

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 92nd Year”

September 14, 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.

Holy Cross Day

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

Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard

Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

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Prelude

Offertory on RATHBUN – Elizabeth Krouse

“In the Cross of Christ of Christ I Glory”

Meditation on “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” – John Barr

NEAR THE CROSS

Processional on “Lift High the Cross” – Donald Busarow

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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kyrie – – ELW page 98

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

Lift High the Cross - ELW No. 660

Tune: CRUCIFER

Apostolic Greeting – ELW page 98

Hymn of Praise – ELW page 101

“This Is the Feast”

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

Please respond Amen.

**Please be seated for the Readings*

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4b-9 – *“Today’s Readings” Insert*

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Psalmody

Psalm 98:1-4 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

The Lord has done marvelous things. (Ps. 98:1)

Please join in chanting responsively using tone 7.

Epistle Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-24 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ’s crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 102

*“Alleluia.” - *Please stand if able.*

Gospel Verse Proclaimed by the Cantor:

*Alleluia. May I never boast of | anything * except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ. Alleluia. (Galatians 6:14)*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: John 3:13-17

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

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

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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

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross - ELW No. 335

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS

Please stand for the final verse.

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed – ELW page 104

Prayers of the People

P: God of Grace

C: receive our prayer.

Sharing of Peace

Offering Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful – ELW No. 184

**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: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Meal/Great Thanksgiving and Proper Preface –
ELW page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW page 108

Eucharistic Prayer VIII – ELW page 67

Sung Eucharistic Acclamations – ELW page 109

...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. ...

...almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Lamb of God – ELW Page 112

Invitation To Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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

Variations on "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
(HAMBURG) – Theodore W. Ripper

Post Communion Canticle – ELW page 113

"Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;"

**Please stand if able.*

Prayer after Communion

P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good
and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in
Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Benediction

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory – ELW No. 324

Tune: RATHBUN

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D Major – David L. Crouse

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*Our Sunday Bulletin is 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, 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

Monday, September 15th – **Cheryl Isotalo**

The date of the next **Nativity Church Council** meeting is today, **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 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:	9/14	Holy Cross Day 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship Service with Communion 12:15 "UC" Nativity Council
Tuesday:	9/16	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Wednesday:	9/17	9:00 AM "UC" Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	9/19	8:30 AM "UC" Organ Lesson 12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Saturday:	9/20	9:00 AM "S" Autumn Decorating 10:00 AM Pet Blessing Service
Sunday:	9/21	Pentecost XV 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship

Next Sunday's Readings – Pentecost XV

Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113. I Timothy 2:1-7,
Luke 16:1-13

Future Dates

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).

Today, Sunday, September 14th - Holy Cross Day:

Helena, the mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to Israel to look for Christian holy sites. She found what she believed were the sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, sites that modern archaeologists believe may be correct.

Here Constantine built two churches. The celebration of Holy Cross Day originated with the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335. Today the festival provides the church an opportunity to lift up the victory of the cross with a spirit of celebration that might be less suitable on Good Friday.

Tuesday, September 16th, Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258: Cyprian worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in North Africa during a time of great persecution. During Cyprian's time as bishop many people had denied the faith under duress. In contrast to some who held the belief that the church should not receive these people back, Cyprian believed they should be welcomed into full communion after a period of penance. He insisted on the need for compassion in order to preserve the unity of the church. His essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* stressed the role of bishops in guaranteeing the visible, concrete unity of the church. Cyprian was also concerned for the physical well-being of the people under his care. He organized a program of medical care for the sick during a severe epidemic in Carthage.

Wednesday, September 17th, Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179: Hildegard lived virtually her entire life in convents yet was widely influential within the church. After an uneventful time as a nun, she was chosen as abbess of her community. She reformed her community as well as other convents. Around the same time, she began having visions and compiled them, as instructed; in a book she called *Scivias*. Hildegard's importance went beyond mysticism. She also advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and an artist.

Thursday, September 18th, Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961: Dag Hammarskjöld (HAH-mar-sheld) was a Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who served as secretary general of the United Nations. He was killed in a plane crash on this day in 1961 in what is now Zambia while he was on his way to negotiate a cease-fire between the United Nations and the

Katanga forces. For years Hammarskjöld had kept a private journal, and it was not until that journal was published as *Markings* that the depth of his Christian faith was known. The book revealed that his life was a combination of diplomatic service and personal spirituality, and of contemplation on the meaning of Christ in his life and action in the world.

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Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday - October 25th 2:00 PM

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, Free-will Offering Accepted

“Phantom of the Opera”

**Organist: Dennis Jon Wolfgang, Soprano: Deanna Kulow,
Tenor: Robert Stuart Mitchell, Pianist: Gary Hanson**

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Traditional Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 AM

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