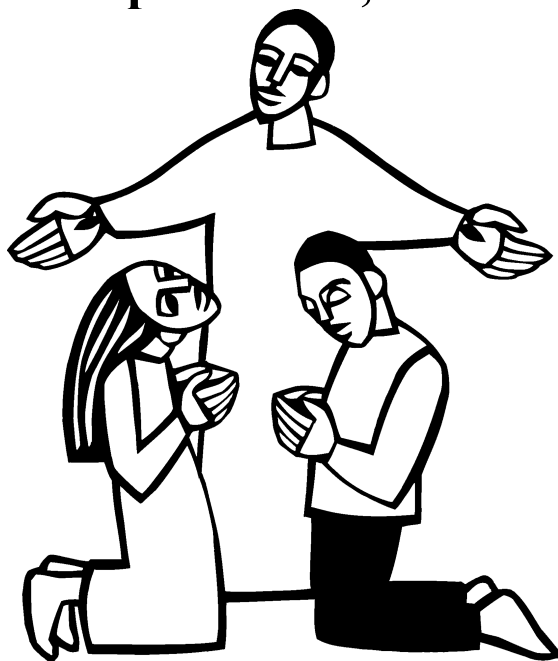


Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 93rd Year”

September 6, 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.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

***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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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Prelude

AR HYD Y NOS – setting, Betty Roe

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Menuet – George Frideric Handel

From “Julius Caesar”

MERTON – setting, Malcolm Archer

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

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

Awake, My soul, and with the Sun – ELW No. 557

Tune: MORNING HYMN

*The text was written by Anglican priest and hymnodist Thomas Ken (1637–1711) in 1695 and calls Christians to begin each day by renewing their vows to God, asking for forgiveness and guidance, and dedicating their thoughts, words, and actions to God’s glory. The tune **MORNING HYMN**, composed by François H. Barthélémon (1741–1808), is in Long Meter (8.8.8.8), giving the hymn its straightforward, measured, and dignified character.*

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

Ezekiel 33:7-11 – Printed in “Today’s Readings” Insert

The text marks a major turning point in Ezekiel’s message. Up to now, Ezekiel has faithfully prophesied Israel’s doom if it did not repent of its wickedness—idolatry, systemic violence, and social injustice—but it did not, and the day of judgment has come: Babylon has conquered Jerusalem. Now Ezekiel is to explain why this happened and proclaim God’s continuing will for Israel. Although Israel is being punished for its wickedness, God does not delight in its suffering; God desires that Israel repent, turn from its ways, and live.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

Psalmody

Psalm 119:33-40 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

Major scholarly debate continues about by whom and when this psalm was written. A beautifully crafted Hebrew poem, Psalm 119 focuses on the goodness and perfection of God’s word or instruction (torah). The author says little about himself, speaking instead of his need for God’s instruction and acknowledging that his heart is inclined toward unjust gain and falsehood. He longs for God to turn his heart toward God’s commandments and ways, trusting in the promise God has made to those who fear God.

Synopsis by Rev. Dr. Steven C. Kuhl

*Please join in chanting the Psalm responsively
using tone 1.*

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:8-14 – Printed in “Today’s Readings” Insert.

Paul acts as a kind of life coach for the Christian community, giving instruction about the implications of living by faith in Jesus Christ. Although Paul frames his teaching in the belief that the end is near, his message can also mean for us that there is no time like the present to “wake up” and live in the strength of the gospel. Paul describes the Christian life as “fulfilling the law,” not because we must fulfill the law to be saved, but because we have “put on Christ,” by whom the law has been fulfilled. By faith, or by putting on Christ, a distinctive way of life emerges: our debts are canceled, so the only thing we “owe” is love, which summarizes the Christian way of life and reflects such things as honoring marriage, life, property, and our neighbors’ well-being because that is who we are in Christ. Having put on Christ, we cast off the works of darkness and live as people of the light—sober, decent, and ready for the day that is coming.

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 18:15-20

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

Here Jesus instructs his disciples on how seriously the Christian community—and God—takes sin, while showing that its purpose is not “getting even,” but seeking reconciliation and extending mercy. When one disciple sins against another, the matter is addressed privately and, if necessary, with others and eventually the whole community. If the person remains unrepentant and unreconciled, they are regarded as a gentile or tax collector—not as an act of shunning, but as a refocusing of the community on reconciliation, remembering that these are precisely the people for whom Christ came and to whom grace is offered. Reconciliation

remains the focus: whenever two or three gather in Christ's name, Christ is present with them in their pursuit of reconciliation.

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

God, when Human Bonds Are Broken – ELW No. 603

Tune: MERTON

Please stand for the final verse.

*British hymn writer Fred Kaan (1929–2009) first published this text in 1989. The five-stanza text is a prayer for God's grace when relationships are broken, capturing the themes of confession, forgiveness, family, healing, and reconciliation. The tune **MERTON**, composed by William Henry Monk (1823–1889) and published in 1850, provides a calm, measured setting for the text.*

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed – ELW page 105

Prayers of the People

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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.

Affirmation Of Christian Vocation: Daily Work – Labor Day

Please be seated.

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: 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

AR HYD Y NOS – setting, Allan Mahnke

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing – ELW No. 543

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS

*Written by Lutheran pastor and hymn writer Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–2008) and published in 1983, the text expands the biblical language of the Aaronic blessing into a hymn of baptismal identity, forgiveness, nourishment, and sending. The tune **AR HYD Y NOS** is a traditional Welsh melody dating from the late eighteenth century and gives the text a gentle, familiar character well suited to a closing blessing and sending.*

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Postlude” – Charles Vincent (1852-1934)

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

***New to Nativity’s Website** - normally on Mondays, synopses of next Sundays Readings, the Service Hymns and Organ Voluntaries are uploaded to the Website under the pull-down banner **Next Week’s Service**. Check it out!!!*

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, Maureen Jones, James Larson, Sandie 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.

Birthdays this Week

Monday, September 7th – **James Larson**

Tuesday, September 8th – **Breven DeBack**

Please plan on attending the **Special Congregational Meeting** on Sunday September 27th following worship. We will be voting on options for a new roof for the church building. All Nativity members are urged to attend this meeting.

The next **Nativity Church Council** will be Sunday September 27th following the Special Congregational

Meeting. All members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Invite your friends and neighbors and their furry friends to Nativity's Annual **Blessing of the Animals**, Saturday, September 19th, 10:00am. For pets unable to attend, please bring a photo.

Snacks and beverages suitable for all will be provided
A certificate will be provided at the end of the ceremony.

This is a free event.

Donations of pet food are being accepted to help out those
with pets in need.

We will change our worship space environment (decorations) to **Autumn Décor** on Saturday, September 26th 9:30 AM. It will take approximately one hour; if you can help your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Future Dates

Sunday, September 13th 11AM Service- We will
Commemorate the **25th Anniversary of 9/11**

Pet Blessing

Saturday, September 19th -10:00 AM
on the Church Front Lawn

Autumn Decorating

Saturday, September 26th - 9:30 AM

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 27th – 12:30 PM
Nativity Church Council Meeting Follows

Blessing of Quilts

Sunday, October 18th 11:00 AM Service

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25th 11:00 AM

Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday, October 31st – 2:00 PM

All Saints Sunday – November 1st 11:00 AM

Daylight Savings Ends

Christ the King Sunday – November 22nd 11:00 AM

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Hanging of the Greens (Christmas Decorating)

Following Worship

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service

Wednesday November 25th - Time TBD

Martin Luther Church – 92nd & Bluemound

First Sunday of Advent – Sunday November 29th

11:00 AM, First Sunday of the Church Year

Christmas Eve Worship – December 24th 5:30 PM

Prelude Music Begins at 5:00 PM

A Nativity Christmas Concert

New Date and Time to be announced soon.

A Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion

Sunday, December 27th 11:00 AM

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

Watch for New Date and Time

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:	9/6	Pentecost XV 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship Service with Communion - Celebration of Labor
Tuesday:	9/8	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step 5-8 PM "G" Sewing Club
Wednesday:	9/9	9:00 AM "UC" Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	9/11	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Saturday:	9/12	9 AM "S" Organ lesson
Sunday:	9/13	Pentecost XVI 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship with Communion – 9-11, 25 th Anniversary Commemoration

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).

Wednesday, September 9th - Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654: Peter Claver was born into Spanish nobility and was -persuaded to become a Jesuit missionary. He served in Cartagena (in what is now Colombia) by teaching and caring for the slaves. The slaves arrived in ships, where they had been confined in dehumanizing conditions. Claver met and supplied them with medicine, food, clothing, and brandy. He learned their dialects and taught them Christianity. He called himself "the slave of the slaves forever." Claver also ministered to the locals of Cartagena who were in prison and facing death.

Claver's advocacy on behalf of the rights of slaves is a witness to a gospel that is for all people. Pray for contemporary ministries and for persons who offer care and compassion to people living in substandard living conditions.

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Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Traditional Worship Service Sundays at 11:00 AM

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Member: Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association