

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Our 92nd Year”

July 6, 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.

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

United States Independence Day Weekend

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

Lector/Reader: Arlene Renard

Minister of Music: Dennis Jon Wolfgang

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In Holy Communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

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Prelude

Music for the Royal Fireworks – George Frederick Handel

Arranged for Organ by E. Power Biggs

I. Overture, II. Bourrée, III. The Peace,

IV. The Rejoicing, V. Minuet Finale

*Composed for the Firework display given in Green Park,
London on April 27th 1749, in celebration of the Peace of
Aix-la-Chapelle.*

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – ELW No. 803

Tune: HAMBURG

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 149

“This is the feast of victory for our God.”

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

Please respond Amen.

**Please be seated for the Readings*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:10-14 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Psalmody

Psalm 66:1-9 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4) Please join in chanting responsively.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16 - “Today’s Readings” Insert

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in “the family of faith.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Gospel Acclamation – ELW page 151

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

Gospel Verse Proclaimed by the Cantor:

*Alleluia Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts, *
and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly. Alleluia.
(I Samuel 2:8))*

Gospel Reading

The Gospel is announced: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

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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

We All Are One in Mission – ELW No. 576

Tune: KUORTANE

Please stand for the final verse.

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed – ELW page 105

Prayers of the People

P: God of Grace

C: hear our prayer.

Sharing of Peace

Offering Hymn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies – ELW No. 888

Tune: MATERNA

**Please be seated.*

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.

Rite of Affirmation of the Vocation of Citizenship

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 what he 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. Therefore, it is our duty and privilege as the church to affirm those who endeavor to carry out their vocation as Christian in the world: on this Fourth of July Weekend we wish to affirm our common vocation of citizenship.

Citizenship is one of those callings from God that is easily taken for granted. It signals, first of all, the fact that by God's will and intention no one is an island unto him- or herself: life is essentially a community affair. Whatever dimension of life we look at (be it the family, the neighborhood, the nation, or even the global village) God has created us to live in community and it is only through this life in community that God's promises to provide for our daily needs is realized. Not apart from the Common

Good, but precisely through the Common Good, the Goodness of God is extended to all.

Second, citizenship also means that we are not a law unto ourselves but that we are people who live under law and under governing authorities. Scripture itself teaches us that the governing authorities are God's servants, empowered by God to serve and protect the Common Good, and that we are to honor them, respect them and pray for them.

Finally, in our democratic form of government, each citizen (through the power of the vote and the right to voice) is given special powers and responsibilities to see to it that government pursues its God-given responsibility to promote the Common Good. And yet we know how easy it is to neglect this responsibility, to ignore the injustices that are around us, and to disregard the poor, the weak and the unfortunate.

Therefore, I ask those of you, who are citizens of a local municipality, the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America, to rise and to rededicate yourself to serving God and neighbor through the exercise of good citizenship. Having determined to live out your baptismal covenant as citizens, will you endeavor to pattern your life and service after Jesus Christ, forsake the temptation to greed, power and indifference, and embrace God's call to work for the Common Good? If so then answer:

Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Knowing that this is a formidable task -- that the pressures of sin, the world and the evil one are all around you -- will you be diligent in your use of the means of grace and your fellowship in the Church that God may support you in this vocation? If so then answer:

Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray...

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us to elect trust worthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves, just in all our dealings, generous to those in need, and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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 153

Eucharistic Prayer XI

Lord's Prayer – ELW page 154

Lamb of God – ELW page 154

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

**“Let Us Break Bread Together” – African American
Spiritual arranged by Roy L. Belfield, Jr.**

Post Communion Canticle – ELW No. 207

“Thankful hearts and voices raise;”

**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

God Bless Our Native Land – ELW No. 891

Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue on “The Star Spangled Banner”

John Knowles Paine (Op.4)

The Fugue is the last movement of “The Star Spangled Banner Concert Variations” and was written in July of 1861 and premiered by Paine in an Organ Concert later that summer.

The Star-Spangled Banner was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. president Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a

congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was then signed by President Herbert Hoover.

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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, 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. **No Birthdays this Week**

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.

The date of the next **Nativity Church Council** meeting is Sunday, **July 20th**, following our worship service; all members of Nativity are invited to attend Church Council meetings.

Rummage Sale: The Bluemound Heights Neighborhood Association, which Nativity is a member of, will be hold a two-day Rummage Sale on Saturday August 9th and Sunday August 10th from 9 AM to 3 PM Nativity will participate in the Saturday Sale. We will require much help in setting up, pricing and help on the day of the sale, please clear your calendar and help us! We are also seeking donations of quality items for the sale, no clothing, electronics or furniture. You may bring your items on Sunday morning or speak to someone in Nativity's leadership for special arrangements.

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?

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.

This Week's Calendar

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

TODAY:	7/6	Pentecost IV 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship Service with Communion
Tuesday:	7/8	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Wednesday:	7/9	9:00 AM "UC" Quilters 8:00 PM A.A. Al-Anon
Friday:	7/11	12:00 PM "G" S.A. 12-step
Saturday	7/12	8:30 AM "S" No Organ Lesson
Sunday:	7/13	Pentecost V 11:00 AM "S" Nativity Worship With Communion

Next Sunday's Readings –Pentecost V

Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10,
Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

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).

Sunday, July 6th – Jan Hus, martyr, Died 1415: Jan Hus was a Bohemian priest who spoke against abuses in the church of his day in many of the same ways Luther would a century later. He spoke against the withholding of the cup at the Eucharist and because of this stance was excommunicated, not for heresy but for insubordination toward his archbishop. He preached against the selling off indulgences and was particularly mortified by the indulgence trade of two rival claimants to the papacy who were raising money for war against each other. He was found guilty of heresy by the Council of Constance and burned at the stake. The followers of Jan Hus became known as the Czech Brethren and eventually continued as the Moravian Church.

Friday, July 11th - Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540: Benedict is known as the father of Western monasticism. He was educated in Rome but was appalled by the decline of life around him. He went to live as a hermit, and a community of monks came to gather around him. In the prologue of his rule for monasteries he wrote that his intent in drawing up his regulations was "to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." It is that moderate spirit that characterizes his rule and the monastic communities that are formed by it. Benedict encourages a

generous spirit of hospitality, saying that visitors to Benedictine communities are to be welcomed as Christ himself.

Saturday, July 12th - Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931: In 1930, this Swedish theologian, ecumenist, and social activist received the Nobel Prize for peace. Söderblom (ZAY-der-blom) saw the value of the ancient worship of the church catholic and encouraged the liturgical movement. He also valued the work of liberal Protestant scholars and believed social action was a first step on the path toward a united Christianity. He organized the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work, one of the organizations that in 1948 came together to form the World Council of Churches.

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O Beautiful for Spacious Skies – ELW 888

Author: Katharine Lee Bates: Katharine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth, Mass., August 12, 1859. Her father was a pastor in the Congregational Church; he died when she was an infant. Her mother moved the family to Wellesley. She received a B.A. (1880) and M.A. (1891) from Wellesley College. She taught high school from 1880-1885 and then was a professor of English literature at Wellesley. She wrote poetry, children's stories, textbooks and travel books. In 1893, at the age of 33, Bates, an English professor at Wellesley College, had taken a train trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to teach at Colorado College. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and they found their way into her poem, including the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the "White City" with its promise of the future contained within its gleaming white buildings ("Thy alabaster cities gleam", the white stucco buildings eliminated by the new Westinghouse AC electric light bulbs); the wheat fields of America's heartland Kansas,

through which her train was riding on July 16; and the majestic view of the Great Plains from high atop Pikes Peak. On the pinnacle of that mountain, the words of the poem started to come to her, and she wrote them down upon returning to her hotel room at the original Antlers Hotel. The poem was initially published two years later in *The Congregationalist* to commemorate the Fourth of July. It quickly caught the public's fancy. An amended version was published in 1904. Each stanza of this hymn combines appreciation of America's beauty with prayers to God for His blessings on and aid for the nation.

Our Sunday Bulletin is uploaded to our Website on Saturdays.





Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Traditional Worship Service

Sundays at 11:00 AM

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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