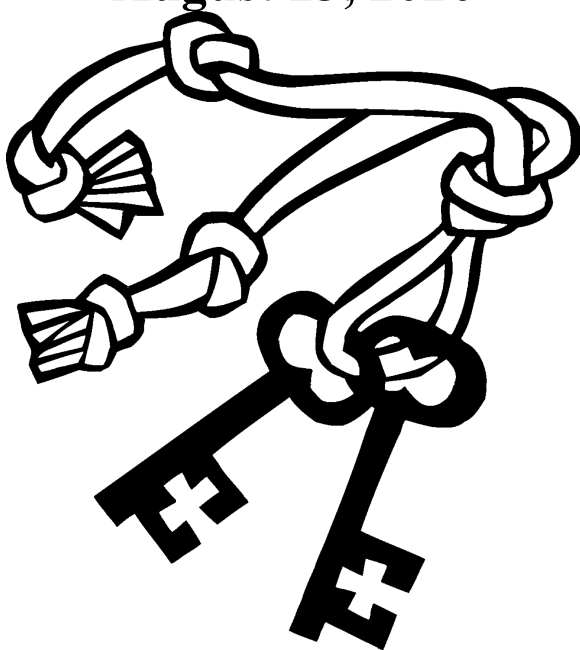


Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 93rd Year”

August 23, 2026



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.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard

Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

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Prelude

Festive Prelude on "Built on the Rock" – Gilbert M. Martin

KIRKEN

KIRKEN – setting, Martha Sobaje

Built on a Rock

WESTMINSTER ABBEY – setting, Mahlon Balderston

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Kyrie – ELW page 203

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

C: Amen.

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Gathering Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation – ELW No. 645

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*The author of the text of this 7th-century Latin hymn is unknown, but it was translated into English by the 19th-century Anglican priest John Mason Neale. Set to the stately **WESTMINSTER ABBEY** tune by Henry Purcell, the hymn celebrates Christ as the cornerstone of the Church and is often sung at church dedications and other festivals that emphasize the unity and mission of the Christian community.*

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Hymn of Praise – ELW page 204

“Glory to God in heaven;”

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

Please respond Amen.

**Please be seated for the Readings*

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6 – Printed in “*Today’s Readings*” Insert

The text comes from the section of the book commonly called Second Isaiah, written during Israel's exile in Babylon to encourage those who remained faithful to the God of Israel. They are urged to remember their origins in Abraham and Sarah, the "rock" from which God fashioned a covenant people. Looking back in faith also means looking forward in hope to God's promise that Abraham's descendants would become a blessing to all nations. The prophet proclaims that God's saving justice will extend beyond Israel to all peoples who long for deliverance. That salvation is nothing less than cosmic in scope, outlasting the present heavens and earth and establishing God's everlasting reign.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

Psalmody

Psalm 138 - “*Today’s Readings*” Insert

This hymn of praise celebrates God's greatness and steadfast love. The psalmist's confidence rests in God's covenant faithfulness: though the Lord is exalted, he cares for the lowly, preserves his people in trouble, and delivers them from their enemies. Because God's ways are marked by enduring love and faithfulness, the day will come when all the rulers of the earth will join in giving him praise. The God who has been faithful in the past will not abandon the work of his hands.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

*Please join in chanting the Psalm responsively
using tone 9.*

Epistle Reading

Romans 12:1-8 – Printed in “Today’s Readings” Insert.

Paul grounds the Christian ethic not in obedience to the Law as a means of earning God's favor but in faith in the mercies of God revealed in Christ. Faith receives and responds to these mercies, shaping both the inward renewal of the person and the outward offering of one's life. Outwardly, Paul urges Christians to present their bodies to God as "living sacrifices," holy and acceptable to him. This, he says, is our "reasonable worship"—a thanksgiving that proclaims God's worthiness and embodies what God has made us to be in Christ. The Christian life is characterized by humility and service, the putting to use the diverse gifts God gives for the building up of the whole community. Inwardly, Paul urges believers to "be transformed by the renewal of their minds." He is not calling them to transform themselves but to embrace the transformation God is working in them through Christ, a renewed mind marked by humility and freedom from competition, recognizing that God gives gifts “according to the measure of faith”—that is, according to his own faithfulness and gracious provision. This renewal of mind is inseparable from the life of faith: no longer conformed to the world, believers are shaped by Christ and enabled to discern God's good, acceptable, and perfect will.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 205

“Alleluia! Lord and Savior:”

**Please stand if able.*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Matthew 16:13-20

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

Although Matthew's readers have known Jesus' true identity from the beginning of the Gospel, many of his contemporaries still misunderstand him, interpreting him in light of familiar religious figures from Israel's past. They fail to recognize the newness of

God's saving work in Jesus. When Jesus asks his disciples who they believe him to be, Peter boldly confesses, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus declares that this truth has been revealed to Peter not by human insight but by the Father in heaven. As Jesus affirms, Peter's confession of faith becomes the rock, the foundation, upon which Christ will build his Church. Upon this confession, Christ promises that his Church will prevail over the powers of Hades—that is, evil and death—and will receive the keys of the kingdom, the authority to bind and loose, including the forgiveness of sins. Yet Jesus orders his disciples to keep his identity secret, for the full significance of Peter's confession cannot be understood until it is confirmed through his death and resurrection.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Steven Kuhl

Hymn of the Day

Built on a Rock – ELW No. 652

Tune: KIRKEN

Please stand for the final verse.

Written in 1837 by the Danish pastor, poet, and theologian Nikolaj Frederik Severin Grundtvig, and paired with the traditional Danish tune KIRKEN, this hymn reminds Christians that the Church is built not on buildings or human achievements, but on Jesus Christ, who gathers and sustains God's people through Word and sacrament.

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed – ELW page 105

Prayers of the People

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Sharing of Peace

Offering Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart – ELW No. 188

**Please stand if able.*

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.

Offering Prayer

**Please stand if able.*

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

The Meal/Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface

ELW page 206 *Sung*

Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW page 207

Eucharistic Prayer XI – ELW page 69

Sung Final Amen – ELW page 207

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

Invitation To Communion

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

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

To Give Thanks – Lani Smith

Post Communion Canticle – ELW No. 313 vs. 1

“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”

**Please stand if able.*

Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less – ELW No. 597

Tune: MELITA

*This hymn text was written by English Baptist minister and hymn writer Edward Mote in 1834 and is often known by its concluding refrain, “On Christ the solid rock I stand.” The text is paired with **MELITA**, composed by John Bacchus Dykes in 1861, beautifully reinforces the hymn's message that a believer's hope and salvation rest securely in Christ alone.*

Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

KIRKEN/Built on a Rock – setting Wilbur Held

Toccata Pontificale – Gordon Young

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Our Sunday Bulletin is now uploaded to our Website on Saturdays.

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, Gerald and Tammy Newburg,

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, Pastor Steven Kuhl, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Sarah O'Brien, Rev. Mick Roschke, 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. **There are no Birthdays this Week.**

The next **Nativity Church Council** is today Sunday August 23rd following worship. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Future Dates

Sunday, August 30th – The Lutheran Rite of **Healing** will be offered at our 11:00 Worship Service.

Sunday, September 6th – **Labor Day** Recognition of the
Vocation of Labor at our 11 Am Service.

Saturday, September 19th 10:00 AM **Pet Blessing** on the
Church Front Lawn

Sunday, October 25th 11:00 AM **Reformation Sunday**

Sunday, November 1st 11:00 AM **All Saints Sunday**
Daylight Savings Ends

Sewing Club – We are working on various sewing projects,
it's a great chance to visit and possibly take up sewing. Stop
in, "No strings attached..." Tuesday evenings 5 to 8 in Goetz
Fellowship Hall.

Nativity Concerts: We will again be offering concerts at
Nativity! Mark Your Calendars for:

Halloween Spooktacular –

Saturday, October 31st – 2:00 PM

A Nativity Christmas

Saturday, December 26th – 2:00 PM

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: 8/23 Pentecost XIII

11:00 AM "S" **Nativity Worship**

Service with Communion

12:30 PM "G" Nativity Church Council

Tuesday:	8/25	12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step 5-8 PM “G” Sewing Club
Wednesday:	8/26	9:00 AM “UC” Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	8/28	12:00 PM “G” S.A. 12-step
Saturday:	8/29	9 AM “S” Organ lesson
Sunday:	8/30	Pentecost XIV 11:00 AM “S” Nativity Worship with Communion and Rite of Healing

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).

Monday, August 24th, Bartholomew, Apostle: Bartholomew is mentioned as one of Jesus’ disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The list in John does not include him but rather Nathanael. These two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on these lists of the Twelve, little is known. Some traditions say Bartholomew preached in India or Armenia following the resurrection. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was killed.

Friday, August 28th, Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430: Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him

came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years later and made bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow move toward faith and includes the line "Late have I loved thee."

Friday, August 28th, Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400: A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. Prior to his conversion he had been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers. The story of his conversion is unknown, but eventually he became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

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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

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Member: Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association