

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 92nd Year”

August 31, 2025



Welcome to Nativity Lutheran Church; please take a moment to fill out the visitor cards found in the pews. Prayer request can be filled out on the reverse side of the visitor card; you may place the card in the offering box or give them to Pastor Kuhl. The service today includes Holy Communion and all who desire to receive what our Lord offers in this meal, his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to partake. For your convenience, restrooms are located in Goetz Hall on the lower level; the staircases in the church building narthex access them. There is a semi handicapped, unisex restroom located through the left front door of the sanctuary.

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

*Incorporating the Lutheran Rite of Healing
and Affirmation Of Christian Vocation:
Daily Work – Labor Day*

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl
Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard
Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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Prelude

Lord of Love Unfailing – Franz Joseph Haydn
Träumerei (Dreaming) – Robert Schumann
Arranged by Colin Hand
Londonderry Air – Irish Folk Tune
Arranged by William M. Felton

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at
baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**Please stand if able.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

God Is Here! - ELW No. 526

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

Greeting and Kyrie – ELW page 203

Hymn of Praise – ELW page 204

“Glory be to God in Heaven;”

Prayer of the Day - “Today’s Readings” Insert

Please respond Amen.

**Please be seated for the Readings*

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs – “Today’s Readings” Insert

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel’s leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today’s reading is about humility.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Psalmody

Psalm 112 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

(Psalm 112:4)

Please join in chanting responsively.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8. 15-16 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God’s love toward us in Jesus Christ.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 205

“Alleluia! Lord and Savior:”

**Please stand if able.*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility

rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

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R: The Gospel of the Lord.

Concluding Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steven Kuhl

Hymn of the Day

As We Gather at Your Table – ELW No. 522

Tune: IN BABILONE

Please stand for the final verse.

Rite of Healing – ELW page 276

Introduction – ELW page 276

Prayers of the People

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**



Laying on of Hands – ELW page 277

Final Prayer and Blessing – ELW page 278

Sharing of Peace

Offering Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart – ELW No. 188

You may place your offerings, visitor cards and prayer request cards in the white church found in the narthex of the church either before or after our worship service.

Affirmation Of Christian Vocation:

Daily Work – Labor Day

Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we are called by the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves to the God of all creation in thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. There are many ways and places in which we as Christians offer ourselves to God in service. We call them vocations: callings from God to be God's servants. Some vocations are chosen, some just fall upon us, seemingly by accident, but no matter how these vocations come to us, they are to be viewed as opportunities for us to serve the Lord joyfully. On this Labor Day weekend, we lift up the vocation of daily work.

The creation stories in Genesis depict daily work as an integral part of God's relationship with humanity. Through daily work God dignifies us: calling us to participate in his ongoing work of blessing the creation so that it may be fruitful and multiply. Through the blessings of daily work God also provides for us: calling us to share with each other the fruits of our labor so that all may partake in the common good. Unfortunately, our daily work is often tainted by the reality of our own sin – our inclination to work for self alone and not for God and the common good – and frequently demeaned by the exploitation of systems that would rob workers of their dignity and a living wage. Labor Day was

initially established precisely to help us appreciate the great gift that daily work is and to safeguard it against all that would demean it.

Therefore, let us give thanks for our calling to daily work. Let us remember those who are happily employed or busily retired; those who are unemployed or underemployed; those who are overworked and underpaid; let us pray for justice in the workplace and meaningful work for everyone.

*The presiding minister addresses those affirming
Christian vocation.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, believing that you are called to live out your baptismal covenant through your daily work, will you endeavor to pattern your life and service after the Lord Jesus Christ?

C: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Knowing that the weakness of the flesh and the temptations of the evil one are all around, will you make use of the means of grace so that, strengthened in faith, you may exhibit the love of God in your daily work?

C: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The presiding minister continues.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 210, Collect 25, For Labor Day)

Offering Prayer

**Please stand if able.*

P: 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.**

The Meal/Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface –

ELW page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW page 207

Eucharistic Prayer XI

Lord's Prayer and Lamb of God – ELW Page 208

Invitation To Communion

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

Distribution

**Please be seated.*

*All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.
Please come forward to the Communion Rail.*

Communion Music

PICARDY – Ancient French Melody

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Post Communion Cantic – ELW No. 313, verse 1

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”

**Please stand if able.*

Prayer after Communion

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Benediction

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

O Christ the Same – WOV No. 778

Tune: LONDONDERRY AIR

*Found in the Blue “With One Voice” Hymnals located in
your pews.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

March in D Major – Franz Schubert

Arranged by Noel Rawsthorne

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Nativity’s Leadership

Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl - Pastor

Dennis Jon Wolfgang – Director of Music/Organist

James Ribnek, III – President

Dr. Robert Saur – Vice President

Jill Mickelson – Treasurer

Nicole DeBack – Secretary

Church Council Members at Large

Sandra Larson, Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Prayer Concerns and Announcements

As a Community we pray: For those with immediate needs of healing and strength: Gary Brautigam, Marvelyn Cockroft, Gary Hanson, Cheryl Isotalo, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Sarah O'Brien, Rev. Mick Roschke, Marion Saur, Maureen Sopa, and Jennifer Wigand. If you know of individuals that need to be added to or taken off the list please let any Council Member know.

Birthdays this Week

Friday, September 5th - **James Ribnek, III**

The date of the next **Nativity Church Council** meeting will be, **September 14th**, following our worship service; all members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

New Member Sunday: We are in the process of planning a new members Sunday, if you would like to become a member of Nativity please speak to Pastor Steve.

We will change our worship space environment (decorations) to Autumn Décor on Saturday morning, September 20th at 9:00 AM. It will take approximately one hour; if you can help your assistance will be appreciated.

Nativity will host a **Neighborhood Pet Blessing** on Saturday September 13th at 10:00 AM. Nativity being a small church will need all members present to help make the event successful, more details will follow. Nativity Lutheran Church is **pet friendly**; you are invited to bring your leashed service of companion animal to all Nativity Worship Services of Events.

Stewardship/Offerings: We are always grateful for everyone's financial support, no matter how large or small the gift. If you cannot attend worship in person, you may mail your offerings and donations to the church at any time. The mailing address is on the back of this bulletin. Have you remembered Nativity Lutheran Church in your estate planning?

This Week's Calendar

Location Key: "S"=Sanctuary, "G"=Goetz Fellowship Hall, "UC"=Upper Meeting/Conference Room, "C"=Children's Area

TODAY:	8/31	Pentecost XII 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship Service with Communion
Tuesday:	9/2	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Wednesday:	9/3	9:00 AM "UC" Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	9/5	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Saturday:	9/6	8:30 AM "S" Organ Lesson
Sunday:	9/7	Pentecost XIII 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship

Next Sunday's Readings –Pentecost XIII

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21,
Luke 14:25-33

Future Dates

Saturday September 13th – 10:00 AM

Nativity's Pet Blessing

Sunday September 14th – 11:00 AM - Holy Cross Day

12:15 Nativity Church Council Meeting

Saturday September 20th – 9:00 AM

Autumn Decorating of the Church

Halloween Spooktacular Concert

Saturday October 25th 2:00 PM

September 26th – 11:00 AM - Reformation Sunday

November 2nd – 11:00 AM – All Saints Sunday

November 9th – 11:00 AM – Veterans Day Remembrance

November 23rd – 11:00 AM – Christ the King

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship Service

Wednesday, November 26th – 7:00 PM

Nativity Hosts St. Theresa Catholic Church and Martin Luther in a combined Festival Worship Service.

November 30th – 11:00 AM – First Sunday of Advent

Lutheran Rite of Healing with prayers and anointing for those who wish.

Hanging of the Greens Following Worship

Wednesday December 24th 5:30 PM

Christmas Eve Worship Service

A Nativity Christmas Concert

Saturday December 27th 2:00 PM

Commemorations this Week

Commemorations: When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith. As we remember such Christians, we remember them in the context of remembering Christ. It is not that these people are perfect, as we are all both saint and sinner. Yet their lives point to how God's "extraordinary grace (works) in ordinary people". "The saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our

faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith” (Augsburg Confession).

Tuesday, September 2nd, Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872:

Grundtvig was one of two principal Danish theologians of the nineteenth century; the other was Søren Kierkegaard. Grundtvig’s ministry as a parish pastor had a difficult start. He was officially censured after his first sermon, though he did receive approval a year later to be ordained. He served with his father for two years but was unable to receive a call for seven years after that. In 1826 he was forced to resign after he attacked that notion that Christianity was merely a philosophical idea rather than God’s revelation made known to us in Christ and through word and sacrament. This belief would be a hallmark of Grundtvig’s writing. He spent his last thirty-three years as a chaplain at a home for elderly women. From his university days he was convinced that poetry spoke to the human spirit better than prose. He wrote more than a thousand hymns, including “God’s word is our great heritage” (ELW 509).

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Our Sunday Bulletin is uploaded to our Website on Saturdays.

Welcome to Nativity: All are welcome to join the people of God at Nativity for worship every Sunday Morning at 11 AM. The service always includes Holy Communion and all who desire to receive what our Lord offers in this meal, his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to partake. Nativity embraces the beauty and fullness of the Lutheran worship tradition as it has been adapted over time. In the spirit of St. Augustine who said "those who sing, pray twice," music and singing are important ingredients in our worship. Most parts of the liturgy are sung, including the chanting of the psalm, and a

rich blend of the church's hymnody is used to amplify the gospel message for the day as presented in the Scriptures read and the sermon proclaimed. If you have any questions about what we believe or why we worship as we do, please ask. There is nothing more pleasing to God and us than an inquisitive mind.

Nativity Lutheran Church
Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2025

Called to order : 12:30 PM by council President James Ribnek

Present: Pastor Steve Kuhl, Jim Ribnek, Dennis Wolfgang, Jill Mickelson, Nicole DeBack, Sandie Larson

Minutes: Accepted as written by Unanimous consent

Agenda: Open for additions. Accepted as written

Pastor's Report: 2 families would like to become members. We have a new member service planned for Fall. Pastor visited some members at home.

Treasurer's Report – Presented and Accepted as written by Unanimous consent

Old Business

1. Outreach Ideas

- a. Web Site
- b. Online Service or Youtube
- c. Bulk mailing
- d. Door to door campaign
- i. Door hangers - Jim has a quote for \$1 per piece

2. Additional volunteering

- a. Secretary
- b. Cleaning
- c. Trash removal

- d. General maintenance - light bulb changing
- e. Lawn care
- f. Watering
- g. Alter guild duties
- 3. Thanksgiving - We are hosting a interdenominational service for Thanksgiving. Martin Luther and St Therese would participate. They are willing to bring pies and help with hospitality. 7:00 Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
- 4. Concerts - still figuring out the who the performers will be. Perhaps we will open the rummage one hour before and one hour after.
- 5. Pet Blessing
- a. Flyers - Jim had some printed that need to be re-printed

New Business

- 1. New Member Sunday - Pastor will discuss what is the best date with the new members
- 2. Newsletter - we'll mail out 2 times a year
- 3. Rummage - it was a success. We earned \$402.40 We greeted and spoke with over 100 people that stopped by.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Property Committee – The Railings will be painted and parking lot window will be fixed. Lawn will be mowed. Gutters that need to be replaced will done in-house.

Adjournment: Sandie MM, Pastor MS, MC

Next meeting : Sept 14, 2025

Closing: Lord's Prayer



Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday - October 25th 2:00 PM

A Free Concert of Spooky Music

A New Work “The Halloween Ball” by Robin Dinda for
Organ and Narrator - Narration by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl
Dennis Janzer’s Organ Duet “Ghouls and Gremlins” with
Guest Organist Kelly Kuhl

Highlights from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s
Soaring Musical Masterpiece,
“Phantom of the Opera”

Organist: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

Soprano: Deanna Kulow

Tenor: Robert Stuart Mitchell

Pianist: Gary Hanson

Special Event Parking allowed on both sides of Bluemound Road
by the City of Wauwatosa
Free-will Offering Accepted

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 AM

6905 West Bluemound Road

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Office: 414-476-1853

Goetz Fellowship Hall: 414-988-2622

www.nativitylutheran.us

Email: nativity-lutheran@outlook.com

Member: Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association