Holy Nativity Lutheran Church

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090

OUR MISSION

Graced by a loving God to be a caring community of faith the fellowship of Holy Nativity is called to support one another, warmly welcoming others into our community, sharing in the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and reaching out in witness and service to the communities to which we belong as one in the Body of Christ.

Worship Service for Sunday, November 8, 2026
24th Sunday after Pentecost LBW Holy Communion Setting One

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In response to God's overwhelming love, we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy and by God's Spirit we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome all as members of our church family including any who have ever felt excluded by the Church for any of the reasons that too often divide us.

We are so glad you have joined us today!

First-time guests: *Please fill out a Communion Card and place it in the offering plate.* Newcomer orientations are held on various days several times a year for those who are interested in learning more about HNLC.

Restrooms are located in the hallway between the lobby and our fellowship hall.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Dot Jeffers in loving memory of her parents.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God.

PRELUDE *How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings* arr. L. Smith



Introduction to the day
Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

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

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

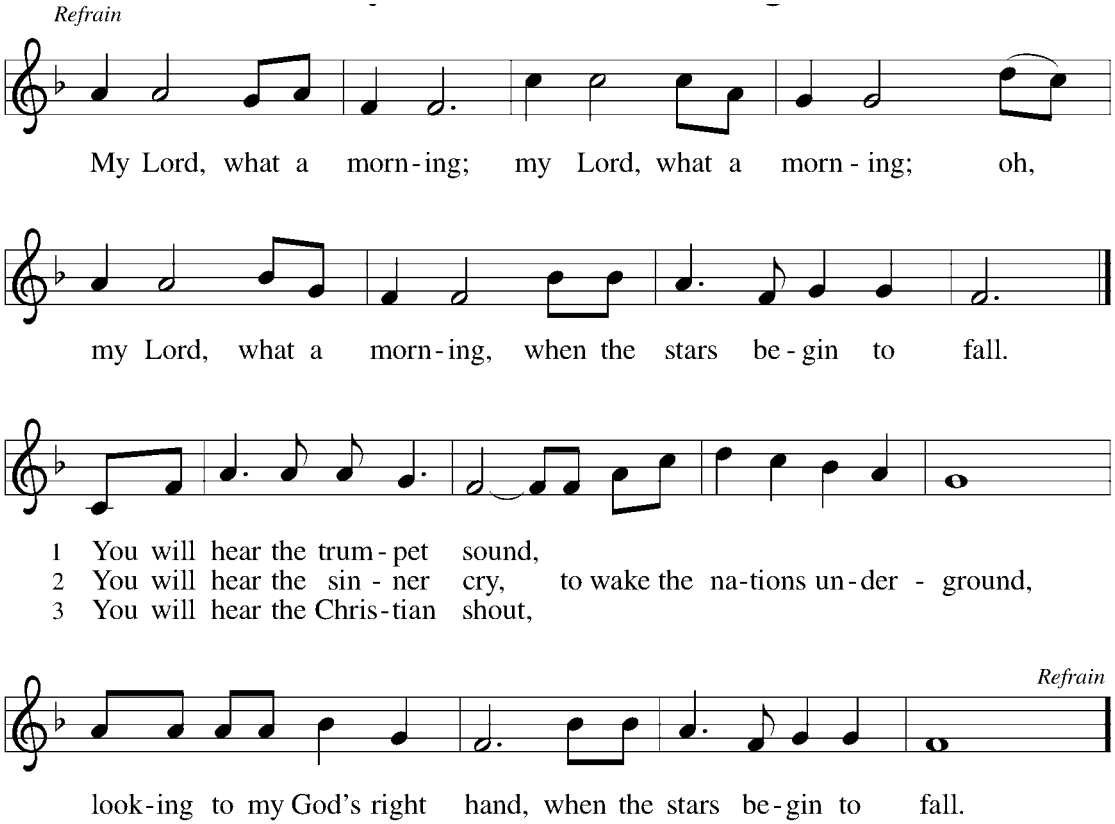
Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through (+) Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *My Lord, What a Morning* (WOV 627)



GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24 A reading from Amos.
In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 70 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: You are my helper and | my deliverer; * O LORD, | do not tarry. *(Ps. 70:5)*

Refrain: You are my helper and | my deliverer; * O LORD, | do not tarry.

1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me; * O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded; * let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.**
Refrain: You are my helper and | my deliverer; * O LORD, | do not tarry.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me * turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; * let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God. * You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.
Refrain: You are my helper and | my deliverer; * O LORD, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 A reading from 1st Thessalonians.
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Keep awake and | be ready, *for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

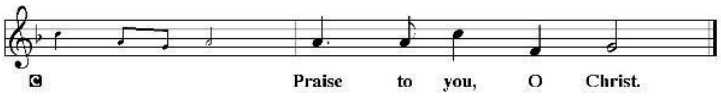


GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 The holy gospel according to Matthew.



Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their
lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was
delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No!
there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'
[10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the
wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to
us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the
day nor the hour."

The gospel of the Lord. 

HOMILY *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (LBW 25 v. 1,2 & 4)



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

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*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397 Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855 Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Pope Leo XIV as he recovers from surgery, Prayers for Bishop Christa Compton and her family with the passing of her mother Nancy, Prayers for St. Ambrose in Pennsville as they continue their pastoral search, Prayers for our service men and women serving in the current military actions, especially for those we have lost, Holly & Duane, The family of Norman Albinson as they mourn his passing, Dawn Allen, Anna-Beth Arnes, The family of Anthony Assante as they mourn his passing, Nicholas Baud, John Belko, Jessica Black, Ralph and Angel Branca as they mourn the loss of their grandson, Devon M. Bennett, Lorraine Brecht, Wanda Bryan, Madelene Budd, Mike Bundy, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Maverick Cleavenger, Baby Landyn and Kristen Compagoni, Sherwood Cotton, Bob Counbs, Craig (diagnosed with cancer), Rocco Cristinzio, Leslie Criston, Milton Cuevas, Sr., Milton Cuevas, Jr., The family of John Cusack as they grieve his passing, The family of Nicholas Damiani as they mourn his passing, Lou Deaine, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Dylan Dinh, Kathy Drew, Kristen Dymond, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Bill Flynn, Francis, Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Stephen and Juliet Genovese, The family of Walter Gifford as they mourn his passing, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, Joe Gorman, Collet Grasso, The family and friends of Gretchen Gravinese as they mourn her passing, The family of Steve Harris as they mourn his passing, the Hatcher family, The friends and family of Jim Hynes as they mourn his passing, Heather and Kim Hyson and family in their time of bereavement, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, Chaley Klotz, Prayers for the friends and family of Ralph Konschak as they mourn his passing, Martha Kryzwonas, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joe Lewandowski, Desmond Licata, Joseph Lonia, Bill Ludwig, Bill Mann, Joseph Mansfield, John Markovski, Janaa Minzy, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, Bob and Sue Nevins, Lisa Nobile, Nancy Oberle, Janet Ostrowski, Lucas Otey, Loretta O'Neill, Otis, Donna Paone, Robert Rasmussen, Rita Paul, Danielle Peters, Lauren Rebstock, The family of Bill Reese as they mourn his passing, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Jen Rossi, The family of Scott Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, Ken Sauer, Marc Sauer, Joseph Schiffer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Helen Simkunas & Family, Ronnie Snyder, The family of Deb Solt as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, The family and friends of Rita Stein as they mourn her passing, Claudia Storhoff, Nathan Storhoff, Samantha Sumner, Donna Testa, The family of Jeff Thomas as they mourn his passing, Mark & Candy Tryson, Ed Tutka, Sharon Walker, Wayne Weaver, The Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Jill Wilt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (*relief ministries or organizations may be named*). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Rain Down* arr. J. Carter

OFFERTORY VERSE



AUTUMN OFFERING PRAYER
God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

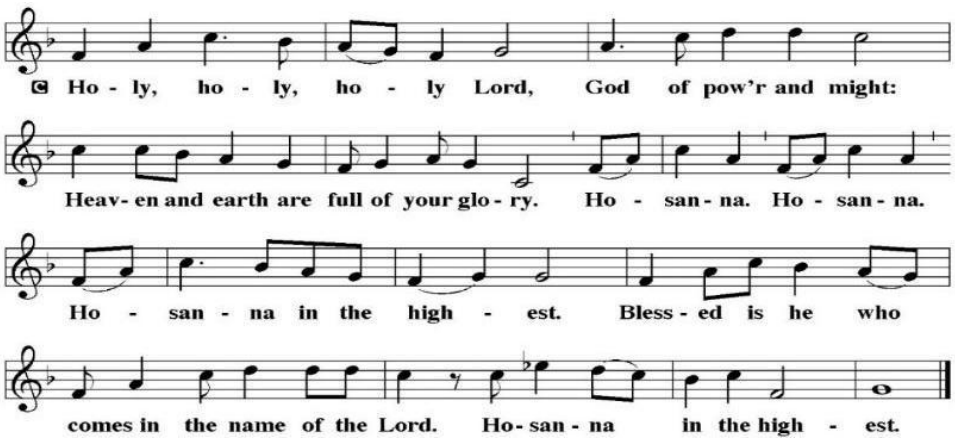
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

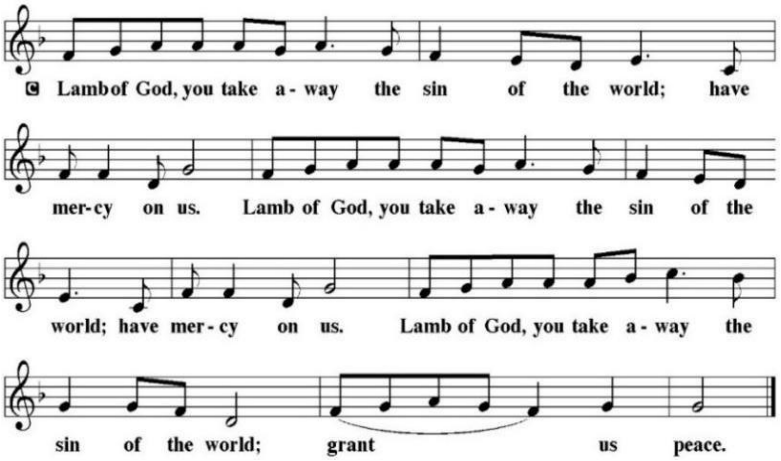
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

AUTUMN INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

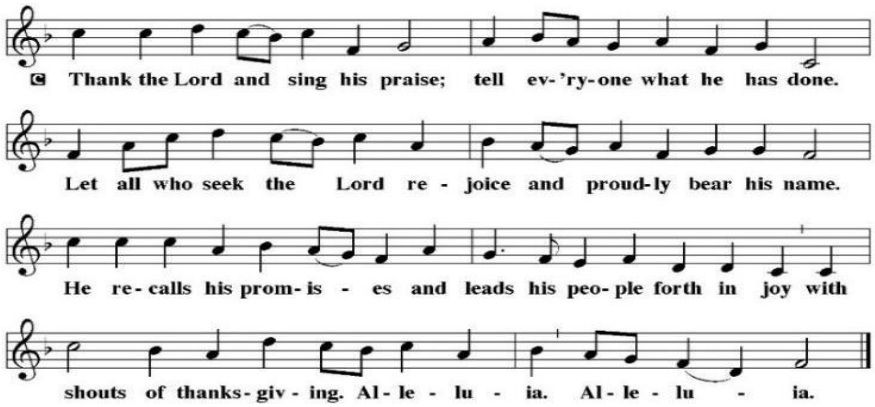
COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING
May the body and blood of our risen savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you now and forever in God's grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



AUTUMN PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Sustaining God, **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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

SENDING OF COMMUNION
Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this

sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING
The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace (+) bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Soon and Very Soon* (WOV 744)

(Due to copyright regulations, no downloads are available. With One Voice is under the chair in front of you.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received October 31st and November 1st -$3534.00 Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--$2614.00. Total received to date—$109502.12. Amount needed to date--$115016.00. (**Please don't forget the church if you will be away!**)
- The weekly bulletin is emailed to members each Thursday or Friday prior to the weekend. If for some reason you did not receive the email or have trouble opening the file, you can also access the bulletin on the church's website.
- Reminder! If you sign up to sponsor altar flowers ($35) or sanctuary candle ($10), please remember your payment. Also, please let the church office know how you would like your dedication to read in the bulletin.
- BREAKFAST MINISTRY—Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury has launched a new breakfast ministry. It offers free cold breakfast to the Woodbury community on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10 am in the Parish Hall at 62 Delaware Avenue. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. The next date is November 21, 2026.
- Donations through Venmo and PayPal--Please note that, per council policy, if you make an electronic donation through Venmo or PayPal, it will not be recorded on your annual giving statement. It is the member's responsibility to track these donations for tax purposes.

Donate

- Shop Rite shopping cards are available for purchase after the services.
- FEED THE NORTHEAST CAMPAIGN—We have reached our goal. Thank you for your generosity.
- ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PANTRY is here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let us try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. We are open every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Next distribution date: Saturday, November 21, 2026.
- GREATER WOODBURY COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES is a joint effort by 13 Faith Communities to serve people within our area. A major part of the services offered by the GWCM is through our Food Pantries and Clothing Distribution Center. Clients in need of assistance are given a standard assortment of grocery items according to the size of their family, plus fresh fruits and vegetables and special treats.
  THANKSGIVING "FIXINS" – BRING NOW
  Gravy, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Cranberry Sauce, Cake Mix, Icing. Bring whatever items you collect. They will do the bagging so that all bags are the same. You may drop off your church collections any Tuesday or Thursday morning. We are there from 8:00AM until 11:00AM. (Clients come from 9:00-11:00). They will be distributing Turkeys and Fixins on Nov. 17 and 19. **Please do NOT wait until then to bring us your collections.**
  HYGIENE BAGS for CHRISTMAS BRING DEC. 8, 2026

Start with a Gallon size Zip-Loc Plastic Bag. Fill with these basic items: Shampoo, Deodorant, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream
Suggestions: Buy your items from the Dollar Stores. When choosing the size of an item, keep in mind that it has to fit in the Gallon sized Zip-Loc bag. Because most of the shampoo containers are large, turn the bottle sideways and put it in the bag first, then add the other items. Keep in mind that the bags need to be CLOSED after you fill them.

They will be distributing the Hygiene Bags on Dec. 15 and 17. All Hygiene Bags should already be assembled before **dropping them off on Dec 8**. If you have donations that were too big for the bags, you may give those for our general distributions at a later time. They appreciate all that each of the churches do to help us serve those in need. We couldn't do any of these things without your help.

- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Please come and join us for coffee and fellowship this Sunday, November 1st.
- GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Lay members of congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in the church and community. If you would be interested in this program, check out the website www.njdiakonia.com for more information.
- There are two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. Clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: including clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They do not accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy.
- If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.
- Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings @ 9:40. All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are held between services on Sunday mornings. Church school resources are also available on our website on a weekly basis.

DISMISSAL
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Psalm of Glory* W. Barrett

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (The Challenge of Waiting)

For many of us, waiting is not a pleasant experience. Whether our waiting is mundane, like waiting in a long line at the grocery store checkout counter, or profound, like waiting for a medical diagnosis or for a new stage of life to begin, we often feel anxious or uneasy, impatient or frustrated, longing for the wait to be over. Over the course of our lives, we get plenty of experience with waiting but might never learn to be patient, even amid the frustration.

As uncomfortable as waiting may be, it is a necessary aspect of the life of faith. We live in the days between Christ's coming at his birth and his return, that longed-for day of hope and promises fulfilled. Seasons of our liturgical life train us in the art of holy waiting. We wait during Advent for Christ's birth, longing for the joy of his arrival as a child in Bethlehem. We wait during Lent for the bright joy of resurrection, abstaining from "alleluias" and quieting ourselves with prayer and fasting. Just as the young women in today's parable had to continue their daily living until the bridegroom returned (all of them, even the wise ones, went to sleep that night!), in all seasons we go about our lives faithfully, even as we wait with eager longing.

Many generations after the telling of this parable, how are we living as people prepared for the coming of Christ? How are we opening our daily lives to the possibilities that Christ will come among us at any moment?

We are invited to live with eager expectation, watchful for the grace and love of God through Jesus Christ, which meets us when we least expect it.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090
856-468-5760
hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Brett Montana

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Christian Education
Vince Montana—Property
Joyce Bradbury—Council Member
Donna DeFrank—Secretary/Stewardship
Lori Kershaw—President/Social Ministry and Outreach
Kim Theriault—Vice President/Social Ministry and Outreach
Juliet Genovese—Council Member
Stephen Genovese—Council Member
Karen Cusack—Finance
Brett Montana—Youth Representative
Caryl Carthew—Financial Secretary/Worship and Music
Diane Yandach—Treasurer