

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

*Sunday, March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday in Lent*



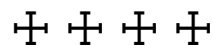
**OUR VALUES STATEMENT:** We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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:**

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*.

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

**In-person attendance for last Sunday: 138**

***PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.***

**CHIMES**

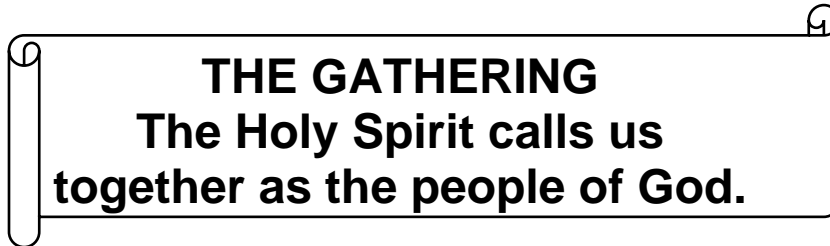
Indicates the start of worship.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Raise Your Hands*

Heather Sorenson  
Organist: Donna Olsen



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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in You I trust.**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:1.4-5)**

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

**GATHERING HYMN**

*This Is My Father's World*

824

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

## GATHERING BLESSING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

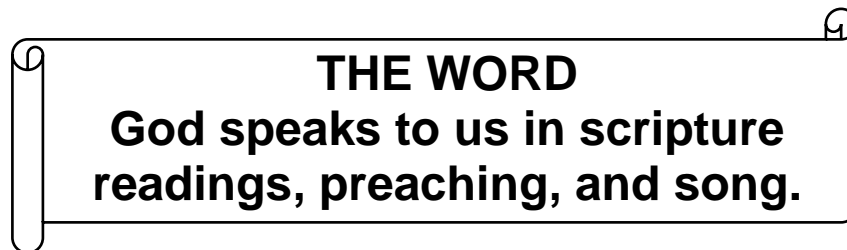
## PASTORAL GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

*Be Thou My Vision*

Lloyd Larson

Kathy Hackemer/Carlan Helgeson

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children may depart for Sunday School.*

# A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

10:1-13

Reader: Vicki Page

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?

<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year,

until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Compassionate One, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect You and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion You have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality You grant to all people. We oppress others, even though You have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In **✝** Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

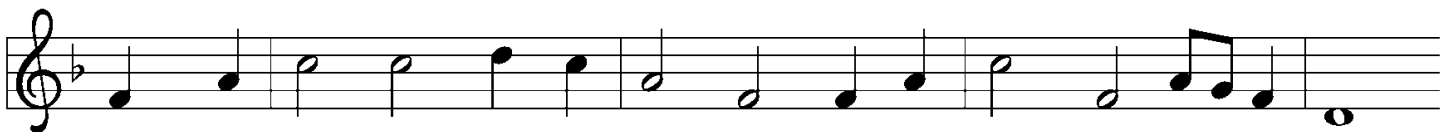




1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-press them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

*Stand or sit as you desire.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

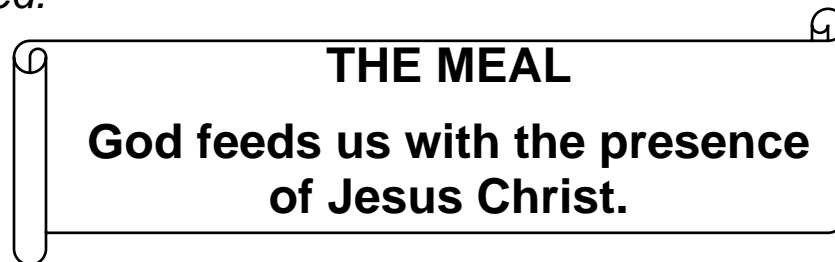
After each petition: God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*Please be seated.*



## **OFFERTORY**

*Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. You may drop your monetary 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.*



*Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, **You set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those**

treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

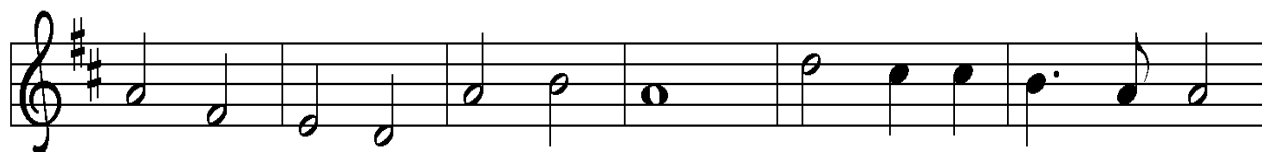
Lift up your hearts.

**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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. Guests and friends of any age and background, take your place at the table!

*You may be seated. The ushers will invite each row to come to the altar. You may stand or kneel at the communion rail and receive bread and wine (or request a gluten free host and/or grape juice). Please let an usher know if you cannot come to the altar to receive communion. We will have communion brought to you.*

### 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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

821  
Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.



## My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

*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 Host, **You have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## BLESSING

God our tender Parent, God the crucified One, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

## 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! Care for others as God cares for you!

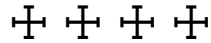
**Thanks be to God!**

# POSTLUDE

*Fanfare Postlude*

Douglas Wagner

Organist: Donna Olsen



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**COFFEE HOUR** – Please join us for fellowship in Winemiller Hall (located in the Administration Building) after today’s worship service.

**PRAYERS:** *The list will be cleared every four weeks. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than four 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:***

***Continue to pray for:*** Brian Albright, Anne B, Carlos B, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Betty Lou Bernhardt, Pat Berry, Robert Bonesteel, Windy Binns, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Iris Brunner, Agnes Burkart, Roger Cawley, Karen Chipko, Vivian Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Irene Froehlich, Vicki Goles, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Max Hrab, Joanne Johnson, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Aggie Jones, Nancy Jung, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and

family, Stephanie Krepshaw, Anthony Laviano & family, Debra Leinenger, Bob Maday, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Raina McDannold, Bradford McWilliams, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Kelly Oliver, Oliver family, Kathy Olson, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Angela Russell, John Sannuto, Sharon Schroeder, Eileen Smith, Barbara Strohl, Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Deborah Walker, West family, Willy K, Christopher Younger, Allen Yttri

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

***New this week:*** Brandon Holt-Chief Warrant Officer 3

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Private Tony D'Angelo, Areil Dietz, Tyler A. Germann, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Cullen McDannold, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James Thompson-Airman 3rd Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Airman Bob Totten, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.

***Altar Flowers:*** Please note that there are no flowers during Lent. Easter lilies will be available to order starting March 30. **EASTER LILIES** will be available to order starting March 30 at a cost of \$10.00 each. There will also be 6 hydrangeas available at a cost of \$20.00. Please use the special envelopes by the Easter lily display in the narthex to place your order.

# *Worship Leaders*

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Pat Squires
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Robert Rios
<b>Acolyte &amp; Crucifer</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Guest Organist</b>	Kathy Hackemer
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gayle Howland & Patty Werner
<b>Greeters</b>	Carol Anderson & Evelyn Galli
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
<b>AV Director</b>	Art Alt
<b>Audio</b>	Pat Squires
<b>Cameras</b>	Tim Cotter & Mark Major
<b>Graphics</b>	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
<b>Video Production</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Head counter this week</b>	Barbara Crisanti
<b>Data Entry</b>	Diane Alt

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

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.