

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

*Sunday, September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost*



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

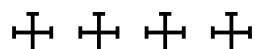


OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 116

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

You Raise Me Up

Lovland/Graham



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.

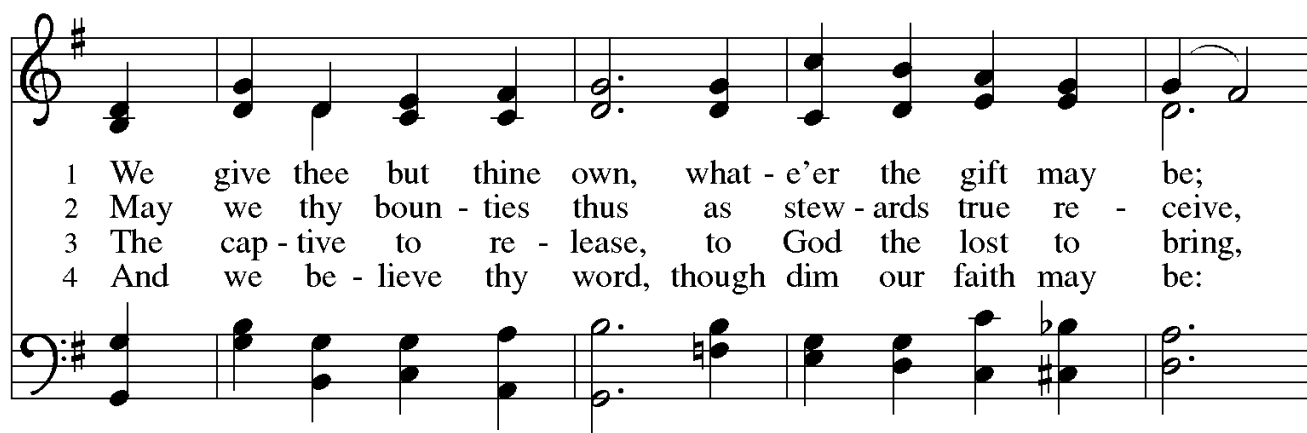
CALL TO WORSHIP

¹ It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,
² to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night (*Psalm 92:1-2*)

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

GATHERING HYMN *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

686
vv. 1,3,4



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

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. God among us... Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Sing Because I'm Happy* Rollo Dilworth
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Mattei

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS/STAFF

Children are dismissed for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER **2:1-7**
OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY Reader: Carlan Helgeson

PSALM 113 Led by Carlan Helgeson

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to You, O Lord.

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 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* 707
vv. 1,2,3

1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won-drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood

as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have -
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -

men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,

bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of

and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to You in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

We entrust these prayers to You, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. **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.

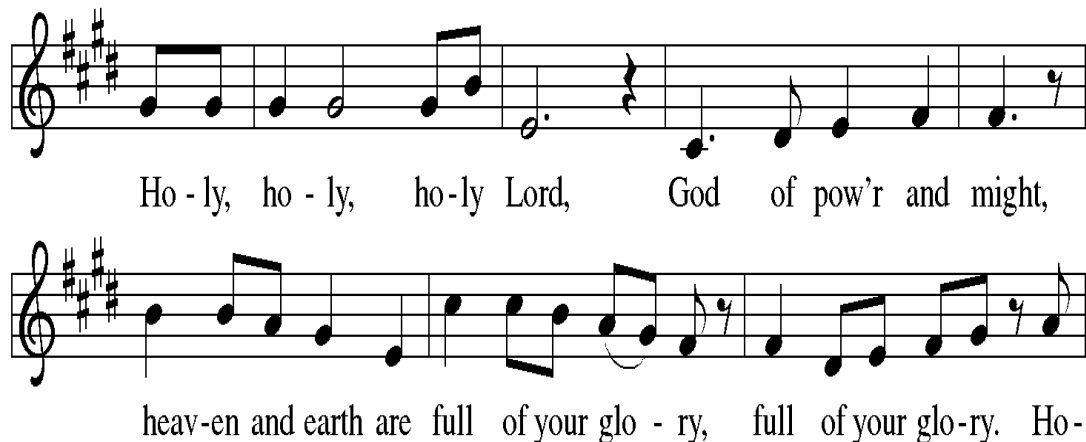
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 -



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

793

All To Jesus I Surrender

793

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



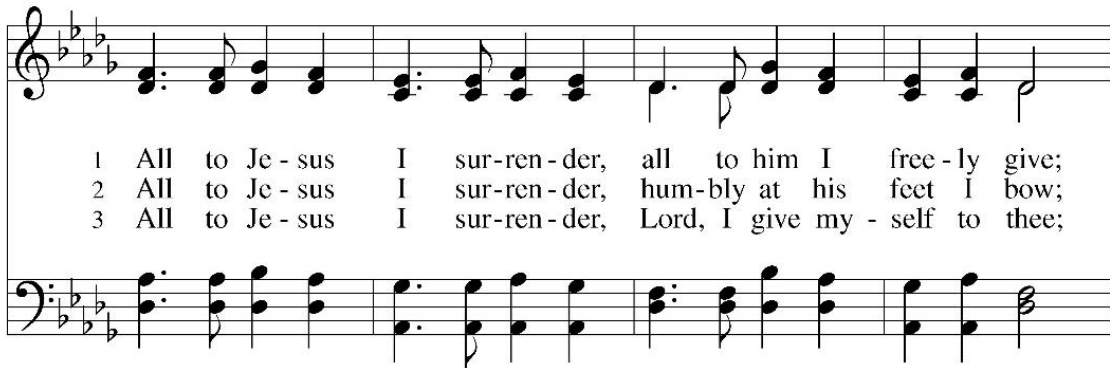
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

All to Jesus I Surrender

I Surrender All



1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;
 2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum-bly at his feet I bow;
 3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

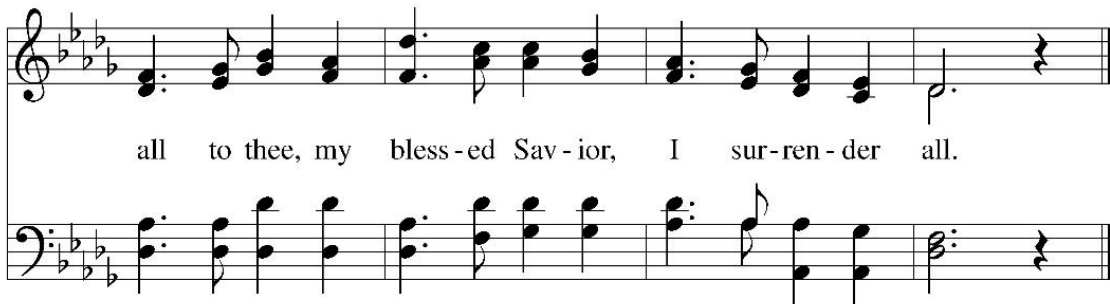


I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai - ly live.
 world-ly plea-sures all for - sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless-ings fall on me.

Refrain



I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all,
 I sur-ren - der all, I sur-ren - der all,



all to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur-ren - der all.

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.**



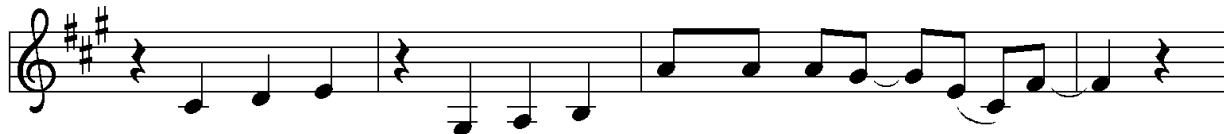
BLESSING

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

Shout to the Lord

821



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.

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

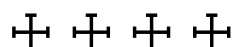
Go in peace! Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

How Great Is Our God

Tom Fettke



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Amos 6:1a, 4-7	Psalm: 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Linda Hrab, Max Hrab

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Jimmy Barrett, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Windy Binns, Robert Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Stacy Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Patti Cotter, Denise Crawford, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, D. Hambaugh, Toni Hamilton, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke,

Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Jay Jensen, Brian Johnson, Sue Kardasz, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Judy Kortier, Stephanie Krepshaw, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Kim Maccloud, Bob Maday, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Terri McBride, Raina McDannold, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Jackie Meyer, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Kelly Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, Robert Sanders, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Shaun, Sirmenis family, Jackie & Alan Sweet, Alice Totten, Nancy Vangilder, Antonio Vaznelis, Ralph Warner, 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, Isaac Furr-Army, 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:

Charlotte Downing
In memory of Steve Lynch

Larry Barnes & Charlotte Downing
In honor of Frani'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	Rev. Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Vicki Page
Scripture Reader	Carlan Helgeson
Ushers	Gwen Mahon
Acolyte/Crucifer	
Greeters	Evelyn Galli
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf, Gayle Howland & Pat Squires
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Pat Squires
Cameras	Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	Barbara Crisanti
Data Entry	Diane Alt

**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

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

