



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

*Sunday, March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent*



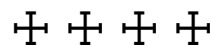
OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 148

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship.

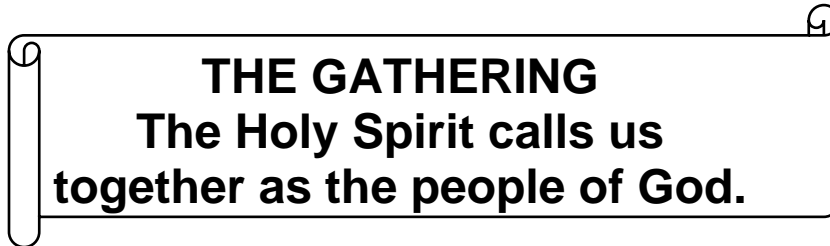
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

D Minor Prelude & Fugue

J.S. Bach

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



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.

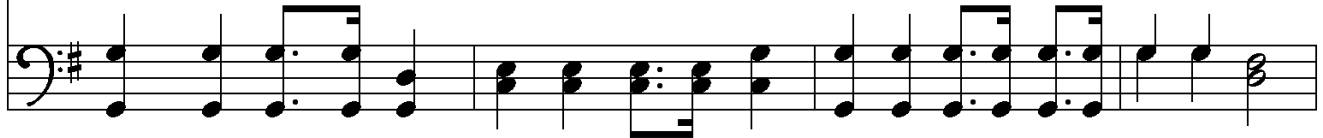
GATHERING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



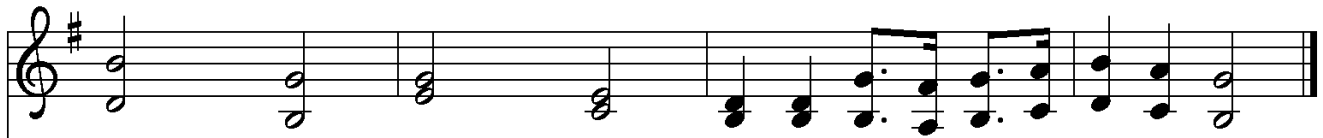
Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

GATHERING BLESSING

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

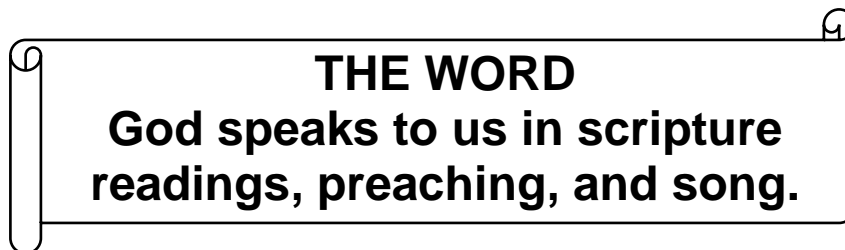
PASTORAL GREETING

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. O Lord God, You led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life You alone can give, 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

At the Foot of the Cross

Hal Wright
Soloist: Al Wright

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

10:8b-13
Reader: Steve Miller

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

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.

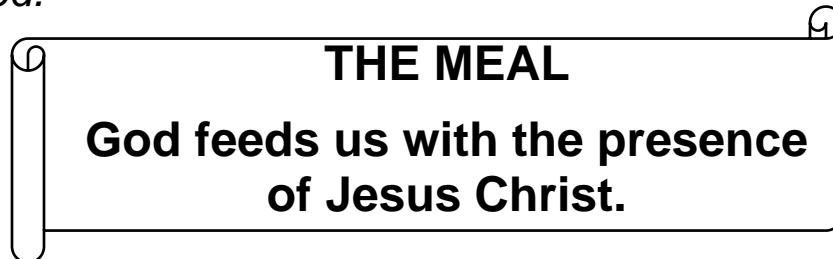
After each petition: God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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.

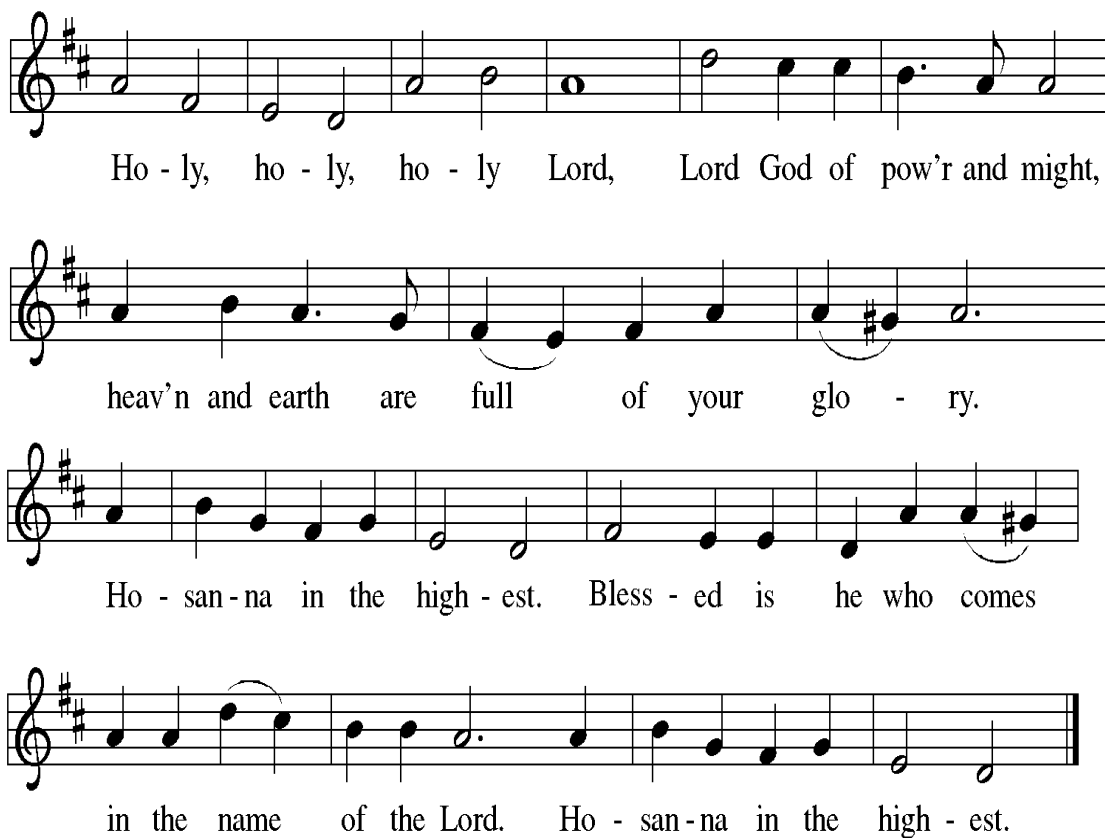
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



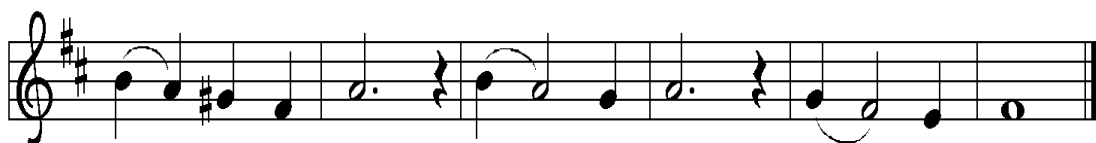
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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

485

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

856

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

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.

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

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! Care for others as God cares for you!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

Douglas Wagner

Organist: Kathy Hackemer

✙ ✙ ✙ ✙

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Luke 13:31-35

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: Pat Berry, Vicki Goles, Kathy Olson, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Anne B, Carlos B, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Betty Lou Bernhardt, 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, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Marilyn Henkel, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Max Hrab, 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, Lou Prettyman, Katherine Rizzo, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Angela Russell, John Sannuto, 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

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. This will start Sunday, March 9 through April 20. Easter lilies will be available to order starting March 30. Watch the weekly announcement sheets for further details.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Vicki Page
Scripture Reader	Steve Miller
Ushers	Joe Kleiber & Gwen Mahon
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Bell Choir Directors	Janet & Todd Holly
Altar Guild	Gayle Howland & Patty Werner
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Pat Squires
Cameras	Tim Cotter & Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	Pat Squires
Data Entry	Barbara Crisanti

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

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Phone (352) 597-1456

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, Website: 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.