

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

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Easter



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). Therefore, we welcome all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions; and work to promote anti-racism. (Adopted 4/6/25)

<u>VISION STATEMENT:</u> 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: 131

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

Jack Goode

Organist: Kathy Hackemer

THE GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give You thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower

us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into You, O Living One, make us one as You are one.

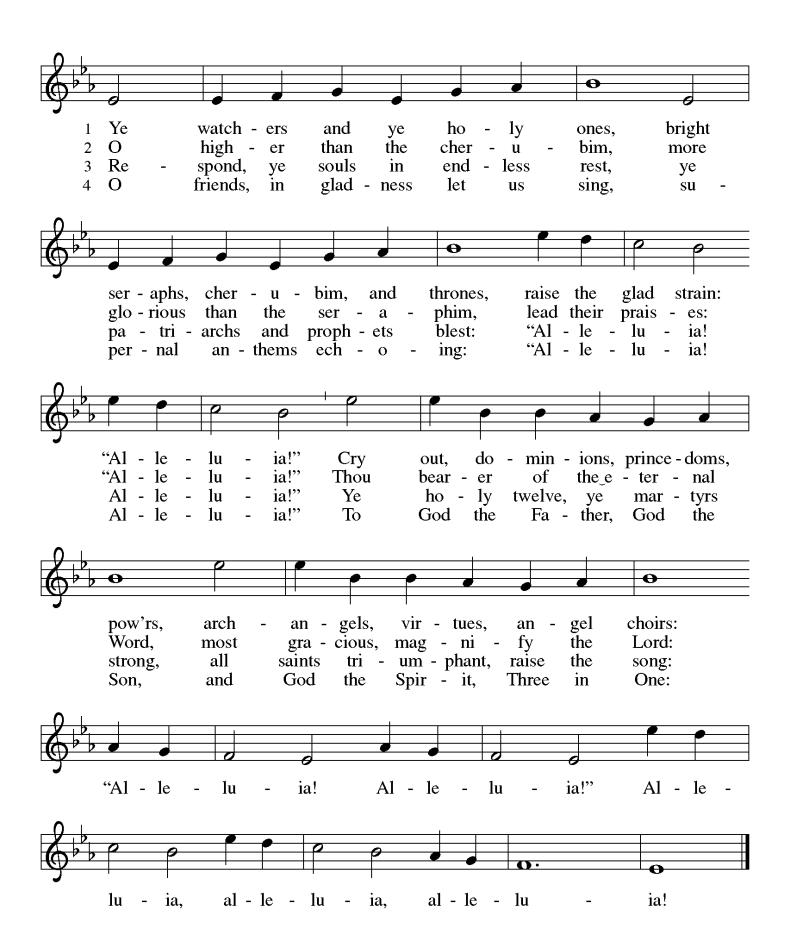
We give You thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into You, O Living One, **make us one** as You are one.

We give You thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into You, O Living One, make us one as You are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in You. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

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

GATHERING HYMN Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones 424 vv 1.2.4



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 teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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.

THE WORD
God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Great Thou Art

Lloyd Larson

Soloist: David VanHorn

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

11:1-18

Reader: Susan Nordstrom

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' 8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift

that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

Led by: Susan Nordstrom

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

- ² Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
- ³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
- ⁴ Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
- ⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- ⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
- 11 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
- princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand.

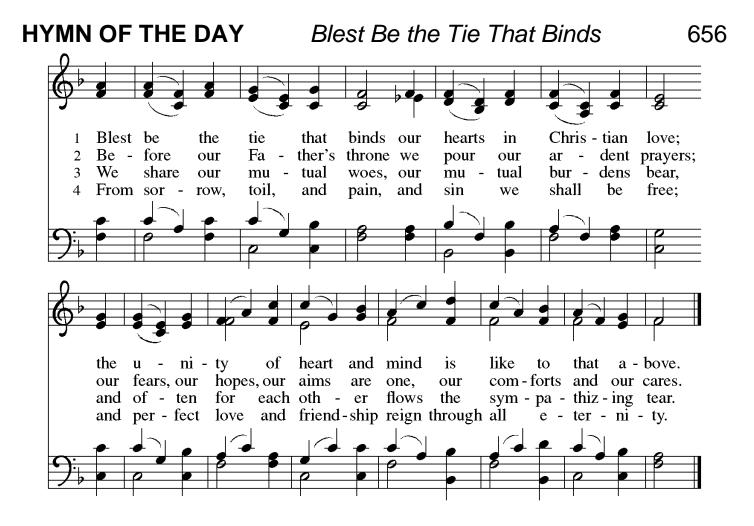
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**



Stand or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before You in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

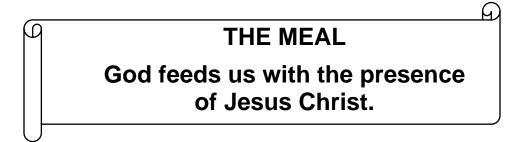
After each petition: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to You, O God, trusting that You are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.



OFFERTORY

You may place your offering in the offering plate by the baptismal font, 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 use 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.

Risen One, You have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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!

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

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:

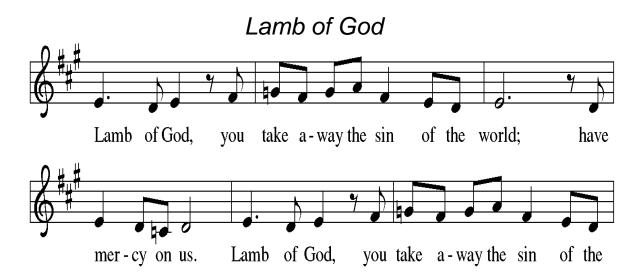
THE LORD'S PRAYER

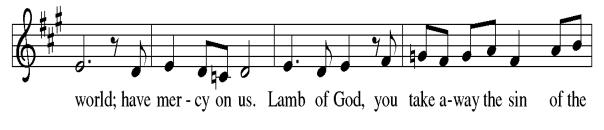
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace! Receive the gift of new life! 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.





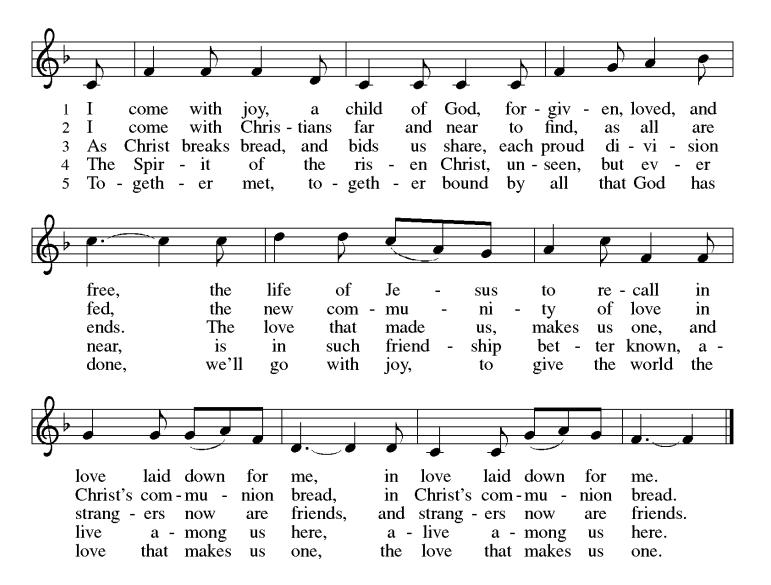


COMMUNION HYMNS

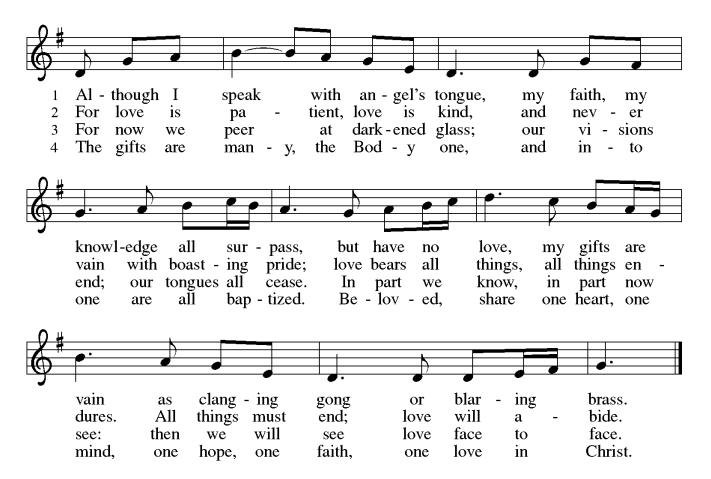
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



I Come with Joy

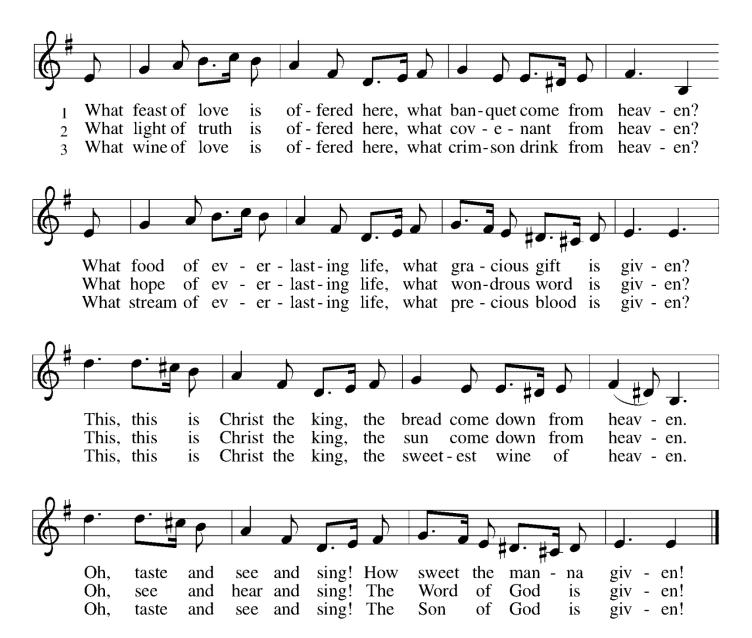


644
Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue



487What Feast of Love

487



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.

Living One, in this feast You have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

THE SENDING

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

Please be seated.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

David VanHorn

David, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus: The LORD said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." (Exodus 23:20)

When you came to this congregation, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for David, and for the time we have shared with him. As he has been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand.

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 843



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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Carillon Toccata

Douglas Wagner

Organist: Kathy Hackemer

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:9-15	Psalm: 67
Revelations 21:10, 22:5	John 14:23-29

COFFEE HOUR – Please join us for fellowship in Winemiller Hall after today's worship service.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Waltraut Bellman, Vicki Goers, Darlene McDevitt, Brian Napoli, Barbara Prochilo, Carl Strievski,

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Anne B, Carlos B, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Jimmy Barrett, Baynon family, Robert Bonesteel, Windy Binns, Ruth Brellenthin, Iris Brunner, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Steve Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Denise Crawford, Vivian Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Pablo Diaz, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Irene Froehlich, Janis & Ryan Geiger, Ruth Ann Gosen, Bob Haacke, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Candy Hall, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Willy K, Mary Katsules, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Stephanie Krepshaw, Kerry & Sandi Krol, Anthony Laviano & family, Debra Leinenger, Bob Maday, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Jackie Meyers, Raina McDannold, Mary McDowall, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Kelly Oliver, Oliver family, Lou Prettyman, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, John Sannuto, Sean, Sirmenis family, Eileen Smith, Jaclynn Sola-Hill, Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, West family, Carol Whyte, Ginger Wielk, Art Worden, Christopher Younger, Paul Zich

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Private Tony D'Angelo, Areil Dietz, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Brandon Holt-Chief Warrant Officer 3, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Perry Langbein, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Cullen McDannold, Zachary McGuire, US Navy 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.

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.



Altar Flowers are given by:

The Wahlay Family in honor of Desmond's 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

Presiding Minister Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Assisting Minister Pat Squires

Scripture Reader Susan Nordstrom

Ushers Joe Kleiber & Gwen Mahon

Greeters Evelyn Galli & Steve Miller

Music Director Donna Olsen

Bell Choir Directors Janet & Todd Holly

Altar Guild Janet Jones & Nancy Vangilder

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

June Kristoferson

Data Entry Linda Wagner

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
Music Director: Donna Olsen
Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt
Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly
Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.