



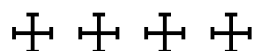
**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**March 24, 2024**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**  
**Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday**

**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)

**VISION STATEMENT:** We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

***Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.***



**The Liturgy** is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Four*.

**Are you hearing impaired?** If you are having difficulty hearing our worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

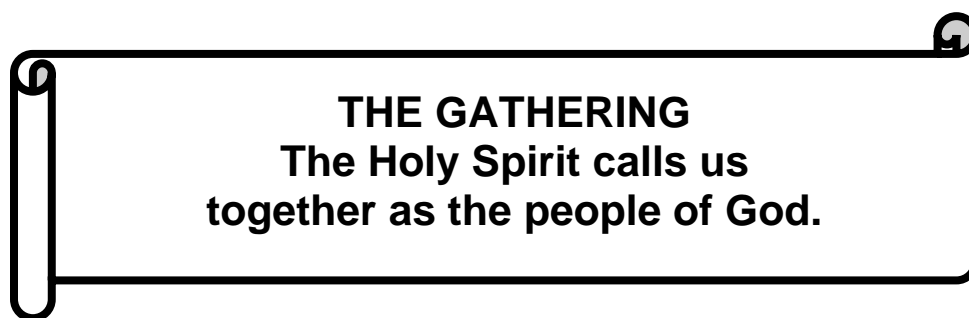
**Today's worship service** is being live-streamed beginning at 9:25am and will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9.

The service is available to view anytime on the home page of our website: [www.nlcwww.org](http://www.nlcwww.org).

**In-person attendance for last Sunday: 143**



***Weather permitting, we gather in the courtyard.***



## **THE BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR**

Todd Holly

*The shofar, or ram's horn, is one of the earliest instruments used in Jewish music, remaining unchanged for 5,000 years. It was used to announce the beginning of the Sabbath, warn of approaching danger, and proclaim the death of an important leader. In its ritual usage it carried the cries of the multitude to God at the beginning of a great assembly or parade or worship event. It is still traditionally blown on Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Jewish day of repentance). See Leviticus 25.*

The presiding minister begins....

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-11

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

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “**Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**” <sup>10</sup>**Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”** <sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## THE BLESSING OF PALMS

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

We praise You, O God,  
**for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.**  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
**and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garments and branches along his way.**

*Please raise your branches.*

Bless these branches and those who carry them.  
**Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with You; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

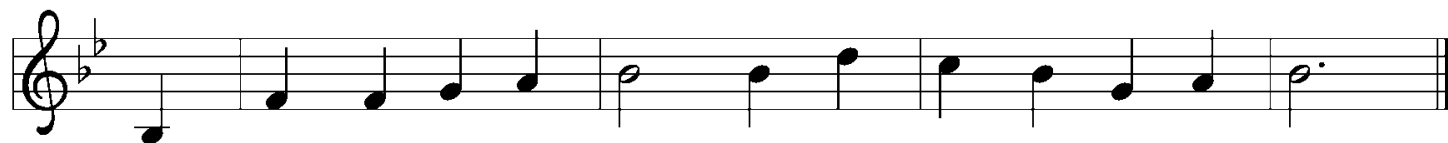
## THE PROCESSION OF THE PALMS

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The people follow the cross and the pastor to the altar as we sing...*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re-deem-er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais-ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless-ed One.  
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

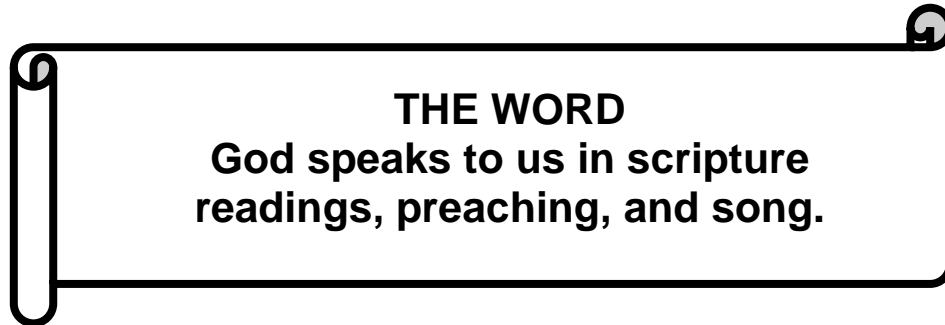
*After all are in their places....*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Hosanna*

Earlene Rentz  
Nativity Chancel Choir

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

**9:9-13**

Reader: Vicki Page

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

**Psalms 31:9-16**  
Cantor: Al Wright

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I <sup>1</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>1</sup> and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>1</sup> years with sighing;**  
**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>1</sup> are**  
**consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a  
dismay to <sup>1</sup> my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>1</sup> they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, I out of mind;**

**I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.**

**I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- on your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."**

*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 2:18-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**      *Celebrating Like Jesus*      Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson

*Please stand.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*A moment of silence for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only You know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**HYMN**      *Rejoice, for Christ is King!*      430

1 Re - jice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
 4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit

re - jice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
 and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -

jice, a - gain I say, re - jice!

*Sit or stand as you desire.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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. Now you may also contribute using Venmo or Zelle if you have an account or using the QR code below. For more information about these methods see today's Weekly Announcement Sheet.*



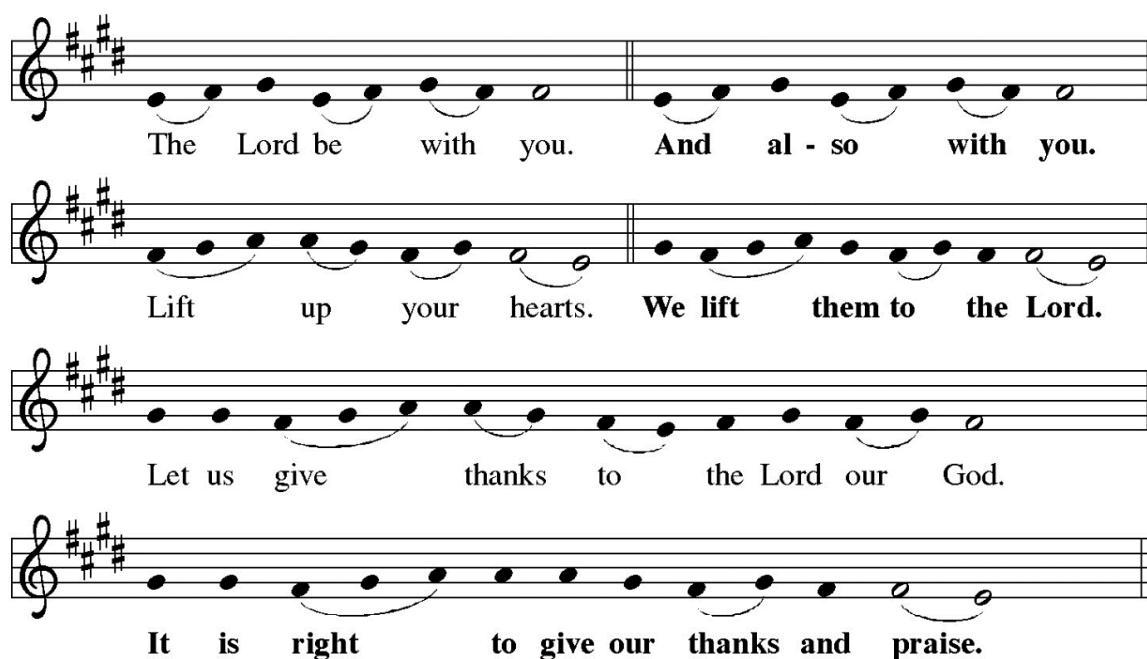
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, You are the Bread of life and the Host of this meal. **Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but give us also a hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



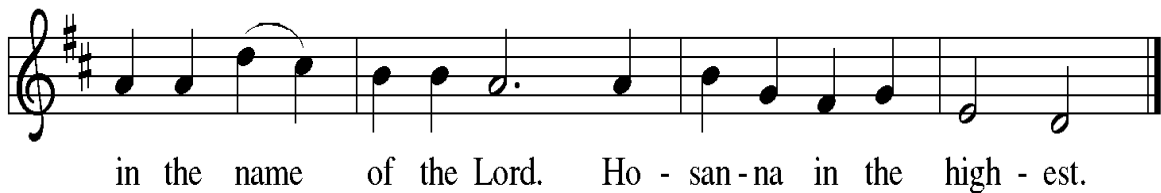
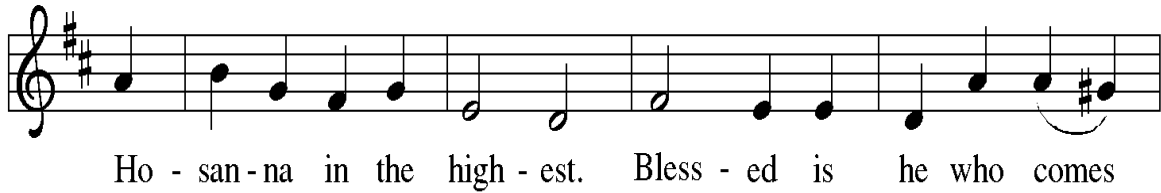
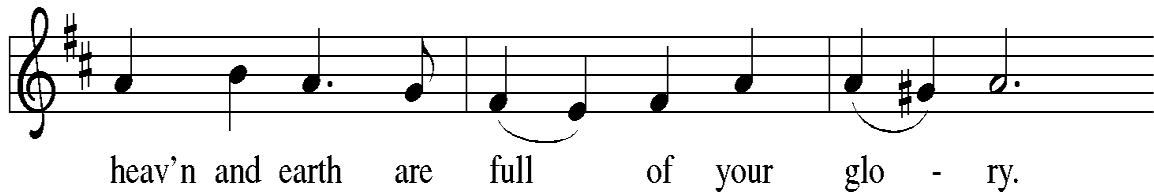
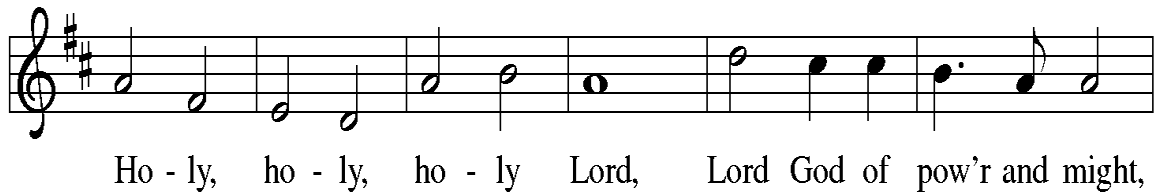
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## WORDS OF CONSECRATION

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! Guests and friends of any age and background, take your place at the table!

### *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

823, 824, 825, 838

*Please stand as you are able.*

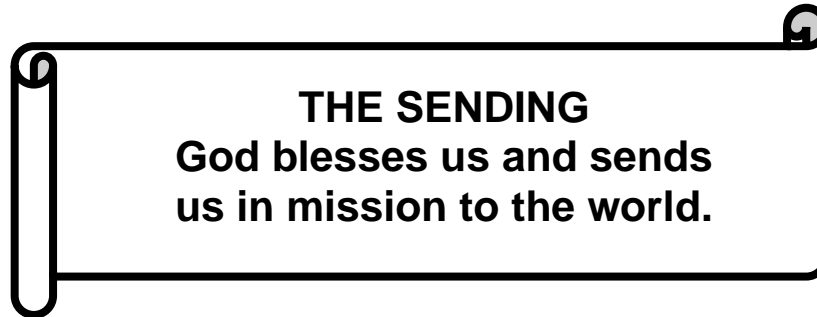
## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.



## BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ul - tant crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.  
 the vic - tory palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.



## 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 your bread! **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Hosanna to the King*

Larry Shackley

✙ ✙ ✙ ✙

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Holy Thursday – March 28, 6:00PM

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 29, 6:00PM

Easter Sunday Eucharistic Celebration

March 31, 9:30AM

**PRAYERS:** The list will be cleared every four weeks. 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**

***New this week:*** Teresa Brady, Larry Gilbert, John Mau

***Continue to pray for:*** Tina Anderson, Rob Anthony, Gus Aroyo, Tracey Baker, A & D Barsumian, Herb Baynon, Carlos Bayron family, Stephen Benner, Marlene Biachin, Windy and Bill Binns, Linda Blatt, Agnes Burkart, Cawley family, Roger Cawley, Patrick Cotter, Denise Crawford, Denning family, Judy Dietz, David Farmer, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Janis & Ryan Geiger, Rich Geiser, Gibson family, Craig Gosen, Courtney Groetsch, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Ron and Linda Hansen, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Jim Hennessey, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Joel Jensen, Rainer Jenss, Brian Johnson, John Johnson, Walter Johnson, June Johnston, Willy K., Kevin Kehoe, Buddy Kristoferson, Sandi Krol, Kerry & Lynn Krol, Sandra Lee, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren family, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Sharelle Miller, Amy Miller-Beckner, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Dot Orthman, Lisa Overs-Morton, John Persico, Ed Quiring, Daniel Raines, Judy Reid, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Angela S, Marty Salzbach, Fran Santos, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Nancy Schenning, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Tyler Shirey, Sirmenis family, Debbie, Dan & Buddy Smith Eileen Smith, Rob Southey, Barbara Strohl, Jessica Swan, Alan & Jackie Sweet, Mary Ann Szmanski, Torres family, Alice Totten, Jean Tyszinski, Jim Viereck, Wagner family, family of Chad and Katy Waldorf, West family, Luke Williams, Willy K., Richard Wright and family, Brian Yoos, Lauretta Z.

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

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Private Tony D'Angelo, Areil Dietz, Tyler A. Germann, 1st Lt. Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton

Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Cullen McDannold, Zachary McGuire, CTT1 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James Thompson-Airman 3rd Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Chief Warrant Officer 3-Adam Timmerman, Airman Bob Totten, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.



---

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Ed Lewis
<b>Preaching</b>	Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Cantor</b>	Al Wright
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Janet Jones, Noel Prettyman & Robert Rios
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
<b>Greeter</b>	Evelyn Galli
<b>AV Director</b>	Art Alt
<b>Audio</b>	Pat Squires
<b>Cameras</b>	Tim Cotter, Buddy Kristoferson & Mark Majors
<b>Graphics</b>	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
<b>Video Production</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Head counter this week</b>	Barbara Crisanti

**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](mailto:Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com), Website: nlcwww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.