

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

*Sunday, January 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany*



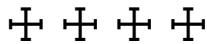
OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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: 147

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

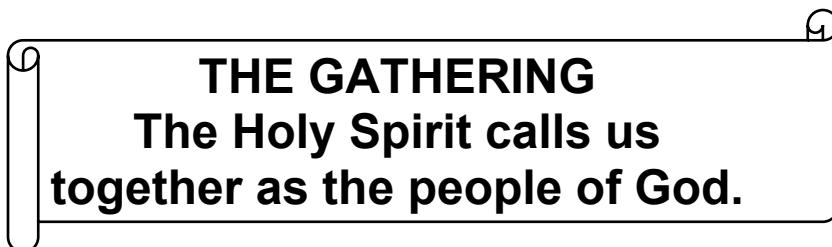
Indicates the start of worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Thou Art Worthy

Mills/Hayes



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

—*Philippians 2:5–8*

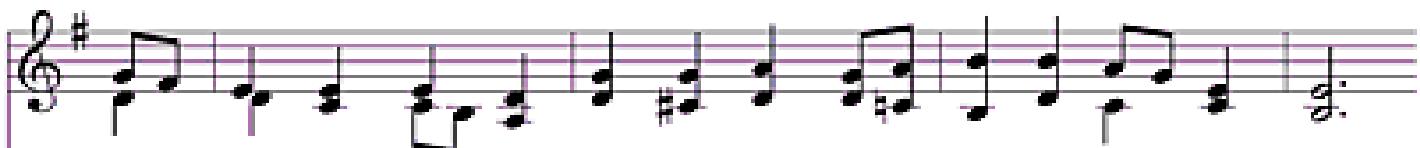
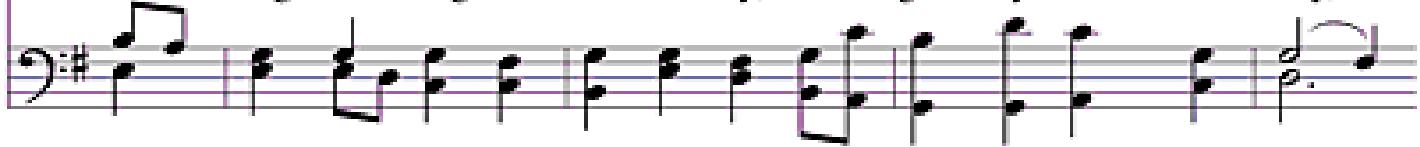
Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

GATHERING HYMN

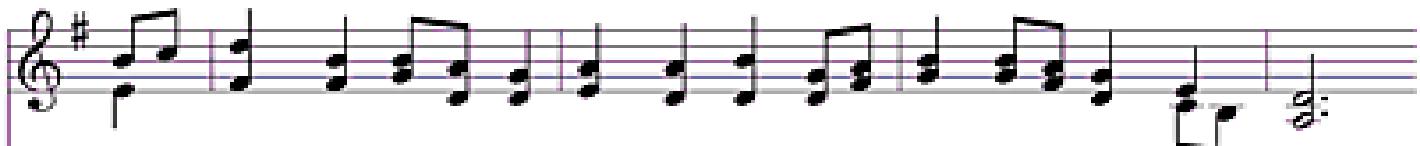
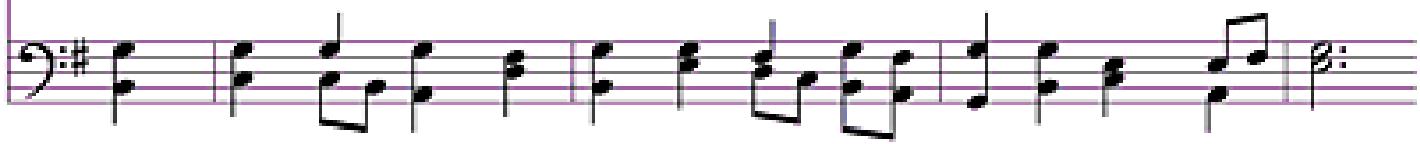
Oh, Sing a Song of Bethlehem



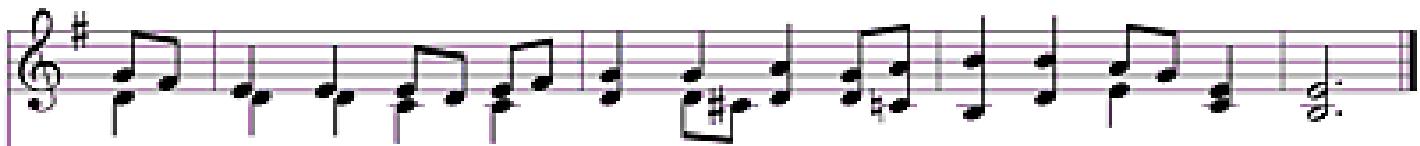
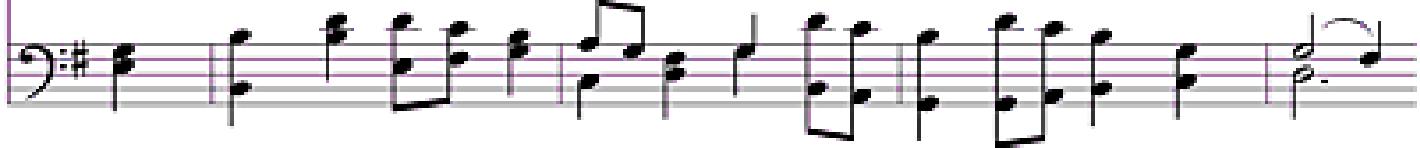
1 Oh, sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2 Oh, sing a song of Naz - a - reth, of days of joy and sun,
3 Oh, sing a song of Gal - i - lee, of lake and woods and hill,
4 Oh, sing a song of Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis - may,



and of the news that came to them from an - gels in the air:
oh, sing of fra - grant flow-ers' breath, and of the Sin - less One:
of one who walked up - on the sea and bade its waves be still:
of one who hung up - on the tree, and took our sins a - way:



the light that shone on Beth - le - hem fills all the world to - day;
for now the flow'rs of Naz - a - reth in ev - 'ry heart may grow;
for though, like waves on Gal - i - lee, rough seas of trou - ble roll,
for Christ who died on Cal - va - ry is ris - en from the grave;



of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth the an - gels sing al - way.
now spreads the fame of Je - sus' name on all the winds that blow,
when faith has heard the Sav - ior's word, falls peace up - on the soul.
God's sov - reign Child, who rec - on - ciled, is might - y now to save.



GATHERING BLESSING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **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. Holy God... Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



CHOIR ANTHEM

Who Shall Separate Us?

Pepper Choplin
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Carlan Helgeson

Children may depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

1:1-9

Reader: Noel Prettyman

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

CONFSSION AND FOREGIVENESS

Let us turn in confession to the One who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, Lover of justice, You call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from You. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, our God. Amen.

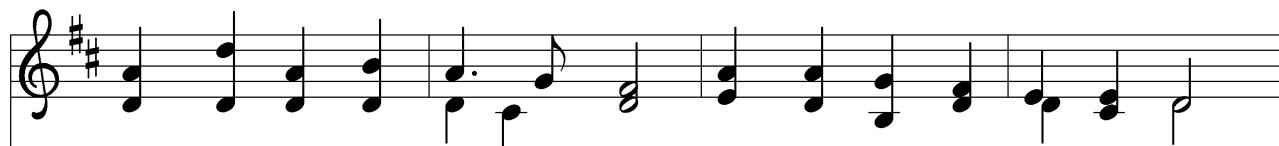
The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ and forgives your sin in \ddagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

310

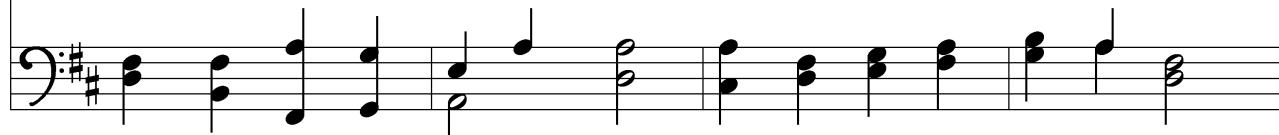
vv. 1,2,4



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - themes be to thee ad - dressed,
an - themes be to thee ad - dressed,
an - themes be to thee ad - dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

God in flesh made man - i - fest.



Please be seated.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

See Insert

Stand or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

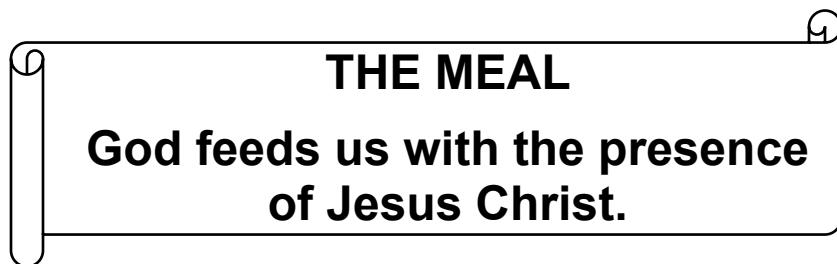
After each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **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. 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. God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what You have prepared for those who love You, yet in this meal You reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the Giver of Life:
 Blessed are You for the birth of creation.

Blessed are You in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are You for your promise to your people.

Blessed are You in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are You for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are You for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
 full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
 resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see! 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

315 and 302

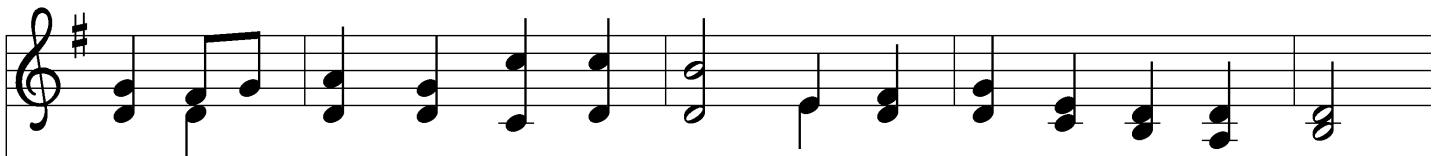
315

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

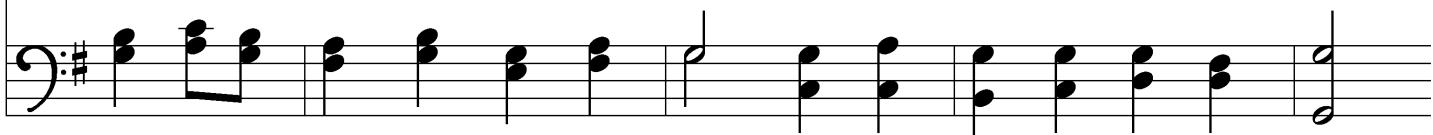
1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

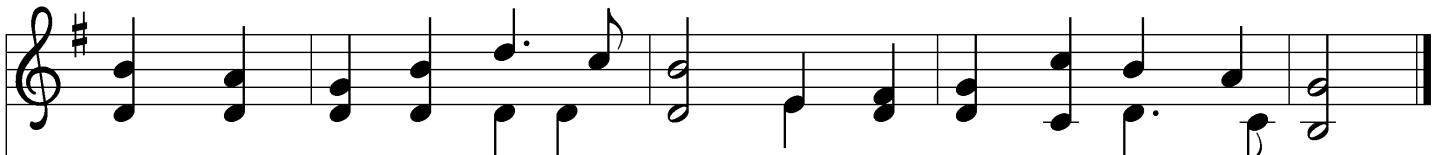
302
As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

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. Radiant God, **we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood You have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise \pm bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

314

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

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

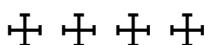
DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Do justice! Love mercy!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Trio



Francois Couperin

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

COFFEE HOUR – Everyone is invited to a free spaghetti lunch sponsored by W.O.N. (Women of Nativity) in Winemiller Hall immediately following the January 18 Congregational Annual Meeting.

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: Harlee Brown, Jane Henkel, Beth Johansson

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Waltraut Bellmann, Windy Binns, Robert Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Diane Cello, Stacy Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Beryl Clements, Patti Cotter, Denise Crawford, Charles Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Patrick Gould, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Carrie Hall-Tannenbaum, D. Hambaugh, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Marilyn Henkel, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Brian Johnson, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Leonore Kopitzke, Stephanie Krepshaw, Mary Krol, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Donna Lucier,

Bob Maday, Germaine Major, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Raina McDannold, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Beth Morris, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Kelly Oliver, Brian Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Katherine Rizzo, Colleen Rocco, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Shaun, Sirmenis family, Kathy Swank, Jackie Sweet, Bob & Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Vernon, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Howard Williams, Luke Williams, Christopher Younger, Eileen and Carol and Jason



Altar flowers are given by:

Linda Rizzo In memory of her dad, Ted Bailey, and her brother, Ron Bailey. May they be resting in peace.

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	Kim Porter
Scripture Reader	Noel Prettyman
Acolyte & Crucifer	Lou Prettyman
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Mae Haines & Janet Jones
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Francesca Bugini & Pat Squires
Cameras	Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	June Kristoferson
Data Entry	Judy Brayman

**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: nlcw.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.

