



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

*Sunday, August 10, 2025  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

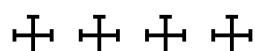


**OUR VALUES STATEMENT:** We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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)

**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: 108**

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

**CHIMES**

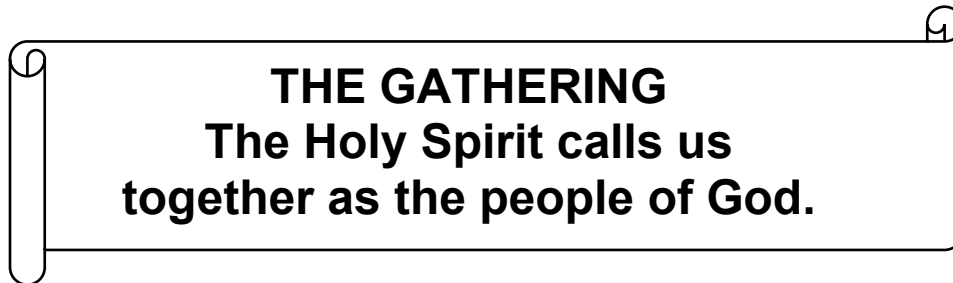
**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Before the Throne of God*

Bancroft/Cook

Organist: Donna Olsen



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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rise up, O Judge of the earth;

**give to the proud what they deserve!**

O Lord, how long shall the wicked exult?

**They crush your people, O Lord, and afflict your heritage.**

They kill the widow and the stranger; they murder the orphan,

**and they say, “The Lord does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive.”**

But the Lord will not forsake nor abandon God’s creation;

**for justice will return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.**

Can wicked rulers be allied with You, those who contrive mischief by statute?

**They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.**

But the Lord is our stronghold and refuge.  
**God will repay and restore justice.** (*Psalm 94*)

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

**GATHERING HYMN**      *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty*      858  
vv. 1,2,4

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.  
sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## PASTORAL GREETING

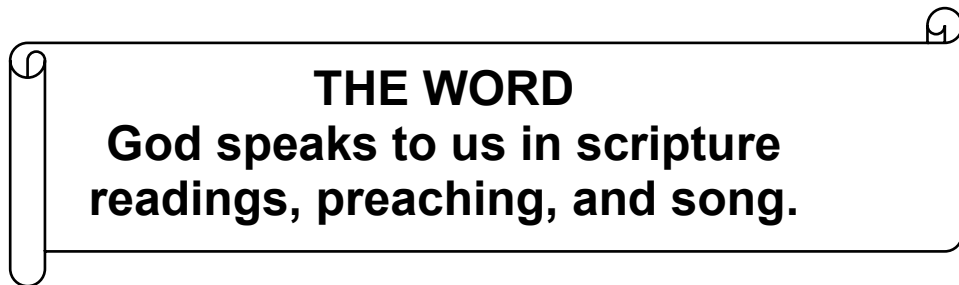
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



**SPECIAL MUSIC**     *Eighteenth Variation*     Rachmaninoff/Paganini  
Pianist: Carlan Helgeson

**A READING FROM THE LETTER  
TO THE HEBREWS**

**11:1-3, 8-16**  
Reader: Vicki Page

**PSALM 33:12-22**

Led by Vicki Page

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup> **The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the

earth.

<sup>15</sup> **God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup> **The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> **to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

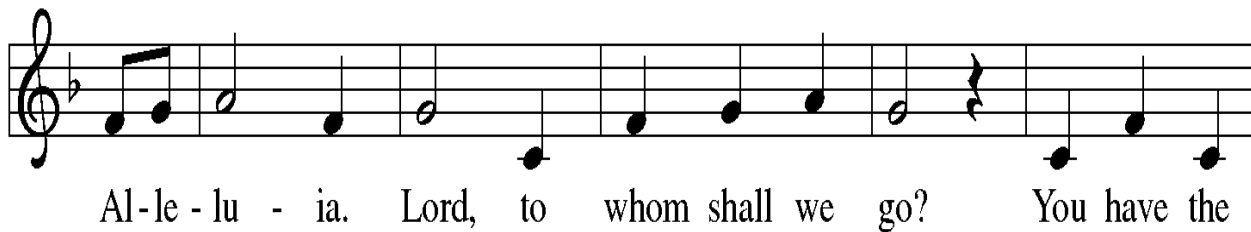
<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 12:32-40**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would

not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*A moment of silence for reflection.*

Merciful God, You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. **You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life You offer.** You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. **In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**


You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*     631  
vv. 1,2,3





1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in You, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*You may offer your neighbor a sign of peace.*

### THE MEAL

**God feeds us with the presence  
of Jesus Christ.**

## OFFERTORY

*You may place your offering in the offering basket by the baptismal font, or bring/mail to the office during the week. You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page. 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.

**Creator God, in your wisdom You bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with**

these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.**

## PREFACE



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give You thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

**He is your Word, inseparable from You, through whom You created all things, and in whom You take delight.** He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. **He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for You a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust You.**

He is the one who... in your holy church, both 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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice! 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, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

644, 638, 636, 629  
(as many as needed)

# 644



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my  
 2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er  
 3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions  
 4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to




knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are  
 vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -  
 end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now  
 one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one





vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.  
 dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.  
 see: then we will see love face to face.  
 mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.


# 638




1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:




this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.





## 636



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:  
 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;  
 3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,  
 4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,  
 our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.  
 il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,  
 While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos-mic space,  
 You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end  
 for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.  
 while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.  
 and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans-cend.  
 for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

*The Assisting Minister puts away the communion trays and covers and paten and chalice.*

*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.

Mothering God, You gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



*Please be seated.*

## **SENDING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

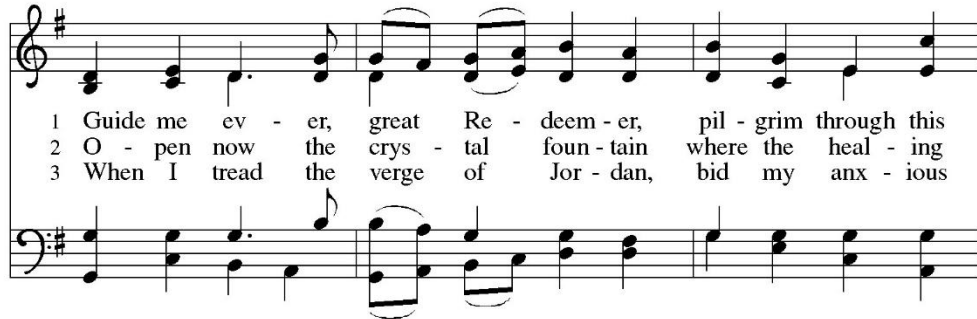
## BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

618



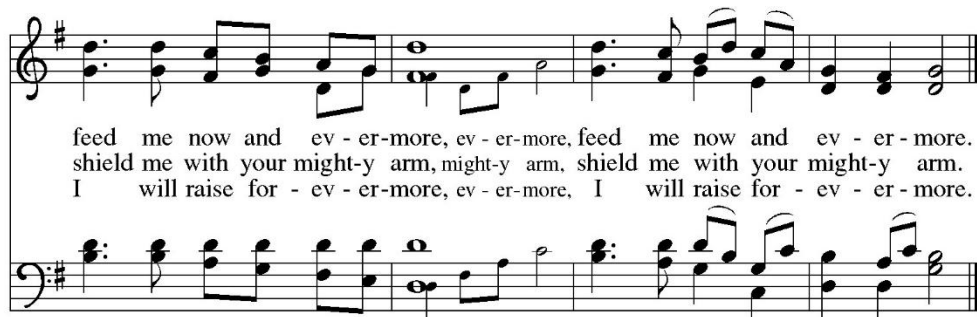
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## 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! Live by the Spirit!

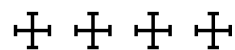
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Allegro Vivace*

G.F. Handel

Organist: Donna Olsen



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 23:23-29	Psalm: 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56

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

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

***New this week:*** Maria Baynon, Steve Miller, Nancy Salzbach, Robert Sanders

***Continue to pray for:*** Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Betty Barnhart, Jimmy Barrett, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Windy Binns, Robert Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Denise Brown, Iris Brunner, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Denise Crawford,

Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, Charlotte Downing, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Geiser family, Vicki Goers, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Candy Hall, D. Hambaugh, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Dawn Houdek, Jay Jensen, Roman Jensen, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Sue Kardasz, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Judy Kortier, Stephanie Krepshaw, Debra Leinenger, Kim Macloud, Bob Maday, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Raina McDannold, Darlene McDevitt, Mary McDowall, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Jackie Meyer, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Brian Napoli, Kelly Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, John Sannuto, Sean, Sirmenis family, Eileen Smith, Alice Totten, Nancy Vangilder, Antonio Vaznelis, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Art Worden, Christopher Younger, Eileen and Carol and Jason

### **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:** *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***

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Wayne Morris
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Wayne Morris
<b>Greeters</b>	Evelyn Galli
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gayle Howland & Linda Russo
<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>	Pat Squires
<b>Data Entry</b>	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](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

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

