



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

*Sunday, April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter*



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



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

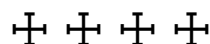
OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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: 128

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

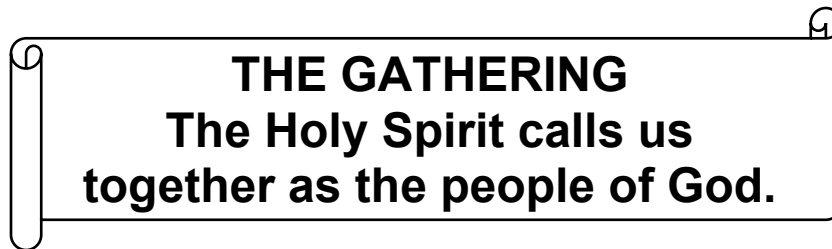
CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Our Great Savior

Rowland Prichard



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy and innocent and loving people.

God was loving and kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children.

God treated us with undeserved grace because of the Son he dearly loves, and so we should praise God. (Ephesians 1:3-6, CEV translation)

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

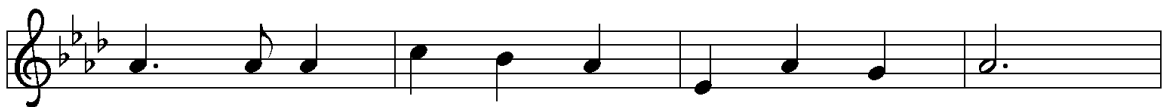
GATHERING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

377
vv 1,2,5



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



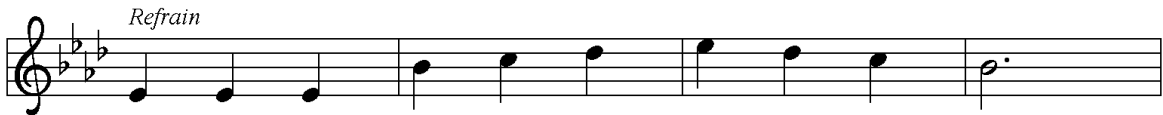
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

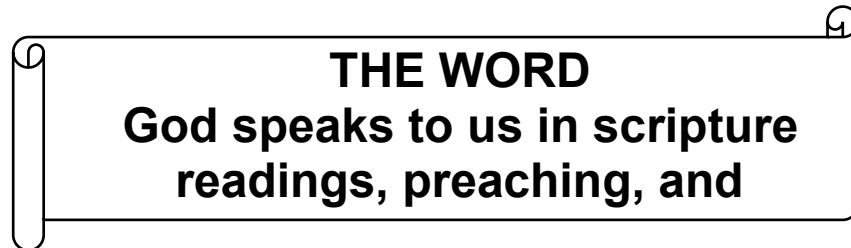
PASTORAL GREETING

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 God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



ANTHEM

We Have Seen the Risen Lord

Stan Bethel
Chancel Choir

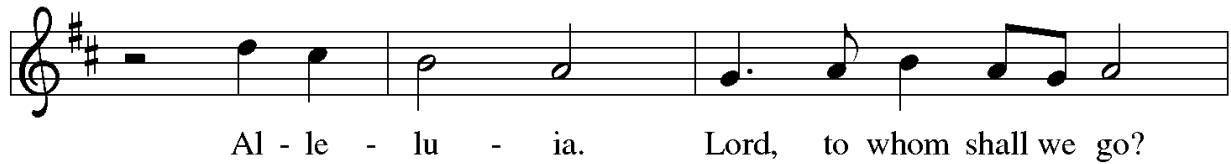
Children's Message, then they are dismissed for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

1:17-23
Reader: Leonore Kopitzke

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

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

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* 385
 vv 1,2,3

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joyce and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joyce and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

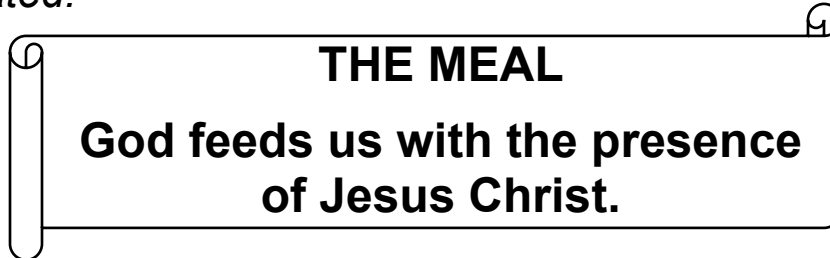
After each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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. Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give You glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world You love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

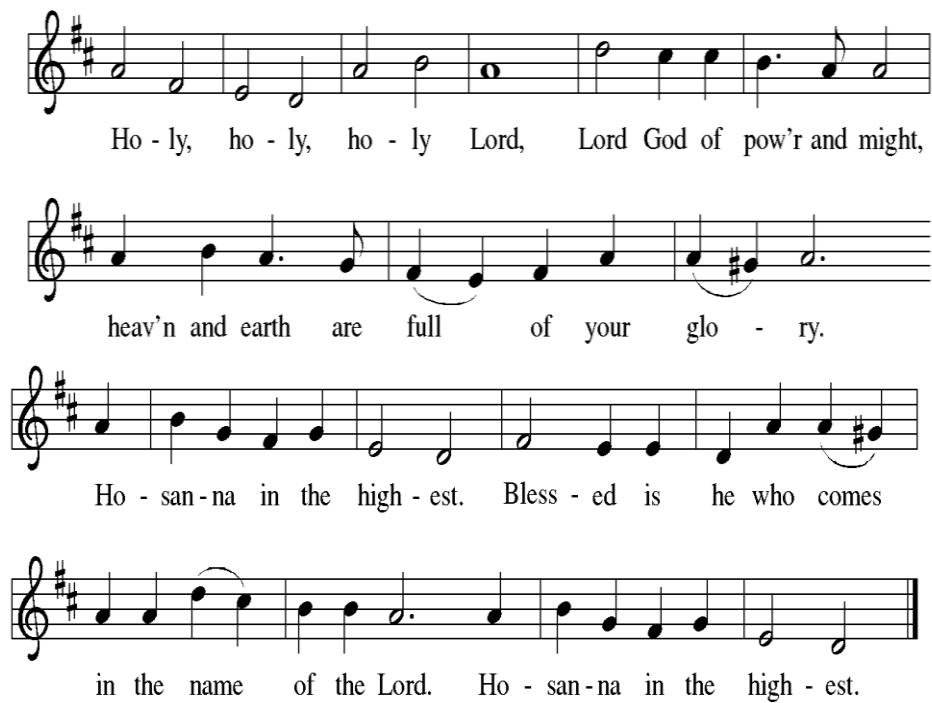
Please stand as you are able.

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.

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 new life! Receive the risen Lord! Guests and friends of any age and background, come, let us feast together!

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

392 – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus Wonderful Merciful Savior

392

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

1. Won - der - ful, mer - ci - ful Sav - ior, pre - cious Re - deem - er and
 2. Coun - se - lor, Com - fort - er, Keep - er, Spir - it we long to em -
 3. Al - might - y, in - fi - nite Fa - ther, fath - ful - ly lov - ing Your

Friend; who would have thought that a Lamb could res - cue the
 brace, You of - fer hope when our hearts have hope - less - ly
 own; here in our weak - ness You find us fall - ing be -

souls of men? Oh, You res - cue the souls of men (to verse 2)
 lost the way, oh, we hope - less - ly lost the way (to Refrain)
 fore Your throne, oh, we're fall - ing be - fore Your throne (to Refrain)

Refrain

You are the One that we praise, You are the One we a -

dore, You give the heal - ing and grace our hearts al - ways hun - ger

for, oh, our hearts al - ways hun - ger for.

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

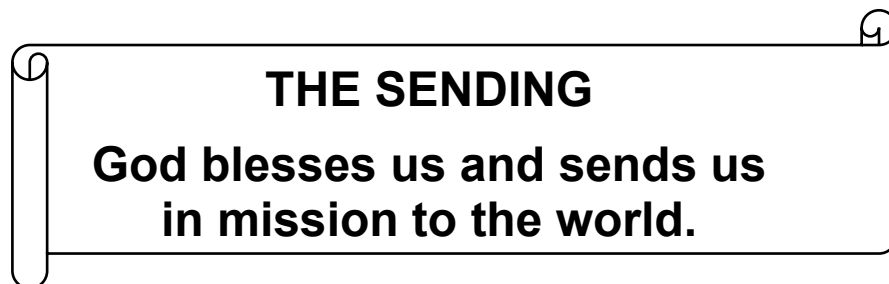
Please stand as you are able.

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. Holy One, **through this meal You have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**



BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our Advocate and Peace, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* 389
vv 1,2,5

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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! Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *All Glory Be to God on High* Joseph Prentiss

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

COFFEE HOUR – Please join us for fellowship in Winemiller Hall 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: Justin Jensen, Wayne McCarthy, Laura Nelson, Bob Schneider

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B., Debra B., Carlos Bayron, Eric Vincent Baez, Baker family, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Betty Lou Bernhardt, Pat Berry, Windy Binns, L. Bizzy, Ruth Brellenthin, Harlee Brown, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Lynn Cawley, Diane Cello, Stacy Christian, Karen Chipko, Patti Cotter, Melissa Cotter, Kat Crawford, Joe Crawford, Charles Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Randy Donkel, Marylou Fallon, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, D. Hambaugh, Beth Hammood, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Beth Johassen, Brian Johnson, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Kevin, Stephanie Krepshaw, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Donna Lucier, Bob Maday, Germaine Major, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Kelly Oliver, Brian Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Jennifer Busch Pontrelli, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Verna Robsen, Colleen Rocco, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Dick Schaefer, Shaun, Sirmenis family, William Stewart, Kathy Swank, Jackie Sweet, Bob & Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Vernon, Wahlund family, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Luke Williams, 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, Isaac Furr-Army, Lt. Col. 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, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.

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	Norm Davis
Scripture Reader	Leonore Kopitzke
Acolyte & Crucifer	Lou Prettyman
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Wayne Morris
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Connie Chase, Suzanne Chelf & Pat Squires
Greeter	Evelyn Galli & Noel Prettyman
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Gayle Howland
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	Judie 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: nlcww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.



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